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Information Literacy Skills as a Correlate to the Use of Library Resources among Polytechnic Students in Delta State Nigeria

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Introduction

The major aim of any Academic Library is to support teaching, learning and research activities of its parent institution. Therefore their information resources should be well utilized for the educational development of the students. Effective use of these information resources has created the necessity to acquire the necessary skills required to become more efficient and independent library user (Onifade, Ogbuyi and Omehizor 2013).

Library use has been viewed as the act of perusing the library stock, asking for assistance from library staff borrowing a book, finding of value, studying one's own material, and meeting with friends in the library (Atkin, 2005). Infact, the failure of a user to use the library in a result oriented way wastes the resources of the library. The 21st century is associated with the concept of Information explosion which has led to the proliferation of information resources. As the volumes of information are increasing constantly, search skills are required to gain access to the available information. This means that users of information resources need to equip themselves with the right search skills and to achieve this, the users must possess information literacy skills to enable them harness the various information resources at their disposal (Taylor, 2010).

Information literacy has been described as a term that enables people to recognize the value of information and to use it to make informed choices in their personal, professional and academic lives (Ogunjobi, 2012). Ojedokun and Lumade (2015) see it as the ability to locate, evaluate, manage and use information for a range of sources not only for problem solving but also for decision making and research.

Information literacy in Librarianship includes how to use a catalogue, how to locate a book on the shelves and how to access electronic databases (ALA, 2008). As a result the information user is faced with countless information choices and must decide which resources and skills to use in the acquisition of information.

Parang, Raine and Stevenson (2010) have described information literacy skills as a fusion of library, computer, media and technological literacy's. Information literacy skills enables user to recognize when different form of information is needed, and also provide them with methods on how to cope with them. From the aforementioned, it can then be safe to state that information literacy skills are required by students of higher institutions for the effective utilization of library resources for academic as well as personal development.

With the advent of ICT in Nigeria, most academic libraries are now ICT compliant. Beyond these, most Polytechnics in Nigeria have electronic resources. It is evident that information literacy skills can affect the use of library resources in Polytechnics hence this study.

Statement of Problem

The 21st century has made it mandatory for researchers and information seekers to be information literate due to information explosion. For students to be efficient users of information, they must possess the required information literacy skills. Despite this awareness, personal observations as well as interactions with librarians revealed that there exists a steady decline in the use of library resources among Polytechnic students. This may be attributed to poor information literacy skills among the students which is needed to effectively utilize the different information resources stocked by Academic Libraries. It is on this premise that this study investigated information literacy skills as a factor influencing the use of library resources among Polytechnics students in Delta State Nigeria.

Purpose of Study

The main purpose of this study is to examine information literacy skills as a correlate to the use of library resources among Polytechnic students in Delta State Nigeria. Specifically this study sought to:-

- a. Determine the level of information literacy skills possessed by Polytechnic students in Delta state.
- b. Ascertain the extent to which Polytechnic students information literacy skills affect their use of library resources.
- c. Find out the relationship between information literacy skills and use of library resources by Polytechnic students in Delta State Nigeria.

Research Questions

The study provided answers to the following research questions:-

- a. What is the level of information literacy skills possessed by Polytechnic students in Delta State, Nigeria?

- b. To what extent do Polytechnic students' information literacy skills affect their use of library resources?

Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis was tested for this study at 0.05 level of significance.

There is no significant relationship between information literacy skills and use of library resources by Polytechnic Students in Delta State Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is adapted from the Seven Pillar Model of information literacy developed through the work of the Society of College National and University Libraries (SCONUL) in the United Kingdom in the late 1990s. The model defines two aspects of information skills:- the realm of study skills in which students employ tools for information acquisition and conceptual skills (in which a student is aware of how information is produced and used).

From the model, to become information literate is a continuing holistic process which can be encompassed within the Seven Pillars of information literacy. Within each pillar, an individual can develop from novice to expert as they progress through their learning life. And because the information world itself is constantly changing and developing, it is possible to move down a pillar as well as progress up in it.

