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Librarians' Attitude Towards Information resource sharing In Federal University Libraries in North Central, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

The research examined Librarians' Attitude towards Information resource sharing In Federal University Libraries in North Central, Nigeria. The research was guided by three objectives and one hypothesis. Descriptive survey was used with the target population of 121 librarians in the seven federal university libraries in North central, Nigeria. Questionnaire was used in data collection. 121 copies of the questionnaire were administered 102 were filled, returned and found usable representing 87.2% response rate. Frequency, Percentage and Means were used in data analysis and Pearson Product moment correlation was used to test the null hypothesis. The study revealed that Librarians' in the region do not engage in co-operative processing of library resources. The study recommended that library should engage in co-operative processing of Library resources to enhance greater staff specialization.

Keywords: Librarians' attitude, Information resource sharing, Federal University Libraries, North Central, Nigeria.

1.0 Introduction

The library institution is established to satisfy the learning, research and lifelong goal of its clientele, University libraries are meant to support the missions and visions of their parent institutions in the areas of knowledge generation, equipping users with knowledge acquisition so that they can serve the society and advance the wellbeing of humanity. In order to achieve this library will have to rely on information resource sharing as it is impossible for any library to provide all the information needs of its clientele. Especially in this day of information explosion or documentary chaos information resource sharing from a physical and logical stand point is the best way for the university libraries to enhance its collections to satisfy the ever growing information needs of its clientele as no library may be able to acquire all her information resources in the world, both documented or undocumented and there is limit as to which any library can acquire information resources. Today, the pursuits for wisdom and book creation has taken a toll on libraries and made it impossible for any library no matter how vast it is to acquire all the information resources on earth even in the smallest area of broad knowledge or to cope with even a small part of the daily creation of literature.

Information resource sharing is an agreement between two or more University libraries to share their collections, information, facilities, staff, finances, in a formal or informal way to satisfy their clientele and cut down collection development expenses. It is a relevant tool to enhance university library's collections because without adequate, concise, useful information, no significant progress can be made in all aspect of human endeavour.

Information resource sharing has a great advantage of identifying and providing the interest of library user and makes it easier to create a joint venture and also eliminating duplication of documents and work by library staff which further enhances staff specialization.

The university libraries are engaging in library consortia to enhance information resources. Librarians' attitude toward information resource sharing can affect information resource sharing. Staff attitude refers to an individual's overall proclivity and feelings, prejudices or bias preconceived thoughts, ideas, worries, and convictions about a certain topic. A person's attitude toward a significant topic or object might be used to assess that person's feelings or thoughts about that topic.

From the foregone submission, the way librarian thinks, feel and act in regards to information resource sharing activities, is as important as any aspect that ICT might influence and affect library's delivery services to its patrons in meeting their learning, research, educational and recreational needs. Librarians' ideas, feeling, behaviour toward information resource sharing will influence how member of co-operative libraries adopt and utilize information resource sharing activities to enhance library services thereby fulfilling the aim and objectives of the University Libraries.

1.1 Statement of Problem

Most libraries in Nigeria do not give necessary attentions to information resources sharing activities, as most work concerning information resource sharing are either at the early stage or half done. Most library collaboration are done informally on the ground of goodwill of one library to another library or based on the relationship existing between librarians in these university libraries, and there are no formal legal agreements, union catalogue, and the

foundation for most collaborative efforts are almost not in existence for collection other than periodicals (Ilo, 2008). Uncertainty exists in lieu of Librarians' attitude toward the utilization of information resource sharing for effective information service delivery. Based on these problems, the researcher has embarked on this study to out Librarians' Attitude towards Information resource sharing In Federal University Libraries in North Central, Nigeria.

