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## Use of Library Information Resources by Undergraduate students at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania

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**Use of Library Information Resources by Undergraduate students at Sokoine  
University of Agriculture, Tanzania  
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***Abstract***

*The study examines use of library information resources by students of Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania. The study employed cross-sectional research. Systematic sampling was to select 120 respondents. Data was collected using structured questionnaire. Quantitative data was coded and analyzed using the statistical package for social science (SPSS). Frequency and percentages was analyzed. The results found that most of the respondents mainly used special collection, general collection and special reserve. The study further found that e journal and e-book were the most accessed and utilized e resources, while dissertation was the least used e resources. The study also revealed that the students encountered some challenges while accessing and utilizing the information resources at the library that include, power cut off in the library area, lack of relevant, materials, unaware of available materials. The study recommended that library management should double its efforts of creating awareness of available information library resources, increase the internet bandwidth, to increase availability of reading materials based on the program offered at the university and lastly to improve the power supply in the library.*

**Keywords:** Utilization; Information resources; Electronic Resources, Print Resources Undergraduate, Sokoine University of Agriculture

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background of the study**

Libraries play a great role in ensuring academic success of students in any university because main source of information. The primary objective of an academic library is to information to the library user which are researchers, academician students and other users of the library ((Olowu (2004). The information resources in libraries help to fulfill the objectives of establishing the university. Consequently, the university library supports to accomplishment of the main objective of higher learning institution in provision of high quality education. Thus, library Information resources is among the very important and crucial resources in different universities in Tanzania, which require to be explored in order to design better for academic library collection development.

Current, the use of electronic resources is an important and is becoming a preferred and effective source of scholarly information in among various users including students. Accessibility to information resources is an important concern to library users (Onye, 2016).Without access to resources, use is unachievable, and the value of the resources worthless to users. Therefore, it is important and calls on libraries to evaluate users' access and utilization of the information library resources. .Therefore, this study on aim to examine utilization of library resources among university students at Sokoine University of Agriculture

### **1.2. Statement of the problem**

A library is essential in ensuring that students endeavour to value reading as part of their daily life activities. Therefore, it is expected students to access and utilize various library information resources (Wema, 2018). However, various studies have been carried in Tanzania on use of library information resources. Study by Bea, et al. (2018) assessed customer satisfaction with library services while the studies (Isibika and Kavishe (2018). Similarly, Mollel, and Mwantimwa , 2019) assessed utilization of subscribed e resources concentrating only on one resource, prefers information library resources(Samzugui, 2019).

However, none of the studies have examined usage of library Information resources in among the students in higher learning institutions in Tanzania. To fill this gap, this study investigated the use of library Information resources by undergraduate students in a higher education n institution. Knowing accessibility and use of library information resources it may be used by educators to enhance student access and use of library information resources

. The study was guided by the following research objectives.

- i. To determine the level of library resources utilization among university students
- ii. To examine the challenges hindering library attendance among university students

## **2.Review of related literature**

Worldwide, several studies that have been conducted to examine usage of library information resources. Kumar and Singh (2011) study in India assessed accessibility and use of electronic information resources in India. The results found that utilization of electronic resources to enhanced research activities. Furthermore, it was found that poor network connectivity was among the factor which hinders usage of e-resources among the scientist. Furthermore, the study by Majid and Tan (2002) assessed use of library used by students in Singapore. The study revel that most of the students preferred printed resources.

The Study Ibrahim and Lawal (2022) investigated access and use of information resources among academic staff in Nigeria. The study reveal that books materials, newspaper and journal were the most used resources by the academic staff of the university. Further, it was found out that information accessed and utilized by the staff during the period were for teaching and learning purpose. Moreover, the study also found that the staff encountered some challenges which were insufficient information richness, lack of skills. Similarly, The study by Onye (2016) in Nigeria, examined students access and use of library resources. It study establishes that there was low usage of library resources among the reason indicated were the inadequate information sources.

