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Awareness and Attitude of Undergraduates toward Serial Publications in Kwara State University Library

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AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE OF UNDERGRADUATES TOWARD SERIAL PUBLICATIONS IN KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Abstract

This study examined the awareness and attitude of undergraduates toward Serial Publications in Kwara State University Library. Descriptive survey research method was adopted and questionnaire was administered to 360 undergraduates of Kwara State university to obtain the required data. The objectives of the study were to ascertain the level of awareness of serials publications, the rate of serial accessibility, attitude of student towards serial publications, constraints faced in the use of serials and types of serials used by student and its influence on their academic performance. The result revealed that journals and newspapers are the mostly patronized types of serials by undergraduate students. More than half of the undergraduates have access to serial like journals, newspapers and government publications. Also fair size of the respondents attested that serial publications have positive impact on their academic performance to some extent. The study also revealed that the respondents have negative attitude toward serial publication in the library. The major constraint associated with the use of serial publications was inadequate infrastructure for accessing serials electronically and many of the serials are not well displayed in the library. Based on these findings, the study recommends that the university library should ensure that more current serial publication should be provided for undergraduate students' use.

KEY WORDS: Attitude, Awareness, Serial Publication, Undergraduates

Introduction

Serials have historically and presently focused on the provision of current or up-to-date information in general or specific fields of study. This is one of the reasons why Salaam (2001) stated that serial is intended to cater mainly for researchers. Since serial serve as source of information for research activities, which has been observe that university libraries devote a substantial proportion of their annual budgets. Woodward (1990) argued that serials constitute a major part of the collection of academic libraries and also accounts for a large sum of the library expenditure, the academic library inclusive. The academic library is an integral part of tertiary institutions and accounts for majority of the information material holdings of a tertiary institution, serving all and sundry especially staff and students of a tertiary institution. The academic library therefore, cannot claim to be the determining factor for the state of excellence of its parent body, if it cannot provide the immediate needs of individuals in that institution, which it can only do through the provision of information materials. Immediate needs as the name implies refers to current information gaps that individuals have identified during the course

of their activities on a specific field of study. Therefore, the academic library is obligated to be current in its holdings so as to fill immediate information gaps as they are discovered. If immediate needs are not met, the academic library is considered to be inert and moribund which results in an inert and moribund academic institution and automatically low standard of excellence for patrons or clientele the academic library serves especially undergraduates. (Woodward, 1990).

Oni (2004) stated that apart from books, serials form a vital part of the academic library's collection for meeting the immediate needs of patrons or clientele in its community especially undergraduates for the purpose of their research project. Academic libraries acquire, process and make serials available to its patrons who are usually undergraduates through continuous subscription. Nwalo (2003), Onatola (2004) and Aina (2004) identified the following kinds of serials: journals, newspapers, memoirs, accessions, reports, newsletters, proceedings, transactions of societies and other periodicals like abstracts and indexes. These types of serials vary in content and interval of appearance. Daily Newspapers constitute the highest rate of issues because of its daily publications, but it doesn't provide information on specific fields of study, it takes a little of everything in one issue. Unlike journals, that are not published daily but focuses on the specifics in a field of study. Serials are often thought of as a distinct format. They are in print, non-print or electronic format. A serial is, therefore, regarded as a material that is in a tangible format, that is, recorded on paper, microform, magnetic media or optical disk and retrievable. Salaam and Opeke (2010) in the study of availability and accessibility of journals by postgraduate students of the University of Agriculture Nigeria showed that serials are available and accessible to only postgraduate students in the institution, practices like this are huge barriers to the use of serials by undergraduates. In addition to this, Ogunniyi, Akerele and Afolabi (2011) in their study of the use of serial publication by the Academic staff of school of Arts and social science in Adeyemi College of Education Ondo state, Nigeria show that only paltry number of Academic staff of Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo consult the serial resources in their college library. Bamidele, Omeluzor and Amadi (2013) in their study of utilization of journal publication by undergraduate student of Babcock University, Nigeria show that despite the huge investment and subscription cost on the university and the effort made by librarian for user's to use the resources, observation has shown that only postgraduate seem not to utilize journal publication for their research work. Findings outside Nigeria with reference to

Lawoe (1998) in her study of awareness of serials at Kwame Nkrumah University of science and technology revealed that core journals are adequately acquired and use to an extent. These findings go to extent to show that serials are available and actually used by students but only to an extent in universities and polytechnics across Nigeria and outside the country.

