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ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING AND UTILIZATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES BY STUDENTS OF FUAA

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Abstracts

The study was conducted to analyze Issues and Challenges in Accessing and Utilization of Information Resources by students of Federal University Agriculture Abeokuta. Four research objectives guided the study. 306 copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents in the university and in response only 217 were received from the student's community. Simply a stratified random sampling technique was employed for the study due to the largeness of the population. In the data analysis, frequency counts, simple percentages, and charts were used for the statistical analysis. The findings revealed that the availability of information resources such as newspapers, journals, text and reference books, theses and dissertations, E-journals, E-News papers, E-Books and CD-ROMs; It also indicated that the level of usage of information resources for research among students is relatively fair and textbook, journals, E-Newspapers and E-theses/dissertations are the most used information resource by the students. The findings show that many other primary and secondary information resources and as for as digital sources and the internet facilities concerned, connection speed is challenging reflects in the use of electronic information resources in the library. The non-availability and accessibility of digital and some printed information resources affects the student's creativity, own assignments and projects and further leads to copying and plagiarism. The research findings draw the attention of the Federal University of Agriculture Library

(FUAA) Ogun State in collection developments in terms of both the print and digital information resources and also recommends to increase the speed of internet and free downloading and printing the digital contents. The study also advocates the library staff members to provide information guidance and training services to the students in utilizing the open databases such as AGORA, AGRIS AGRICOLA, PubMed, Biomed Central BEAST CD, VET CD, TEEAL, AGRICOLA.

Key words: Library, information resources, accessibility, availability, utilization, challenges, students, University and Agriculture.

Introduction

The essence of establishing the university of Agriculture libraries is to provide information resources, to academics, researchers, students, livestock producers, agricultural business organizations, research workers and subject specialists with the anticipation to articulate a clear vision to archive a hunger free country and to move the country as an agricultural-industrialized economy, create wealth, jobs, and meet the challenge of man, food and hunger and to make for a sustainable development and economic growth in the country, therefore, access to information is becoming an integral part of our agriculture university

Literature Review

University Libraries have long been endless sources of information for students, academic and researchers, this involved row after row of books, journals, newspapers, electronics resources and databases consequently the university library are established to achieve the tripartite objectives of teaching, research and community service . it is very clear that the library has been a valuable institution for academic purposes as long as pen has been put to paper and its serves as the primary source of providing information print, non-print and electronic for their various clientele, therefore, the growth of information resources, services and facilities have become a global phenomenon with so many obstacles in the provision and utilization of the resources, services and facilities in university libraries

Information resources

Onye, (2016), Abubakar, (2017) corroborated with Aladeniyi & Temitope, (2018), discussed the Availability, Accessibility and Utilization of Library Information Resources by Students and Agricultural Scientists of the Federal Universities in Nigeria where they have similar views those information resources available at FUTO library. All the participants 681 (100%) indicated that textbooks are available in the library while 572 (84%) confirmed that the library has serials. 115 (16.9%) agreed the library has computers, 314 (46.1%) show the presence of internet and 90

(13.2%) indicated the library possessed films (audio-visuals) and also Federal University Libraries in North Central Nigeria where the study showed that some agricultural libraries subscribing to some internationally prominent e-databases ,AGORA 135 (69%), AGRIS 130 (67%), Cab Abstract 128 (66%) and Agricola 125 (64%), AND AFRICAL JOURNAL 118 (60%) AGRICOLA, CAB ABSTRACT, AGRIS, AND AGORA 120 (61%), 118 (60%), 110 (56%), 98 (52%), respectively; others are CD-ROM, MEDLINE, AGRICOLA, PubMed, Biomed Central, African Journals Online, AGORA and HINARI, CAB Abstracts, BEAST CD, VET CD, TEEAL, AGRICOLA

