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Citation Analysis Of Doctoral Theses In Library And Information Science Submitted To University Of Maiduguri, Nigeria

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**CITATION ANALYSIS OF DOCTORAL THESES IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
SCIENCE SUBMITTED TO UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA**

BY

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Abstract

Citations of doctoral theses in library and information science, submitted to the School of Post-graduate Studies (SPGS), University of Maiduguri between 2014 and 2018 were analysed for the following variables, viz; bibliographical format of literature cited, age of publications cited and a ranked list of journal titles cited. Bibliometric techniques were used in the analysis, which involves counting and categorizing references cited for each of the following; textbooks and monographs, journal articles, theses and dissertations, conference proceedings, unpublished sources, reports, newsletters and online sources, journal articles cited, and examinations of the age of publications cited. The data gathered was collated and analysed using frequency distributions and percentage scores, presented in tables. Findings of the study revealed that, the fourteen (14) theses generated 1,828 citations, with journal articles accounting for highest number of citations 732 (40%) while textbooks and monographs with 648 (35.4%) citations. In addition, findings on distributions of age of publications cited by decade showed that majority of the works cited 986 (53.9%) is from 2000 – 2009, followed by 2010 – 2018 with 411 (22.5%) citations. Finding on the ranked list of journals cited arranged in decreasing order revealed a total of 732 citations from ninety-one (91) journal titles. The most frequently cited journal was *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal) with 92 citations followed by *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science* with 61 citations, while about fifty (50) other journal titles recorded lowest scores of three, two and one citations respectively.

Keywords: citation analysis; doctoral theses; library and information science; university of Maiduguri, Nigeria

Introduction

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in library and information science programme began in 2006/2007 academic session. The department, having enhanced its trained work force capability with masters' programme for more than ten years, was faced with a pressing demand for a doctoral programme. The programme is designed to train academics and professionals with relevant theoretical knowledge for public and private organizations and to develop advanced management personnel with technical and conceptual skills for the organization and administration of modern libraries and related institutions. PhD candidates are expected to submit their theses to the School of Postgraduate Studies as part of the requirements for the award of doctor of philosophy of the University of Maiduguri. Each candidate must have orally defended successfully his thesis before a panel of internal and external examiners (Faculty of Education Prospectus, 2010).

According to Obokoh(1986) citation or reference analysis has long been a popular, if not an accepted method of assessing the characteristics of literature used by research workers in the sciences and, to a large extent, in the social sciences. The purpose for this may range from such diverse reasons as providing a list of further reading, tracing original works or studying the frequency of journals for acquisition. Similarly, Bozimo(2006) stated that one of the librarian's primary tasks is to nourish the user's mind by providing information and, at the same time, observing the resources needed, requested and used. Perhaps no other type of study captures in an unobtrusive manner, the resources used for teaching and research in universities than citation studies. Bozimo (2006) further observed that, citations are references which researchers make because they consider that the cited paper have made some contribution to their thinking process in course of writing a document. Accordingly, citations are "rewards" which individual writers accord to their colleague whom they have personally assessed as having made some advancement to the store of information. Thus to be cited by a competent colleague is an honour truly deserved. While, for libraries, citation studies point to what documents should be acquired and provide a peek into the way scholars seek information.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study were to investigate the citation analysis of doctoral theses in library and information science, accepted by the School of Postgraduate Studies, University of Maiduguri, between 2014 and 2018, for the following:-

1. Determine bibliographical format of literature cited in the theses
2. Determine age of publications cited in the theses
3. Prepare a ranked list of journals based on frequency of usage in the theses

Literature Review

Citation sources are so important that they are now significant criteria in scientific publishing as well as in the assessment of scientific papers. The literature cited by a researcher links his work with other sources published. Thus, this study has identified some of the relevant studies on citation analysis in different disciplines and highlights their contributions in terms of characteristics of the cited literature by format, age and subject distribution.

Okanlawon (1989) in a citation study of postgraduate agricultural theses of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, 1980-1985 reported that journal articles were the most cited with 57.9% citations, monographs were next used with 18.4% citations. Chikate and Patil (2008) in a pilot study of citation analysis of doctoral theses in library and information science submitted to the University of Pune, India, analyse more than 6,000 citations from 27 doctoral theses which revealed that nearly half of the citations recorded were from journal articles (42.2%) with college and research libraries as the most cited journal which was ranked first with 141 citations (5.3%). Also, Kumar and Reddy (2012) citation analysis of master of library and information science dissertations submitted to the Sri-venkateswara university during the period 2000 – 2007, were analysed for finding possible relationships between citing articles and bibliographic forms. Frequency and percentage distributions and measures of central tendency were used to analyse data. Findings showed that journals were the most utilized materials in the dissertations. In addition, library science in general had the highest number of citations followed by library management and cataloguing. The findings from this study could serve as a user study with implication for collection development and user services designing in libraries.

