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Library and Information Science Professional Skills and Entrepreneurial Intention among Undergraduates of Universities

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Abstract

This study investigated the relationship between Library and Information Science Professional Skills and Entrepreneurial Intention among Undergraduates of Universities Cross River States and University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Correlational survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 284 undergraduates and this was also used as sample. A validated research-made questionnaire with reliability range of 0.71- 0.79 was used for data collection. The data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the analysis showed that acquisition of the following variables: indexing skills and abstracting skills were significantly related to entrepreneurial intention. It was recommended among others that there should be public orientation programme that will enlighten the graduates of importance of entrepreneurial activities on students' employability and self-reliance.

Key words: Indexing Skills, Abstracting Skills, Undergraduates and Entrepreneurial intention, Professional skills, Universities.

1. Introduction

One of the major issues in the world today is the need to create more jobs. Most of the unemployed people are products of various educational institutions. It is much better to give them skill-based courses and training through which they could acquire competencies and have intention to establish their own business or businesses (Cotton, Gorman & Stampfi, 2002). This will save most of these graduates the agony of waiting for several years after graduation in search of job. Therefore library and information science department have responded to this demand by introducing library skills to students in an effort to promote entrepreneurship as well as a professional entrepreneurship career.

Library and Information Science (LIS) is a merging of the two fields namely “library science” and “information science”. Information science is concerned with the analysis, collection, classification, manipulation, storage, retrieval, movement, dissemination and protection of information. Library science is a field related to the dissemination of information through libraries making use of the principles of information science (Reitz, 2004). Library and Information Science is the study of the principles and skills of processes and operations for systematic organization of societies’ intellectual heritage in the form of graphic and non-graphic records in libraries (Lawal, 2010). Library and Information science is a route to individual success and professional groups to be trusted to work for the benefits of others (Ugah, 2006).

A profession is a vocation whose practice is founded upon an understanding of the theoretical structure of some department of learning or science, and upon the abilities accompanying such understanding (Lawal, 2010). This understanding and these abilities are applied to the vital practical affairs of man. The practices of the profession are modified by knowledge of a generalized nature and by the accumulated wisdom and experience of mankind, which serve to correct the errors of specialism. It is assumed that the practising professional

has acquired skill through theoretical knowledge; his competence must be demonstrated by passing a test which ensures that the practice of the profession is restricted only to those with dedication and ability for the job skills is acquired through a recognised system of professional training. Such training are normally organised and administered by professionals of university of higher learning.

Library and Information Science has many components that make it a profession. These components are specialised knowledge that has to do with skills, possession of service orientation, general code of specialise knowledge, intellectual activity, recognition by people and status in the society, stability of the profession through permanent membership, autonomy and authority of the practitioners. Library and Information Science professionals in Nigeria has undergone a prolonged specialised training and education in higher institutions approved and accredited by supervising government bodies like National Universities Commission (NUC) for undergraduate and post graduate programmes. Library and Information Science as a profession, is service oriented, which is born out of community interest, and social necessity, and it is well recognised by governments and people. Library and Information Science programme is designed to help undergraduates in the development of a wide range of professional skills in library and information services that can lead to self-employment in the library field like indexing skills and abstracting skills.

2. Statement of the problem

Despite the prominent efforts of the federal government in sponsoring entrepreneurship education in Universities by providing the opportunity for undergraduates to gain the knowledge and skills needed to start up a new venture among graduates in Nigeria, only a small percentage of these graduates become entrepreneurs after graduation. Library programme appears to be helping the government to achieve this goal by introducing professional skills to

assist undergraduates to be self-employed after graduation instead of waiting for white collar jobs. However the following objectives were formulated to guide the study;

1. To find out the relationship between acquisition of indexing skills and entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates of universities
2. To examine the relationship between acquisition of abstracting skills and entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates of universities

