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Lawal Mohammed Tukur
mohammed.tukur@umyu.edu.ng

Mr Murtala Musa
Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina, murtala.musa@umyu.edu.ng

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A COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ON USAGE OF INFORMATION TOOLS IN THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES BY ACADEMIC STAFFS OF BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO AND UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY WUDIL, KANO

Murtala Musa: Musa Daura Library, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina. *E-mail* murtala.musa@umyu.edu.ng

Mohammed Tukur Lawal: Department of Library and Information Science, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina. *E-mail* mohammed.tukur@umyu.edu.ng

Abstract

The study examines the information Usage of Information Tools in The Faculty of Agriculture University Libraries by Academic Staffs of Bayero University, Kano and University Technology Wudil, Kano in Nigeria The objective of the study is to Compare the Usage of Information Tools in The Faculty of Agriculture University Libraries by Academic Staffs of Bayero University, Kano and University Technology Wudil, Kano to analyze the types of available information resources, services and facilities, the level of usage, user satisfaction and the constraints associated with the use by faculty members. Questionnaires were provided to the academic staffs. The researcher took 2.7 % of the entire respondent population= 1910= 52 were taken by the investigator, so fifty two (52) copies of the questionnaires were given to the respondents. Thirty four (34) were retrieved and analyzed, representing 65.38 %. Key findings show that in the faculty of Agriculture University Libraries under study, the existing agricultural information tools and facilities available, accessible and used are inadequate. In the Agriculture University Libraries, infrastructural facilities and internet services existed, but were not well established. User-confronted constraints include internet access, power failure, employee attitudes, current information resources, particularly e-journals e-books and loan times, agricultural information related information resources, such as databases, e-journals e-books, as there was not much available for the established information needs. There was no access to adequate information resources for users because of the insufficient number of library employees. The study recommended the enhancement of existing information tools, services and user information needs facilities, offline database subscriptions such as AGORA, HINARI, AJOL, JSTORE and E-

Granary to access agricultural information offline, with millions of textbook and journal information resources accessible and added every second.

Key words: Availability, Accessibility, information resources, information technology, faculty members, library staff

Introduction

Library is an institution where information resources are systematically selected, acquired, organized, processed, stored, managed, retrieved and disseminated by librarians; therefore, agricultural library in the other hand is a place established for the particular purpose of selecting, acquiring, organizing, processing and disseminating of relevant information resources, providing services and facilities to an institutions related to the curriculum and courses offered in the Universities for agricultural research, teaching, learning and community services in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the institutions; In light of the above therefore, the essence of establishing the university of Agriculture libraries is to provide information resources, services and facilities to academics, researchers, students, livestock producers, agricultural business organizations, research workers and subject specialists with the anticipation to articulate a clear vision to archive a hunger free country and to move the country as an agricultural-industrialized economy, create wealth, jobs, and meet the challenge of man, food and hunger and to make for a sustainable development and economic growth in the country, therefore, access to information is becoming an integral part of our agriculture university

The principle objectives of the library is to select, acquire, conserve, preserve and make available a wide range of printed, non-printed, and electronic materials relevant to the academic aims of the university, to facilitate and promote access to the rapidly expanding global collection of electronic sources of primary and secondary information, to deliver documents rapidly to its users, to collaborate with other libraries to maximize access to the knowledge base, to train researchers, academics and students in transferable information seeking

skills, to manage its resources effectively, and activity to exploit and promote their use, to retain and recruit high quality staff and, through training and development, equip them to meet changing service needs, to provide and develop space of a high standard for collection, user facilities and library staff, to maintain a comfortable and secure environment conducive to study within its premises, and to extend longer opening hours, to evaluate developments in library and information service delivery, and adopt those benefits to the university library. (Iwhiwhu & Patience, 2012)

