University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal) | Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2018

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' ACCESS TO SERIAL PUBLICATIONS IN THREE SELECTED UNIVERSITIES IN OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

Susanah O. Tomomowo-Ayodele Mrs
University of Ibadan

Ayobami Bakare Hameed Mr.
The Polytechnic Ibadan, abhameed4u@yahoo.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac

 Part of the Collection Development and Management Commons, and the Information Literacy Commons

Tomomowo-Ayodele, Susanah O. Mrs and Hameed, Ayobami Bakare Mr., "EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' ACCESS TO SERIAL PUBLICATIONS IN THREE SELECTED UNIVERSITIES IN OGUN STATE, NIGERIA" (2018). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 1727.
https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1727

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' ACCESS TO SERIAL PUBLICATIONS IN THREE SELECTED UNIVERSITIES IN OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

By
Susanah O. Tomomowo-Ayodele
Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Ibadan
+2348033825558; susanyinka@yahoo.com
and
Ayobami Bakare Hameed
Polytechnic Library
The Polytechnic Ibadan
+2348023240679; abhameed4u@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the extent to which serials publications are accessible and used for learning purposes by the students in Nigerian Universities. The descriptive survey research design was adopted with the study population made up of students from one federal government owned university, one selected state owned university and one selected private owned university in Ogun state. A self-constructed questionnaire was used for data collection in this study, was analyzed using descriptive statistics and Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). Findings revealed that Nigeria university students have access to different serial collections in academic libraries. Serial publications are available and students have equal access to serials publications in the library. Restriction of some serials materials to undergraduate constitutes impediments to the use of serials by students in the university libraries. Students who visit the library frequently to read Bulletins are better informed about the university issues. It was also revealed that students often visit the serial section in the Universities libraries for academic purposes. The Serial Librarian attitude affects student's use of serial section. There is a need to create conducive environment for students and guide the student in the proper use of serial publications. Serial Librarians should be well guided to give the best to the students in the use of serial publications and there is need for various universities to subscribe to different online or electronic serials.

Introduction

The academic library is an integral part of any educational institution, most especially at the tertiary level (Popoola, 2006). A well-stocked and organized library is a pride of any educational institution which will definitely help in meeting its teaching, learning and research needs through availability of contemporary serial publications alongside other library resources. In view of the above assertion, Ogunniyi et al (2011) cited Nwalo (2003) to describe serials as publications issued in successive parts, at regular or irregular intervals and intended to be continued indefinitely. Akande (2011) posited that there are many kinds of serials, these include: newspaper, magazines, newsletters, accessions, journals, indexes, abstract, reports, proceedings and transactions of businesses in societies etc.

In relation with the use by the students in Universities, out of the kinds of serials materials available, Afolabi & Akerele (2011) viewed that journal are the most important to the students for researchers because much of articles there in are products of research and it may never appear in any other publications. Academic libraries therefore provide the latest serials titles in all the subjects/courses covered by the parent institutions and also, students are expected to make use of the publications in the serials section of the library to get

current information in their chosen field of study (Ogunniyi et al 2011 quoting Olanlokun&Salisu (1988).

According to Ogunronbi (1997) serials publications form the backbone of any academic library because of their nature of informational value for the students. Academic and research libraries acquire, organize, store, retrieve and disseminate information contained in serial publications for researchers, educators, students and other interested persons in their various disciplines.

Ogunnuga, (2003) viewed serials as a publication issued in successive parts normally at regular intervals, and a rule intended to be continued indefinitely. It could be published weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly, bi-annually etc. Serials are library in themselves. No matter a subject students are interested in, it is among the journals that he or she is mostly like to find the latest materials. Moreso, the extent at which serial publications is relevant, familiar and frequent to the students in Universities is a pre-requisite with a nation of discussing serials activities and operation in relation with researches conducted in learning processes.

Onanuga and Okeh (1999) suggested that serials are important and popular learning materials because they contain current information. They are available locally and could be ordered overseas. Serials is often used as a synonym for periodicals and could be published as journals, newspapers, magazines, bulletins etc findings and studies revealed that much photocopying of important articles and interesting academic topics in serials are often demanded by library users in Nigerian Universities.

Agbaje (2002) reported that anything that belongs to, forms part or consists of a series are called serials. Serials are of various kind of journals, magazines, newspaper, news bulletin and reviews. Nwalo (2003) and Aina (2004) stated that newsletters, accessions, reports, memoirs, proceedings and transactions of societies and other periodicals like abstracts and indexes. Serials are often thought of as a distinct format. A serial is, therefore, regarded as a materials that is in a tangible format, that is recorded on paper, microfilm, magnetic media or optical disk and retrievable.

Olaniyan (2001) asserted that serials are of great importance because they carry latest and up-to-date opinions and development within the various subject disciplines. As explained by Elaturoti *et.al.* (1990), serials constitute an important part of the library collection because the information contained in them is more current than those in published books. Fayose (1995) affirmed that, "periodicals are useful because they are the most up-to-date resources in the library and that the articles in periodicals are often written by experts in the field. Therefore, they are reliable and the articles are precise and not as cumbersome to read as textbooks. Where recency of information is of prime consideration, the serials have a distinct advantage over the book (Adubika, 2007). According to Annuobi *et.al.* (2010), majority of texts / monographs produced for knowledge have their contents derived from serials articles.

The elements of serial management in academic libraries are serials collection which involves selection, deselection and subscription, organization and use which involve processing and display on racks for users; maintenance which involves updating, filling the gaps, preservation, binding of back issues and repair of damaged ones; and provision of facilities like finding aids, reading areas equipped with tables, chairs, and air-conditioner as well as provision of services such as current awareness service-photocopy, exhibition, translation of foreign language like German, French and Arabic to the language understood by the users.