Naqvi, T. H. (2017). Akpe, Gabriel, & Gbashinma, (2018),they have contrary views on availability of information resources where they indicated in their studies that information resources such as CD-ROMs, reference materials, books/monographs, periodicals, thesis/dissertations, research reports/bulletins, seminars/conference/workshops proceedings, and newsletters were heavily used other information sources such as microfiches/records/tapes, standards/patents/specifications, reprints/maps/globes, and book reviews were not available which is an indication that the respondents were not too far from one another in their responses on the types of information resources available for students

Accessibility of information resources

Odunlade (2017)Conducted a study on Availability and Accessibility of Information Resources as Predictor of Lecturers' Teaching Effectiveness the Findings showed that more than half (58.8%) of the information resources were rated 50% and above in their accessibility level. These include textbooks, journals, abstracts and indexes, newspapers and magazines, computer, internet/WWW, encyclopedia, workshop reports, directories and handbooks and technical reports. Other resources like theses and dissertations, conference proceedings, government publications, monographs/standards, online databases, CD-ROM databases, and audio-visuals were below average in their accessibility ratings. However, government publication was the least rated of all the resources

Utilization of information resources

Oriogu, Oluwatola, Ogbuiyi, & Ogbuiyi, (2015), Aba, Beetseh, Ogban, & Monica (2015)Owolabi, Oluwafemi, Foluke, & Atinuke (2016) (Onye, 2016) Kumar (2017) (Akpe,

Gabriel, & Gbashinma, 2018) and (Aladeniyi & Temitope, 2018), noted that information resources such as CD-ROM databases, textbooks electronic journals, and electronic books. Cybercafés; E-mail service used the internet services Reports, Handbooks Seminar/Conference Maps/Atlas CeRA Journals Indiatat , CABI Abstract Horticulture Online Database, Agricultural Economics Database EBSCO Resource J-Gate Plus „Fortnightly“, FAO, Agricola Agricat students mainly utilized while Madu, Ibrahim, & Saratu, (2018) revealed the low level of ICTs utilization where they stated that computer utilization for information retrieval in the library is low, utilization of CD ROM was very low, low level of Internet utilization. Also, majority of the respondents do not use e-mail for information retrieval in the Library

Challenges

Kumar & Ashu, (2015)Mwanza, Michael, & Winnie, (2015) Chauhan, (2015) G.Veena & Prabhakara, (2016)Kumar & Rajan, (2016) Abubakar (2017) emphasized that many factors were affecting the provision, accessibility and utilization of information resources in the library such as power outages, slow Internet services, access to current information databases. low level of computer literacy, high cost of bandwidth, lending period is sufficient, Current Awareness Service is very poor

Statement of the Problem

Information to information resources and utilisation is one of the cardinal objectives of the library. This is particularly for academics and students in agriculture university library where they are expected to have access to various agricultural information resources on different area of specialization to enhance the effectiveness of their research, teaching and to promote students' learning outcomes and hands-on skills. Information resources are key aspects of teaching and learning. In spite of this, it is not certain if these resources are available in agriculture university library under study for accessibility and utilization and where there are, access and utilization to the resources could pose a major threat. It is in view of this that this study aims to find out the type of information resources available accessible and utilize and the challenges they are facing in accessing the resources by the students of FUA in complimenting learning and other academic activities and how access to these resources has contributed to their academic pursuit

Research Objectives

1. To find out the various types of information resources those are available in Federal University of Agriculture university library Abeokuta, Nigeria
2. To determine the level of accessibility of the information resources in University of Agriculture Library under study
3. Determine is the extent library resources are utilized in University of Agriculture Library under study
4. Identify challenges associated with the use of Information sources in university of agriculture library under study

Population of the Study

The population for the study is all the students in university of agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria

Table 1 population of the respondents

S/N	Number of students	of sampled	Questionnaire distributed	Questionnaire returned	Percentage %
	19883	306	306	217	70.91%

Data analysis

Table 2 demographic of respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage %
Male	161	74.19%
Female	56	25.80%