Apart from the academic library, the internet is also a major channel that provides serials to undergraduates. Although, the academic library in some institutions also provides internet based search and the use of Online Public Access Catalogue, the internet is an independent concept on its own, it is for this purpose that we should take a brief look at the internet independent of the academic library and how it affects undergraduate students' attitude to serials. Undergraduate students before the attainment of any academic achievement must do research at some point to increase their knowledge about their field of study. Studies have shown that journals are the most valued information communication channel for researchers. With the advent of the internet in the 1960s and the World Wide Web (www) in the 1990s, every of human knowledge was made available for use just by searching the web; this inevitably includes serials of all kinds as the web pages of various journals, newspapers, magazines and so on can be generated just by one search of the web.

The cost of journals subscription on the internet however, is high and most libraries cannot afford to subscribe for all journals needed, just a few. It is in this regard that open access journals were stated (Oren, 2008). Open access journals are scholarly journals that are available online to the readers without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself (Suber, 2006). Open access journals as the name implies are written for impact and free readership not for payment. Open access journals were initiated out of the burning need of authors and writers to share their discoveries with the large population who do not subscribe to payment journals. Undergraduate students can now with the use of open access journals gain access to information and do research for school work and academic achievements. Applebee and Clayton (1996) also found that ease, convenience, and accessibility were major factors influencing the use of open access journals.

Although, with the enormous benefits of the advent of the internet to journals, Nigerian academic libraries can only afford to subscribe to very few low cost journals. Open access journals therefore are sponsored and subsidized by bodies and non-profit making organizations especially in this part of the world, such as International Network for the Availability of Scientific

Publications (INASP) an initiative of Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI); African Journals Online (AJOL) initiative; JSTOR and so on (Omotayo, 2010). Lawoe (1998) in her study of attitude to serials at Kwame Nkrumah University of science and technology revealed that of the use of African Journals Online (AJOL), Blackwells, EBSCOHOST and Emerald was part of a PERI project at the university that provided online journals which boosted the use of serials at the library, but sponsorship for the project ended in December, 2004 which automatically saw the use of serials diminished. The results of these studies go further to underlay the inaccessibility to serials use by undergraduate students.

Statement of the problem

Undergraduates in the university community are mainly concerned with one major pre-occupation: learning. Learning in tertiary institutions therefore, goes beyond class lectures or the traditional lecturer-student interaction in class. Undergraduates are expected to conduct research for immediate needs such as continuous assignment and assessment test, further reading apart from class notes, presentations and ultimately final year projects which serials are capable of providing information for. However, these undergraduates have limited access to serials in the academic libraries and even the internet. Researchers have shown that high price of subscription to serials both print and online, budget cuts by university management, lack of internet access, inadequate basic search skills, ignorance and so on are the major challenges.

These challenges in turn bounce back on the undergraduates in Nigeria and this seems to be affecting academic performance and overall knowledge standard, this as well escalates to affect the educational standard of the entire nation. The role of academic libraries, open access journals and other sources of current serials is to provide undergraduates with immediate information needs. However, there appears to be lack of access to these serials or restriction to their use. It is against this background that this study intends to investigate the awareness and attitude of undergraduates toward serial publication in Kwara State University Library.

Objectives of the study

This study has the following objectives:

- i. To determine the level of awareness about serials by undergraduates in Kwara state university.
- ii. To determine the rate of accessibility to serials by undergraduates in Kwara state university library.

- iii. To examine the students' attitude towards serial publications.
- iv. To identify the constraints faced by undergraduates in the use of serial publications in Kwara state university library.
- v. To investigate the types of serials used by undergraduates and its influence on their academic performance.

