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SERIALS MANAGEMENT AS CORRELATE OF ITS UTILIZATION IN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN SOUTH-EAST, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study examined serials management as a correlate of serials utilization in federal university libraries in the South-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria. It was guided by four (4) specific objectives, corresponding research questions were answered and four (4) hypotheses were formulated and tested. Furthermore, four (4) serials management variables, viz; acquisition, organization, location, and binding of cumulated serials were considered. The study adopted a correlational research design. The population of this study was 21,756. A sample of 1,088 respondents was adopted using the multi-stage sampling technique. Two researcher-made questionnaires titled were used for data collection. The researchers, through the help of four (4) research assistants, administered 1,088 copies of the questionnaires to respondents but 1,072 copies were retrieved, giving a retrieval rate of 98.53%. The data collected were analyzed using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation to answer research questions and linear regression to test the hypotheses at a .05 level of significance. It was found that there is a significant positive low relationship between acquisition of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria, the significant negative moderate relationship between the organization of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria, non-significant positive high relationship between the location of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria, and the non-significant positive very low relationship between the binding of cumulated serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. Based on the findings, it was recommended that university library management and administrators should see to the acquisition of relevant serials and the provision of adequate guides to the location and retrieval of the materials in order to enhance effective use by users, among other things.

Keywords: Serials, Serials Management, utilization, university libraries-federal, Nigeria, Correlate

Introduction

Serials, often referred to as periodicals, are information resources and publications in any medium which are issued in uninterrupted parts with the intention of indefinite continuity. They are continuing resources dispensed in a sequence, usually bearing numbering, and without a

scheduled conclusion. Providing examples of serials, the AACR2 (2004) includes the following as examples of serials: newspapers, magazines, journals, memoirs, proceedings, transactions of professional associations and numbered monographic series. Serials are useful library materials because they are among the current-information-carrying resources in the library. Additionally, Anunobi, Nwankwo and Ezejiofor (2010) opine that the unwavering capacity of tertiary institutions to teach, research, publish scholarly materials, and even to perceive the heart-beat of peers across space and time is founded on the publication called serials. Hence, a university is adjudged high class when it can provide adequate information services through a rich collection of serials publications. Being a resource that started years back, it is imperative to consider how these publications move into the library and are brought out for the wide spectrum of users. This is what Faluwoye (2009) refers to as the management and control of serials in libraries.

Serials are valuable materials used widely for research by the library users. It could also be argued that library users spend their time reading articles in serials, especially, the learned journals and technical reports of specialized organizations and societies more than books. However, not minding the importance of these materials, literature as well as preliminary observations has shown a negative signal in the effective management and utilization of serials in most federal university libraries in Nigeria. It could be highly assumed that the factors affecting serials management directly or indirectly affect the effective utilization of libraries and their resources.

Serials management entails the processes of formulating and executing serials policy for the benefit of library users (Buzzard & Whaley, 2006). Typically, the management of serials is basically concerned with supporting the mission of the parent institution (that is, the supporting organ of the library) through the means of acquiring, processing, organizing/arranging, binding, weeding and providing access points to materials collected in a most efficient, cost-effective, timely, accurate, and courteous manner (Adebika, 2007). According to Adio (2006), serials management is the formulation of routines and procedures for overseeing serials collection. These routines include such functions as acquisition, processing (accessioning), organizing/arranging (cataloguing and classification, indexing, abstracting, displaying, shelving and shelf-reading), assigning locations, cumulation of issues, and weeding.

Furthermore, Woodward, as cited in Adebika (2007) asserts that the major sub-constructs of serials management include checking/receipt, claiming, routing, binding, ordering and subscription, renewal of subscription, budgetary/financial control, provision of management reports, and creation of union lists, ensuring online user access and timely circulation of serials after processing. Additionally, serials managerial processes could include their acquisition process, procedures for processing them, pattern of organization, mode of display and arrangement, process of binding them and the practice of weeding the obsolete or unwanted ones from the stock of the library.

