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## Use of Library Resources and Services among Undergraduates in Nigerian Universities

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## **Introduction**

Library use is very important to undergraduates' academic achievements provided the method of teaching adopted in Nigerian universities is not only about undergraduates taking notes and regurgitating the lecturers' notes during a class test or examination. Undergraduates are members of a university community admitted for various courses of studies. Undergraduates are in the university because there is a need to increase, advance in knowledge and be vast in their course of study. Hence, accessibility to library materials in different formats becomes a prerequisite to satisfy their information requirements through the use of their university libraries. Quadri, Adetimirin and Idowu (2014), explained that it is imperative for undergraduates to have their information requirements met, which will enhance and promote their academic careers and also satisfy their psychological and social needs. The main objective of founding university libraries is to readily make available appropriate library materials that are adequate, which should be in non-print and print formats. These resources are to help the undergraduates in completing their project, term papers, class assignments and seminar presentation by making provision for adequate and appropriate information and services, which could enhance good academic achievements.

Ogunmodede, Adio and Odunola (2011) explained that university libraries provide both resources and services for their clientele. The services provided by university libraries include: reference services, lending services, referral services, selective dissemination of information services (SDI), photocopy services and library instruction services. Library information resources are the materials, which assist the university libraries to perform their functions efficiently. These include print (books, periodicals, government publications, graphics, maps and atlas) and electronic resources.

A university library should be dynamic in providing services and staffed by qualified personnel, who has relevant qualification, proper professional education and knowledge, and good disposition toward meeting the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century university academic environment. The expectation of the undergraduates from any university library is making needed information available without wasting time directly or remotely in any format (Anunobi and Edoke, 2010). Kotso (2010) also stated that a proficient and resourceful university library can meaningfully contribute to the undergraduates' academic development in a wider perspective. Location of use or point of access to information resources in university libraries is not only by physical access. The undergraduates can use the library resources remotely, may not necessarily need to visit the university library physically. Most university libraries in Nigeria now have hybrid resources, that is, print and electronic resources. In the digital age, university library should not only be preoccupied with their traditional roles of making books and other print resources available but provide access to the electronic resources remotely. No matter how a university library is adequately stocked and provide access to both print and e-resources, its use will justify the importance of its establishment.

Maduako (2013) explained that library use is the process of checking the library materials, requesting for help from library personnel and actual locating needed information (print and electronic resources). Library use likewise includes remote use of the library resources, charging and discharging of books, reading personal books, visiting the library or just a meeting place with colleagues. This can be a combination of more than one of the aforementioned activities or all the activities. The 21<sup>st</sup> century university libraries have the obligation to make information available and provide effective access to information sources, which makes them different from the traditional libraries, which derived their satisfaction from

just being custodians of library materials. The significance of university library to undergraduates in the pursuit of academic excellence is determined by the level of adequate and proficient usage of the library information resources and services. Undergraduates not using their university libraries to enhance their academic achievements undermine the purpose of establishing the university libraries.

Onuoha and Subair (2013) explained that the significance of the library in the advent of technology has been a topic of discussion recently. While the debate rages on within and outside the academia, understanding the concept of library use would assist in preparing for imminent services that could boost library use. Abosede and Ibikunle (2011) note a growing concern over undergraduates' usage of the libraries in Nigerian higher institutions. The growing concern is stemmed from a drastic decline in library use by undergraduates. Yusuf and Iwu (2010) explained that influx of students was observed during examination which means that the students used the library as a seasonal place for reading which may lead to the illusion that library is being used. In the face of all these challenges, Frascotti, Leveseler, Weinarten and Wiegnd (2007) claimed that libraries are re-inventing themselves to conform to international best practices in librarianship which will help them in attracting more patrons. Due to the decline in university library patronage by undergraduates, many university libraries within and outside Nigeria not only provide print information resources but also provide electronic sources and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) used in different areas of services.