1.2 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to examine the Specifically Librarians' Attitude towards Information resource sharing In Federal University Libraries in North Central, Nigeria. The study intends to:

1. identify the types of Information resource sharing activities among cooperative libraries in federal university libraries in North central, Nigeria.
2. investigate librarians' attitude towards information resource sharing in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria
3. identify the benefits of information resource sharing to librarians in the federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria

1.3 Research Question

The following research questions are raised based on the objectives of the study and are to be answered, thus:

1. What are the types of information resource sharing activities among cooperative libraries in federal university libraries in North central Nigeria?

2. What is librarians' attitude towards information resource sharing in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria?
3. What are the benefits of information resource sharing to librarians in the federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria

1.4 Hypothesis

The following hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance, thus:

H₀₁: there is no significant relationship between Librarians' attitude and information resource sharing in Federal university libraries in North central Nigeria.

2.0 Literature Review

The university Library plays an important role in the learning, teaching and research activities of the university. The need to deliver an effective service in term of fulfilling the information needs of the library clientele, rest on the shoulder of the Librarians. The Librarians are bestowed with the task of meeting the needs of the clientele and making sure, the aim and objectives of the parent institution is met. Ahmad and Yahaya (2018) opined that, partnership activities in the University Library as a tool used to develop library information resources and services, enhancing users' greater accessibilities to library information resources and services.

The attitude of Librarians toward information resource sharing would be a determinant how effective information resource sharing will enhance greater accessibilities of library information resources and service.

Ravagan (2019) defined attitude as "an opinion which generally express one's judgment of a particular set of facts, an evaluation of the circumstances preserved to him." In similar view,

Chegwe and Anaehobi (2015) stated that “A person’s Attitude toward an issue or object can be judged from his/her behaviour in situation involving the objects or issue.” In same vein, Adesina (2013), who believed that attitudes are acquired through learning and can be changed through proper orientation. He further mentioned that peoples’ attitudes are dynamic and changes constantly thereby forming new attitudes and modifying the old ones, when employees are exposed to new experiences and ideas.

Librarians’ attitude may vary from individual to another, which could be based on their upbringing, experience, education, skill, level of exposure, government policies, organisational policies and many other factors (Uwana and Men, 2017). Librarians’ attitude toward information resource sharing such as positive attitude, would bring about effective Library services, in turn fulfilling the aim and objectives in meeting the educational, recreational, research and other needs of the university library clientele.

3.0 Research Methodology

This study used descriptive survey design. The population for this study was one hundred and twenty-four (121) this comprises of 11 librarians in Francis Suleiman Idachabe library University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State, 13 librarians in Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia library, University of Abuja, FCT, 12 Librarians in Federal University Lokoja Library, Kogi State, 24 Librarians in University of Ilorin Library, Kwara State, 12 Librarians in University of Lafia Library, Nassarawa State, 28 Librarians in Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida library, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State and 21 Librarians in University of Jos Library, Plateau State. The entire 121 population of Librarians in federal university Libraries in North Central, Nigeria was sampled. Self-designed closed ended structured questionnaire was utilised.

The Questionnaire had three section and it was designed to include Yes or NO and four point likert scale (SA, A, D, SD). 121 copies of the questionnaire were administered within 3weeks, 102 copies (87.2%) of the instrument were found valid for analysis. The data was analyzed using frequency counts, percentages and mean. Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the null hypothesis. The decision was based on the mean of 2.5, which implies that any item with a mean score of 2.50 and above was accepted while any item with a mean score below 2.5 was rejected.

4.0 RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Table 1: Response Rate

S/N	Names of University library	No of Administered Questionnaire	No of Returned Questionnaire	Percentages (%) of Returned Questionnaire
1	Francis Suleiman Idachabe library University of Agriculture Makurdi, Benue State.	11	10	90.9
2	Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia University of Abuja, F.C.T	13	13	100.0
3	Federal University of Lokoja library, Kogi state	12	10	83.3
4	University of Ilorin library, Kwara State	24	19	79.2
5	Federal University Lafia library, Nasarawa State	12	12	100.0
6	Ibrahim-Badamasi Babangida library, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger.	28	20	71.4
7	University of Jos Library, Jos Plateau.	21	18	85.7
Total		121	102	87.2

Table 1 presents the response rate. Federal University Lafia, Nassarawa State had 100.0%, Federal University Lokoja, Kogi State had 83.3%, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State had 71.4%, University of Abuja, Abuja had 100.0%, University of Agriculture

Makurdi, Benue State had 90.9%, University of Ilorin, Kwara State had 79.2% and University of Jos, Plateau State had 85.7%. However, the overall response rate was 87.2%.