Adeola, *et.al.* (2006) expressed that the success of every library's programme therefore, could be easily measured in terms of its efforts in acquiring and managing relevant serials. Only the libraries that can afford to subscribe to relevant, up to-date and

adequate serials in print and electronic form will be able to satisfy the study needs of the students in universities where the serials are available and accessible, they are most likely to be utilized by the students to meet their learning and research needs and aspirations.

Statement of the Problem

Among serial publications, periodicals are of most significance to libraries in academic world, while general interest periodical which are most commonly found in various libraries are expected to grow, an even greater rate of growth can be predicated for specialized periodicals.

Brown (1956) predicated in his study on scientific serials, a sizeable increase within twenty years. It appears, from statistical data on periodicals is now receiving attention. This study attempts to investigate and prefer solutions to underlying factors of serials publication whether serial and non-serial publications of the agencies of national, state and local government will continue to grow among the library resources of the future.

As part of the major operations for making print serials available and accessible is processing, every academic library in Nigerian Universities accessed by the students gives access to this important research materials. This study sought to identify the serials publication activities, operation and processing by the students and the impediments to effective serials processing among others; Also, it seeks to provide answers to the following questions.

(i) Are serial publications available in Nigerian Universities?
(ii) Do the students accessed them?
(iii) Do academic libraries in Universities acquired serials.
(iv) Is there need for libraries to provide users' education to the students?
(v) Does serial publication section in the academic libraries of universities provides materials that support learning, findings research and other academic assignment?

As part of the roles of the university libraries is to provide information including serials to support learning and research as well as to provide facilities to process, preserve, organize and disseminate information. There appears to be lack of adequate and current serials for study in Nigeria Universities.

Therefore, this study evaluates the extent to which serials publication are accessed and used for learning purposes by the students in Nigerian Universities.

Research Questions

This study will seek answers to the following research questions:

1. How frequently do the students in Nigerian Universities have access to the serial collection in the academic libraries?
2. What are the impediments to effective serial processing operation and activities in Nigerian Universities?
3. To what extent are serial publications available to library users in the universities?
4. Are there significant differences and similarities in the way serial are accessed and used among students in Universities?
5. Are serial publications available and accessible to library users' in information science and library services?

Literature Review

The users of serials in academic libraries require quick access to the current information contained in serial volumes and issues. According to Turtle (1983), whether serial publications is centralized, decentralized or integrated with other operations, serials

requires processing. Adhikari (2000) observed that serials publications processing begins with acquisition, which include: ordering, checking-in, claiming, payments and find accounting.

Serials are defined to include all those publications which are issued with varying frequency with title common to successive issues, but without a foreseeable ending". Osborn, (1980). Within this definition identities examples of serial publications that are used by the students in Nigerian Universities to be periodicals, government serials, newspapers, series, amuals, proceedings transactions and other easily delineated categories. The serial department in academic libraries worked on publications, their place and treatment in libraries are published weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly, bi-annually e.t.c.

Adewale (2007) noted that serial publications are accessed and are in use as they are important and popular learning materials for students in universities as they contain current information that moves the universities students towards achieving educational goals and also facilitates good learning of the students. Serial publications are available and accessible for use locally and could be ordered overseas (Okeh and Onanuga; 1999).

Serial publications are invaluable information materials for academic excellence of the students accessed manually, electronically or virtually in an academic library. Nearly all the disciplines of study in a university system make use of serials particularly the scholarly journal, as a primary means of communicating new research results, new theories, and new critical approaches. (Farrington, 2007). To ensure effective use of serials by the students, the needs of the students should be determined. Information from the patrons on the use of serials, as observed by Olanlokun and Momoh (1994) would no doubt make the library feel the pulse of the users. Nwalo (2003) remarked that the library's objectives are best achieved the more that its documents are exposed and utilized.

Academics from four facilities of the Moi University, Kenya studied by Ocholla (1996) ranked the information resources that the students in Universities used in the following order of frequency: journals, textbooks research reports, conference literatures and others. This shows that journals are most frequently used by Universities students among other information resources.

Saleam (2001) in a study of four university libraries in South-Western; Nigeria regarding access to their serial collections found that serial publication sections are mostly open to undergraduates and postgraduates students. Most academic libraries, according to Woodward (1999) restrict at least, their current serials holdings and sometimes the whole collection to use in the library only so as to ensure that current issues are accessible and secured because missing issues are difficult to replace.

Olanlokun and Momoh (1994) confirmed that both undergraduates and postgraduates students in Nigerian Universities and other invariably opened more of their time reading publications in serial form from the learned journals and technical reports of specialized organizations and societies than from books and monographs. The Nigerian Universities libraries, according to Salaam (2008), had not fared well in their provision of relevant and adequate journals for research and that this has affected their postgraduates students as they did not have sufficient access to their university libraries serials collection.

A student researcher, as emphasized by Serema and Mooko (2002) is expected to read and cite journal articles in his or her research writings. Aina (2002) confirmed that journals are the primary resources used for research in academic learning. Woodward (2009) emphasized that the signing and guiding of the serials collection must be of high standard to enable the students to locate materials quickly and easily. Serials are for in-library use only. But, the students; who are users in an academic library could request and be allowed to photocopy serials in the library's photocopying centre. On exceptional cases, in order to make serial publications more accessible and properly used by the students in Nigerian

Universities, serial collections could be given out on overnight or weekend loan to the students. (Nwalo, 2003).

In his own studies, Okpala (2007 opined that there are services beneficial to the students of serials departments in academic libraries, especially universities. The users sought one material or the other from the library from time to time, to find journals, magazines, newspapers, bulletins, pamphlets etc in search for information relevant to teaching and learning processes. Properly evaluating the access of serial publications operations and activities to the students encompasses current Awareness Services, Newspaper files, translation, Readers' Advisory Services, Photocopying, Circulation, Indexing and Abstracting.