Table 2 revealed that 306 students were selected as sample for this study by using research advisor table. Out of this number only 217 questionnaires were retrieved making 70.91%. Based on the gender distribution 161(74.19%) were male while the remaining 56 (25.80%) were female. The result from this table implies that there were more male among the students used for this study. Figure 1 below presents the result from the table in a bar chart

Figure 1

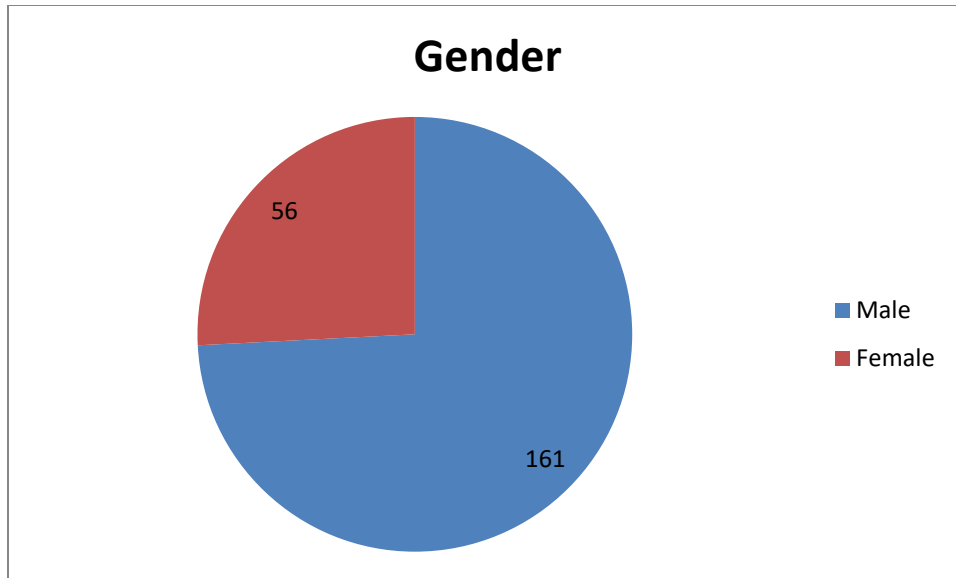
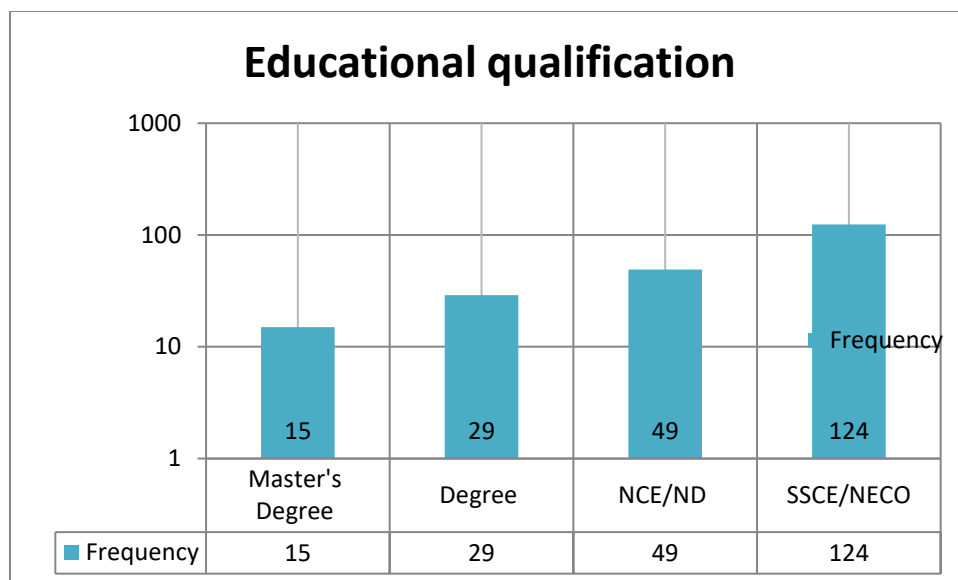