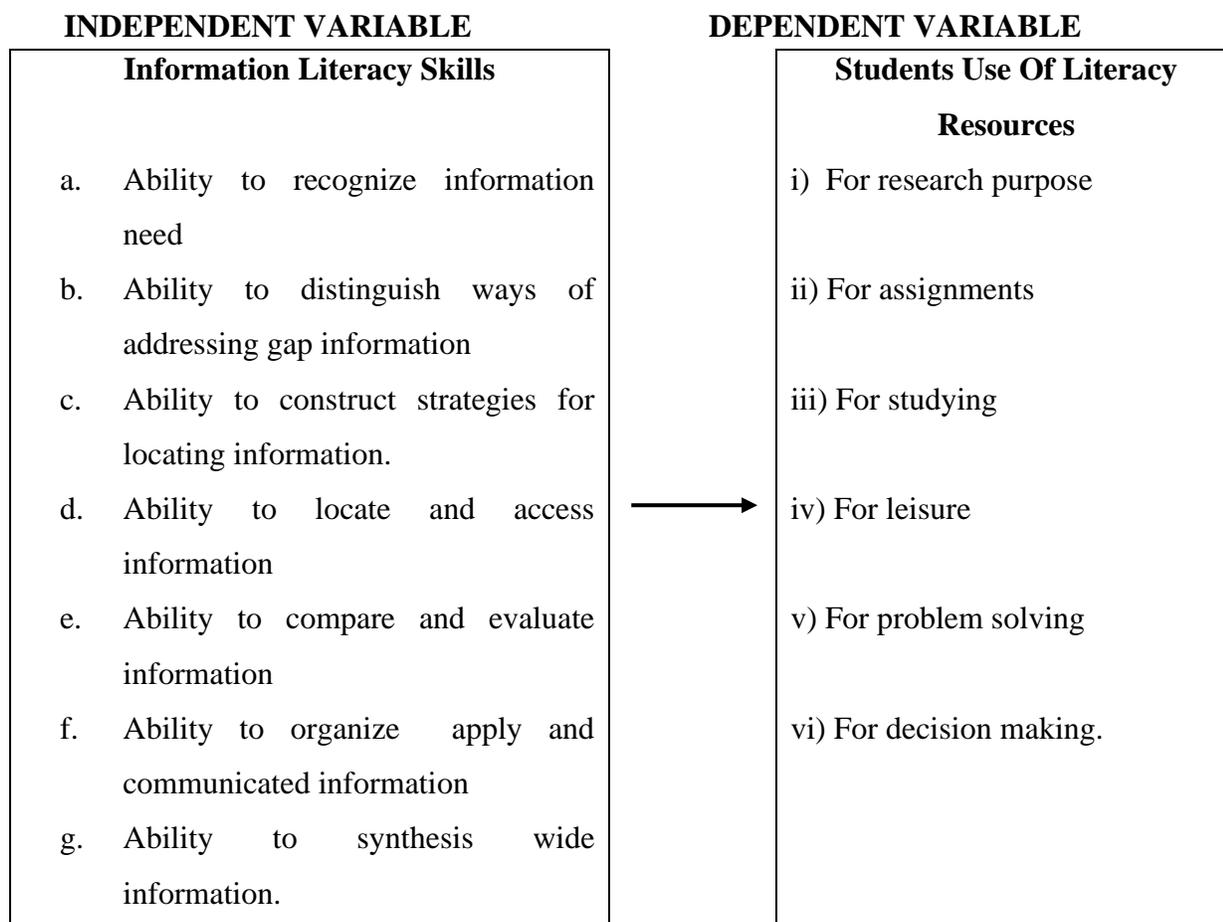


Figure 1:

Conceptual Model adapted from the SCONUL’s Seven Pillars of information literacy core model for higher education.

Source: Society of College National and University Libraries (2011).

Methodology

The design adopted for the study is the descriptive survey research design. The population of the study is 16,050 respondents, which comprised of all full time Polytechnic students in Delta State Nigeria. They were drawn from the three Polytechnics in Delta State Nigeria namely, Delta State Polytechnic Ogwashi-ukwu, Ozoro and Otefe-Oghara in the 2019/2020 Academic session. The breakdown of the population as retrieved from the Academic planning unit is presented in the table below.

Name of Institution	No of Students
Delta State Polytechnic Ogwashi-ukwu	5,100
Delta State Polytechnic Ozoro	4,800
Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe Oghara	6,150
Total	16,050

4% of the target population which is 642 respondents were drawn as the sample size. This was considered adequate as it is supported by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) assertion for a Population size of 20,000, a sample size of 377 is adequate.

The cluster sampling was used to place the respondents in their clusters after which the simple random sampling technique was used to select the 4% of the total students in each cluster. A questionnaire entitled “Information literacy skills and the use of library resources among Polytechnic students questionnaire (ILSULRPSQ)” designed by the researchers was the instrument for the study. It was divided into 3 sections. Sections A was on demographic information of the respondents. Section B was on the level of Information Literacy Skills possessed by the respondents and section C was on the extent to which Polytechnic students’ information literacy skills affect their use of library resources. The instrument was validated by three experts in Library and Information Science, and Measurement and Evaluation departments in Delta State University Abraka. A test retest method of reliability was used to determine the consistency of the respondents’ opinions using thirty students from the Federal Polytechnic Auchi, Edo State Nigeria. The Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation Coefficient r (ppmc) was used to analyze the questionnaire and a reliability Coefficient of 0.788 was achieved and was considered adequate for the study.

The questionnaire was administered to the respondents by the researchers on face to face basis to achieve high response. The data collected were analyzed using the descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequencies were used to analyze the demographic data, mean was used to answer the research question and the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) was used to test the formulated hypothesis. The results are presented.

Results

Table 1: Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage%
Male	206	33.3
Female	412	66.7
Total	618	100

From the data collected, there are more Female students in the Polytechnics in Delta State Nigeria than males.

Table 2: Level of Study of the Respondents

Level of Study	Frequency	Percentage%
O.N.D. I	137	22.2
O.N.D. II	198	32.0
H.N.D. I	143	23.1
H.N.D. II	140	22.7
TOTAL	618	100.0

The data revealed there were more students in Ordinary National Diploma II than other levels.