It is believed that effective serials management practices are to serve, accommodate, and adjust the resources in the library to the suite the information needs of the library users. In a bid to establishing the truth in the above assumption, none of the available published reports had addressed the relationship between the “serials management variables” identified in this study and “utilization of serials” in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. There is no uncertainty that the non-existence of a correlational study of this nature has negative

consequences on scholarship, research, librarianship and education as it exposes a gap in available literature in respect of this vital aspect of information management, dissemination and utilization in the society. Herein lies the kernel of this investigation because the absence of credible research reports of this nature makes any previous attempt to associate serials management variables with utilization, at best, conjectural and unproven.

Consequently, the evidence of the preliminary observations and discussions could at best be regarded as speculative until it is confirmed through research. At this juncture, the problem that arises is: is there any relationship between management and utilization of serials? Therefore, this study was borne out of the need of the researcher to examine serials management and its utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to ascertain the relationship between management and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. However, the specific objectives are as follows; to

1. find out the relationship between acquisition of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria;
2. highlight the relationship between organization of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria;
3. examine the relationship between the location of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria; and
4. establish the relationship between the binding of cumulated serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

HO₁: There is no significant statistical relationship between acquisition and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

HO₂: There is no significant statistical relationship between the organization and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

HO₃: Significant statistical relationship does not exist between location and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

HO₄: There is no significant statistical relationship between binding of cumulated serials and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Literature Review

The subject matter of serials has received much attention from different researchers and authors. Among which is the study by Akinbode and Nwalo (2016) which investigated serials management in university libraries in selected universities in South-West Nigeria and found that university libraries in Nigeria have different forms of serials, print, microform and electronic serials. It was further found out that subscription to serials is regular in the three university libraries. All failed to engage in filling the missing gap of serials in the libraries. Only 'Nimbe Adedipe Library, FUNAAB was engaged in updating the issues of serials in the library. Findings of the study on the organization/storage of serials reveal that all the libraries studied display their serials on serials display racks and bound volumes on shelves. Of the three libraries, only 'Nimbe Adedipe Library, FUNAAB engaged in keeping back issues of their serials in the store. On the methods of preserving serials in the university library, the result revealed that only 'Nimbe Adedipe Library, FUNAAB engaged in binding of back issues and provided air conditioner to preserve their serials while regular cleaning of materials and repair of damaged issues as methods of preserving serials in the library were adopted by only Kenneth Dike Library, U.I and 'Nimbe Adedipe Library, FUNAAB. Only 'Nimbe Adedipe Library and Olabisi Onabanjo University Library, Ago-Iwoye were engaged in weeding of irrelevant issues.

The study of Aghauche (2007) focused on availability, accessibility and utilization of serials in Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan. and found out that as many as 105 or 67% of the respondents which represents majority of the respondents visited the serials section occasionally, some other group visited it regularly while only one or 1% visited it daily. The study also revealed that although 67% of the respondents used the serials collection occasionally, majority of them used it for research and reference purposes; and majority of the respondents indicated that their needs were occasionally met in the serials collection, while the needs of minority of the respondents were rarely met. Considering the students' perception and utilization of serials materials, the study of Hameed and Osunrinade (2010) reported that majority of undergraduate students who prefer to use text books as against minority of the respondents who used journal. This was so as majority of the respondents indicated that the library stocks old journals, serials unit is on closed access resulting in difficulty in searching for information in the serials, kardex are not well kept. Similarly, Anunobi, Nwakwuo and Ezejiofor (2010) investigated serials acquisition problems in Nigerian federal university libraries and found that serials acquisition operation is more developed in South-Western university libraries than the other geopolitical zones in Southern Nigeria as a result of different managerial processes adopted.