Table 3 Highest Educational Qualification

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Master's Degree	15	6.91%
Degree	29	13.36%
NCE/ND	49	22.58%
SSCE/NECO	124	57.14%

Table 3 above indicated the educational qualification distribution of the respondents. The study revealed that 124 (57.14%) of the respondents have SSCE/NECO as highest qualification, follow by 49 (22.58%) NCE/ND then 29 (13.36%) Degree and 15 (6.91%) have the least qualification with Master's Degree. Figure 2 below presents the result from the table in a Bar chart

Figure 2



Results of the findings and discussions

Objectives 1 To find out the various types of information resources those are available in Federal University of Agriculture university library Abeokuta, Nigeria

Table 4 Information resources available

S/N	Information resources	Yes	No
	Print collections		
1	Journals	√	
2	Text books	√	
3	Conference proceedings	√	
4	Technical reports	√	
5	Thesis/Dissertations/projects	√	
6	Bulletins	√	
7	Magazines	√	
8	News papers	√	
9	Maps	√	
10	Government publications	√	
11	Atlas	√	
12	Dictionaries	√	

13	Posters	√	
14	Manuscripts		X
	E-Resources		
15	E-Databases	√	
16	Radio Message		X
17	E-Books	√	
18	E-Journals	√	
19	E-Thesis/ Projects	√	
20	E-Newspapers	√	
21	Internet resources	√	
22	CDROM	√	
23	OPAC	√	

From Table 4: It can be seen that out of the twenty three (23) information resources fourteen (14) are prints and nine (9) are electronic resources (items) considered. Therefore out of fourteen (14) print resources thirteen (13) were available is only one (1) were not available. Those print resources that are available includes Journals, Text books, Conference proceedings, Technical reports, Thesis/Dissertations/projects, News papers, Maps and Government publications others are Posters, Dictionaries, Atlas, Magazines and Bulletins the only one (1)that is not available is Manuscripts,. Hence the total number of information resources available in FUAA. More than those are not available. It also revealed that out of the nine (9) electronic information resources (items) considered, eight (8) were available while one (1) is not available. The available electronic information resources are: E-books, E-Journals, , E-Newspaper, Internet resources , CDROM E-Theses and E- Databases and OPAC while Radio Message, is the only e-resources that is not available Also, the electronic information resources available are more than those that are not available. Base on the LRCN guideline radio message and manuscripts is almost necessary in the University of Agriculture Library due to its importance attached to them