Amusa and Iyoro (2013) stated that university libraries in Nigeria are faced with the problems of underutilisation and lethargy. These libraries encountered overwhelming problems creating the attentiveness of accessibility of different information resources and services in the library to their prospective users and ensuring their use. The indifference of the students to the use of available library materials may not be unrelated to the overabundance of available information on the Internet. Except the information needs are compelling most of the students studying for their first degree will not make use of the university library. However, no matter how dependent the undergraduates are on the Internet search engines for information, university libraries remain viable channels through which information are sought.

### **Literature review**

The importance library use to educational achievements of undergraduates cannot be overemphasized, as such the onus lies on university library to make information resources available. Goel et al (2012) carried out a survey on library use by undergraduates in a medical college in North India. The finding showed that most of the respondents (90.3%) reported consulting textbooks when using the library. Another purposes for visiting the library was; conferences, to use manuscripts, thesis and projects and inadequate individual book. Most of the faculty members use the library for preparing for lectures or seminars preparation; while some used the library because they did not have their personal books with few of them visiting the library to prepare manuscripts / thesis / project reports. Less than one-fourth of the respondents were visiting library daily, fairly average was visiting once a week and very few were visiting forth nightly. The authors from their findings concluded that the major reason for using the library was for borrowing and reading books.

Khan, Bhatti and Khan (2014) investigated the use of resources, services and facilities of the Central Library of the University, Peshawar, Pakistan by the undergraduates. The results showed that prepondence of the undergraduates used the library for reading course materials, use reference sources and retrieval of unpublished documents for information requirements. Most of

the undergraduates affirmed that the library is efficient in service delivery and they experienced satisfaction with the illumination, aeration, reading tables and the cordial relationship between staff and the patrons. The main problems that hinder library usage effectively were inadequate electronic resources, insufficient collection and insufficient physical facilities.

Bukhari, Buakhri, Rajha, Ahmad, and Nas (2010) examined library usage by 180 graduate students of the Foundation University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Rawalpindi, Pakistan. The results indicated that about 47% of the graduate students affirmed that their library has enough space for their patrons. In contrast to the affirmation more than average of the graduate students specified that their library does not have enough space for their patrons. Most of the respondents affirmed that the librarians offer to help when searching for needed information and are also friendly. Lack of computer with internet connectivity was also indicated from the findings with most of the graduate students indicating dissatisfactions with the condition. The researchers concluded by recommending that the library personnel should assist the students in consulting their relevant materials. A good study environment should be provided by the library to aid proper learning of how to effectively use the library.

Bhatti, Batool and Malik (2013) investigated library usage by the sixty-four Library and information science students at the Islamic University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan a frequency of library usage by the students once a week was indicated by the respondents. Undergraduates used the library majorly for reading books, homework and for tests and examinations preparations while majority of them affirmed that they hardly consult card catalogues, Online Public Access Catalogue or help desk for retrieving information. Furthermore, most of the students expressed satisfactions with the use of reader services, reference sources and physical amenities in the library. The researchers affirmed that the major difficulty experienced by the undergraduates when using the library are electricity instability, shortage of computers and dawdling internet connectivity.

Arthur, Brafi and Kuranchie (2013) did a survey on library usage amongst students of higher institutions in the Sunyani Municipality of Ghana. The findings revealed that majority of the students mainly make use of the library for reading for exams and completing their homework. The use of recommend textbooks, reference sources and past examination questions were materials predominantly used among the students while few of them use fiction and journals. Although preponderance of the undergraduates found the libraries' stock fairly old, but, this did not discourage them from using the libraries. The researchers concluded their study by stating that it is not beneficial for the libraries to continually keep old books in stock, it could cause low use of the libraries due to advent of technology such as Internet that is capable of making available enormous information

Adeyoyin, Agbese-Unaz and Oladeji (2013) conducted a research to determine the level of usage of an academic library in a federal university of agriculture in Nigeria. The researchers asserted that most of the undergraduates were using the library for numerous reasons which include reading personal materials, use of reference materials, borrowing books and consultation of library materials for completing course assignments. Most of the undergraduates use the library on weekly base and that books are mostly used and the respondents affirmed that the library information resources are adequate. During examination period, the academic library witnessed influx of most students coming to use the library as indicated by the finding which is referred to as the peak period. The researchers note from the findings of their study that this is not a good phenomenon because the importance of university education is to imbue students with

knowledge and this could be accomplished through frequent usage of different information materials and services in the university library.