Nonetheless, Nutsupkui and Owusu-Ansah (2017) investigated the faculty and students' perspective on awareness and use of serials in an African university library and found out that 49 of faculty members and 17 of graduate students representing 49.5% and 33.3% respectively indicated that serial collections were very useful. In addition, 17 faculty members (17.25%) also expressed optimism about the value of serials in their academic activities. Majority of the students reported that the library acquires current and relevant serials. Further in their findings, majority of the respondents believed that the serials are properly organized. Based on the

findings, Nutsupkui and Owusu-Ansah (2017) recommend that serial librarians must create awareness of print journals to provide choice for users, through innovative marketing techniques. This is however, not different from the study of Edem, as cited in Akinbode and Nwalo (2016), which examined the approaches in the acquisition and management of serials in Nigerian academic libraries and found that academic libraries in Nigeria use three major methods – purchase, exchange and gift for serials acquisition and further argues in favour of the relevance of steady and proper serial acquisition and effective management as an aid in the quest for quality library services in Nigerian academic libraries. In the same vein, Sambo and Akpojotor (2016) carried out a study on undergraduates' perception and utilization of serial materials in Federal University of Petroleum Resources Library Effurun, Delta State and found that utilization of serials is faced with number of challenges. They include delays in supply of dailies, lack of space in the serial section, serial materials are not easily accessible, difficulty to access information on journals, among other serials.

Additionally, Chitumbo, Chipasha, Tembo and Banda (2015) carried out a study on access to and usage of print serial publications in the University of Zambia (UNZA) Library and revealed that minority of the respondents indicated that they use the serials collection for their academic work while the majority do not. Among the information resources that respondents mentioned that they use were journals, magazines, newsletters, reports/reviews, and bulletins. Furthermore, the research revealed that the levels of serials usage are low due to lack of knowledge of serials collection and its services by users, inadequate search skills, insufficient orientation at both 1st year level and later on, unavailability of some information needed by some users, outdated resources, serials collection being in a closed access area, etc. in the same vein, Aghadiuno, Agbo and Onyekweodiri (2015a) conducted a study to investigate the acquisition and organization of serials and other continuing resources in two universities in North Central zone of Nigeria and found that in the two universities studied, legal deposit is adopted in acquisition. Furthermore, interview with librarian support this finding as 80% of the interview reinstated that legal deposit is a form of acquisition of serials and other continuing resources. Also, majority of them stated that most of these facilities were through donation. Most university libraries receive serials and other library materials as gift from individuals, institutions, libraries and organization, countries, etc. On the methods used in organizing the serials for use, the study revealed that the respondents agreed that serials are catalogued, classified, and shelved. Majority of the respondents disagreed with the use of kalamazoo.

Be it as it may, in the course of the review, the researcher discovered that very little or nothing has been done on the management and proper use of serials in federal university libraries in Nigeria. From the available literature, it is apparent that majority of the studies were conducted outside Africa. A few of these studies carried out in Nigeria were mostly on institutions outside South-East zone. The obvious implication is that Nigerian scholars in particular have not contributed significantly to the debate on management and utilization of serials publications in university libraries. It goes further to suggest that serials management and utilization in Nigerian

universities have not been properly investigated with particular reference to federal university libraries in South-East zone of the country. This situation leaves a gap in the literature as well as in knowledge and the understanding of serial management in Nigerian university library system. Therefore, it is hoped that this study, upon completion will fill the gap.

Methodology

The survey correlational design was adopted for this study with a focus on the South-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria. a population of 21,756 which comprised 21,729 registered library users, 5 university librarians, 5 heads of serials section and 17 staff/librarians who had worked for not less than two years in serials unit of the five federal university libraries in the South-East zone of Nigeria. The federal universities studied include: Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo (AEFUNAI), Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO); Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAU); Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka (NAUA); University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN).