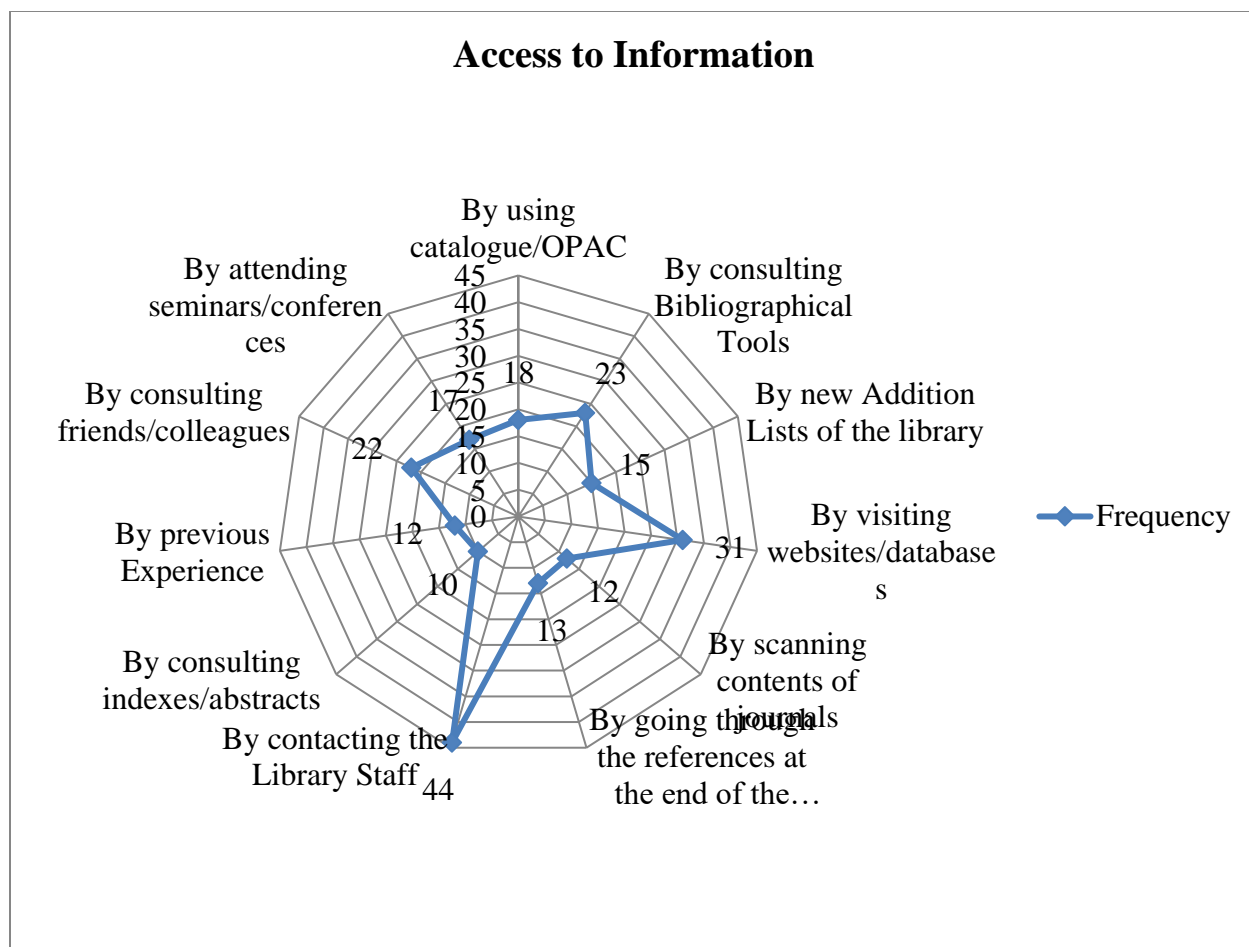
2. To determine the level of accessibility of the information resources in University of Agriculture Library under study

Table 5. Accessibility of information resources

S/N	Access to information	Frequency	Percentage%
1	By using catalogue/OPAC	18	8.29%
2	By consulting Bibliographical Tools	23	10.59%
3	By new Addition Lists of the library	15	6.91%
4	By visiting websites/databases	31	14.29%
5	By scanning contents of journals	12	5.53%
5	By going through the references at the end of the Document	13	5.99%
7	By contacting the Library Staff	44	20.28%
8	By consulting indexes/abstracts	10	4.61%
9	By previous Experience	12	5.53%
10	By consulting friends/colleagues	22	10.14%
11	By attending seminars/conferences	17	7.83%

The table 5 revealed the access to information by the students in FUA Library indicated that the highest percentages of the respondents is 44 (20.28%) where they contacting the Library staff to have access to information resources followed by visiting websites/databases with 31,(14.29%) and consulting bibliographical tools 23 (10.59) respectively . others are consulting friends/ colleagues with 22 (10.14)The least respondents are consulting indexes/abstracts with 10 (4.61%), scanning contents and using previous experiences with 12 (5.53%) respectively