Umeozor and Afolabi (2014) investigated the influence of current awareness service (CAS) and library environment library use by students at a Federal University library in South-South, Nigeria. The result of their findings indicated that CAS and library setting applied substantial constructive impacts on students' usage of university library. This reflected that efficient use of CAS and conducive library setting increase library patronage by the students. The researchers observed that librarians were not giving satisfactory consideration to the use of CAS as an effective approach for improvement of library use. Quadri (2013) examined the effect of demographic factors on the online library resources usage by undergraduates in two Nigerian private universities. The result affirmed that there is high connection and substantial association amid the year of study of the undergraduates in both universities and the usage of online library resources.

Hussain and Abaljhal (2013) surveyed the determining factor of library usage, library stocks and services amongst engineering students at King Saud University, Ritadh (KSA) in Saudi Arabia. The results revealed that majority of the students (89.3%) visit the library regularly, while very few of them (10.6%) were not using the library regularly. The result revealed the peculiarity of the category of users and their preference of the information sources consulted, while majority of the research scholars (97.8%) used reference sources and research work, many of the undergraduates (96.4%) visit the library to borrow and return books. The result showed that most of the respondents consult the library catalogues to locate the documents, 78.9% used the reader service, while 70.1% used reference services. The result revealed that majority of the students affirmed that they were contented with the reading tables and chairs and computer facilities, however more than average of them (60.6%) affirmed that they encountered difficulties in the use of computer facilities majorly.

Sahu, Swain and Rout (2012) did a survey on decrease in the usage of library services of an Engineering institution in Odisha, India. The results showed a declining inclination of library use by the students which may be because the students are satisfied with the notes given to them by their lectures and inadequate textbooks or some free web resources. The study showed that preponderance of the respondents use photocopying services from the library and a little over one-third of the students use the library for the purpose of reading newspapers and borrowing books. However, a minute number of the respondents use other main information sources and services of library which are Internet service, use of periodicals, research materials, use of reference sources, and reading course materials

Onwudinjo, Ogbonna and Onwumbiko (2015) determined the extent of use of the Faculty of Law library at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria. The results revealed comprehensive knowledge of the utilisation of the law library collections. Most of the students used the library three times in a week, while few of them use the library occasionally. The main purposes of library use by the students are for examination preparations, report cases, to form supplementary lecture notes, complete homework and photocopying of materials. Alade, Iyoro and Amusa (2014) explored the library use characteristics of undergraduates in a Nigerian university and reported that preponderance of the respondents use their university library for few days in a week while major purpose for using the library is to study and for examination preparations. The result of the findings also revealed that references, textbooks and use of journals and reference sources are the often regularly used library resources by the respondents. Previous library use skills and library instruction programmes could trigger library use among

the undergraduates. Influence of previous library use skills and library instruction programmes have positive effect on the rate at which undergraduates use their university library. However, the level of library instruction programmes offered by the university is considered adequate to enable the undergraduates retrieve information sources needed most of the time.

Gaby and Jayanthi (2010) investigated the correlation between the library use by new university students and continuous admission at Curtin University, Australia. The results showed that most of the newly admitted students of Curtin University were not using the core information materials in the library. Less than two-thirds of the students had not borrowed books or a DVD, throughout the semester. At variant, almost 75% of the newly admitted students had used the library computer terminal and over 80% had used e-resources via the library website. These results were not expected, taking into consideration the age of most these newly admitted students. The findings also revealed that there is an association between the students retention and greater levels of library use throughout the semester. There are also significant differences between use of library workstations and other electronic resources and retaining capacity at the beginning of the semester. However, the researchers asserted that there is a relationship between these types of library use and a student continuing enrollment which has inferences for the planning of library instructions and information literacy programmes.