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage of Types of Information Resource Sharing Activities in Your Library.

S/N	Types of Information Resource Sharing	YES	% Of Yes	NO	% of No
1.	Inter-library loan	92	(90.20%)	10	(9.8%)
2.	Co-operative acquisition	28	(27.5%)	74	(72.5%)
3.	Co-operative storage	21	(20.6%)	81	(79.4%)
4.	Cooperative reference service	38	(37.3 %.)	64	(62.7%)
5.	Cooperative processing of library resources	17	(16.7%)	85	(83.3%)
6.	Human resource building	13	(12.7%)	89	(87.3%)
7.	Document Delivery	97	(95.1%)	5	(4.9%)
8.	Consortia resource sharing	15	(14.7%)	87	(85.3%)

From table 2, Inter-library loan, 92 (90.2%) of the respondents indicated yes, Co-operative acquisition 28 (27.5%) respondents indicated yes, Co-operative storage 21 (20.6%) respondents indicated yes, Co-operative references services 38(37.3%) respondents indicated yes, Co-operative processing of library resources and 17(16.7%) respondents indicated yes, 89 (87.3%) respondents indicated yes on Human Resource building, 13(12.7%) respondents indicated yes on Document delivery, 87 (85.3%) and finally 15(14.7%) respondents indicated yes on Consortia resource sharing.

Table 3: Librarians' Attitude towards Information Resource Sharing in Federal University Libraries in North central Nigeria

S/N	Statement	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	X	decision
1	I support information resource sharing because it is a tool used to provide effective library service.	30	72	0	0	3.29	Agreed
2	I think information resource sharing will increase library resources.	45	57	0	0	3.44	Agreed
3	Information resource sharing is important to my library because, it will help to meet current and future needs of my library	35	67	0	0	3.34	Agreed
4	I support information resource sharing is useful to my job	43	59	0	0	3.42	Agreed
5	I feel information resource sharing is not necessary as it makes my library not to be autonomous.	0	0	70	32	1.69	Disagreed
6	I do not support information resource sharing because my library can thrive on its own.	0	2	70	30	1.73	Disagreed
7	I feel information resource sharing makes my library looks incompetent	3	8	63	28	1.86	Disagreed
8.	I have a nonchalant attitude towards information resource sharing.	1	4	55	42	1.65	Disagreed
GRAND MEAN						2.55	AGREED

KEY: SA = Strongly Agreed, A=Agreed, D= Disagreed AND SD = Strongly Disagreed

Table 3 revealed the response on Librarians' Attitude towards Information Resource Sharing in Federal University Libraries in North central Nigeria. From the table above Item 1, 2, 3 and 4 had mean ranging from 3.42 to 3.44 and were above the bench mark of 2.5. This showed that a high number of Librarians in Federal University Libraries in North central supports information resource sharing. While item 4, 5, 6 and 8 had mean ranging from 1.65 to 1.86 and were below the Bench mark of 2.5. This indicated only few Librarian do not support information resource sharing.