Figure 3



3. Determine is the extent library resources are utilized in University of Agriculture Library under study

Table 7 Extent of utilization of information resources

S/N	Utilization of information resources			Rarely used		fairly used		mostly used	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
1	Journals	6	2.76	17	7.83	75	35	119	54.84
2	Text books	8	3.69	11	5.1	73	33	123	56.68
3	Conference proceedings	76	35.02	121	56	12	5.5	8	3.69
4	Technical reports	18	8.29	6	2.8	112	52	81	37.33

5	Thesis/Dissertations/projects	7	3.23	10	4.6	76	35	124	57.14
6	Bulletins	90	41.47	108	50	12	5.5	7	3.23
7	Magazines	88	40.55	115	53	6	2.8	8	3.69
8	News papers	8	3.69	6	2.8	91	42	112	51.61
9	Maps	86	39.63	93	43	15	6.9	23	10.59
10	Government publications	83	38.25	117	54	6	2.8	11	5.07
11	Atlas	23	10.59	45	21	78	36	71	32.72
12	Dictionaries	48	22.12	14	6.5	79	36	76	35.02
13	Posters	75	34.56	117	54	16	7.4	9	4.15
	E-Resources								
14	E-Databases	14	6.45	8	3.7	123	57	72	33.18
15	E-Books	23	10.59	17	7.8	111	51	66	30.41
16	E-Journals	16	7.37	7	3.2	109	50	85	39.17
17	E-Thesis/ Projects	13	5.99	18	8.3	121	56	65	29.95
18	E-Newspapers	14	6.45	16	7.4	107	49	80	36.87
19	Internet resources	12	5.53	19	8.8	109	50	73	33.64
20	CDROM	22	10.14	12	5.5	109	50	81	37.33
21	OPAC	32	14.75	18	8.3	100	46	67	30.88

Table 7. the data collected from respondents' revealed that books, journals, News papers and theses/dissertation were the most utilized information resources by 123(56.68%), 119(54.8%), 112(51.61%), 124(57.14%) respectively, while the most utilized E-resources were E-Journals, E-News papers, and CDROM by 85 (39.17%), 80 (36.87%) 81 (37.33%) The rating of items on Library Information Resources utilisation by Students of FUAA is as follows: Theses/dissertation 124(57.14%) ranked highest in the frequency score rating and was followed by Books 123(56.68%), journals 119(54.8%), News papers 112(51.61%), others are Technical Reports 81(37.33%), Dictionaries 76(35.02%), and the highest most used E-Resources includes

E-Journals 85 (39.17%), E-News papers 80 (36.87%) and CDROM 81 (37.33%) while the least information resources that are not utilized both print and E-resources were conference proceedings 8 (3.69%) Bulletins 7 (3.23), Magazines 8 (3.69), posters 9 (4.15), and Government publication 11 (5.07),. E-resources such as E-books 66 (30.41), E-theses 65 (29.95), and OPAC were the least utilized resources

The implication of this finding is that despite the availability of some of the information resources in the FUA Library it indicate that information resources were made available to students but some resources were less utilized. This could be tied to the fact that majority of the resources were not of relevant to the students and as well it is evident that students do not even avail themselves for the use of the library as expected which can cause majority of them will not utilized the opportunities of getting the latest information and be connected globally with the available information resources that can make them better on their academic programmes

4. Identify challenges associated with the use of Information sources in university of agriculture library under study

Table 9. Challenges associated with the use of Information Resources, services and facilities