Nwezeh and Shabi (2011) examined the students' use of university libraries in Nigeria and reported that more than half (55.6%) of the respondents on a daily basis used about one to two hours in the library. The quantity of hours used in the library increased as they advance in their levels of study while the mature students used more hours in the library. Although majority of the respondents used one to four hours daily in the library, the results indicated that more time was used by the students to read their personal books, lecture notes, magazines and newspapers. Generally, the students' responses based on their knowledge of the library and library procedures were very poor, the responses indicated that many of cannot use the simple retrieval tools. Majority of them affirmed that they were not aware that reserved collections exist in the library and could not use them. A quarter of the students indicated that consulting the card catalogue is the first thing to do to get a book from the library while about 40% stated that the circulation desk is the first place of call.

Nkamnebe et al (2014) evaluated the usage of library resources by the learners of Paul University, Awka, Anambra, Nigeria and reported that daily usage of the library by the learners is considerably low with a minute number of the respondents (6.5%) affirming that they use their university library on daily basis. The highest number of the students (22.8%) indicated that they visit the library three times in one week, while about (19.6%) visit the library once in a week. In contrast, about (22.1%) of the students barely use the library. However, a minute number (6.9%) of the students affirmed that they did not visit the library since they have their personal books and PCs that provided them with required information needed for their academic work. Ntui and Udah (2015) stated that obtainability and ease of access of library information materials make it relevant to the host community. Accessibility of library resources with ease will apparently be a source of attraction to library users which will obviously increase its utilisation. Acquisition of information materials by the libraries is to satisfy the information requirements of the library users, these resources are the basic materials that make available important services for teaching, research and learning process. Making library materials available creates an enabling setting for the use of library information resources by the students.

Faculty Awareness, perception and use of library resources and services in a private university in Nigeria was surveyed by Oriogu, Chukwumeka and Oriogu-Ogbuiyi (2018). The

aim of the research was to test the faculty awareness, which include staff and students' perception and use of information resources and services in Afe Babalola university college libraries. The study adopted survey method. A total of hundred academic staff that used their college libraries was randomly sampled. Five research questions guided the study and data were collected using structured questionnaire. The findings showed that most of the respondents were not using e-book, e-journals, CD-ROM databases, OPAC and electronic databases in the library. The findings also showed that the students were fully aware of the availability of the information resources in the library; although it was discovered that annual report/brochure, phone calls/SMS, exhibition and display are not used to create awareness which has invariably resulted to poor patronage. Considerably, most of the students have a positive perception of information resources and services. The study finally recommends that there should be proper sensitization of faculty members on the availability of electronic information resources and also college librarians should ensure effective provision of library services among faculty members.

### **Objectives of the study**

The following specific objectives guided the study:

1. Determine the purpose of use of library resources and services by undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria.
2. Ascertain the preferred location of library use by the undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria.
3. Determine the frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria.

### **Research questions**

The following research questions guided the conduct of this study:

1. What is the purpose of use of library resources and services by undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria?
2. What is the preferred location of library use by the undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria?
3. What is the frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria?

### **Methodology**

The study enumerated all the five conventional federal universities in North-central Nigeria. The universities are: University of Ilorin (UNILORIN), University of Jos (UNIJOS), University of Abuja (UNIABUJA), Federal University of Lafia (FULAFIA) and Federal University of Lokoja (FULOKOJA). Descriptive survey research design of correlational type was adopted. Three homogenous faculties (Science, Social science and Art) and six departments (Chemistry, Microbiology, Political Science, Economics, English and History) were purposively selected. Five percent of 200 to 400 level undergraduates (797) were selected from a total population of 14,547. Questionnaire was used as the instrument of data collection for this study. The statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used for the data analysis. Descriptive statistics such as percentage mean and standard deviation were used to analyse the research questions.

## Results

### Research question one: What is the purpose of use of library resources and services by undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria?