Methodology

This study examined the citations of fourteen (14) PhD theses in library and information science submitted to the School of Postgraduate Studies, University of Maiduguri between 2014 to 2018. The references listed at the end of each thesis were examined and each entry (reference) was copied to a 5x3 inch card. Full bibliographic details were given for each reference entry. These include; author(s) name; title of document; title of journal; year and volume of publication. This was done for all the 1,828 citations (references) generated from the fourteen (14) PhD theses.

Bibliometric technique was used, which involves counting and categorizing references cited in each thesis according to the following: format of literature (books and monographs, journal articles, theses and dissertations, conference proceedings, unpublished sources, reports, newsletters, and online sources); journal titles cited and the age of publications cited. The data gathered were collated and analysed using descriptive statistics (frequency distributions and percentages) presented in tables.

Data Analysis

The results of the study presented in tabular form below:

Table 1: Format of literature cited in a rank order

Format of literature	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Journal articles	732	40
Textbooks and monographs	648	35.4
Online sources	124	6.8
Theses and dissertations	104	5.7
Conference proceedings	102	5.6
Unpublished sources	67	3.7
Reports	27	1.5
Newsletters	24	1.3
Total	1,828	100

Table 1 shows the distribution of citations according to bibliographic format. Journal articles were predominantly use with 732 citations (40%). Textbooks and monographs accounted for 648 citations (35.4%). Online sources were use with 124 citations (6.8%). Theses and dissertations accounted for 104 citations (5.7%). Conference proceedings had 102 citations (5.6%). Unpublished sources had 67 citations (3.7%). Reports and newsletters were least used with 27 and 24 citations, representing 1.5 percent and 1.3 percent respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of publications cited by decade

Years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1950–1959	03	0.2
1960 –1969	05	0.3
1970 –1979	22	1.2
1980 – 1989	94	5.1
1990 – 1999	279	16.2
2000 – 2009	986	53.9
2010 – 2018	411	22.5
No date	10	0.5
Total	1,828	100

Table 2 shows distribution of age of publications cited by decade. Majority of the works cited 986 (53.9%) fall between 2000 – 2009, followed by 2010 – 2018 with 411 citations representing 22.5 percent. 1990 – 1999 works were cited 297 (16.2%). 1980 – 1979 works recorded 94 citations (5.1%). 1970 – 1979 works recorded 22 (1.2%) citations. 1960 – 1969 and 1950 – 1959 works recorded five and three citations respectively. While there were ten citations with no date of publication.

Table 3: Journal titles cited in a rank order

S/N	Title of Journal	Rank	Citations	Percentage (%)
1.	Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)	1	92	12.6
2.	African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science	2	61	8.3
3.	Nigerian Libraries	3	39	5.3
4.	Electronic Library	4	38	5.2
5.	College and Research Libraries	5	37	5.1
6.	Information Technologists	6	34	4.6
7.	Information and Knowledge Management	7	20	2.7
8.	Journal of Academic Librarianship	8	19	2.6
9.	Library Hi-Tech News	9	18	2.5
10.	Library Review	10	17	2.3
11.	Nigerian Library and Information Review	11	13	1.8
12.	Journal of Library and Information Science	11	13	1.8
13.	Gateway Library Journal	11	13	1.8
14.	Library Management	11	13	1.8
15.	Borno Journal of Library Archives and Information Science	11	13	1.8
16.	Information Development	12	11	1.5
17.	Samaru Journal of Information Studies	12	11	1.5
18.	American Society for Information Science and Technology	12	11	1.5
19.	Journal of Library and Information Science	13	10	1.4
20.	Journal of Library and Information Research	13	10	1.4
21.	Journal of Information and Library Review	13	10	1.4
22.	Communicate	14	09	1.2
23.	Information Manager	15	08	1.1
24.	Libiri	15	08	1.1
25.	Global Review of Library and Information Science	15	08	1.1
26.	IFLA Journal	15	08	1.1
27.	Lagos Journal of Library and Information Science	16	07	1.0
28.	Annals of Library and Information Studies	16	07	1.0
29.	Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science	17	06	0.8
30.	South African Journal of Library and Information Science	17	06	0.8
31.	The Publisher	18	05	0.7
32.	Nigerian Library Link	18	05	0.7
33.	Library Trends	18	05	0.7
34.	International Journal of Library and Information Science	18	05	0.7
35.	Coal City Libraries	18	05	0.7
36.	Journal of Library Administration	19	04	0.5
37.	Journal of Information Science	19	04	0.5
38.	Ghana Library Journal	19	04	0.5
39.	Australian Library Journal	19	04	0.5
40.	Annals of Borno	19	04	0.5
41.	World Libraries	19	04	0.5
42.	26 Journal titles had three (3) citations	20	03	0.4

43.	13 Journal titles had two (2) citations	21	02	0.3
44.	11 Journal titles had one (1) citations	22	01	0.1
Total		732		100

Table 3 presents the ranked list of journals cited arranged in decreasing order. 732 citations were recorded from 91 journal titles used by the researchers in fourteen (14) theses analysed. The most frequently cited journal was *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal) of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA, with highest score of 92 citations (12.6%). *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science* published in University of Ibadan recorded 61 citations (8.3%), *Nigeria Libraries* Published by Nigerian Library Association (NLA) with 39 citations (5.3%), *Electronic Library* recorded 28 citations (5.2%) *College and Research Libraries* had 34 citations (4.6%). While, 26 other journal titles recorded three (3) citations each, 13 journals titles recorded two (2) citations each and 11 other journal titles recorded one (1) citation each respectively.