Furthermore, a sample of 1,088 respondents, which represents 5% of the entire population of the study, which is 21,756 was used for this study. However, in order to derive the sample of 1088, a multi-stage sampling technique involving census – stratified proportionate- simple random sampling techniques were used. Since the number of university librarians, heads of unit and serials staff is less than 200, all the members of these sub-sets were used as respondents. This is what is called ‘census sampling’. On the other hand, the stratified proportionate sampling technique was used for the library users’ sub-population. Two researchers-made questionnaires, namely, “Federal University Library Serials Management Questionnaire (FULSMQ)”, and “Federal University Library Serials Utilization Questionnaire FULSUQ” were used for data collection in this study which were validated by four (4) validates – two (2) senior lecturers from the Department of Library and Information Science and two (2) from the Department of Measurement and Evaluation - were consulted for the face validation of the instruments. The instruments were subjected to separate trial tests using the test re-test method so as to ascertain their reliability coefficient. The computation using the Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation produced correlation coefficient values (r) of 0.88 and 0.85 for the serials management and utilization questionnaires, respectively. This indicates a very strong internal consistency of the questionnaire items as the values were well above average and close to 1 or unity.

Additionally, a total of 1,088 copies of two instruments comprising of twenty-seven (27) copies of FULSMQ and one thousand and sixty-one copies of FULSUQ was administered to the respondents but one thousand and seventy-two (1072) which comprised of twenty-four (24) copies of FULSMQ and one thousand and forty-eight (1048) copies of FULSUQ were recovered and found duly filled as well as suitable for data analysis.

The Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis, which according to (Nworgu, 2015) is meant for relationship of variables, was used in answering the research question. Furthermore, the extent or strength of relationship of the variables was decided or interpreted using Creswell (2008) correlation coefficient scale. Below or equal to ± 0.20 = Very low relationship, $\pm 0.21 - 0.40$ = Low relationship, $\pm 0.41 - 0.60$ = Moderate relationship, $\pm 0.61 - 0.80$ = High relationship, $\pm 0.81 - 1.00$ = Very high relationship. Similarly, for the hypotheses testing using linear

regression, any item whose p-value is greater than or equal to the alpha-value of .05 were not rejected while any item with p-value less than the alpha value of .05, were rejected.

Presentation of Result

The results of the correlational analysis and text of hypotheses were presented in Tables as follows.

Research Question 1:

What is the relationship between acquisition of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?

Report on *Research Question 1* is presented in *Table 1*

Table 1: Correlation matrix of relationship between acquisition of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

		AS	US
AS	Pearson Correlation	1	.220*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	1072	1072
US	Pearson Correlation	.220*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	1072	1072

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed), AS =Acquisition of Serials, US = Utilization of Serials, N = Number of respondents

Data in Table 1 indicates a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.22 which is positive and within the coefficient limit of $\pm 0.21 - 0.40$. This indicates that there is a positive low relationship between acquisition of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 1

HO₁: There is no significant statistical relationship between acquisition and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Data for testing hypothesis 1 are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Regression analysis of relationship between acquisition and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.(p-value)
Regression	.164	1	.164	7.532	.006 ^b
Residual	23.262	1070	.022		
Total	23.425	1071			

Df= degree of freedom, F = F-calculated, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Data in Table 4 shows a p-value of 0.01 which is less than the alpha value of 0.05. This means that there is a significant statistical relationship between acquisition and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. Therefore, the hypothesis of no significant statistical relationship between acquisition and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria was rejected.

Research Question 2

What is the relationship between organization of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?

Report on *Research Question 2* is presented in *Table 3*

Table 3: Correlation matrix of relationship between organization of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

		OS	US
OS	Pearson Correlation	1	-.471*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	1072	1072
US	Pearson Correlation	-.471*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	1072	1072

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed), OS =Organization of Serials, US = Utilization of Serials, N = Number of respondents.