The result for the purpose of library use by the undergraduates is presented in Table 1

**Table 1 Purpose of Library use by the Undergraduates**

s/n	Purpose of library use	F	%	Rank
1	Study	496	68.4	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Get information	350	48.3	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3	Borrow/return/renew books	266	36.7	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4	Read my lecture notes for test and examination	255	35.2	4 <sup>th</sup>
5	Meet with friends	164	22.6	5 <sup>th</sup>

Table 1 reveals the purpose of library use by the undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria. The findings show that majority of the undergraduates use their university library for study purposes (68.4%) while less than a quarter of the undergraduates use the library for the purpose of meeting with friends (22.6%). Inference drawn from the result is that the major purpose of library use by the undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria was to study.

### Research question two: What is the preferred location of library use by the undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria?

Table 2 presents the result on the preferred location of library use by undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria.

**Table 2 Location of library use by the Undergraduates**

s/n	Locations of library use	F	%	Ranking
1	University main library	480	66.2	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Faculty library	244	33.7	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3	Departmental library	243	33.5	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4	Remote use	109	15.0	4 <sup>th</sup>

Table 2 shows the result on preferred location of library use by the undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria. The findings shows that majority of the undergraduates described university main library as their preferred location of library use (66.2%) while very few of the undergraduates used their university libraries remotely (15.0%). This finding revealed that undergraduates seldom use their university libraries remotely, majority of them preferred physical use of the library.

### Research question three: What is the frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria?

Tables 3a and 3b present the results on frequency of use of library information resources and services by undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria.

**Table 3a Frequency of Use of Library Resources and Services by the Undergraduates**

Library resources and services	Daily		2-3times a week		Once a week		Monthly		Occasionally		Not at all		$\bar{x}$	S.D
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Books	294	40.6	162	22.3	44	6.1	37	5.1	114	15.7	74	10.2	4.36	1.82
Newspapers	196	27.0	136	18.8	97	13.4	53	7.3	82	11.3	161	22.2	3.76	1.93
Journals	118	16.3	200	27.6	92	12.7	52	7.2	109	15.0	154	21.2	3.59	1.83
Reference materials	110	15.2	145	20.0	128	17.7	75	10.3	123	17.0	144	19.9	3.46	1.76
Electronic books	102	14.1	114	15.7	135	18.6	88	12.1	115	15.9	171	23.6	3.29	1.76
Online databases	84	11.6	107	14.8	103	14.2	110	15.2	121	16.7	200	27.6	3.07	1.75
Institutional repository	73	10.1	107	14.8	112	15.4	105	14.5	107	14.8	221	30.5	2.99	1.74
Indexes/Abstracts	66	9.1	106	14.6	110	15.2	112	15.4	119	16.4	212	29.2	2.97	1.70
Electronic Journals	61	8.4	101	13.9	116	16.0	118	16.3	107	14.8	222	30.6	2.93	1.69
Photocopy services	79	10.9	102	14.1	85	11.7	89	12.3	161	22.2	209	28.8	2.93	1.74
Digital collections	64	8.8	102	14.1	117	16.1	100	13.8	115	15.9	227	31.3	2.92	1.71
CD ROM resources	55	7.6	112	15.4	117	16.1	102	14.1	94	13.0	245	33.8	2.89	1.71
Remote use of library resources	57	7.9	121	16.7	103	14.2	79	10.9	137	18.9	228	31.4	2.89	1.72
Reference assistance/help desk	49	6.8	126	17.4	94	13.0	85	11.7	156	21.5	215	29.7	2.87	1.68
Thesis/Dissertation/Projects	56	7.7	101	13.9	108	14.9	105	14.5	18	2.5	237	32.7	2.84	1.69
Current awareness	72	9.9	101	13.9	93	12.8	84	11.6	125	17.2	250	34.5	2.84	1.76
Lamination/Binding	60	8.3	89	12.3	94	13.0	95	13.1	150	20.7	237	32.7	2.76	1.68
Loaning services	66	9.1	101	13.9	81	11.2	81	11.2	116	16.0	280	38.6	2.73	1.77
<b>Weighted <math>\bar{x}</math> = 3.12</b>														

