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Josiah Sarah Okpa  
Josiah@gmail.com

Idachaba Joy Asibi  
idachaba@gmail.com

Ufuoma Eruvwe  
eromoserecon@yahoo.com

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# **Utilization of the library and its effect on academic achievement of undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria**

**Sarah Okpa Josiah *Ph.D***

**University of Calabar**

**Idachaba Joy Asibi *Ph.D***

Francis Sulemanu Idachacba Library, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi, Benue State

[idachabajoy@yahoo.com](mailto:idachabajoy@yahoo.com)

**Eruvwe, Ufuoma *Ph.D***

**Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun, Nigeria**

[eromoserecon@yahoo.com](mailto:eromoserecon@yahoo.com)

## **Abstract**

The study investigates utilization of the library and its effect on academic achievement of undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria. A descriptive survey method was adopted for the study. Three research questions were formulated to guide the study. The population of the study consists of 300 undergraduates from the university under study. A total of 300 copies of questionnaire were distributed and 243 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved using descriptive statistics mean and percentage mean score of 2.5 and above and percentage score of 50% were considered as acceptable. The study revealed that learning, research, preparation for exams are the benefit of utilizing the university libraries. Factors impeding the utilization of the library includes, obsolesces books, poor infrastructure, lack of proper orientation to library usage and as well as erratic power supply. Strategies to improve on utilization of the library to aid academic achievement are provision of current books; infrastructures, constant power supply as well as library orientation to undergraduates.

**Keywords:** University library; Utilization; Academic achievement

## **Introduction**

Undergraduates are students pursuing their first degree at a university. When they need something, they go to the university library. A university library is an organized and maintained collection of written and non-printed materials for reading, learning, and consultations. A university library, according to Fotalib (2015), is an institution charged with the acquisition, organization, and storage of recorded knowledge in various media for study, research, and consultation. The University Library's primary goal is to assist the University's mission of

promoting teaching, learning, and research. The purpose of the university library is to assist undergraduates, postgraduates, lecturers, and other university community members. Because of its unique role in the university system, the library plays a vital part in determining the quality of a university.

A university cannot operate without a library because the university's purpose is to teach and do research. The university library should offer a wide range of services. It is also expected to serve all of the university's knowledge areas. As a result, university libraries are sometimes decentralized, with a central library that coordinates the activities of departmental and faculty libraries. Its collection must comprise not only books, but also general and specialized reference collections, which may include periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, historical maps, government publications, clippings, letters, theses, and audio-visual resources. As a result, undergraduates utilized these tools to improve their academic achievement. Utilization of library therefore refers to the reported use of information sources in the library by undergraduates. This involves the frequency of patronizing the library, frequency of borrowing books, kinds and age of information sources used Colin, (1990). The overall use of library's facilities and information resources is thus defined as utilization of library resources. Undergraduates' use of the university library, in particular, may encourage students to attain academic success.

Academic achievement refers to a student's academic outcomes that show how far he or she has progressed toward their learning objectives. Completing educational standards such as a bachelor's degree is an example of academic achievement. Exams or continuous evaluations are frequently used to assess academic achievement. Undergraduate academic accomplishment is a crucial aspect of education (Rono, 2013). It is regarded as the hub around which the entire educational system revolves. According to Narad and Abdullah (2016), the academic

achievement of any academic institution is determined by undergraduates. Singh, Malik, and Singh (2016) also claimed that undergraduate academic achievement has a direct impact on a country's socioeconomic development. Farooq, Chaudhry, Shafiq, and Behanu (2011) claimed that undergraduate academic accomplishment serves as a foundation for knowledge acquisition and skill development.

According to Onuoah (2000), there is a favorable correlation between university libraries and student learning results. According to him, pupils who frequent the libraries have higher test scores than students who do not frequent the libraries. Most undergraduates do not use libraries these days for a variety of reasons, including a lack of understanding of how to use the catalogue, which assists library users in locating or identifying the materials they require; and a lack of library orientations or seminars for students. Unavailability of library items, positioning of materials on the shelf, outmoded collections, and insufficient infrastructures are among the other concerns. The library's management should make every effort to avoid this circumstance. In light of this, the title utilization of the university library and academic achievement of undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria is imperative.