3. Literature Review

Indexing skills

Indexing skills is an ability to provide a guide to the intellectual content of a document or a collection. An index is a list of items example, names and subjects arranged alphabetically or chronologically. It is a guide to items contained in a collection of a publication. The index can appear at the beginning or at the end of a publication. For instance, indexes of law publications appear at the beginning of a publication. Indexing is refer to the set of related professional library chores that ensure that library documents containing desired information are indentified and the relevant contents retrieved without unduly sacrificing precious time and efforts (Nnadozie, 2010). Index is an important tool for retrieving information contained in a document or collection. It provides a means of locating the information relevant to a request. Index is an indicator or a pointer, something that point or shows the way to something else (Igbeka, 2008). Library catalogue is an example of an index which points or directs users to the book required by the author's name, title or the subject. The final stage in the production of books, technical manuals, CD-ROMs, websites is compiling the index. The process of generating an index is called indexing. This process is usually carried out by professionals called indexers. The job of the indexer is to analyse the text so that user can find information on a particular topic; return to passages initially read; scan the index to see what the document is about and find out how particular themes or ideas are developed. Issa, Uzuegbu and Nwosu

(2014) in their study pointed out that entrepreneur indexing is the provision of indexing services for a fee by a person.

(Nnadozie, 2010) also highlighted the function of the indexing skills education in enhancing the entrepreneurship attitudes of undergraduates at tertiary level of education. Therefore, professional skills initiatives at University level are considered vital for increasing potential entrepreneurs supply by making more undergraduates of library and information science conscious and interested choosing library and information science as a career option. Commercial indexing is the provision of indexing services for a fee by a person. Commercial indexing lies in the fact that they are specialised information services because of the skills involved. Library and information science graduates can venture into the business of indexing thereby providing these specialised services for a fee at the relief of the needy libraries, archives, documentation centers, printing and publishing firms. Indexing fees are open to negotiation. One may charge by the hour or by the page, or negotiate a fixed fee for a particular job. The more experienced you gets, the higher the fees charged, especially for more complex and highly specialised work or demanding schedules. Some indexers combine indexing with other jobs, especially as information entrepreneurs. They combine it with related activities like proof reading, cataloguing and copy editing.

Not many people are involved in entrepreneur indexing at present. This is a clear pointer to the fact that its entrepreneur potentials have not been adequately harnessed. The document description skills of the library and information science graduates give him/her an obvious advantage over others. Despite this, the entrepreneurial opportunities inherent in indexing are not lost on any business-conscious Library and information science graduates. A ready market with an appreciable customer-base already exists for this type of business. There are libraries of all types, archives and allied bibliographic institutions, which can readily afford the fee for this kind of service. If these services are properly packaged and marketed, an appreciable

volume of patronage can equally be elicited from various categories of printers and publishers. The entrepreneur must ensure that the customers, whose patronages keep the business going, are satisfied at all times. This will not only sustain their patronage but the satisfied customers would recommend the service provider to their peers and associates. By so doing, the customer base will expand even further.

Abstracting skills and entrepreneurial intention

Ekpo and Edet (2013) explained that abstracting skills is ability to organise published information so that specialists can identify documents of interest more easily. It gives a concise and accurate summary of the essential contents of the document in such a way that it presents a skeletal representation of the original document, thereby serving as a true surrogate of the document. As a true surrogate, a user might not need to see the original document. Abstracts are true surrogate to a user. It might serve as a substitute for the document, therefore saving valuable time for the user. It might also be used to overcome the language barrier, as many documents in foreign languages usually have abstracts of their documents in English language. In this situation, it helps the user to determine whether there is a need to translate the original document or not. Because of the large number of papers published every year, abstracts facilitate the selection of papers that a user can read. Abstract is refers to a form of current bibliography in which sometimes, books are summarised.

Owusu-Ansah (2004) on the entrepreneurship education on career intentions and aspiration of tertiary undergraduates in Ghana, it was discovered that most students were motivated to a large or very large extent to start-up a business by virtue of their exposure to entrepreneurship trainings. Additionally, Hannon, (2009) has found that an estimated 78% of students development as in Ireland who have passed through entrepreneurship education expressed interest in starting their own business at some points later in their career and 39% are interested in starting their own business through their college infrastructure.