It is observed that there are services beneficial to the users of serial departments in any academic library, particularly in the universities, as part of academic libraries, users sought one material or another from the serials department in their school libraries from time to time. The access of the serial processing, operations and activities by the students in the universities as opined by Okpala (2007) are explained to undergone the following processing:

- **Circulation:** There is no fixed circulation rule by various libraries. Each academic library determines its adopted style for circulation. With this, some periodicals can be borrowed but out in the same quantity with books. These set of academics sits to read or glance through texts in the periodicals within the serial department of the academic library.
- **Current Awareness Services (CAS):** Okpala (2007) viewed that CAS is a vital means by which the students of Nigerian Universities who are users in academic libraries keep abreast of information on a given subject.
- **Translation:** These are valuable articles or information materials that are produced in foreign languages to the users. Translation and circulation are effective in a library serial department by the students through the use of journals, magazines, governmental publications, newsletter, bulletins and newspapers for use.

Other serial processing activities and operations asserted by Okpala (2007) in his work "Reference sources in social sciences" include; indexing and Abstracting, Readers' Advisory services, photocopying and newspaper files in which issues in the newspapers are better accessed through newspaper cuttings. Okpala (2007) added that no better service can be rendered to users in this respect without the newspaper files operation.

Akinbode (1998) asserts that serial publications are of great importance because they contain current information. They are useful for study, teaching, learning and research purposes, all of which are the outputs of students in the university. Serials as pointed out by Lawal (2002) can be regarded as the nerve centre of any university library because they contain the most up-to-date information research and knowledge. Elatuloti et al (1990), serials constitute an important part of the library collection because the information contained in them is more current than those in published books.

Due to the fact that serials are supposed to carry first reports of scholarly research and theoretical discussions.Aboyade (1999) opined that for the latest and up-to date opinions and development within the various subjects disciplines, one would do well to look in the appropriate journals.

Fayose (1995) also said that periodicals are useful because they are the most up-to-date resources in the library, she emphasized further that ''the articles in periodicals are often written by experts in the field, therefore; they are reliable and that the articles are precise and to the point thus, not as cumbersome to read as textbooks.''

Olanlokun&Salisu (1985) also agreed that journals are accorded prominene in the library because they provide the latest information in a discipline and if people want to be

current in their field, they have to read journals in that chosen field. Serial publication is mostly an edited work. Serial authord contributed to the articlrs to be used by the universities students.

International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is assigned to every standard serial publication. This number is helpful to trace each tittle easily. It is also helpful to distinguish one tittle from the other as well as to distinguish serial publications from textbooks and monograph used by the universities students.

Serials are generally regarded as a primary source of information for research because they contain recent and first-hand information. Serial publications come in form of professional journals, magazines, newspapers, reports, bulletins, yearbooks and so on. The duty of the serial section in the library is to select, acquire, record, process, store and display. (Adewale, 2007). Serial publication is for the use of library clients; such as the university student. It is also part of the duties of the serial section to index and abstract serials, and creates vertical files for the serials, acquired and organized.

Ogunbiyi, (2000) revealed that the department of serial publications provides specialized information services to users, compilation of reading lists, selective dissemination of information (SDI) and see to publication of current content list and others. Moreso, Edoka (2008) identifies the impediments of effect serial publications management and processing in an article "serial processing activities in Southern Nigerian Universities Libraries an library philosophy and practice. The identified impediments include:

(a) Lack of locally published serials catalogue and current selection tools.
(b) Non availability of serials processing tools
(c) Absence of local serials information standard bibliographical tools.
(d) Nature of serials which is manifested by a continuous increase in the number and fragmentation of serials titled; and
(e) Changes in frequency, abrupt assertion of serial publications.

Furthermore, Akinbode (1998) in his study on "serials management in the universities libraries of developing nations" opined that serials collections requires careful maintenance to ensure that the library holdings of any particular journals is properly arranged and kept for the use of the reader. Journals not received in the library are noted and claims are sent to the agent publisher to send the missing issues to the library. Akinbode (1998) furthers stressed that issue parts of journals in the library are sent to a local book binder to bind them together in a book form for preservative purpose. A record as kept for all journals sent out for binding. After binding, they are arranged on book-shelves set aside for bound volumes of journals. The bound volumes are also arranged on the book shelves according to classmarks.

The emergence of serials as an effective tool in modern information and research has called for serials manager with an in depth knowledge of their peculiarity and techniques for controlling them (Adubika, 2007). A comprehensive serials management practice is concerned with everything that happens to serials throughout their life cycle. The serials management practices separate with many concepts. There are various views on the concepts and elements of serials management serials management practices deals with selection and de-selection deal with liaison with users, collection analysis and user survey (Ogunrombi, 2007), financial control and budgeting deal with price list checking, fund allocation, invoice checking, invoice payment and receipt checking. Ford, (1999), subscription methods deal with direct ordering and subscription agent, (Cowley, 1990); house-keeping routines deal with tamping, recording in statistics files, kardex card, visible index, and serials lists. (Tipple, 2000).

Cataloging and classification deal with provision of bibliographic description for each title of serials and provision of access to serials represented in the catalogue (Adeyemi,

2001; and Komolafe, 2001). Organization deals with cataloguing, classification and display of serials on the rack to facilitate easy access. (Law, 1999), storage preservation and binding deal with protection of serials from damage and prolong their shelf life (Elkington; 1999); direct services to the users deal with circulation, indexing, abstracting, current awareness, translation, photocopying and interlibrary lending services, (Clerk and O'Dridcoll, 2011) and serials automation which deals with application of modern information and communication technologies in carrying out serials processes (Woodward and Graham, 2000).