However, In spite of the relevance of library in the university of agriculture in the country, during the pilot study, observation and discussion with agriculture university librarians sampled, Library staff, students and academics staff; the researcher observed that the information resources available, services and facilities provided are not sufficient enough to meet the user's needs, may be due financial constraints, lack of guiding principle in acquiring the materials, accommodation spaces, selection policy and procedure, improper organization of the resources and shortages of skillful and competent library staff, these impede to achieve the mission and vision of faculty of Agriculture University Libraries under study

Literature Review

Forms of Information Resources Available in the faculty of Agriculture University Libraries

Consequently, the study carried out by Vijayakumar (2017) opined that majority of the respondents said that newspapers, project reports, subject books, CD-ROM database and reference books are available and thesis, general books and web resources are less available. His views were corroborated by Kwaghgba and et-al (2015), Onye (2016), Yaseen and et-al (2016), Ajiji (2017), Aladeniyi and Temitope (2018) and Das Parnab (2015), while Abubakar (2017). It stressed the e-databases subscribed to research by agricultural scientists in federal University libraries in Nigeria such as AGORA and African Journals, others include CD-ROM, MEDLINE, PubMed, Biomed Central, Online and HINARI, CAB Abstracts, BEAST CD, VET CD, and

TEEAL. This finding is agreed upon by Bello and Chioma (2020) an evaluation of the extent of ICT deployment in academic libraries in Oyo State, Nigeria, on the globalization of library and information services, where they confirmed the availability of E-Granary, EBSCOHOST, JSTOR, Jaypee Digital, HINARI, AGORA and OARE with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and partial Institutional Repository (IR). These views were agreed upon by Rukwaro (2015) Ekene and et-al (2016) They claimed that libraries receive information materials such as books, theses, papers, magazines, encyclopedias, dictionaries, e-journals e-books, etc. But Akpe and et-al (2018) has a different opinion where he stated that information resources are not sufficient. This indicates that the views of respondents on their responses to the types of information requirements in the Library are not too different from each other. The study conducted by Afianmagbon and et-al (2020) Availability of information resources as factors that influence research productivity of academic staff at Lead City University, Nigeria, on information literacy skills, indicates high level information resources availability to lecturers and other academic staff in Lead City University who are utilizing them in conducting researches. However, Abubakar (2020) a case study of pharmaceutical science students from the University of Jos investigated the availability and accessibility of information resources in university libraries for academic use by students and revealed that books are some of the library's information resources. Journal, web libraries and internet, e-books, computers, e-journals, encyclopedia index, handbooks, newspaper and magazines are other information resources that were strongly suggested by respondents, some of the data resources were shown poor, as revealed by respondents, while more than half of the respondents recognized them. They are: audio-visual conference proceedings and abstracts and indexes for monographs and regular CD-ROM databases. However, Kutu and Olabode (2020) has a different view in his study on the availability of information resources in libraries, as he stated that the most available print information resources were newspapers, textbooks and journal collections while the least available included indexes, technical reports and manuscripts. This view was corroborated by Ilogho and et-al (2020), Swaminathan and et-al (2020) and Babarinde and Festus (2020). Interms of accessibility, scholars have divergent views on accessing information resources. However, according to Jabbar et-al (2020), Study Accessibility and Use of Research Scholars' Institutional Repository: A Case of the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore, they stated that users accessed Information Resources out of campus while other respondents accessed

Information Resources within campus and some did so through IP and very few used other mode of access. This study is similar to that of Jan and Reman (2020) the University Students of Pakistan: A Quantitative Study of Khushal Khan Khattak University of Karak-Pakistan on Internet Usability and Accessibility, they found out that majority of the students of the Khushal Khan Khattak University Karakwas accessing the Internet at their homes, hostels and the University Library. Interestingly, others were accessing the Internet at classrooms and Computers. However, Olubiyo and Yemi (2020) have different view on their study On Knowledge, Accessibility and Use of Serial Publications among Adeyemi College of Education Undergraduate Students, Ondo Library, they stated that students access serial materials by asking staff, following directional signs, browsing racks and shelves and searching periodical catalogue in that order.