1.4 Research questions

The following research question is to guide this study

- i. What is the level of awareness of serials among undergraduates in Kwara state university?
- ii. What is the rate of accessibility of serials to undergraduates in Kwara state university library?
- iii. What are the students' attitudes toward serial publications?
- iv. What are the constraints faced by undergraduates in the use of serials in Kwara state university library?
- v. What types of serials are used by undergraduates and what is the influence on their academic performance?

Review of Related Literature

Level of awareness of serials among undergraduates

Awareness is an attribute of action. Doing one thing while taking heed of other relevant occurrences are not two parallel lines of action but a specific way of pursuing a line of action, namely to do it heedfully, competently, mindfully, accountably. In a Computer-supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) context 'awareness' does not refer to some special category of mental state existing independently of action but to a person's being or becoming aware of something. Awareness is an integrated aspect of practice and must be investigated as such (Schmidt, 2002). Awareness as a feature of practical action which is systematically accomplished within developing course of everyday activities (Heath et al, 2002). Not the same as cognizance; awareness is an automatic response to our environment, which we can direct when needed.

According to Finley (2010), the importance of integrating journal use across the curriculum is amply documented. From the undergraduates' perspective, there are activities that can trump journal for understanding and supporting the development of student thinking. Journaling in its

various forms is a means of recording personal thoughts, daily experiences and evolving insights. The process often evokes conversations with itself, another person, or even an imagined other person (Sisco, 2000). Sisco further noted that journals are tools that aid learners in term of personal growth, synthesis and/or reflection on new information that is acquired. Sisco stated the need for learners to use journals as a means for assisting them obtain the maximum amount of interaction, knowledge and personal growth from their reading efforts to other learning experiences.

Rate of accessibility of serials by undergraduates

Serials are invaluable information materials for academics. “Nearly all the disciplines of study make use of serials particularly the scholarly journal, as a primary means of communicating new research results, new theories, and new critical approaches” (Farrington, 1997). To ensure effective access of serials, the needs of the users should be determined. Information from the patrons on the use of serials, as observed by Olanlokun and Momoh (1994), would no doubt make the library feel the pulse of the users. Nwalo (2003) remarked that the library’s objectives are best achieved the more its documents are exposed and utilised.

A researcher, as emphasised by Serema and Mooko (2002), is expected to read and cite journal articles in his/her research writings. Aina (2002) confirmed that journals are the primary sources of information on research. Woodward (1990) emphasised that the signing and guiding of the serials collection must be of high standard to enable users to locate materials quickly and easily. Serials are for in-library use only. But users could request and be allowed to photocopy serials in the library’s photocopying centre. On exceptional cases, serials could be given out on overnight or weekend loan (Nwalo, 2003).

Students’ attitude towards serial publication

Attitudes are enduring systems of positive or negative evaluations, emotional feeling and tendencies with respect to social objects. Attitude can be described as settled behaviour or manner of acting, as representation of feeling or opinion. It refers to certain predisposition to act or react in a positive or negative way towards certain situations and ideas. Reactions can be pre-conceived notions, ideas, fears, convictions etc. Behavioural scientists have given high

importance to the study of human beings and his surroundings in the context of attitude. In the libraries studied by Falaiye (2004), areas are set aside for the readers. Eighty percent of the areas for reading newspapers have easy chairs and settees (a long seat that has a back and arms and that two or more people can sit on). In two of the libraries, there was specific provision made for reading tables for those who want to read magazines which make the undergraduate have positive attitudes for reading newspapers and magazine. Similarly, all the libraries have air-conditioner in their serials section reading area. The study shows that some libraries do cater much for newspapers and magazines readers than journal users, whereas most undergraduates and researchers rely more heavily on articles from scholarly journals.