### **Statement of the problem**

As one of the essential provisions of the educational system, a university library remains one of the most important factors in instruction and knowledge acquisition. Then there's the fact that the world's library of books aids the educational process. Academic achievement refers to a student's academic outcomes that show how far he or she has progressed toward their learning objectives. Undergraduates' use of the university library is crucial to their academic success. The university

library has been identified as a valuable instructional resource that has an impact on undergraduate academic attainment.

It has been discovered that while there is literature on university library usage and undergraduate academic accomplishment in university libraries, none has been conducted in selected university libraries in South-South Nigeria. As a result, the researcher writes to close this knowledge gap.

### **Objectives of the study**

The general objective of the study is to find out the how undergraduates utilized the university libraries and how they achieved their academic achievement. The specific objectives are:

#### Research Questions

1. What are the achievements of the use of the university libraries by undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria?
2. What factors impede/hinder the use of the university library of by undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria?
3. What strategies could be adopted to improve the use of the University libraries by undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria?

#### **Literature review**

##### **The literature will be reviewed on the university library and academic achievements**

A standard university library should have plethora of materials such as journals, newspapers, magazines, textbooks, diagrams, maps and pictures (visual), while television set, radio, toys and multimedia materials (Non print). The university librarian must collaborate with the institution in offering these educational materials. Lance (2005) found that professionally trained school

library media experts had a favorable effect on students' academic achievement, and that library media specialists require the cooperation of teachers and principals in order to be most effective.; and that support staff is essential if library media specialists are to fully affect students' academic achievement in at school.

In a related study on the association between the use of library facilities and students' academic achievement, Anyadike (2000) discovered that pupils do better when they utilize the school libraries regularly than when they do not. As a result of these findings, Anyadike advised students to make frequent use of library resources in order to achieve high academic accomplishment or excellence in their academic activities. According to Ojedokun (2007), library resources are materials that users reference when making decisions and solving problems. The usefulness of a library is determined by how well its materials are used. Agboola and Bamigboye (2011) agreed that the importance of strong libraries in higher education institutions cannot be overstated, as the quality of any education is dependent on the library, not the library as a spectacular structure, but the library's use. They emphasize the importance of having the broadest possible assortment of books and other key materials in libraries serving academic communities.

Furthermore, according to Onye (2017), all of the participants in their study (100%) stated that textbooks are available in the library, while 572 (84%) stated that the library has computers, 314 (46.1%) stated that the library has internet, and 90 (13.2%) stated that the library has films (audio-visual). Olajide and Adio (2017) investigated how well under-graduate students at the Federal University of Oye-Ekiti in Nigeria used university library resources. They discovered that library resources such as abstracts, indexes, yearbooks, and atlases were neither adequate nor

readily accessible. Library information resources are used for a variety of purposes in academic institutions. In their study, Agyekummer and Filson (2012) discovered that the majority of undergraduates use library resources and services to supplement their class notes, assignment and helped them in examination preparation.

The relationship between library information services and school effectiveness was explored by Popoola and Haliso (2009). Their research was purely quantitative. To extract data from the sampled respondents, a survey design (questionnaire) was used. The data from the sampled schools were used to assess the kids' academic achievement. Their studies revealed that library services and school effectiveness had a good and significant association. According to the findings, a student's achievement is determined by the quality of the library given by the school. In addition, in their study on the association between library services and academic accomplishment in secondary schools in Nigeria, Oji and Abana (2012) discovered a favorable relationship between library services and academic achievement. The survey found that libraries are still an important part of the educational system, and that a school without one cannot be considered a successful school.