Data in Table 3 indicates a correlation coefficient (r) of -0.47 which is negative and within the coefficient limit of $\pm 0.41 - 0.60$. This indicates that there is a negative moderate relationship between organization of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2

HO₂: There is no significant statistical relationship between the organization and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Data for testing hypothesis 2 are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Regression analysis of relationship between the organization and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.(p-value)
Regression	5.194	1	5.194	304.840	.000 ^b
Residual	18.231	1070	.017		
Total	23.425	1071			

Df= degree of freedom, F = F-calculated, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Data in Table 4 shows a p-value of 0.00 which is less than the alpha value of 0.05. This means that there is a significant statistical relationship between the organization and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. Therefore, the hypothesis of no significant statistical relationship between the organization and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria was rejected.

Research Question 3

What is the relationship between the location of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?

Report on *Research Question 3* is presented in *Table 5*

Table 5: Correlation matrix of relationship between the location of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

		LS	US
LS	Pearson Correlation	1	.765
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.069
	N	1072	1072
US	Pearson Correlation	.765	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.069	
	N	1072	1072

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed), LS =Location of Serials, US = Utilization of Serials, N = Number of respondents

Data in Table 5 shows a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.77 which is positive and within the coefficient limit of $\pm 0.61 - 0.80$. This indicates that there is a positive high relationship between the location of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 3

HO₃: Significant statistical relationship does not exist between location and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Data for testing hypothesis 3 are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Regression analysis of relationship between location and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.(p-value)
Regression	.072	1	.072	3.316	.069 ^b
Residual	23.353	1070	.022		
Total	23.425	1071			

Df= degree of freedom, F = F-calculated, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Data in Table 6 shows a p-value of 0.07 which is greater than the alpha value of .05. This implies that there is no significant statistical relationship between location and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. Therefore, the hypothesis that significant statistical relationship does not exist between location and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria was not rejected.

Research Question 4

What is the relationship between the binding of cumulated serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?

Report on *Research Question 4* is presented in *Table 7*.

Table 7: Correlation matrix of relationship between the binding of cumulated serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

		BCS	US
BCS	Pearson Correlation	1	.016
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.591
	N	1072	1072
US	Pearson Correlation	.016	1

Sig. (2-tailed)	.591	
N	1072	1072

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed), BCS = Binding of Cumulated Serials, US = Utilization of Serials, N = Number of respondents

Data in Table 7 indicates a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.02 which is positive and below the coefficient limit of ± 0.20 . This indicates that there is a positive very low relationship between the binding of cumulated serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 4

HO₄: There is no significant statistical relationship between binding of cumulated serials and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Data for testing hypothesis 4 are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Regression analysis of relationship between binding of cumulated serials and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.(p-value)
Regression	.006	1	.006	.289	.591 ^b
Residual	23.419	1070	.022		
Total	23.425	1071			

Df= degree of freedom, F = F-calculated, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Data in Table 8 shows a p-value of .59 which is greater than the alpha value of .05. This means that there is no significant statistical relationship between binding of cumulated serials and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. Therefore, the hypothesis of no significant statistical relationship between binding of cumulated serials and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria was not rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study were discussed base on the major findings of the study.

Relationship between Acquisition and Utilization of Serials

The finding on the study on objective 1 shows that there is a significant positive low relationship between acquisition of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. The result reported a correlation coefficient of 0.22. This result indicates that a positive low relationship exists between acquisition of serials (sub-construct of the independent variable) and their utilization (dependent variable) in federal university libraries in South-East zone of Nigeria. Additionally, the test of HO₁, however, indicates that the correlation coefficient is statistically significant. This proves that a significant statistical relationship exists between acquisition and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