In Tanzania, there has been a gain of research work on library resources; however, little or no research has been conducted to assess intensively utilization of library information resources. Existing research to-date has largely focused on the general practices of e-resources usage, rather than on issues of other information library resources. In fact, there are still apparent disparities in ascertaining access and utilization of library information resources. Similarly, Nkebukwa, (2016), studied the status of usage of electronic resources by students. The study establishes that, the most of the users have low usage of e-resources available. Ideally, however, this raises more questions than answers, for example, if what about the usage of other information resources such as print resources?

Furthermore, Mwantimwa et al. (2017) assessed the utilization of e-resources to enhance teaching, and research in higher learning institutions. The study reveals that there was low usage of subscribed e-resources. The study found that most of the respondents used an open access resources. Similarly, Isibika and Kavishe (2018) investigated use of subscribed electronic resources by undergraduate students in a university library. The results revealed that respondents were moderate being aware of the available electronic resources. The study reveals that is low usage of subscribed electronic resources among the undergraduate students in higher education institutions in Tanzania.

Furthermore, a number of studies conducted focus on the on usage of e-resources. None has assessed the access and usage of information and library resources in general. This study, therefore, was designed to investigate access and utilization of information library resources at Sokoine University of Agriculture. The study findings can support university managements, of resources for the building of the library resources. Similarly, these findings can assist players in the information science to know the usage of the students in academic library to serve them accordingly.

### **3 Research Methodologies**

The study was conducted at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).Sokoine university of Agriculture has been chosen because it among the public institutions with large number of students. This study adopted the cross-section research design. Data was collected once

at a time. Multi-stage sampling was used for sampling. The first step involved random selection of eight bachelor degree. The second step involved selection of respondents. Thereafter, it was followed with systematic sampling. Twenty respondents were selected from each of the selected bachelor degree to make a total of 120 respondents. According to Saunders et al. (2007), the sample size of 30 or more will usually result in a sampling distribution that is very close to the normal distribution, and the larger the absolute size of a sample, the closer its distribution will be to the normal distribution. For that reason 120 respondents are enough to make a general conclusion.

The main instruments for data collection were questionnaire and supplemented with observation. The questionnaire contained questions according to the specific objectives of the study. Level of library resources utilization among university students were measured using five likert scales daily, weekly, monthly, yearly and never. In addition to measure factors hindering the utilization of library resources among university students, four likert major, moderate, low and not challenge at all were employed.

The reliability of the questionnaire were assessed through the pilot study which involved 20 respondents. The Cronbach's alpha was found to be 0.83, is appropriate as per Hair *et al.* (2013). The quantitative data were coded and analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20. The descriptive statistics, such as frequencies, percentages were analysed.

## **4 Results and Discussion**

### **4.1 Socio demographic characteristics of respondents**

In this study, both male and female participated. The results show that less than half (34.2%) of the respondents were female while more than half (65.8%) were male respondents as shown in (Table1). This implied that most of the respondents were male (Table 1). Furthermore, the respondent who was involved in this study were different study years whereby fourth years were less than half (13.3%) while third year were less than half

(35.0%) this shows that most of the respondents were the third years. This implied that most of the respondents at the selected institution were third year.

Moreover, the study contained respondents of different age groups, where respondents with age more than 39 were less than half (3.3%), the aged by group of 20 to 29 years majority of respondents were (89.2%) as shown on (Table 1). This implied that most of the respondents have an age ranged between 20 and 29.

**Table 1: Socio demographic Characteristics (n=120)**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	41	34.2
Female	79	65.8
<b>Year of Study</b>		0.0
First	22	18.3
Second	40	33.3
Third	42	35.0
Fourth	16	13.3
<b>Age groups</b>		0.0
Less than 20	8	6.7
20 -29	107	89.2
30-39	1	0.8
More than 39	4	3.3

#### **4.2 Usage of library resources**

Results of table 2 show that usage of library resources by undergraduate students. The results also show about half (50%) of respondent indicated that use special collection on weekly basis, while 10% used daily among the print resources. Results showed that about a quarter (24.2%) used reference services on weekly, while 15% used it daily. It was found that less than half (46.7%) never used the newspaper available at the library. Findings reveal that more than half (57.5%) have never used the magazine. It was found that the

majority of respondents (78.3%) have never used maps available on the library in form of printed materials (Table 2).