The Use of Information Resources in the faculty of Agriculture University Libraries

In the same vein Oyewumi and et-al (2015) A research on Information Communication Technology (ICT) and its effect on the use of newspapers in University Libraries in Nigeria was conducted. The outcome clearly shows that most respondents used scholarly journals twice a month and on a monthly basis and used them deliberately for self-examination, learning more about a subject, assignment and coursework. The research also indicates that the participants can readily access academic journals. Most of them suggested that academic journals helped educate and guide them on how to conduct research and perform quality research. The finding was agreed upon by Aba and et-al (2015) Oriogu and et-al (2015). A comparable view was that of the study carried out by students of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, on the availability, accessibility and usage of library information services (FUTO).The study reveals that World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail services, e-journal, e-books, e-database and DVD/CD ROMS, textbooks and internet are the resources that students mainly utilize. They often use tools for electronic content, such as databases, electronic journals, and electronic books. cybercafés, reports, handbooks seminar/conference maps/atlas, frequently, while CeRA Journals Indiastat, CABI abstract horticulture online database, Agricultural Economics database EBSCO resource J-Gate Plus Fortnightly, FAO and Agricola Agricat were utilized moderately to prepare for examination, browsing the web, up-dating knowledge, in-depth research work, up-dating and correspondence lecture notes. The majority of respondents decided to use the information tools to acquire general information and for analysis, assignment and study purposes. The discoveries

were supported by Owolabi and et-al (2016), Kumar (2017), Akpe and et-al (2018), Aladeniyi and Temitope (2018) and also Salubi and et-al (2018); while Madondo and et-al (2017) and Madu and et-al (2018) In their research on the use of electronic information services by undergraduate students at the Faculty of Management and Administration at the University of Africa, Mutare, Zimbabwe and on the availability and use of ICT for information retrieval by undergraduate students at the Ramat Library, University of Maiduguri, respectively, they have contrary views. They asserted that undergraduate students at Africa University typically use electronic information services inadequately the results revealed the low level of computer usage in the library for the retrieval of information. CD ROM use was very poor and there was a low degree of internet use. Most respondents also did not use e-mail in the Library for information retrieval.

In addition, the above studies show beyond reasonable doubt that the respondents used knowledge services with serious disagreement that there is a low level of resource utilization in some African countries including Nigeria. But the degree of consumption is very high in developing countries like India. However, it is of great concern to access and use agricultural information, tools, services and facilities in the Agriculture University Libraries in Nigeria. But since then, what has happened? Any of the barriers may be discovered through current research.

Statement of the Problem

One of the cardinal objectives of libraries today are to meet the information needs of users by making information resources, services and facilities available and accessible; organizing and disseminating of information resources to users for optimum utilization. The quality of teaching, learning, research and publications of academics and students depends on the quality of the information resources, services and facilities available in the university libraries. However in spite of the above based on the pilot study it was assumed by the researcher that information resources available and accessible, services and facilities that are provided in the faculty of Agriculture University libraries in Nigeria are not sufficient enough to meet the user's needs for optimum utilization and satisfaction, may be due to level of awareness, paucity of funds, insufficient staff, decay of infrastructural facilities, lack of guiding principle in acquiring the materials, accommodation spaces, selection policy and procedure and improper organization of the resources, unskillful and competencies among library staff. No study has been conducted to

address the situation, in fact to the best of the researcher’s knowledge, there has not been any study carried out to compare on Usage of Information Tools in The Faculty of Agriculture University Libraries by Academic Staffs of Bayero University, Kano and University Technology Wudil, Kano

Objectives of the study

1. To analyze the types of information resources, available in the Faculty of Agriculture University Libraries:
2. To assess the extent of the accessibility of Information resources in the Faculty of Agriculture University Libraries:
3. Determine the degree to which library users are pleased with information resources in the Faculty Agriculture University Libraries:
4. Identify the limitation associated with the use of information resources by faculty Members

Table 1. Population of the study

University	Population of the study				
	faculty members	Sample	No. of questionnaire adm	No. of questionnaire retrieved	%
BUK	1121	26(2.3%)	26	16	61.54%
KSUT	789	26(3.3%)	26	18	69.23%
Total	1910	2.70%	52	34	65.38%

Since the study is a mini research to Compare the Usage of Information Tools in The Faculty of Agriculture University Libraries by Academic Staffs of Bayero University, Kano and University Technology Wudil, Kano, the sample of 52 means around 2.7% is justifiable. However, at last only 34 (65.38%questionnaires were returned with complete response.