The positive relationship found from this present study is in line with the fact that the more things are acquired, the more the users will have access to them for utilization; none can make use of what has not been acquired. However, the low relationship is an indication that users will make use of the serials acquired when the need arises not merely utilizing it because it has been

acquired even when they do not have need for it. On the contrary, Aghauche (2007) carried out a study on availability, accessibility and utilization of serials in Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan and found that although 67% of the respondents used the serials collection occasionally, majority of them used it for research and reference purposes whereas, 48.7% could not access serials and did not utilize them. Also, Anunobi, Nwakwuo and Ezejiofor (2010) in a study on serials acquisition problems in Nigerian federal university libraries, found that acquisition of serials in southern Nigeria federal university libraries is besieged with problems, making utilization also difficult in universities in Nigeria. Edem in Akinbode and Nwalo (2016) in a study on the approaches in the acquisition and management of serials in Nigerian academic libraries, found proper serial acquisition and effective management as an aid in our quest for quality library services in Nigerian academic libraries. This study validates the findings of Nutsupkui and Owusu-Ansah (2017) which reported that majority of the respondents indicated that serials collections acquired in their library were very useful and also expressed optimism about the value of serials in their academic activities.

Relationship between Acquisition and Utilization of Serials

The result of the study on objective 2 reveals that there is a significant negative moderate relationship between organization of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. This is based on the fact that the study reported a correlation coefficient of -0.47 for the relationship between organization of serials and their utilization. This is to say that negative moderate relationship exists between organization of serials (sub-construct of the independent variable) and their utilization (dependent variable) in federal university libraries in South-East zone of Nigeria. However, this result synchronizes with the general knowledge that organization leads to effective utilization of tools in every society. That is, the more the serials are organized, the easier they will be located by users and the more the utilization of such serials. The test of H_0 , however, reveals that the correlation coefficient is statistically significant. This proves that a significant statistical relationship exists between organization and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

This result is in consonance with Aghadiuno, Agbo and Onyekweodiri (2015a) in a study on the acquisition and organization of serials and other continuing resources in two universities in North Central zone of Nigeria, where it was found that organization of serials which entails cataloguing, classification and display on the rack helped in the effective utilization of serials materials in university libraries. In addition, Aghadiuno, Agbo and Onyekweodiri (2015b) found that proper organization of the serials, adequate weeding of serials and provision of library infrastructure facilitate utilization of serials in the libraries. Nutsupkui and Owusu-Ansah (2017) carried a study on faculty and students' perspective on awareness and use of serials in an African university library and found that majority of the respondents believed that the serials are properly organized and utilized. Furthermore, this result is not far from the study of Chitumbo, Chipasha, Tembo and Banda (2015) who reported that in order to improve serials usage, serials collections need to be properly organized according to subjects to adequately assist, guide and teach users how to use the materials. It further supports the assertion of Nnadozie (2007) who believes that the catalogue helps users to locate information material. Salaam and Opeke (2009) also assert that the more available and accessible resources are, the more they would be utilized.

Relationship between Location and Utilization of Serials

The findings of the study on objective 3 indicated that there is a non-significant positive high relationship between the location of serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. The result reported a correlation coefficient of 0.77. This result indicates that a positive high relationship exists between location of serials (sub-construct of the independent variable) and their utilization (dependent variable) in federal university libraries in South-East Zone of Nigeria. Furthermore, the test of H_{O3} , indicates that the correlation coefficient is statistically insignificant. This proves that a significant statistical relationship exists between location and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

This finding on the relationship between the location of serials and its utilization corresponds with the knowledge of the researcher that library users usually prefer to go and use what they can easily locate in the shelf than what will take them time to search for. That is to say that the more a serial is easily located by the users, the more the utilization. This result is in line with the findings of Hameed and Osunrinade (2010) in a study on students' perception and utilization of serials materials in the Polytechnic Ibadan Library, Nigeria, where it was found that majority of undergraduate students prefer using text books to using journal that are not easily located. The respondents indicated that the library stocks old journals, serials unit is on closed access which they find it difficult searching for information in the serials, kardex are not well kept. Besides, Sambo and Akpojotor (2016) carried out a study on undergraduates' perception and utilization of serial materials in Federal University of Petroleum Resources Library Effurun, Delta State, where it was found that delays in supply of dailies, lack of space in the serial section makes it difficult to access information on journals for utilization.