Taiwo, (2003) revealed that serial publications are being cleared regularly at short intervals to prevent destruction by insects, moulds and others alike. The library subscribes to any available local serial publication in the country. After normal processing in an academic libraries, serials are separated, arranged and organized accordingly. For instance, current titles (issues of journals are displayed on "periodical racks" (journal display racks) and withdraw the issues hitherto on display to be added to past issues kept under wealth the rack. As the back issues increase, they could be tied (1998) added that in this case, journals are arranged on the racks and shelves according to the classification marks – library of congress classification seheme. The current titles/issues of magazines are displayed on 'magazines display rack" for readers consultation. They are arranged chronologically in cartons and kept in the store. Newspapers are hung titles by titles on 'newspapers stand' for the readers. The back issues of the newspapers are tagged together chronologically and kept in the store. The library work out plan to microfilm magazines and newspaper in serial departments.

Moreso, to ensure effective management of serial publications in academic section are engaged in shelving consulted serial publication regularly for proper arrangement. They are to be engaged in shelf reading regularly in order to make sure that the serial material are well organized and effectively managed for easy location and retrieval by the university students.

Woodward (2001) explained that serials are expensive and difficult to manage. Their management needs special skills and experience from the serials librarian. He further stated that the type of library while methods and style or organization, staff and stock management differ among various universities libraries, the principles of management remain the same.

Management and financial expertise, knowledge of automation and policy development skills, according to Wordward (2000) are all expected of the serial Liberian. In most cases, the choice of serials is determined by individual sections of the institution which library serves, therefore; there should be a nominal budget for each section (Urqualart, 1990). Serials according to Akinbode (1998) can be acquired and maintained through gifts, exchange, subscription, through direct ordering, subscription agent and sometimes through institutional membership of associations.

Although the majority of serials are often obtained most efficiently through a reliable agent, there are several alternatives available. Some serials are been ordered directly from the publisher. There is a good case for using a small local supplier for popular dailies and weeklies and occasionally government and institutions titles are only free or by exchange and cannot be handled by an agent (Cowley, 2000)

In most cases, as pointed out by Faleye (2004), Universities libraries personnel bring in serials titles with their bills/invoice from conferences, seminars and workshops for settlement. Such requests are scrutinized and payment made accordingly. Agbaje (2002) stated that the stages of serial management by the organization include section, order, placement, delivery, processing, storage and retrieval of serials. Serials management comprises all activities needed to facilitate and implement efficient and effective transfer of information to the potential user and thereby fulfils the aims and objectives of the library

(Faluwoye, 1995). Set of objectives of serial publications management accessed by the students in Universities as identified by Woodward (2000) are as follows:

- Ensure on continuing basis that the serial publication remains relevant to the needs of the community through liaison with users, selection and de-selection, collection analysis, production of management reports, use and user survey, formulation of a written collection development policy.
- Facilitate easy access to up-to-date information about the range, scope and location of materials with in the serials collection through cataloging and classification, and cataloging maintenance and updating.
- Provide quick and easy access for users and library staff to current and back issues of serials through check-in, shelving and tidying displays and stacks and maintenance of special collections;
- Ensure the smooth receipt of serials title by the adherence to budgets, prompt payment of invoices, and liaison with suppliers through budget preparation, maintenance and updating of the financial control system, invoice checking and liaison with subscription agents.
- Ensure that all issues paid for are received in order to keep the collection as complete as possible through claiming;
- Assist the exploitation of the collection by altering users to the wide range of serials acquisitions and handling user enquires through organizing and maintenance of displays, current awareness and selective dissemination of information services and attending to user enquiries and;
- Ensure an efficient and effective service to library users through staff management, setting of objectives, staff training and motivation.

Though serial publications processing is important, it is be deviled with problems. One major problem cited by Edoka (2008) as noted by Brown and Smith (1980), Collins (1998), Ebso (2001) and Elliot (2003), is the huge financial commitment associated with acquisition and processing. Tise (2001) noted that problems with processing are compounded by the loss of key library staff knowledgeable in serial publication processing as a result of budget cuts. Also, Szilvassy (1996) mentioned the problem of absent or incomplete processing tools.

According to Adewale (2007), a majority of the serial publications produced in less developed countries have incomplete bibliographic information and this makes processing cumbersome. Mullis (1992) expressed the problem of labour intensiveness during check-in and the difficulty in cataloging. He also noted the absence of standards in classification of serial publications. Many libraries may not have the required tools for cataloging and classification. Akinbode (1998) revealed that the library has no financial problem in subscribing to local serial publications. The problem we have in the library is particular and the academic environment in general is that some of the academic associations and institutions expected to publish journals are yet to be doing so, may be due to lack of adequate fund.

Another problem is that some of the local serial publications in the libraries are "dead" while very few that have survived are being published irregularly. Jegede (1992) in her own view to this issue said:

> "the total number of legal founds published in Nigeria as at June 1990 is fortyone. However, it is not easy to obtain issues both past and current or many of the journals for various reason. One of the reasons arises out of inadequacies of printing and publishing since short run often fail to meet demand. It is even difficult to know which titles are "dead" or "alive" because of the sporadic way they appear…….most

> often, when they are published, they fail to meet with the International Standard Book Description for Serials".

Therefore, we do not have enough journals published in the country. The greater bulk of serial published today according to Lawal (1992) are from countries outside Africa. Moreover, due to the economic depression in the country, lack of adequate fund, problems of balance of payment, devaluation of our currency and problems of getting foreign exchange. Academic library in universities used by the students has been unable to renew subscriptions to foreign journals in the last few years. We only receive outdated issues of foreign journals nowadays through gifts. Adedeji (1984) shows that the problem surrounding the subscriptions to foreign journals are universal.

Adedeji (1984) further stressed that the universities of Ibadan's Library serials collection, perhaps the largest and richest in Black Africa is faced with numerous problems of collection maintenance" in the following analysis:

> "Most libraries of the developing countries suffer from balance of payment problems. Difficulties of setting debts incurred on library materials, imposition of foreign exchange restrictions, and the bureaucratic procedures at the central Bank hinders the transfer of available funds to clear debts. As a result of these agents have threatened university of Ibadan Library with litigations. Apart from foreign exchange restrictions, the periods from 1978 has been crucial for Nigerian Universities, and university of Ibadan in particular. University budgets were initially cut by half and have systematically been further reduced".