Data analysis

Frequency by stratum of visiting the Library

This segment aims to calculate the frequency of the respondents' visits to the library to search for information. In order to assess the frequency, they were asked to indicate how frequently they visited the library whenever it was appropriate to search for information. The following Table 13 presents their answers.

Table 2 Frequency of visiting the Library by stratum

		Frequency of visiting the Library							
		Academic staffs							
Universities	Status of respondents	Every single day	Once or twice in a week or so	Once or twice in	Once or twice in a month or so	From time	Never paid a visit	Total	
				a period of two weeks					
	N	4	4	3	2	8	0	21	
BUK	Within same university (%)	19	19	14.3	9.5	100	0	100	
	Within overall frequency (%)	0.52	0.52	0.39	0.26	1.04	0	2.73	
	N	3	7	3	1	5	0	19	
	N	1	9	0	4	6	0	20	
KSUT	Within same university (%)	5	45	0	20	30	0	100	
	Within overall frequency (%)	0.13	1.17	0	0.52	0.78	0	2.6	

From Table 2 above, it is clear that 19.0% of respondents visit the library every day and 45 % patronize it once or twice in a week. 20.0 % visit the library once or twice in a month. 14.3 % visit it once or twice in a weeks and the remainder 0.0% never visits the library at all. The report indicates that BUK faculty members visit the library more compare to faculty members in KSUT with 21% and 20% respectively. It is also apparent from the table that there is a minor gap between BUK and KSUT in the frequency.

Average time spent in the Library by stratum

The research attempted to determine the average time the respondents spent in the library when searching for information. Table 2 below represents their responses.

Table 3 Average time spend in the Library by stratum

		Average Times											
Name of the University	Status of respondents	Academic staffs					Total	Non academic					total
		Less than an hour	1 to 2 hours	2 to 3 hours	3 to 4 hours	More than 4 hours		Less than an hour	1 to 2 hours	2 to 3 hours	3 to 4 hours	More than 4 hours	
	N	9	7	3	0	0	19	0	1	8	5	3	17
BUK	Within same university (%)	28.6	19	14	38	0	100	22.2	11	27.8	33.3	5.6	100

	Within overall Average (%)	0.78	0.52	0.4	1	0	2.73	0.52	0	0.65	0.78	0.1	2.34
	N	1	3	9	5	2	20	5	7	7	4	0	23
KSUT	Within same university (%)	5	15	45	25	10	100	21.7	30	30.4	17.4	0	100
	Within overall Average (%)	0.13	0.39	1.2	0.7	0.26	2.6	0.65	1	0.91	0.52	0	2.99

From Table 3 below where it reveals the average time spent in the library that 28.6% of the Faculty members in BUK spent less than an hour, while in KSUT is only 5% 33.3%, 3-4 hours in BUK and in KSUT is only 17.4, and the remainder 5.6.% more than 4 hours in BUK while in KSUT is 0.0%. In conclusion, BUK faculty members spent more time in the library in stark contrast to the faculty members in KSUT.

The Purpose of a Visit to the Library by Stratum

The purpose of visiting the library for information retrieval and search has been studied. To indicate their intention for visiting the Library, a list of reasons was given. A list of their answers is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4 Purpose of visiting the Library by stratum

		Purpose of visiting the library																	
Univer sity	Status	Academic																	
		New spap ers	%	Curre nt affairs	%	Cultur al knowl edge	%	subj ect knowl edge	%	Ass ign me nt	%	Res Pur pose	%	Leis ure and readi ng	%	interne t for social networ ks	%	acce ss onli ne jour nals	%
BUK	N	10	48	2	9.52	0	0	7	33	0	0	11	52.38	3	14	2	9.5	5	24
KSUT	N	4	20	2	10	1	5	9	45	8	40	18	90	2	10	1	5	9	45