Table 4: benefits of information resource sharing to librarians in the federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria

S/N	Statement	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	X	decision
1	Information resource sharing allows greater staff specialisation	42	60	0	0	3.57	Agreed
2	Information resources help me allow unnecessary duplication of work	47	55	0	0	3.52	Agreed
3	Information resource sharing allows me build working relationship between me and other cooperating Library	30	72	0	0	3.60	Agreed
4	Information resource sharing is useful to me as it provides linkage between me and other Librarians which can lead to innovative services and new features.	43	50	9	0	3.13	Agreed
5	Information resource sharing provides my library with cheaper and more effective services to my library clients.	70	30	2	0	3.37	Agreed
GRAND MEAN						3.43	AGREED

KEY: SA = Strongly Agreed, A=Agreed, D= Disagreed AND SD = Strongly Disagreed

Table 4 showed the responses on the benefits of information resource sharing to librarians in the federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria. From the table above Item 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 had mean ranging from 3.13 to 3.60 and were above the bench mark of 2.5. This reveals that Information resource sharing is beneficial to librarians in North central Nigeria.

Hypothesis Testing

Table 5: Relationship between Librarians' Attitude and Information Resource Sharing in Federal University libraries in North Central, Nigeria.

Variable	No. of Samples	Correlation	Sign. Level (p)	Remark
Staff Attitude	102			
Information Resource Sharing	102	0.493*	0.001	Significant

***. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).**

Table 5 presents the Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient on the relationship between Librarians' attitude and information resource sharing in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria. The Correlation result indicated that there is significant relationship between Librarians' attitude and information resource sharing in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria at 0.05 level of significance. (Correlation = 0.493; $p < 0.05$). Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected. Hence, there was significant relationship between Librarians' attitude and Information resource sharing in Federal University libraries in North Central Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The study seeks to access the attitude and response of librarians towards information resource sharing in Federal university Libraries in North central, Nigeria. The study discovered that the majority of universities participate in all types of information resource sharing activities, but that some are more active than others, as shown in the above analysis, namely inter-library loans, document delivery while cooperative reference services are moderately facilitated in libraries. Cooperative activities like cooperative collection, storage, and processing, consortia resource

sharing and human resource development of library resources have little impact on information resource sharing. It can be deduced that many of the types of information sharing still need to be improved upon.

The study also showed that there is a positive, encouraging and willing attitude towards Information resource sharing. There is a positive response, the overall assessment of the questions such as I support information resource sharing because it is a tool used to provide effective library service; I think information resource sharing will increase library resources etc. indicated majority of Librarians in the region supports information resource sharing activities. In summary there is a positive reassuring attitude towards information resource sharing despite the challenging facing resource sharing.

The study further revealed that Librarians stands to benefits from information resource sharing activities alongside their Libraries such as Information resource sharing allows greater staff specialization, Information resources help me allow unnecessary duplication of work, Information resource sharing allows me build working relationship between me and other cooperating Library. In summary information resources sharing is beneficial to both Librarians and their Libraries. This agrees with, Ogunrewo, Zubairu and Olagoke (2015) in their research, Information resource sharing among selected Academic libraries in south-west, Nigeria. The study uncovered that, the study unveiled that information resource sharing through sharing of library staff facilitates development of library.

H₀₁ tested indicated that, there was significant relationship between Librarians' attitude and information resource sharing activities in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that, there was no significant relationship between

staff attitude and information resource sharing activities in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria was rejected. This is in line with the finding of Uwana and Men (2017) in their research, staff attitude and staff academic profile as factors influencing the use of two special libraries in Abuja Nigeria which discovered that, librarians portray positive attitude towards library use. Chegwe and Anaehobi (2015) in their survey research “Academic Librarians Perception and Attitude towards Marketing of Library Services in Delta State, Nigeria”. Resource sharing is a marketable service in academic library as perceived by the librarians, indicating that the librarians have positive attitude toward information resource sharing.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings it is evident that Librarians have positive attitude towards information resource sharing and Information resource sharing is a vital tool for enhancing library services and it is also very beneficial to both the library and Librarians despite the fact many of the types of information sharing still need to be improved upon.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made;

1. Cooperative Human Capacity Building as a type of Information Resource sharing should be Improved.
2. Libraries should engage in co-operative processing of Library resources to enhance greater staff specialization.

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