This study further amplifies the words of Chitumbo, Chipasha, Tembo and Banda (2015) that sometimes some library users give up in the process of searching information materials in the library due to various problems they experienced of which absence of location guide is one of them. Bamidele, Omeluzor and Amadi (2013) had earlier said that retrieving and using serials require knowledge of the exact location of the serials.

The result of the study on objective 4 showed a non-significant positive very low relationship between the binding of cumulated serials and their utilization in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. The result reported a correlation coefficient of 0.02. This result indicates that a positive and very low relationship exists between binding of cumulated serials (sub-construct of the independent variable) and serials utilization (dependent variable) in federal university libraries in South-East zone of Nigeria. Furthermore, the test of H_{O4} indicates that the correlation coefficient is statistically insignificant. This proves that a significant statistical relationship does not exist between binding of cumulated serials and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

However, the positive relationship is in agreement with the thinking of the researcher, believing that cumulation which is the act of gathering serials in volume, strength or value by addition or repetition; steadily increasing would enhance utilization of the serials but contradicted by the low relationship. In any case, Akinbode and Nwalo (2016), observed that cumulation of serials significantly prolong their shelf life for effective utilization and particularly if the library has a liberal loan policy. On the contrary, Aghadiuno, Agbo and Onyekweodiri (2015a) reported that the back issues of magazines and newspapers are tagged together chronologically and kept in the store which reduces the utilization of such serials. Furthermore, Clark and O'Driscoll (cited in Adubika, 2007) observed that binding of serials can significantly prolong their shelf life,

particularly if the library has a liberal loan policy. This would go a long way in assisting the users of these serials to make reference to previous volumes or issues of a serial, if need be.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is right to say that proper management of library resources and services is directly proportional to library productivity and utilization. This might be why the management and utilization of library resources such as serials in university libraries have been an important issue of relating publications for teaching, research and community development. Serials as part of these library resources are valuable materials used extensively for research by library users. They contain relevant and up-to-date research information which most library users spend their time reading especially, the learned journals and technical reports of specialized organizations and societies more than books. Despite the relevance of serials in university libraries, it was observed that there is a reduction in the acquisition of serials in most federal university libraries in Nigeria. Where some of the required materials are acquired, their organization is always relegated to the background which literature has attributed to factors like non-continuity of subscriptions as a result of poor funding, inadequate cataloguing and classification tools, the inadequate skill of the serials librarian on ways of organizing these serials among other things. In addition, a preliminary survey has shown that the proper organization of library resources plays a great role in their utilization. The result portrayed that where serials are inaccessible; they were not utilized by the users for their research work.

Consequently, most university libraries, in an attempt to meet the expectations of the students and faculty members, have devised different patterns of organizing their serials resources. Most university libraries believe that serials organization would lead to effective utilization of serials by library users. In any case, there was no empirical evidence that established the relation between the organization of serials and its utilization in libraries in the societies let alone universities in particular. This was why this study was conducted to ascertain the relationship between management and utilization of serials in federal university libraries in South-east Nigeria. Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were made.

1. University library management and administrators should make provisions for the acquisition of relevant serials and the provision of adequate guides (Kardex cards, indexes, and abstracts) to the location and retrieval of the materials in order to enhance effective use by users.
2. University library management and administrators should employ proactive, qualified and friendly staff to adequately assist, guide and teach users how to access, retrieve and use journals and other periodicals in the collection.
3. University library management and administrators should organize seminars regularly to sensitize library users on the importance of serials use and communicate to them new materials in open-access and reserved areas.
4. University librarians should embrace the CD-ROM technology and other technologies to facilitate serials processing, organization and weeding for effective utilization by users in universities.
5. University librarians should provide adequate selection tools to ensure the acquisition of relevant serials and determine serials which are out of print or that are yet to be supplied.

6. University librarians should provide users with a manual on the order in which the serials are organized for easy retrieval and utilization.
7. Library users should be educated regularly on the organization of serials in the library for effective utilization and the need to ensure continuous organization of serials in the library.

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