ANSWERING OF RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Research Question One:

What is the level of Information literacy Skills possessed by Polytechnic Students in Delta State.

Table 3: Level of Information Literacy Skills of Students

Level of Information Literacy Skills	\bar{x}	SD
I can use a number of search engines when sourcing for information	2.64	.854
I am able to define my specific information needs prior to information search	1.92	.921
I can conveniently access needed Information from variety of sources for problem solving independently	3.12	1.042
I can evaluate new information from an existing body of knowledge	3.11	1.076
I have good internet navigation skills	3.30	.602
I can use information retrieved from different source effectively	3.89	.973
I am able to synthesize and select online/offline materials for my use.	3.44	1.010
I have the ability to effectively use Boolean Search techniques	2.00	1.084
I can select materials on topics accurately.	2.76	1.037
I can store information from electronic sources by printing or saving to external drive.	3.77	.988
I can effectively use the library OPAC to search for specific library materials.	1.59	.885
Aggregate Mean = 2.51		
Criterion Mean = 3.00		

Table 3 shows that with the aggregate mean of 2.51, which is less than the criterion mean of 3.00, it can be concluded that the level of information literacy skills possessed by Delta State Nigeria Polytechnic students is low.

Research Question Two:

To What extent do Polytechnic students' information literacy skills affect their use of library resources?

Table 4: Extent to which polytechnic students' information literacy skills affect their use of library resources

Information Literacy Skills and Use of Library Resources	\bar{x}	SD
Ability to effectively use the library OPAC to search for specific library materials.	2.66	.955
Ability to use Boolean techniques to search for online information resources.	2.53	.896
Ability to use search engines when sourcing for information.	2.50	1.058
Ability to define specific information needs prior to information search.	2.94	1.047
Ability to conveniently access needed information from variety of sources for problem solving independently.	2.95	.964
Ability to evaluate new information from an existing body of knowledge	3.56	.667
Ability to navigate web pages over the internet	3.00	.891
Ability to use information retrieved from different sources effectively.	3.15	.924
Ability to synthesize and select online/offline materials for use.	2.90	1.144
Ability to select materials on topics accurately.	2.85	1.105
Ability to store information from electronic sources by printing or saving to external drive.	1.94	.635
Aggregate Mean = 2.49		
Criterion Mean = 2.50		

Table 4 reveals that the aggregate mean of 2.49 is less than the criterion mean of 2.50. It can therefore be concluded that the extent to which Polytechnic students information literacy skills affect their use of library resources is a low extent.

Testing of the hypothesis

Hypothesis one: There is no significant relationship between information literacy skills and use of library resources by Polytechnic students in Delta State Nigeria.

The Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation was used to test the hypothesis. The result is presented in:

Table 6: Relationship between information literacy skills and students use of library resources

		Information literacy skills	Library Resources Usage
Information Literacy Skills	Pearson Correlation	1	.830**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	618	618
Library Resources Usage	Pearson Correlation	.830**	1
	Sig.(2-tailed)	.000	
	N	618	618
a=0.05			

The result revealed that the Correlation Coefficient r is .830 while the significant level is .000 which is less than the alpha level 0.05. The null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that increase in information literacy skills may lead to a corresponding increase in the use of library resources among Polytechnic students in Delta State Nigeria.

Discussion

The finding of the study reveals that the level of information literacy skills possessed by Polytechnic students in Delta State Nigeria is low. This claim has been buttressed by Okuonghae and Ogiemien (2016) when they noted that most undergraduate students do not have excellent information literacy skill competencies especially on how to use different information retrieval tools. Also Islam and Isuji (2010) opined that undergraduate students had limited skills in the area of information literacy.

From the study, it is also evident that the extent to which Polytechnic students Information literacy skills affect their use of library resources is to a low extent. This result is in agreement with the study of Ekong and Ekong (2018) which stated that the extent to which undergraduate students apply information literacy skills in their use of information resources is still very low.

The hypothesis result showed that there is a significant relationship between information literacy skills and use of library resources by Polytechnic students in Delta State Nigeria. This finding agrees with Odede's (2018) assertion that there is a strong link between information literacy (ICT skills of students) and their level of information resources usage. He further opined that this link can be strengthened when students are continually encouraged to keep abreast with changes in the information world, requiring information literacy skills to be updated regularly which will have a positive impact on the utilization of information resources contained in libraries.

Conclusion

The contemporary environment of technological change has made information literacy skills inevitable for learning and use of library resources. These skills constitute a core requirement for students in order to be grounded in the use of information resources. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that Polytechnic students in Delta State Nigeria do not possess the necessary information literacy skills; and a significant relationship exists between information literacy skills and library resources usage among Polytechnic students in Delta State Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made.

- a. Collaboration efforts should be made between the management of Polytechnics, Librarians and other teaching staff geared towards developing their students information literacy skills for sustainable independent learning.
- b. Librarians should create awareness on the importance of information literacy skills on library resources usage in the Polytechnics.

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