The results reveal that less than half (44.2%) used e journals on a weekly basis, while 12.5 used them daily. Moreover, it was revealed that few (39.2%) used e-book on a weekly basis, while only 28.3% used daily. Furthermore, less than half (42.5) have never used Dissertations and thesis while only 20.0 used them on weekly basis. These results imply that there is high utilization of e journals than other electronic information resources available at the study area.

**Table 2: Usage of library resources**

Printed materials	Daily		Weekly		Monthly		Yearly		Never use	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Special collection	12	10.0	60	50	28	23.3	4	3.3	16	13.3
Reference	18	15.0	29	24.2	44	36.7	12	10.0	17	14.2
General collection	28	23.3	45	37.5	32	26.7	7	5.8	8	6.7
Newspapers	6	5.0	13	10.8	26	21.7	19	15.8	56	46.7
Maps	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	12.5	11	9.2	94	78.3
Journal	8	6.7	29	24.2	36	30.0	11	9.2	36	30.0
Textbooks	21	17.5	24	20.0	6	5.0	27	22.5	42	35.0
Magazine	4	3.3	4	3.3	27	22.5	16	13.3	69	57.5
<b>Electronic resources</b>		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
E books	34	28.3	47	39.2	18	15.0	9	7.5	12	10.0
E journal	15	12.5	53	44.2	22	18.3	10	8.3	20	16.7
Dissertations and thesis	4	3.3	24	20.0	24	20.0	17	14.2	51	42.5



### **4.3 Challenges hindering the utilization of library resources among university students**

In this study the results shows that less than half (16.7%) of the respondents indicated that lack of searching skills was the major challenge while less than half (28.3%) indicated that it was moderate challenge as shown in (Table 3). This implied that lack of searching skills was a challenge hindering the utilization of library resources among university students .

Furthermore, the results show that less than half (18.3%) of the respondents indicated that missing of some pages on the reading materials was the major challenge while less than half (30.0%) indicates missing of some pages as moderate challenge as shown in (table 4). This implied that the missing of some pages among a challenge that facing university student when using library resources, this is because library has proper way to protect the materials.

Moreover, the results show that more than half (55.8%) of the respondents indicated that they are unaware of the materials available in the library was the major challenge hindering the utilization of library resources among university students at Sokoine University of Agriculture. This implied that awareness about the materials available in the library was not a challenge, this is because university students at SUA always given orientation when they're in the first year.

Moreover, the results found that majority (75.0%) of the respondents that power cut off was the major challenge hindering the utilization of library resources among university students. Additionally, the findings found that less than half (33.3%) indicated that lack of were the major challenge hindering the utilization of library resources among university students, while about one third (31.7%) indicated lack of relevant materials as a moderate challenge.

Lastly, the results found that majority (81.7%) of the respondents that low internet bandwidth was the major challenge hindering the utilization of library resources among university students, while 83.3% indicated that Insufficient ICTs facilities was the major challenge hindering the utilization of library resources among university student.

**Table 3: Challenges that hindering the use of library resources.**

Challenges	Major		Moderate		Low		Not challenge	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Lack of searching skills	20	16.7	38	31.7	28	23.3	34	28.3
Missing of some pages on the reading materials	15	12.5	30	25.0	37	30.8	38	31.7
Unaware of the materials available in the library	67	55.8	32	26.7	12	10.0	9	67
Power cut off	90	75.0	25	20.8	5	4.2	0	0
Lack of relevant materials	40	33.3	38	31.7	31	25.8	11	9.2
Low internet bandwidth	98	81.7	17	14.2	5	4.2	0	0
Insufficient ICTs facilities	100	83.3	12	10.0	8	6.7	0	0

## **5 Discussion of findings**

### **5.1 Socio demographic characteristics of respondents**

This result shows that most of the respondents were male. This could be influenced by the reason that Sokoine University of Agriculture offered most science subject are dominated by males students than females. These results are similar to study by (Mtebe and Raphael, 2013), which reveal that male form majority of respondents in higher learning institutions.