In view of the above situation, Adedeji (1984) concluded that the library has been unable to renew subscriptions to periodicals and to settle piles of unpaid invoices. Since the greater bulk of serials published today are from countries outside Africa, and with the fact that we have foreign exchange problem, there is no way one can do away with foreign journals in Nigeria especially at this time of technology transfer from developed countries to Nigeria. Akinbode (1998) opined that another major problems we have in library serial department of university is that most of the materials used and accessed by the students are being misplaced and face it.

Owadara (2004) expressed that the present economic depression in Nigeria has greatly affected serial collection in the nation the frequent high cost of production due to bad economy has led to frequent increased in prices of serials to the extent that majority of libraries find it difficult nowadays to renew subscriptions to current issues. This also affects the total cost of production price and acquisition of books and journals Aina and Mabawonku (1996) testified to this that pricing in Nigeria has undergone frequent changes because of the continued devaluation of the national currency. This actually affects the total cost of production, price and acquisition of books and journals. This deplorable situation has made it extremely difficult to sustain both local and foreign journals in the third world countries.

Furthermore, Foreign Exchange Market (FEM) which has greatly lowered the value of the naira made majority of Nigerian academic libraries unable to maintain subscriptions to foreign journals. As expressed Igben (1992), the average cost of a foreign journal which can now be as high as ₦1000 per journal has put them out of the reach of many university libraries. The shortage of foreign exchange is making the efforts of acquiring books and journals frustratingly slow and sometimes seemingly not worthwhile. Lack of interest connectivity and telecommunication infrastructure in African countries, as discussed by Serema and Mooko (2002) and Afullo (2000) is an impediment to global information exchange and utilization by African countries including Nigeria.

Apart from the cost of these journals, which Nigerian libraries can hardly afford, sometimes there are delays in subscriptions and supply to the libraries (Nwakanma, 2003) Acquisition of serials in Nigerian Federal University libraries, according to Anuobi*et al.,* (2010) is besieged with problems and the problems are those related to cost of serials, selection tools, nature of serials and subscription decision. Mason (2007) pointed out that the problems faced by academic universities librarians in effort to maintain their serials collection presently include the explosion in academic research, budgetary cutback, lack of storage space, increase in price of academic publication, cost of binding and exchange note. As a result, Liberians find it difficult to maintain subscription to all journals that their scholars want to have access to.

Olugbile (2005) repoted that 'the first generated universities in Nigeria used to subscribe to know fewer than 5000 journals annually but they now struggle to have less than 500, whereas foreign universities like the Harvard in the united state subscribe to about 15000 journals annually. Ayorinde (2005) in his report said that no Nigerian university has not thee prescription of the united nations educational scientific and cultural organization (UNESCO) that a library must acquire 10,000 books and journals annually and be fully computerized.

The grater bulk of serials used in Africa as observed by Lawal (1992) are from countries outside Africa. Another dimension to this problem is that owing to the unavailability of foreign journals, most Nigerian and indeed African academics could not keep in touch with current research findings in the disciplines. (The Guardian, July 11: 2003: 16).

The major problem of journal publishing, especially in Nigeria is the high mortality rates of serials. Many journal cease to exist immediately they are floated. Azubiuke*et al.,* (1990) in a study of mortality rates of Nigerian scientific journals lamented that:

> "For journals started in 1970 or earlier 13 percent of them ceased publication in their second year; 20 percent in the fourth year, and 33 percent in their 10th year. That is to say that 66 percent of them have ceased publication. Those started in 1975 or earlier a set incorporating the former, 4 percent of the journals were published for only one year, 20 percent in their fourth years and 32 percent in their fifth year of publication that is to say that 66 percent of this have ceased publication. For journals started in 1980 or earlier, 15 percent were not published beyond the first year.

A lot of fanfare accompanies the launching of a journal in Africa, but the honeymoon is soon over, the high mortality rate of library and information science (LIS) journals in Africa is a common knowledge. Alema, (2005). Another major problems of serials collection, according to Salaam (2001), budget of Nigerian universities and in the budget of Nigerian universities complied with high inflationary trends in the present world's economy. Conley (1990) emphasized that budget reductions will have an impact on periodical provision as well as other elements of materials purchasing. Even with substantial budgets, libraries will have to reduce acquisition if periodical price inflation continues to increase at the average 10 percent per annum. Kyrillidou (2003) quoted Adubika (2007) reported that serials unit costs increased by 21.5% in 2003. According to the report, the average cost of a serial subscription for Association of Research Libraries which was 89.77 in 1983 rose to 283 by 2003.

Lawal (1992) averred that about 25% of university libraries have had to cancel some of their subscription due to inadequate funds. Salaam (2008) reported that the libraries of universities in Nigeria were not adequately funded and therefore affected acquisition level of serials and services in the libraries to the students. Akinbode (1998) stressed that another

major problem we have in university libraries serial department is that some materials are being misplaced, defaced, damaged, disorganized and mutilated by dubions characters, insects, rodents and moles. Lostof damaged journals are difficult and often impossible to replace.