Table 3a and 3b indicate the frequency at which undergraduates in the federal universities in North-central use library resources and services. The findings reveal that less than half of the respondents used books on a daily basis 294 (40.6%), however, this constitutes majority of the respondents that affirmed that they used books daily while very few of them indicated they do not use books at all 74 (10.2%). However, a considerable number of the respondents affirmed that they used books 2-3 times a week 162 (22.3%). Few of the respondents used newspaper daily 197 (27.0%) while some of the respondents indicated they do not use newspaper at all 161 (22.2%). The respondents use journal less frequently as indicated by the result, some of them used journal 2-3 times weekly 200 (27.6%) while a considerable number of them affirmed they do not use journal at all 154 (21.2%).

Low use of reference materials was indicated by the result, some of the respondents used reference materials 2-3 times a week 145 (20.0%) which shows the highest frequency of use.

However, a considerable number of the respondents indicated they do not use reference materials at all 144 (19.9%). Low frequency use of electronic books was equally revealed by the results with frequency of 171 (23.6%) of the respondents affirming that they do not use electronic books at all. However, some of the respondents indicated that they used electronic books once a week 135 (18.6%). Varying degree of frequency of use of online databases was observed, however, majority of the respondents indicated they do not use online databases at all 200 (27.6%) while few number of the respondents used online databases daily 84 (11.6%). Majority of the respondents equally affirmed that they do not use their institutional repository at all 221 (30.5%) while very few of them used it daily 73 (10.1%).

Indexes and abstracts were not frequently used by the respondents with few of them affirming that they use indexes and abstract daily 66 (9.1%) while considerable number of them indicating they do not use indexes and abstract all 212 (29.2%). Few of the respondents use electronic journal daily 61 (8.4%) while majority of them indicated they do not use electronic journal at all 222 (30.6%). Few of the respondents used photocopy services daily 79 (10.9%) while majority of them affirmed they do not use photocopy services at all 209 (28.8%). A considerable number of the respondents indicated they use digital collection occasionally 115 (15.9%) while majority of them indicated they do not use digital collection at all 227 (31.3%). Frequency of use of CDROM resources is very low with majority of the respondent affirming they do not use CDROM resources at all 245 (33.8%) while very few of them use it daily 55 (7.6%).

Few of the respondents used their university library resources remotely daily 57 (7.9) while majority of them indicated they do not use their university library resources remotely 228 (31.4%). Majority of the respondents indicated they do not use reference assistance/help desk at all 215 (29.7%) however, a considerable number of them used it occasionally 156 (21.5%). Majority of the respondents indicated they do not use thesis/dissertation/projects at all while few of them affirmed that they used it daily 56 (7.7%). Majority of the respondents indicated they do not use current awareness services at all 250 (34.5%) while a considerable number of them used it occasionally 125 (17.2%). Majority of the respondents indicated they do not use lamination/binding at all 237 (32.7%) while a considerable number of them used it occasionally 150 (20.7%). Majority of the respondents affirmed they do not use loaning services at all 280 (38.6%) while few of them indicated they use loaning services daily 66 (9.1%). The results reveal that books were mostly used ( $\bar{x} = 4.36$ ) by the respondents compare to the other library resources and services while loaning services were the least used ( $\bar{x} = 2.73$ ) by the respondents. Table 4 presents the result on test of norms on the frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria.

**Table 4 Test of norm on the frequency of Use of Library Resources and Services by Undergraduates in Federal Universities in North-Central Nigeria**

Grand mean = 56.12, Maximum score = 108 Interval =  $\frac{108}{3} = 36$ , Classification = High,

Moderate, Low

Interval	Range	Level	Frequency	Percentage
1-36		Low	149	20.6
37-72	56.12	Moderate	391	53.9
73-108		High	185	25.5

The test of norm result reveals that the frequency of use of library resources and services by undergraduates in federal universities in North-central, Nigeria is not high as expected. The frequency of use of library resources and services is on the average; however, the findings revealed that books were mostly used by the undergraduates compared to other resources available in the university libraries in the federal universities in North-central, Nigeria.