Madu and Adeniran (2005) gave characteristics of serials which are: the publisher might change; the content of each issue is different; the publication interval varies. Some are bi-annual, monthly, quarterly, fortnightly, weekly, daily and annually; no planned end to the sequence; they are current and up-to-date; they are more expensive than books; they are subscribed to. Unlike textbooks, serials are subscribed to, depending on the interval it takes another issue to be published. This gives rise to the financial burden of serials subscription, because unlike textbooks which when bought can last a long period of time; serials have to be acquired at a shorter period of time, as short as daily. Serials now appear in e-formats due to the advent of the internet and computers. Serials types such as journals, newspapers and so on can be accessed online either free or paid for, this further helps to reduce the burden of having to subscribe for certain serials as they can easily be stored and retrieved when needed. Serials are collections having a special place in the university library of any university, and are catalogued and classified separately from book materials in most libraries.

Constraints affecting undergraduate's use of serials

Olugbile (2005) reported that “the first generation universities in Nigeria used to subscribe to no fewer than 5,000 journals annually but they now struggle to acquire less than 500, whereas foreign universities like Harvard in the United States subscribe to about 15,000 Journals annually”. Ayorinde (2005) in his report said that no Nigerian university has met the prescription of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) that a library must acquire 10,000 books and journals annually, and be fully computerised. The greater bulk of

serials used in Nigeria, Ugah (2009) quoted Osundina (2010), who studied the relationship between accessibility and library use by undergraduates in Nigeria and noted that the problem of Nigerian students is not the question of wanting to use the library, but whether or not the university library can provide for their needs, and whether there is access to what is provided.

In addition to this, Aghadiuno, Agbo and Onyekweodiri (2015) in their study of accessibility and use of serials and other continuing resources in two university libraries revealed that some of the difficulties encountered in accessing and using serials includes but not limited to the following:

- Inaccessibility of serials, lack of borrowing facilities in serials section,
- Inconvenient open/closing hours of serials,
- Poor attitude of staff to users, inadequate reading facilities in the serials section,
- The difficulties in being aware of which issues have not yet been received,
- Power failure, Poor network connection,
- Being aware of when all the issues of a volume have been received and so ready to be sent to the binders etc.

Anunobi et al. (2010), is besieged with problems and the problems he pointed out are those related to cost of serials, selection tools, nature of serials and subscription decision. Mason (2007) pointed out that the problems faced by academic librarians in effort to maintain their serials collection presently include explosion in academic research, budgetary cutback, lack of storage space, increase in price of academic publication, cost of binding and exchange rate. As a result, librarians find it difficult to maintain subscription to all journals that their scholars' want to have access to.

Types of serial used by undergraduate students and its influence on their academic performance

Serial publications are also reference material. They are special in nature and are therefore given special attention, in which it embraces all those publications which appear in successive numbers of parts at regular or irregular interval and as a rule for indefinite time (Farlex, 2012). Apart from printed books and electronic resources, serial also constitute an important part of a library collections because the information contained in them is more current than those in published books (Elaturoti, Fagbeja, Kolade and Oniyide, 1990).

Fayose (1995) affirmed that periodical is one of the useful types of the useful types of information resources because they are the most up-to-date resources in the library and that the articles are precise and not as cumbersome to read as textbooks. According to Igbeka (2008), Adebisi (2009) and Uwaifo (2010) a major way ICT has influenced the use of library services and inevitably serials services is the use of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). OPAC is a computer form of library catalogue that can be used for the catalogue of serials. The performance and extent of the functions of undergraduate in acquiring new knowledge and innovation are for knowledge to the existing body of knowledge. This can be in form of journal articles, technical reports, books, chapters in a book, supervision and training of students among others (Okafor, 2011).

Summary of Review of Literature

The literature review treated the level of awareness of serial among undergraduates, the rate of accessibility of serials by undergraduate by different scholars of which the needs of the users should be determined and will depend on the library system to make available the resources and the users' ability to explore to his advantage the resources available; it gave the students attitude toward serial publication which is a positive attitude toward serial use.

The literature review highlighted the types of serial used by undergraduate students such as newspapers, journal, magazines, newsletters, memoirs, reports and government publications among others and its influence on their academic performance shows that local journals have the highest number of citations, because they are easy to obtain, while all foreign journals received low citations because of the problems associated with subscription. It also revealed the constraint affecting undergraduate's use of serials such as The tendency of serials to change name, divide into two or three separate publications, die or lay dormant for several years, the difficulties in being aware of which issues have not yet been received, inaccessibility of serials, lack of borrowing facilities in serials section, being aware of when all the issues of a volume have been received and so ready to be sent to the binders.