Berry (1987), the chief serial Division Library of Congress, in his book "Serial Publication identifies the following factors militating against serials publications access by the students in Nigerian universities; as:

1. **Growth and Population:** Berry (1987) asserts that the growth in population in the global world for the past fifteen years have been accompanied by a fairly consistent increase in the circulation figures for newspapers and periodicals. He said further that during the next twenty years, demographic factors will undoubtedly have an effect upon the production and circulation of serial publications throughout the world. These factors in themselves may have relatively small effect upon the number of serial titles, their character or the development of bibliographical controls. He concludes that changes in population characteristics such as educational attainment will increase the upon educational institutions and will affects library services, including the use of serials. However, the character and degree of these changes cannot be judged accurately.
2. **Economic Factors:** Berry reported that there are some evidences that economic factors have an impacts upon the production of serial publications such as increased costs of materials and labour, have adversely affected certain segments of the serial publication industry. He stressed further that a continued high rate of economic growth, such as we have experienced during the past fifteen years, seems favourable to publishing, while a prolonged period economic distress may have an adverse or Negative influence.
3. **Social and Political Factors:** To this effect, some categories of serials which are quite valuable for research newspapers and foreign government publications are collected adequately by only a relatively small number of libraries.
4. **Perennial Problem:** A perennial problem with serial publications has been to develop means of obtaining access to their contents in the past, a small number of limited bibliographical tools have provided a degree of access to the contents of the major serial. He stressed further that well known examples of the application of new techniques to the control of serial content are the American Chemical Society's. chemical Titles; a lest in which machine methods are used to produce current another and key used to produce current another and key words indexes from 600 chemical journals and the listomatic system being used in the preparation of the National library of medicines Index Medicus. It is not likely that machine will solve completely the controls of serial publications contents within twenty years, but undoubtedly significant improvement should be made.
5. **Cost of Periodicals:** Berry (1987) views that cost of periodicals are demonstrably on the increase. According to studies made for the America Library Association and reported in a recent publication of the United State, department of health, education and welfare. Unless, library budgets increase sufficiently, the higher the cost o serials should results in greater selectivity in their acquisition upon reproducing copy righted materials could become more severe.

Paul Berry (1987) concluded that many academic libraries have not included newspaper among their collections, to any great extent, because of custodial problems since the use of microfilm in the late 1930's. The demographic implication for this types of resource.

However, the students have limited access to serials due to poor collection management practices of the university libraries lack of basic infrastructure pertaining to internet connectively puts users at a disadvantage in accessing electronic full text journals.

Lack of adequate serials use support facilities and services in the libraries also affect the use of serials.

The problem of misplacing, defacting, damaging, disorganizing and mutilating of serials by dubions characters, insects, rodents and moulds as narrated by Akinbode (1998) also affect access and availability of serials to the students of universities in libraries. The problem of availability and access affects the use of serials in the libraries as where the serials are not available or accessible, the students in universities can only make little progress in the learning processes and study habit.

Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. Ogun State has one Federal Government university, two state Universities and eight private universities. The population of the study comprised of undergraduate students from one Federal Government university, one state university and one private university in Ogun State. 1% of the total number of admitted students for 2012/2013 academic session in each selected school was used for the study. The institutions include:

1. Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State.
2. Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu Ode, Ogun State.
3. Crescent University, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

The sampling technique adopted for this study was a simple random sampling technique. Based on this, 2% of the total sample population in each of the selected university was sampled randomly.

Table 1: Distribution of case studies

S/N	Universities	Sample population	Sample size
1	Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State.	13,809	278
2	Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu Ode, Ogun State.	9,798	197
3	Crescent University, Abeokuta, Ogun State.	6,203	125
		29,810	**600**

Source: Pre-study observation of the Universities

A total number of 600 copies of a questionnaire item were administered among students in the selected institutions which represent approximately 2% of 29,810 of the total population for the study. The analysis of data was based on descriptive statistics, such as frequency, counts and percentages. Tables and figures were used in expressing views and opinions of the respondents.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Demographic profile of respondents

Name of Institution	**No of Respondents**	**Percent**
FUNAAB	253	42.2
TASUED	210	35.0
CUAB	137	22.8
Total	600	100.0
Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	210	35.0
Female	390	65.0
Level of students	Frequency	Percent
100	73	12.2
200	102	17.0
300	194	32.3
400	180	30.0
500	35	5.8
700	16	2.7
Age of Respondents	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Below 20	120	20.0
21- 30 years	430	71.7
31 – 40 years	50	8.3
Marital Status	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Single	495	82.5
Married	105	17.5
Religion	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Christianity	312	52.0
Islam	241	40.2
Traditional Religion	47	7.8
Total	600	100.0

Table 2 shows number of respondents from each of the institutions. Students from Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta have the highest number of respondents with 42.2%, students from Tai Solarin University of Education constituted 35.0% of the study population while students from Crescent University constituted 22.8%, which represent the lowest percent of the respondents. Table 1 also shows that 35.0% of the respondents were of male gender while the female gender made 65% of the study population. Table 1 equally shows the academic level of respondents, 300 level students of the study population had the highest representation (32.3%), followed by 400 level students (30.0%) while 700 level students were the least represented with 2.7% from the total study population.

In table 1, the ages of all the respondents sampled was shown. Majority of the respondents falls within the ages of 21 to 30 years which (71.7%) of the study population. This is followed by those who were below 20 years (20.0%). Respondents that falls within 31 – 40 years of age were the least represented with 8.3% of the study population. Table 1 further shows that 82.5% of the respondents were single and they constituted the highest percentage of the study population while the married respondents made the remaining 17.5% of the study population. In table 1, the religion of all the respondents sampled was shown. Majority of the respondents were Christians (52.0%), this is followed by 40.2% which represents respondents that were Muslims. Traditional worshippers were the least represented in the study sample with 7.8%.

Table 3: Serial publications availability in the library

	SA	**A**	**D**	**SD**	**X**	**SD**
Gazette	151	373	51	25	3.08	.705
Proceedings of Professional/ Academic Societies	198	352	33	17	3.22	.672
Bulletins	6	215	341	38	3.32	.603
Annual Report	230	325	36	9	3.29	.647
Pamphlets	175	390	34	1	3.25	.571
Journals	250	339	9	2	3.40	.538
General Magazines	235	319	43	3	3.31	.623
News Papers	195	360	42	3	3.25	.596
News Magazines	176	354	55	15	3.15	.680
Abstracts	192	321	68	19	3.18	.726

Table 3 shows that students in Nigerian Universities do have access to different serial collections in academic libraries. The table also shows that ‘Journals’ have the highest mean score X = 3.40; SD = .538 as the most accessible in the serial collections in the Nigerian universities and ‘Gazette’ has the lowest mean score X = 3.08; SD = 0.705 as the only serial collection that is least accessible to students in the Nigerian universities.