4. Methodology

This research was carried out in Cross River and AkwaIbom States of Nigeria with specific attention to the University of Calabar and University of Uyo. Correlational survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 284 undergraduates and this was also used as sample. The data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the analysis showed that acquisition of indexing skills ($0.05 < 0.194$) and abstracting skills ($0.05 < 0.17$) significantly relate to entrepreneurial intention

4. Findings

Hypothesis 1:

There is no significant relationship between acquisition of indexing skills and entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates of universities.

Table 1: Relationship between acquisition of indexing skills and entrepreneurial intention

Variables	Mean	SD	ΣX^2	ΣXY	r	P-V
Acquisition of indexing skills	12.49	2.59	2691.96			
Entrepreneurial intention	66.96	6.23	15495.36	607.84	0.194	0.020

$P < 0.05$ df=282

The Table 1 above, acquisition of indexing skills have a mean of 12.49 and SD of 2.59 and entrepreneurial intention with mean of 66.96 and SD of 6.23 have $P < 0.05$ and produced an $r = 0.194$ at df of 282 showing that acquisition of indexing skills is positively correlated with entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates of library and information science. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. This shows that acquisition of indexing skills is significantly related to entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates of library and information science.

Hypothesis 2:

There is no significant relationship between acquisition of abstracting skill and entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates of universities.

Table 2: Relationship between acquisition of abstracting skills and entrepreneurial intention

Variables	Mean	SD	ΣX^2	ΣXY	r	P-V
Acquisition of abstracting skills	11.51	2.48	2459.96			
Entrepreneurial intention	66.96	6.23	15495.36	2.646	.17	0.001

p<0.05 df=282

Table 2 shows that acquisition of abstracting skills has a mean and standard deviation of 11.51 and 2.48 respectively and entrepreneurial intention has a mean of 66.96 and standard deviation of 6.23. The correlation coefficient obtained from Pearson product moment correlation between acquisition of abstracting skills and entrepreneurial intention is $r = .17$ at df of 282 is significant at $P < 0.05$. The result indicates that acquisition of abstracting skills has a positive correlation with entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates of library and information science. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. This shows that increase in acquisition of abstracting skills results in significant corresponding increase in entrepreneurial skills among undergraduates of library and information science.

5. Discussion of Findings

The result in the data analysis in table 1 was significant because the calculated r-value was greater than the critical r-value at 0.05 level of significance. It showed a significant relationship between acquisition of indexing skills and entrepreneurial intention. This result is in consonance with the opinions of Duysters and Cloudt (2013) who asserted that acquisition

of indexing skills is an important determinant of entrepreneurial intentions. This means that acquisition of indexing skills stir up undergraduates of library and information science intention in becoming entrepreneur indexer.

The result in table 2 shows a significant relationship between acquisition of abstracting skills and entrepreneurial intention because the calculated r-value was greater than the critical r-value at 0.05 level of significance. The result agree with Aina (2004) which showed that abstracting skill is one of an essential skill that is acquired by library and information professionals in order to create jobs for themselves in the knowledge age. This means that acquisition of abstracting skills will help graduates to acquire increased understanding of entrepreneurship, equip them with entrepreneurial intention to the world of work and prepare them to act as entrepreneurs and managers of new businesses.

6. Conclusion

In the course of this study, two hypotheses were tested, and it was discovered that acquisition of indexing skills is positively correlated with entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates of library and information science. Acquisition of abstracting skills has a negative correlation with entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates of library and information science. Based on the findings, it is concluded that acquisition of indexing skills and abstracting skills will enable graduates of library and information science to engage in business or businesses after graduation.

7. Recommendations

1. Credit facility and support should be granted to school leavers that have passion and interest to set-up business ventures upon graduation. This will help to encourage the intention of graduates towards entrepreneurial activities in library schools
2. Graduates should be provided with psychological and moral support, this will help in addressing the perceived pride of university students that have negative attitude towards entrepreneurial activities upon graduation.
3. There should be public orientation programme that will enlighten the graduates of importance of entrepreneurial activities on students' employability and self-reliance.

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