Methodology

Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study because of its appropriateness to studies of this kind. The population of the study consisted 7,242 respondents comprising (all undergraduate

students in Kwara State University during the 2015/2016 academic session (Source: Human Resource Office, Kwara State University)). Questionnaire was instrument of data collection used in the study. Three hundred and sixty questionnaires were distributed to respondents within 6 colleges in Kwara State University and only 350 (90%) were dully returned and found usable. The results of the responses were interpreted using simple percentage and frequency tables

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Table 1: Demographic profile of respondents

Colleges	Number of respondents	Percentage
College of Agriculture	56	16
College of Education	60	17
College of Engineering	54	16
College of Humanities, Management and Social Sciences	60	17
College of Information and Communication Technology	60	17
College of Pure and Applied Science	60	17
Total	350	100
Level	Frequency	Percentage
100level	43	12
200level	105	30
300level	94	27
400level	80	23
500level	28	8
Total	350	100
Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	205	59

Female	145	41
Total	350	100
Age range	Frequency	Percentage
16–20	107	31
21–25	168	48
26–30	31	9
31–35	44	12
36–40	-	-
41-above	-	-
Total	350	100

Table 1 showed the number of undergraduates used in the colleges selected for the study. College of Education, Humanities, Management and Social Sciences, Information and Communication Technology and Pure and Applied Science have the highest number of respondents with 17%. College of Agriculture and College of Engineering constituted 16% of the study population which represent the lowest percent of the respondents. Table 1 also shows the academic level of respondents, 200 level students of the study population had the highest representation 30%, followed by 300 level students 27% while 500 level students were the least represented with 8% from the total study population. Table 1 equally shows that 59% of the respondents were of male gender while the female gender made 41% of the study population.

In table 1, the ages of all the respondents sampled was shown. Majority of the respondents falls within the ages of 21 to 25 years which 48% of the study population. This is

followed by those who were below 16 to 20 years 31%. Respondents that fall within 26 to 30 years of age were the least represented with 9% of the study population.

Table 2: Level of awareness of serials publications

Level of awareness about serials	Very Aware		Aware		Unaware		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
Journals	172	49	137	39	41	12	100
Magazines	130	37	200	57	20	6	100
Newspapers	234	67	78	22	38	11	100
Memoirs	37	11	130	37	183	52	100
Accessions	68	19	146	42	136	39	100
Reports	80	23	159	45	111	32	100
Newsletters	101	29	146	42	103	29	100
Proceedings	24	7	164	47	162	46	100
Transaction of societies	22	6	124	36	204	58	100
Government publications	134	38	129	37	87	25	100
Micro form	24	7	73	21	253	72	100
Electronic form	42	12	80	23	228	65	100

Table 2 showed the level of awareness of serials publication by Kwara State University undergraduate students. It revealed that they are generally aware of Newspapers with 67% respondents as it ranked highest saying they are Very Aware, followed by Journals at 49%,

Government publications 38% and Magazines 37%. Newspapers, open access journals are scholarly journals that are available online to the readers without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself (Suber, 2006).

On the other hand, other respondents are Unaware of serial publication like Micro form 72%, Electronic form 65%, Transaction of societies 58%, Memoirs 52%, Proceedings 46% others with less percentage as shown in the table. It is in line with the information stated above that undergraduate need information on all the serial publication available in the library.