Table 4: Awareness of availability of serials in the Library

	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD
I am aware that serial publications are available in the Library	227	360	7	6	3.35	.557
Serial Publications are different from Textbooks.	231	354	9	6	3.35	.564
Serials contain relevant and up to date information for use in any academic assignments	229	328	31	12	3.33	6.36
Serials contain relevant and up to date information about current affairs in the society.	183	322	60	35	3.09	.795
Serials are found in the same location as textbooks in the Library	136	261	144	59	2.83	.912
I am able to borrow any type of serials publications from the library	185	325	68	22	3.16	.737

Table 4 shows that 'I am aware that serial publications are available in the Library' and 'Serial Publication are different from Textbooks' have the same mean of X = 3.35; but different standard deviation of SD = .557 and SD = .564 respectively follow by 'Serials contain relevant and up to date information for use in any academic assignments' X = 3.33; SD = 6.36. The table also revealed that 'Serials are found in the same location as textbooks in the Library' has the least awareness of availability of serials in the Library X = 2.83; SD = .912

Table 5: Access to Serial Publications in the Library by the Students

	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD
All students have equal access to serials publications in the library.	**253**	**318**	**24**	**5**	**3.36**	**.602**
Undergraduate students have restricted access to all the serials in the library	**135**	**290**	**110**	**65**	**2.82**	**.901**
Undergraduate students have restricted access to some of all the serials publications in the library	**146**	**247**	**96**	**111**	**2.71**	**1.031**
Access to serials publications is not limited to students.	**137**	**322**	**60**	**81**	**2.86**	**.922**
Students are able to borrow serials just like they borrow textbooks	**143**	**294**	**99**	**64**	**2.86**	**.901**
Students are able to make photocopies of information they need from the serials publications in the library.	**148**	**281**	**107**	**64**	**2.86**	**.912**

Table 5 shows that of all the six factors highlighted on how to access serial publications in the library 'All students have equal access to serials publications in the library is one most strong factor that shows that serial publications was available to the student X = 3.36; SD =.602 The table also show that 'Undergraduate students were restricted to have access to all the serials in the library as the least factor inhibiting access to serial publication to students with X = 2.82; SD = .901

Table 6: Users' Preference in accessing serials publications

	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD
I go to library frequently to read Gazette	**145**	**303**	**100**	**52**	**2.90**	**.864**
I go to the library frequently to read proceedings of professional/academic societies.	**212**	**255**	**49**	**84**	**2.99**	**.998**
I go to library frequently to read Bulletins	**189**	**302**	**57**	**52**	**3.05**	**.869**
I go to library frequently to read Annual report	**132**	**311**	**109**	**48**	**2.88**	**.841**
I go to library frequently to read Pamphlets.	**102**	**380**	**73**	**45**	**2.90**	**.763**
I go to library frequently to read Journals.	**135**	**375**	**55**	**35**	**3.02**	**.742**
I go to library frequently to read General Magazines.	**152**	**333**	**83**	**32**	**3.01**	**.778**
I go to library frequently to read Newspapers.	**149**	**341**	**82**	**28**	**3.02**	**.756**
I go to library frequently to read News Magazines.	**109**	**366**	**89**	**36**	**2.91**	**.751**
I go to library frequently to read Abstracts.	**134**	**292**	**106**	**68**	**2.82**	**.907**

The result on table 6 revealed that 'students who go to library frequently to read Bulletins have better access to serials in the University library X = 3.05; SD = .869 follow by 'students who frequently go to the library to read Newspapers and Journals' X = 3.02; SD = .756 and X= 3.02; SD = .742 respectively while students that go to the library to read abstracts has X = 2.82; SD = .907 as shown by their mean score and standard deviation respectively.

Table 7: Impediments to the access and use of serials publication by University students

	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD
I frequently patronize the serial section in our library for academic purposes.	**173**	**394**	**18**	**15**	**3.21**	**.613**
The serial librarian attitude affects student's use of serial section adversely.	**171**	**295**	**75**	**59**	**2.96**	**.896**
There is no serial section in my school library.	**103**	**237**	**171**	**89**	**2.59**	**.940**
Even with the existence of serials in the library, I don't feel concern to consult serials for academic purposes.	**140**	**243**	**115**	**102**	**2.70**	**1.009**
Libraries have little or no serial publications in universities.	**133**	**255**	**108**	**104**	**2.70**	**1.002**
Available serials are not relevant to library users and the need of the students.	**136**	**252**	**125**	**87**	**2.73**	**.971**
Inadequate citing of literature in serials publications itself is an impediment.	**132**	**320**	**87**	**61**	**2.87**	**.870**
The journals in the library are not current, up- to-date.	**122**	**268**	**130**	**80**	**2.72**	**.936**

The result on table 7 revealed that students 'frequently patronize the serial section in our library for academic purposes' has the highest mean X = 3.21; SD = .613 follow by 'The serial librarian attitude affects student's use of serial section adversely' X = 2.96; SD = .896. It is also shown that with the existence of serials in the library, I don't feel concern to consult serials for academic purposes and students who believed libraries have little or no serial publications in universities' X= 2.70; SD = 1.009 and X = 2.70; SD = 1.002 as shown by their mean score and standard deviation respectively.

4.4 Discussion

Nigerian Universities have access to different serial collections in academic libraries. Journals are mostly consulted by students as it is the most accessible in the serial collections in the Nigerian Universities. Gazette is hardly consulted by students due to its non-availability in Nigeria University libraries. Most students are aware that serial publications are available in the Library and they are different from other textbooks that are consulted in the library. It also revealed that serials contain relevant and up to date information for use in any academic assignments for students. Students are not aware that serials publications can easily be located like other printed materials in the library.