## **Discussion of findings**

### **Purpose of library use by the undergraduates**

The major purpose of library use by the undergraduates is to study, although a considerable number of the undergraduates still use the library for other purposes such as; a meeting place to meet their friends, to get information, to borrow and return or renew books and also to read their lecture notes for test and examination. The implication of this finding is that the undergraduates still use the core service of the library which is to study. In line with this study, is the finding of Goel et al (2012) on library usage by undergraduate medical students in a medical college in North India. The researchers asserted that majority of the undergraduates use the library for study and also use the library to consult manuscript, dissertation and project reports. Khan, Bhatti and Khan (2014) did a survey on the utilisation of resources, services and facilities of the Central Library of the University of Peshawar, Pakistan by undergraduates; Arthur, Brafi and Kuranchie (2013) did a survey on library use among students of tertiary institutions in Sunyani Municipality of Ghana and Bhatti, Batool and Malik (2013) also conducted a study on the use of library by the undergraduates at Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan. All the researchers (Khan, Bhatti and Khan 2014; Arthur, Brafi and Kuranchie 2013; Bahatti, Batool and Malik 2013) submitted that most students predominantly used the library as a place to study for examination and to complete their assignment. Reference materials, past questions and recommended course textbooks were mostly used by the respondents while a small number of them use serials and fiction.

In consonance with this study also is the finding of Adeyoyin et al (2013) that majority of the undergraduates in a federal university of Agriculture in Nigeria, use the library for multiple purposes which ranges from reading personal books, use of reference materials, borrowing books to materials consultations for executing assignments. However, books were mostly consulted by the respondents. At variance with this study, Kumar, Firdaus, Ighal and Khan (2014) opined that majority of the undergraduates at Tika Ram Kanya Mahavidyalaya library, India prefer to borrow books from the library while newspaper and reference books are mostly used information resources. Sahu, Swain and Rout (2012) also asserted that there is evident that the use of main library services by the students of Engineering Institution in Odisha, India is diminishing.

### **Preferred location of library use by the undergraduates**

The result on location of use revealed that the university main library is the mostly preferred place by the undergraduates while very few of them use the library remotely. The implication of this is that the university libraries may not have all the necessary equipment and resources that can enable the undergraduates to access information within the library domain irrespective of their location.

### **Frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates**

Frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates is at varied frequency. The undergraduates used the library information resources and services on daily, 2-

3times, once a week, monthly, occasionally, while some do not use the library information resources and services at all. Frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates is on the average as revealed by the findings; frequency of use of library resources and services is not high as expected. However, it is worth knowing that of all the library resources, books were the most frequently used by the undergraduates. This may not be unconnected to the fact that there is availability and easy access to books in most university libraries and that books are the stock in trade of most university libraries especially in Nigeria.

In line with this study, Brock and Tabaei (2011) submitted that there is a declining usage of core library services by the undergraduates in a major north-eastern city in the USA. In Nigeria, Alade, Iyoro and Amusa (2014) and Nwezeh and Shabi (2011) concluded from the findings of their researches that majority of the undergraduates use library few days per week and that utilisation of the library by students on daily basis is low. In contrast to the findings of this study, Hussain and Abalkhail (2013) affirmed that majority of the students use library regularly with 89.3% of the respondents visiting the library regularly while the remaining 10.6% were not using the library regularly in a study done among the engineering students at King Saud University, Riyadh (KSA) in Saudi Arabia.

Frequency of use of electronic books was relatively low across the universities. This could be as a result of difficulty in reading from the screen, cost of printing pages, slow downloads and online access problems. In tandem with the findings of this study is the result of a research on students and staff awareness, acceptance and usage of e-books of two Queensland universities, in Australia, done by Borchert, Hunter, Macdonald and Tittle (2015), the findings show that e-books usage is relatively low. However, difficulty in reading from the screen for extended periods of time was the main reason for the low usage of e-books.