Table 3: Rate of serial accessibility

Rate of serial accessibility	Very Accessible		Accessible		Inaccessible		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
Journals	207	59	130	37	13	4	100
Magazines	117	33	213	61	20	6	100
Newspapers	300	86	40	11	10	3	100
Memoirs	66	19	149	42	135	39	100
Accessions	33	9	206	59	111	32	100
Reports	64	18	164	47	122	35	100
Newsletters	90	26	171	49	89	25	100
Proceedings	40	11	181	52	129	37	100
Transaction of societies	38	11	119	34	193	55	100
Government publications	147	42	130	37	73	21	100
Micro form	24	7	73	21	253	72	100
Electronic form	42	12	80	23	228	65	100

Table 3 shows the undergraduate responses to the rate of serial accessibility. That out of 360 respondents, newspapers 86%, journals 59% and government publications 42% possess high rate of accessibility. this suggest that there is virtually no restriction to the use of newspapers, journals and government publications at Kwara State University library and all individuals irrespective of their level or field can use them freely. This agrees with the academics from four faculties of the Moi University, Kenya studied by studied by Ocholla (1996) ranked the information resources they access in the following order of frequency: journals, textbooks, research reports, conference literature and others. From the table above Micro form ranked first in the negative as 72% Inaccessible to having gotten information from serial publications.

Table 4: Attitude of Students toward Serial Publications

Attitude of Student Towards Serial Publications	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
I prefer textbook to serial publication	214	61	52	15	6	2	78	22	100
I tend to avoid using the serial publication for I cannot do that effectively	39	11	202	58	61	17	48	14	100
My library usage has increased as a result of the serial publication	46	13	129	37	113	32	62	18	100
I like the serial publication display in my institution's library.	72	21	203	58	42	12	33	9	100
My library usage has decreased as result of poor serial services	13	4	84	24	71	20	182	52	100
I do not know how to use a serial material and so stay away from it in the library to avoid embarrassment.	68	19	72	21	101	29	109	31	100
Serial services offered in the library make library usage more interesting.	98	28	119	34	71	20	62	18	100

The availability of serial publication in the library improves the quality of services rendered by the library.	115	33	173	49	47	13	15	4	100
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Table 4 revealed that respondents have negative attitudes towards serial publications in the library; especially that nearly all the positive Statements attracted favourable responses by majority of respondents while the negative ones received non-favourable responses. In the libraries studied by Falaiye (2004), in two of the libraries, there was specific provision made for reading tables for those who want to read magazines which make the undergraduate have positive attitudes for reading newspapers and magazine. Similarly, all the libraries have air-conditioner in their serials section reading area. The study shows that some libraries do cater much for newspapers and magazines readers than journal users, whereas most undergraduates and researchers rely more heavily on articles from scholarly journals.

Table 5: Constraints faced in the use of serials

Constraints Faced in The Use of Serials	Agree		Disagree		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Non-availability of current serials	169	48	181	52	100
Inaccessibility of available issues	129	37	221	63	100
Poor lighting in the library	69	20	281	80	100
Insufficient number of copies	126	36	224	64	100
Lack of borrowing facilities for serials	140	40	210	60	100
Inconvenient opening/closing hours of the library	132	38	218	62	100
Poor attitude of staff to the users	88	25	262	75	100
Inadequate reading facilities in the serials section	162	46	188	54	100
Inadequate infrastructure for accessing serials electronically	223	64	127	36	100
Many of the serials are not well displayed in the library	177	51	173	49	100

Table 5 shows the constraints faced in the use of serials publications. That out of the 360 respondents, 64% indicated inadequate infrastructure for accessing serials electronically, 51%

indicated that many of the serials are not well displayed in the library, 48% Non-availability of current serials and 46% Inadequate reading facilities in the serials section as the major constraints faced when using serial publications . This correspondent with the study of Aghadiuno, Agbo and Onyekweodiri (2015) in their study of accessibility and use of serials and other continuing resources in two university libraries revealed that some of the difficulties encountered in accessing and using serials includes but not limited to the following; inaccessibility of serials and lack of borrowing facilities in serials section.