All students have equal access to serials publications. Undergraduate students were restricted to some classified materials in the library. This is a serious inhibiting factor to the effective and efficient use of serial publication by students in the library.Students who consult Bulletins frequently in the library have better access to serials and were better informed about the programme in the University community. Students who frequently go to the library to read Newspapers, Journals and abstract are not well informed about the university community programmes.

Students frequently patronize the serial section of the library for academic purposes. Despite the mammoths benefit attached to the use of serials by students in the library, attitude of serial librarian affects student's use of serial section adversely. Students' low expectation from the use of serials publication has culminated into its neglect in the library.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

This study investigated the evaluation of students' access to serial publications in three selected University in Ogun State. Five research questions were used to guide the study. The findings are summarized as follows:

1. Nigeria University students have access to different serial collections in academic libraries. The study revealed that Journals are widely consulted among all the serials publication and Gazette is not available and accessible for students use in the library.
2. The study revealed that serial publications are available in the Library and Serial Publication is different from Textbooks.
3. It reveals that all students have equal access to serials publications in the library, this makes it readily available them. Restriction of some serials materials to undergraduate constitutes impediments to the use of serials by students in the university libraries.
4. Students who visit the library frequently to read Bulletins have better access to serials in the University library. Students who frequently go to the library to read abstracts, newspapers and journals are not well informed about the university community programme.
5. It was also revealed that students often visit the serial section in our Universities libraries for academic purposes. The serial librarian attitude affects student's use of serial section and a student does not belief that serial materials in the library can adequately meet their academic needs.

Conclusion

This study shows that students in Nigerian Universities have access to different serial collections in academic libraries. Journals are widely consulted among all the serials publication and Gazette is not available and accessible for students use in the library.Serial publications are available in the Library and Serial publication is different from Textbooks.

Restriction on some serials materials to undergraduate constitutes impediments to its effective use.

Students who visit the library frequently to read Bulletins have better access to serials in the University library. Students who frequently go to the library to read abstracts, newspapers and journals are not well informed about the university community programme. Students often visit the serial section in our Universities libraries for academic purposes. The serial librarian attitude affects student's use of serial section and a student does not belief that serial materials in the library can adequately meet their information needs.

Recommendations

In view of the conclusion stated above, the following recommendations are put forward. In order to ensure the effective use of serial section of the university libraries, the following should be considered:

1. There is a need to create conducive environment for students and guide the student in the proper ways of getting the best from serial publications.
2. There is need for government, school administrators or stakeholders to draw out programmes or training that will inform the students about serial publications.
3. Serials librarians should be well guided to give the best to the students in the use of serial publications.
4. There is need for various universities to subscribe to different online or electronic journals, as this provides the students with up-to-date information and can be accessed and updated easily from any location.

REFERENCES

Afolabi, A.F. &Akerele, J.A. (2011).Use of Serial Publications by the Academic Staff of School of Arts and Social Sciences in Adeyemi College of Education Ondo State, Nigeria.Library Philosophy and Practice - Electronic Journal: 497.

Agulu, C.C., &Aguolu, I.E. (2002).*Libraries and information management in Nigeria.*Maidugujri: Ed-Linform Services.

Aina, L.O. (1983). Access to scientific and technological information in Nigeria: Problems and prospects.*Nigerian Libraries* 19 (1-3): 35-41.

Aina, L.O. (1985) Availability of periodical titles cited in the literature of Nigeria's scientific research in Nigerian libraries.*Nigerian libraries* 21(1):23-27.

Ajayi, N.A., &Akinniyi, A.R. (2004). Accessibility of health information to primary health care workers in some selected local government areas in Nigeria.*Owena Journal of library and information science* 1(2): 31-38.

Dike, A. (1992). Scarcity of tertiary books in Nigeria: A threat to academic excellence and suggestions for action.*Journal of Librarianship and Information Science* 24(2): 79-85.

Iyoro, A.O. (2004). Serial availability, accessibility and use: Perceptions of in-training information professionals in a Nigerian university.*The Nigerian Library Link*11(2): 66-71.

Kuhlthau, C.C. (1991). Inside the search process: Information seeking from the user's perspective.*Journal of the American Society for Information Science* 42(5):361-370.

Madu, E.C and Adeniran, T.N. (2005).Information Technology Uses andPreservation of Resources in Libraries and Information Centres. Ibadan: EVl-Coleman.P.117.

Marama, I.D., &Ogunrombi, S.A. (1996).Availability of library and information science collections in Nigerian university libraries.*Library Bulletin: Nigerian University Library System* 1:2.

Nwalo, K.W. (2003).Fundamentals of Library Practice: a Manual on LibraryRoutines. Ibadan:Stirling – Horden. P9.

Ogunrombi, S.A. (2004). Quality assurance and book crisis in Nigerian university libraries.*Gateway Library Journal* 6(2):65-73.

Okiy, R. B. (2004).use of library resources by trainee pastors in Baptist College of Theology in Nigeria. *Owena Journal of Libraryand Information Science*2:48-59.

Okiy, R.B. (2000). Assessing students' and faculty use of academic libraries in Nigeria: The case study of Delta State University, Abraka.*Frontiers of Library and Information Science*1(1):65-75

Olanlokun, S.O and Salisu, T.M (1988).Understanding the Library: A Handbookof Library Use. Lagos: Concept P.47.

Oyediran-Tidings, S. (2004). Information needs and seeking behavior of library users: Results from Yaba College of Technology, Lagos.*LagosJournal of Library and Information Science*2(2):77-88.

Popoola, M.O. (2006). Definition, Aims, and Objectives of Library.InLibraryEducation Seriesed Mathew O. Popoola. Akure: Moloye Educational. P.1.

Sarasvady, S., et al. (2007).Study of the Use of Electronic Resources for Implementing Library Consortium (India) http://www.Isica.ac.In/serial/consortia/CBS07-07.pdf.