The above table shows the purposes of respondents visiting the library in their different libraries of the faculty of Agriculture Universities. They were allowed to select more than one answer. Table 4 shows that majority (52.38%) in BUK and 90% in KSUT visit the library for research purposes respectively. The result shows that majority 45% and 33% of the -academic staff use the library for subject knowledge. It is only 3% and 2% that patronize the library for leisure and reading

Information Resources Rank as per priority

This section tries to identify the Information Sources rank as per priority in the Agriculture University Libraries by the respondents whenever they have a need for information. A long list of information sources was provided and they were asked to tick as many as possible the options. Their responses are reflected in Table 5 below.

Table 5 Information Sources rank as per priority in Agriculture University Libraries

FUTM		Academic									
Library resources and services	Very high		High		Medium		Low		Very low		
frequency/%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
Journals	11	52.38	4	19.05	1	4.76	4	19.05	0	0.00	
Text books & Ref books	10	47.62	5	23.81	2	9.52	3	14.29	1	4.76	
Conf proceedings & Technical reports	6	28.57	5	23.81	2	9.52	5	23.81	1	4.76	
Government publications	10	47.62	5	23.81	2	9.52	2	9.52	2	9.52	
Thesis /Dissertations/ projects	7	33.33	4	19.05	5	23.81	5	23.81	0	0.00	
Magazines	4	19.05	7	33.33	6	28.57	3	14.29	1	4.76	
News papers	5	23.81	9	42.86	2	9.52	3	14.29	2	9.52	
Atlas, Maps &Posters	5	23.81	3	14.29	8	38.10	4	19.05	1	4.76	
Manuscripts	2	9.52	7	33.33	8	38.10	4	19.05	0	0.00	
E-databases	3	14.29	4	19.05	7	33.33	7	33.33	0	0.00	
E-Books	5	23.81	6	28.57	5	23.81	4	19.05	1	4.76	
E-Journals	1	4.76	6	28.57	4	19.05	7	33.33	3	14.29	
E-thesis/projects	3	14.29	7	33.33	5	23.81	2	9.52	3	14.29	
E-Newspapers &E-Zines	2	9.52	4	19.05	7	33.33	2	9.52	5	23.81	
CDROM	4	19.05	6	28.57	5	23.81	2	9.52	4	19.05	
FUTO		Academic									
Library resources and services	Very high		High		Medium		Low		Very low		
frequency/%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
Journals	6	30.00	4	20.00	7	35.00	2	10.00	1	5.00	
Text books & Ref books	5	25.00	5	25.00	4	20.00	5	25.00	0	0.00	
Conf proceedings & Technical reports	4	20.00	2	10.00	4	20.00	5	25.00	3	15.00	
Government publications	2	10.00	7	35.00	7	35.00	2	10.00	2	10.00	
Thesis /Dissertations/ projects	5	25.00	7	35.00	8	40.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	
Magazines	3	15.00	6	30.00	6	30.00	4	20.00	1	5.00	
News papers	5	25.00	5	25.00	7	35.00	1	5.00	2	10.00	
Atlas, Maps &Posters	3	15.00	2	10.00	8	40.00	4	20.00	3	15.00	
Manuscripts	3	15.00	4	20.00	5	25.00	6	30.00	2	10.00	
E-databases	2	10.00	8	40.00	7	35.00	2	10.00	1	5.00	

E-Books	2	10.00	2	10.00	10	50.00	3	15.00	3	15.00
E-Journals	2	10.00	4	20.00	9	45.00	3	15.00	2	10.00
E-thesis/projects	4	20.00	6	30.00	8	40.00	2	10.00	0	0.00
E-Newspapers &E-Zines	4	20.00	7	35.00	3	15.00	2	10.00	4	20.00
CDROM	2	10.00	7	35.00	7	35.00	2	10.00	2	10.00

In order to determine the extent of the use of the information sources studied in the Agriculture

University Libraries, a list of information sources was provided to the respondents to rank according to priority status. Table 5 above shows the information Sources rank as per priority in the faculty of Agriculture University Libraries studied. Majority ranked books, journals, e-books and e-journals much higher. Government publications, atlases, maps and posters, for instance, are the type of library information resources ranked very lower

Constraints on the Use of Information Resources

The goal of this part of the study is to address a research question to identify the challenges associated with the use of information sources in the libraries of the University of Agriculture under study.