Table 6: Influence of serials use on their academic performance

Influence of serials use on their academic performance	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
The quantity of serials (volumes) in the library has greatly influenced their use among undergraduate in Kwara State University.	101	29	179	51	42	12	28	8	100
Availability of serials in the library has greatly influenced their use among undergraduate in Kwara State University.	74	21	205	58	58	17	13	4	100
Accessibility of serials in the library has greatly influenced their use among undergraduate in Kwara State University.	78	22	181	52	84	24	7	2	100
Recency of serials in the library has greatly influence their use among undergraduate in Kwara State University.	99	28	150	43	85	24	16	5	100
Use of serials has greatly influenced the academic performance of undergraduate in Kwara State University.	110	31	202	58	22	6	16	5	100
Adequate facilities are provided for the users at the serials section of the library	105	30	148	42	76	22	21	6	100

The serials are well arranged on the racks for easy accessibility and use.	146	42	133	38	34	10	37	10	100
Serials are well preserved from damage and deterioration	142	41	154	44	32	9	22	6	100

Table 6 shows Influence of serials use on their academic performance. From the table above that the serials are well arranged on the racks for easy accessibility and use is highest with 42% respondents strongly agreed, Serials are well preserved from damage and deterioration 41% and Adequate facilities are provided for the users at the serials section of the library 30%. This enhance high level of influences on their academic performance, this is as expected as serials especially journals provide vital information on new development and ideas in a particular field of study leading to generation of healthy academic arguments and quality research and can also help with student assignment and class presentation. Igbinoso and Idiodi (2004), in their study on Influence of serials use by undergraduate on their academic performance in Edo State of Nigeria revealed that there were a total number of 130 articles used by 22 undergraduates as at 2003.

Table 7: Types of serials used

Types of serials used	Agree		Disagree		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Journals	272	78	78	22	100
Magazines	236	67	114	33	100
Newspaper	318	91	32	9	100
Memoirs	72	21	278	79	100
Accessions	109	31	241	69	100
Reports	158	45	192	55	100
Newsletters	174	50	176	50	100

Proceedings	118	34	232	66	100
Transaction of societies	110	31	240	69	100
Government publications	194	55	156	45	100
Micro form	51	15	299	85	100
Electronic form	69	19	282	81	100

Table 7 shows the types of serials used, that 91% use newspapers, 78% use journals, 67% use magazines, 55% use government publications as their most preferred serial publications. Electronic form 19% and Micro form 15% were the least used serial publication in Kwara State University undergraduate students. This corresponded with Aiyepetu (1988) revealed the importance of newspaper as one of the types of serial material. In his study on information utilization by policy makers, 84% of the policy makers consulted newspaper and magazines and this ranked among the five most consulted information sources utilized by policy-makers in Nigerian. Jam and Ukeli (1999) in their study on use of journals and its influence on their academic performance of undergraduates shows that local journals have the highest number of citations, because they are easy to obtain, while all foreign journals received low citations because of the problems associated with subscription.

Summary of Major Findings

1. Newspapers and journal are mostly patronized serials by undergraduate students.
2. Serial publications have positive impact on the academic performance of undergraduates because it has helped them to learn and accomplish assignments successfully.
3. The study also shows that students have negative attitude toward serial publications in the University to some extent.
4. That the most type of serial publications used is journals and newspapers.
5. The study revealed that the major constraints encountered by undergraduates when using serial publications are inadequate infrastructure for accessing serials electronically and many of the serials are not well displayed in the library.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was discovered that undergraduate students of Kwara State University used majorly newspapers and journals and has greatly influenced their academic performances. It was evident that the use of serial publication has positive impact on the academic performances of Kwara State University undergraduate students. The study revealed that most undergraduate students have negative attitude toward the use of serial publications. The study shows that inadequate infrastructure for accessing serials electronically, many of the serials are not well displayed in the library, Non-availability of current serials and inadequate reading facilities in the serials section were the major constraint faced by undergraduate students in the use of serial publications.

Recommendations

To improve the services and usage of serial publications as a medium of obtaining current and up-to-date information, the following are recommended

1. That the use of serial publications should be encouraged among the undergraduate students in Kwara State University.
2. More current serial publication should be provided for undergraduate students' use.
3. Funds should be provided to purchase more serial publications in Kwara State University for undergraduate students' use.
4. There should be a kind of coordination of programmes between libraries for library preservation to create enough awareness

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