Concerns about the obstacles to efficient use of library information resources Unavailability of resources scored first with 42 percent, followed by power failure with 27 percent, and disordered materials with 17 percent, according to Uzogbu, Ezukwuoke, and Chingbu (2012). Those who stated there was no difficulty accounted for 11 percent of the respondents. According to Mamo and Amidu (2016), the ineffective use of library resources is hampered by a lack of current information resources and inappropriate shelving of information resources. According to Olajide & Otunla (2015), respondents' primary challenge is a lack of time, which has severely hampered undergraduate academic progress. The academic success of students is the primary priority of all

instructors, according to Farooq et al., (2011). Academic achievement, according to Narad and Abdullah (2016), is the information obtained that is measured by a teacher's marks and/or educational goals set by students and teachers to be achieved over a specified period of time. They went on to say that these objectives are measured by ongoing evaluation or examination results.

## **Methodology**

The descriptive survey design was used in this investigation. The study's participants are 300 undergraduates from Delta State University Abraka and the University of Calabar, all from Nigeria's South-South area. A total of 300 copies of the questionnaire were disseminated, and descriptive statistics were used to retrieve 243 copies of the questionnaire. Respondents found a mean and percentage mean score of 2.5 and above, as well as a percentage score of 50%, to be acceptable, however a mean and percentage mean score of less than 2.5 and a percentage score of less than 50% were deemed unacceptable.

**Table 1**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Undergraduate Number</b>
1	University of Calabar	125
2	Delta State University Abraka	118
	<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>

As shown in the table 1 above, the numbers of undergraduates consist of 243 sample undergraduates from the federal university libraries under study. The breakdown of the number of the undergraduates from the federal university libraries in South South Nigeria is as follows: University of Calabar 125 while Delta State University Abraka 118 respectively.

**Table 2** What are the achievements of the use of the university libraries by undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria?

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	-x	Decision
1	Academic advancement	102	97	34	10	3.1	Accepted
2	Research	111	88	22	20	3.1	Accepted
3	Learning	89	99	37	18	3.0	Accepted
4	Preparation for exams	119	78	34	12	3.2	Accepted

Table 2 revealed the achievements of the use of the university libraries by undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria. These include academic advancement (3.1), research (3.1), learning (3.0), and preparation for exams (3.2) respectively.

**Table 3** What factors impede/hinder the use of the university library of by undergraduate's undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria?

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	-x	Decision
1	Obsolete books	98	97	33	15	3.0	Accepted
2	Poor infrastructures	113	78	31	21	3.0	Accepted
3	Lack of orientation on library use	87	45	75	36	2.7	Accepted
4	Power failure	87	108	36	12	3.1	Accepted

Table 3 above shows factors that impede/hinder the use of the university library by

undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria to be obsoletes books (3.0), poor infrastructures (3.0) lack of orientation on library use (2.7) and power failure (3.1).

**Table 4** What strategies could be adopted to improve the use of the University libraries by undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria?

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	-x	Decision
1	Provision of current books	89	98	39	8	3.1	Accepted
2	Improved on Infrastructures	111	78	33	21	3.1	Accepted

3	Orientation on library usage	78	76	37	52	2.7	Accepted
4	Regular power supply	112	67	33	31	3.0	Accepted

Table 4 also revealed the strategies could be adopted to improve the use of the University libraries by undergraduates in selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria. They are provision of current books (3.1), improved on infrastructures (3.1), orientation on library usage and regular power supply (3.0)

### **Conclusion**

Utilization of the university by undergraduates is critical to their academic achievement. Academic achievement refers to how far an undergraduate has succeeded in achieving specified goals that were the focus of activity in educational settings, particularly in university libraries. Because the library is at the core of any university, students should use it frequently, as there is a good correlation between library use and academic accomplishment. Though there are various obstacles to undergraduates using the university, these obstacles should be overcome by offering current literature, infrastructure, and library usage orientation, as well as the availability of electricity.

### **Recommendations**

The study recommends the following to facilitate the utilization and academic achievement of undergraduates in the university under studies:

- The state and federal government should try as much as possible to fund the universities to aid learning, research and reading.
- Provision of current textbooks, reference materials, journals, electronic devices should be priority
- Infrastructures of state of the art library facilities should be put in place
- Constant electricity should be considered as priority
- Orientation of user's education on undergraduates is paramount
- The library should constantly seek the intervention of tertiary intervention funds for its upkeep

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