Discussion

Table 1 shows the distribution of the citations according to bibliographical format in a ranked order. Journal articles were predominantly used 732 citations (40%), monographs and textbooks followed with 648 citations (35.4%), online sources recorded 124 citations (6.8%), theses and dissertations and conference proceedings had 104 citations (5.7%) and 102 citations (5.5%), while unpublished sources, report and newsletter recorded lowest scores of 67 (3.7%), 27 (1.5%) and 24 (1.3%) citations respectively. This finding agrees with Kumar and Reddy's (2012) citation analysis of master of library and information science dissertations, University of Sri-venkateswara (2000-2007) which revealed that journal articles were predominantly used (40.6%) in the 91 dissertations analysed. Similarly, this study shows some departure from Aliyu's (2015) citation analysis of doctoral theses in education, university of Maiduguri that revealed textbooks and monographs were cited most frequently with 1,511 citations (51.2%) in the 31 doctoral theses analysed.

Table 2 presents distribution of age of publications cited by decade. About 1,828 citations were according to the year in which each cited publication was published and were further grouped by decade. Majority of the works cited 989 (53.9%) fall between 2000 – 2009, followed by 2010 – 2018 works with 411 (22.5%) citations, 1990 – 1999 works recorded 297 citations (5.1%), 1980 – 1989 works recorded 94 citations. (5.1%), 1970 – 1979 works with 22 (1.2%) citations. 1960 – 1969 and 1950 – 1959 works recorded five and three citations, while there were ten undated publications cited. The analysis shows that, the number of cited publications between 2000 – 2009 and 2010 – 2018 were considered highest and current. This possibly could be due to unlimited availability and accessibility of current sources of information on the World Wide Web (WWW), which is a departure from the paucity of current sources of information in

university libraries in Nigeria particularly, from mid 1980s to late 1990s, due to structural adjustment programme embarked by federal government of Nigeria.

Table 3 presents the ranked list of journals cited arranged in decreasing order, based on number of times each journal title was cited. 732 citations were recorded from the 91 journal titles used by the researchers in the fourteen (14) doctoral theses in library and information science, university of Maiduguri between 2014 and 2018. The most frequently cited journal was *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)* of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, United States of America, with highest scores of 92 citations (12.6%). This could be attributed to the fact that this e-journal is assessed free on the World Wide Web (www). Thus, researchers do not require subscriptions in order to access this journal. Hence, its highest frequency of citations by the researchers. The *African Journal of Library and Information Science*, published in university of Ibadan recorded 61 citations (8.3%). The researchers second most frequently used this journal, possibly because it is one of the common journal title that can be found in the holdings of the department of library and Information Science Laboratory and Ramat Library, university of Maiduguri. *Nigerian Libraries*, a journal of Nigerian Library Association (NLA) was the third journal cited with 39 citations (5.3%), same reason could be deduced for this journal too as indicated above. The finding on the ranked list of journals cited in this study corroborates with the findings of a pilot study on citation analysis of doctoral theses in Library and Information Science University of Pune, India by Chikate and Patil(2008) which revealed that nearly half of the citations recorded were journal articles (42.2%) out of the 6,000 citations recorded in their study. Furthermore, Okanlawon(1989) citation study of postgraduate agricultural theses of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, 1980 – 1985, also revealed similar findings that journal articles were the most cited with 509 (57.9%) than other bibliographical formats used by postgraduate agricultural students.

Conclusion

This study presented citation analysis of fourteen (14) doctoral theses in library and information science, accepted by the school of postgraduate studies, university of Maiduguri between 2014 to 2018. The study examined the bibliographical format of literature cited, age of publications cited and the ranked list of journal titles cited. The results of the study showed that the fourteen (14) theses generated 1,828 citations. The analysis on the distribution of various bibliographical format revealed that journal articles contributed highest number of citations accounting for 732 (40%) while textbooks and monographs had 648 (35.4%) citations. The distribution of age of publications cited by decade showed that majority of the works cited 986 (53.9%) fall between 2000 – 2009, followed by 2010 – 2018 with 411 (22.5%) citations. The ranked list of journal titles cited arranged in decreasing order with a total of 732 citations recorded from ninety One (91) journal titles used, showed that the most frequently cited journal was *Library Philosophy and Practice (E-Journal)* with 92 citations (12.6%) followed by *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science* with 61 citations (8.3%). While fifty (50) Other journal titles recorded the lowest scores of three, two and one citations respectively.

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