Table 6 Constraints in Using Data Resources, Facilities and Services

Name of the University	Challenges																	
	Faculty members																	
	Lack of awareness	%	Inaccessibility of some information	%	Problems in locating appropriate info	%	Lack of adequate info res	%	Lack of current info sources	%	Poor internet connectivity	%	Lack of knowledge of search techniques	%	No information about the new arrivals	%	Lack of library space for conducive reading	%
BUK	3	14.29	5	23.81	6	28.57	11	52.38	5	23.81	11	52.38	4	19.05	4	19.05	11	52.38
KSUT	4	20.00	11	55.00	5	25.00	5	25.00	8	40.00	15	75.00	8	40.00	9	45.00	2	10.00

In order to define the restrictions on the usage of information resources sampled in the Faculty of Agriculture University Libraries under study, the researcher provided a list of possible

constraints facing the Libraries for the respondents to choose from. Table 6 above indicates that Poor internet work services Speed and other technical problems and Erratic power supply are the major constraints that hinder easy access and utilization of information resources as well as information about both print and digital new arrivals and lack of library space for conducive reading and respectively in all the faculty libraries studied.

Conclusion

The Library is a growing organism." In terms of information infrastructure, programs, infrastructural facilities, space and library funds, and personnel, it should therefore expand. In addition, consumers need knowledge in the academic setting to carry out their teaching, studying, study and community service academic pursuits. The libraries attached to the faculties in agriculture universities must be satisfied with this knowledge. The Agriculture University Libraries are therefore required to provide tools, services and facilities for information. Any faculty library's primary purpose is to bridge the connectivity gap between the population of the user and the vast universe of information services and serve as an interface between them to ensure that whatever information they need is made accessible as and when necessary. This study compare on Usage of Information Tools in The Faculty of Agriculture University Libraries by Academic Staffs of Bayero University, Kano and University Technology Wudil, Kano. The study also found that in the scholarly pursuits of faculty members, both printed and electronic information services play important roles.

The study observed that the respondent faculties of agriculture University Libraries have both print and electronic resources and revealed that the available information resources there are inadequate, as they do not match their research requirements. The study suggests that the requisite basic print and electronic resources should be preserved by the faculty of Agriculture University Libraries.

Recommendations

1. Information resources should be accessible in a structured way and customized to meet

user requirements by daily shelving and shelf reading at least every two hours, better cataloguing, classification and stacking of information resources so that it is easy to find information resources through well-designed user education/orientation programs to educate their users about the information resources

2. In order to illuminate the resources available in the digital library, the library should establish an institutional archive and also view new arrival editions in the library.
3. Formulate a sound 'collection growth strategy" for online knowledge services in particular. It is important to periodically update the preferred knowledge services, such as subject papers, reference books, and back volumes of journals, thesis/dissertation and research reports, bibliographies and reviews. It is important to upgrade electronic tools, such as CD-ROMs, online journals/e-journals, online full-text databases and e-books, and to regularly review their collection to assess the quality of information resources and infrastructure facilities.
4. Although online journals and databases are on the verge of becoming a reality, the study recommends that document delivery and inter-library loan services be expanded internationally.
5. User profile: The "personal profiles" of the faculty members must be maintained on the basis of their areas of expertise in order to provide the appropriate services needed. Personal profiles should include, on the basis of these areas, their descriptions and specialization areas and essential main terms of their thrust areas. Libraries should provide personalized services such as SDI and CAS computer-assisted mailing facilities on time.
6. Better processes and procedures and strong library staff relationships, so that people feel

more secure contacting them when using the library to solve their problems.

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