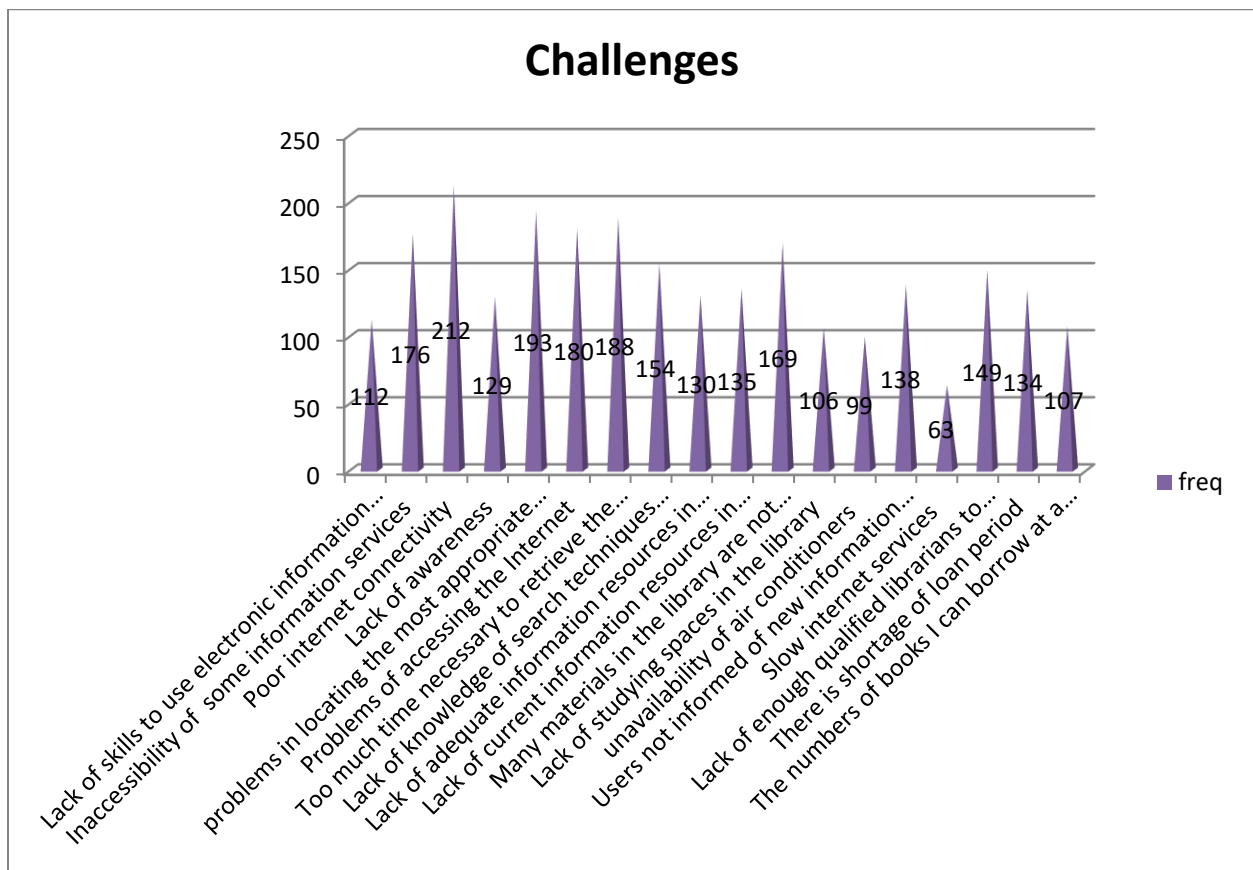
No=217			
S/N	Challenges	freq	%
1	Lack of skills to use electronic information Resources	112	51.61
2	Inaccessibility of some information services	176	81.11
3	Poor internet connectivity	212	97.69
4	Lack of awareness	129	59.45
5	problems in locating the most appropriate information resource	193	88.94
6	Problems of accessing the Internet	180	82.95
7	Too much time necessary to retrieve the needed information	188	86.64
8	Lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively	154	70.97
9	Lack of adequate information resources in my area of research	130	59.9

10	Lack of current information resources in the library	135	62.21
11	Many materials in the library are not relevant	169	77.88
12	Lack of studying spaces in the library	106	48.85
13	unavailability of air conditioners	99	45.62
14	Users not informed of new information resources	138	63.59
15	Slow internet services	63	29.03
16	Lack of enough qualified librarians to provide library inform resources and serv	149	68.66
17	There is shortage of loan period	134	61.75
18	The numbers of books I can borrow at a time are inadequate	107	49.31