The results showed that most of the respondents had age ranged between 20 and 29. Domination of youth aged around 25 could due to reason that most student selected to join higher education institution in Tanzania are those completed the higher level secondary

school. These results are similar to study by (Nkebukwa, 2016), which reveal that young form majority of respondents in higher learning institutions.

## **5.2 Usage of library resources**

The results showed that most of the respondent used special collection on weekly basis. Library special collection preserves and proves material to library users on the library materials which are unique and frequency used by various users for various reasons such as research (Tam, 2017). It contains the materials which are either unique or unusually exceptional and valued. It was revealed that study area contains the special collection which contains thesis and dissertation, government reports census report, research output from various projects undertaken at the university. These resources are very useful and frequent used by various students when accomplishing the different academic tasks.

It was revealed that electronic-book which is considered as most essential source of information for students, it was least useful among the electronic resources. This may be influenced in availability of books on the subscribed e resources. It was revealed that users' access to various information resources are restricted to the e-databases and resources that the institution subscribed (Lwoga and Sukums, 2018). It was found that most of the students used e journals due to its currency. Most of the students when carried various academic work such as report writing, doing literature review they consult the most current and frequency published information, in this regard journals are the good sources of information.

## **5.3 Challenges hindering the utilization of library information resources among university students**

The study further found out challenges encountered by the university students while accessing and utilization of library information resources. The majority of the respondents indicated that power cut off was the major challenge hindering the utilization of library resources among university students at Sokoine University of Agriculture. Although the

power failure is also a national wide challenge, but it was observed that the library has no backup then the power cutting off. This is similar to the study by Akporhonor and Akpojotor (2016) which found that power failure was among the major challenge in accessing the available e-resources in the university library.

The results reveal that about half of the respondents indicated that lack of searching skills was the major challenge. This finding agrees with those of Oluwaseye and Abraham (2013). Which found that lack of web searching skills was among the challenges facing students in using library resources in academic library. These challenges were also underlined by Uzuegbu (2012). In addition, results obtained shows that other challenges hindering the utilization of library information resources among university students were missing of some pages on the reading materials and lack of relevant materials. This is similar to the study by Ibrahim and Lawal (2022) which found that inadequate information for preparing lecture note were the challenge encountered by the library user in using an academic library.

The results reveal that Low internet bandwidth and Insufficient ICTs facilities. It was observed that current there is an increase in the number of students enrollment compared to the ICT facilities available for use in the University. This means that in spite increase on the number of students' enrolled however the increase of the ICTs facility within the library computer laboratory is not proportional to enrollment rate. Similarly, Ugwu, and Orsu (2017) reveal that Challenges among the challenges facing library user to access and use of online information were lack of browsing skills, low internet bandwidth and insufficient ICT infrastructure. Likewise, the study Gakibayo et al. (2013) reveal that use of electronic information resources in the library by students was affected by lack of ICTs facilities, information literacy skills and slow internet connectivity.

## **6. Conclusion and Recommendations**

The major intention of this study was to examine use of library resources by undergraduate students at Sokoine University of agriculture. Library services are resources are built in

response to the changing need of library users, but also should continue taking steps to discover the utilization of the resources and services offered, and also to improve the library services upon which the library users have shown. The findings reveal that majority of library users were occasionally used the library resources. Among the factor that contributed to this low utilization were power cut off in the library area, lack of relevant, materials, unaware of available materials. Therefore, to ensure the challenges facing students using library resources by undergraduate students are being solved, the study recommends the following:

- i. The library management should create awareness among library users with regard to available services and resources in the library,
- ii. To increase the internet bandwidth to increase searching of subscribed e-resources available in library,
- iii. To increase library budgets to increase the e-resources and printed materials based on the program offered at the university.
- iv. Lastly to improve the power supply in the library

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