A varying degree of frequency of use of reference materials was observed among the respondents, specifically, most of the respondents indicated that they used reference materials occasionally while a higher percentage of the respondents do not consult reference materials at all. This implies that the undergraduates are not aware of the importance of reference materials. Majority of the respondents do not use reference materials frequently as expected. In support with the findings of this study, is the conclusion drawn by Okeke, Ogbenetga and Nwabu 2013 from a study done at academic libraries in Nigeria, on students' attitude towards the use of reference and information services. The findings from their research indicated that there is a low usage of reference sources and services due to stocked obsolete materials and inexperienced of the librarians at this section. At variant with the findings of this study, Abdullahi and Mamza 2014, researched on students' usage of reference services in tertiary institutions in Nigeria, revealed that 90 (66.7%) of the respondents use library on a daily basis. The finding also indicated that majority of the students 98(72.6%) acknowledged using reference section. They therefore affirmed that there is a high level of utilisation of reference services by the students.

Generally, low use of CDROM resources at varying frequency was observed across the five universities in the study. However many of the respondents indicated they do not use CDROM resources at all. Low use of electronic journals was recorded among the respondents with many of them affirming that they do not use electronic journal at all. A higher percentage of the respondents claimed not to have used digital collections and institutional repository at all. There is a moderate use of online database among the respondents. It was however observed that indexes and abstracts were not frequently used across the five universities in the study. Remote use of library across the five universities in the study was very low. This may not be unconnected

with the equipment and resources needed to assess information resources from the library remotely.

Loaning service is one of the services offered by the university libraries, which is very beneficial to the library users. However, the frequency of use of loaning services across the five universities in the study is considerably low. In fact, majority of the respondents affirmed they do not use loaning services at all. The findings further revealed that reference/help desk services are not frequently used by the respondents. Generally, the frequency of use of CAS among the respondents was on the average. Laminating/ binding and photocopy services were not frequently used. This may be because there are other places that provide these services apart from the university libraries which explain the low patronage of the services.

In line with the findings of this study, is the submission of Sahu, Swain and Rout (2012) in a survey on the low usage of library services of an engineering institution in Odisha, India. The findings of the study indicated that there is evident that the use of library by the students is diminishing which may be due to the fact that students are comfortable and satisfied with the lecture notes given to them by their lecturers, their personal books and information from the internet.

## **Conclusion**

The major purpose of library use by the undergraduates is to study, although a considerable number of the undergraduates still use the library for other purposes such as; a meeting place to meet their friends, to get information, to borrow and return or renew books and also to read their lecture notes for test and examination. The implication of this finding is that the undergraduates still use the core service of the library which is to study. However, the result on location of use revealed that the university main library is the mostly preferred place by the undergraduates while very few of them use the library remotely. The implication of this is that the university libraries may not have all the necessary equipment and resources that can enable the undergraduates to access information within the library domain irrespective of their location.

Frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates is at varied frequency. The undergraduates used the library information resources and services on daily, 2-3times, once a week, monthly, occasionally, while some do not use the library information resources and services at all. Frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates is on the average as revealed by the findings; frequency of use of library resources and services is not high as expected. However, it is worth knowing that of all the library resources, books were the most frequently used by the undergraduates. This may not be unconnected to the fact that there is availability and easy access to books in most university libraries and that book are the stock in trade of most university libraries especially in Nigeria.

## **Recommendation**

There is a need for awareness programme on the importance of library use and also to intimate the undergraduates with the available library resources and services in the university library. This will enable undergraduates to form a positive opinion, thus further enhancing the predilection of use of library information resources and services. Awareness should also be created on other libraries within the university community such as faculty libraries and departmental libraries. The physical use of library is still very relevant in Nigerian universities, university libraries should be more resourceful to attract more library users through current awareness service programme.

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