Table 9 shows the factors underlying the students' predicaments or challenges with utilization of information resources. The most crucial of the underlying factors include: Too much time necessary to retrieve the needed information 188 (86.64) respondents. Poor internet connectivity with majority of the participants 212 (97.69%): This study revealed that problems in locating the most appropriate information resource have the number of respondents of 193 (88.94). This was supported by Lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively with 154(70.97) (92.5%) of the participants. 3. Students have shortage of loan period Greater percentage of the participants 134(61.75%). The study revealed that (84%) of the participants indicated that Lack of current information resources in the library this indicate that the library were yet to provide the needed information resources. the study showed that 112 (51.61%) of the respondents do not have the Lack of skills to use electronic information Resources. Majority of the students 176 (81.11%) agreed that there is predicaments of Inaccessibility of some information services even though lack of awareness information resources is crucial with 129 (59.45). The findings showed that 130 (59.9%) of the students were in agreement that there are Lack of adequate information resources in area of research: Results showed that 169(88.77%) of the respondents agree that many materials in the library are not relevant, it also revealed that 138 (63.59%) Users not informed of new information resources Finally, a greater percentage of the respondents revealed that the library do not have enough qualified librarians to provide available library information resources and services with 149 (68.66) while Lack of studying spaces in the library, unavailability of air conditioners, Slow internet services and The numbers of books

students can borrow at a time are inadequate are the least challenges facing the library with 106 (48.85), 99 (45.62), 63 (29.03) 107 (49.31) respectively. The students are really having challenges in utilization of information resources in FUA Library. The most disturbing of these challenges are Poor internet connectivity, too much time necessary to retrieve the needed information, many materials in the library are not relevant and problems in locating the most appropriate information resource. This situation is affecting students in several ways particularly on Electronic information resources on their academic pursuit

Figure 4



Summary of the findings

The study analyzing the Issues and Challenges in Accessing and Utilization of Information Resources by Students in Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta Ogun State, Nigeria. The result of demographic variables shows that majority of the respondents 151(76.65%) were male. and 46 (23.35%) are females this indicated that male get more admission in the University. The Qualification distribution of the respondents showed that 119 (60.41%) of the respondents have

SSCE/NECO Certificate follow by 44 (22.34%) NCE/ND then 24(12.18%) Degree this majority figure in favour of SSCE/NECO is an indication that the respondents were first degree students. Their highest educational qualifications had a direct relationship with provision of information resources and services utilization in the library

The study revealed that despite the availability of some of the information resources in the FUAA libraries it indicate that information resources were made available to students but some resources were less utilized. This could be tied to the fact that majority of the resources were not relevant to the them or they are not aware of the new arrival resources as indicated to challenges they are facing, however, Journals, text books, theses/ dissertations, newspapers, E-journals, E-News papers and CDROM; with exceptions of Manuscripts, Radio Message, were utilized most. It was also revealed that the level of utilization of information resources by the students FUAA, Nigeria was relatively fair and could affects their academic programmes

The study revealed that Poor internet connectivity, Lack of awareness, irrelevant materials, Lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively, Lack of skills to use electronic information Resources, shortage of loan period and Lack of studying spaces in the library were the major constraints to access and utilize library information resources

Conclusion

The exponential growth of information resources in Agriculture University Library and availability of information resources and utilization of the resources are the determining factors of student's satisfaction. However, the results of this study showed that the level of utilization of Library Information Resources, by the respondents was in significant in FUAA, Nigeria. However there is the need to improved by taking into cognizance on the challenges facing the library utilization of the resources so as the country potential resources on agriculture will be improve and high level of creativity must be achieved in the country to meet the challenge of man, food and hunger and to make for a sustainable development and economic growth in the country by provide information resources, that will determine the anticipation and clear vision and mission of establishing the university to achieve a hunger free country and to move the country as an agricultural-industrialized economy, create wealth, jobs. The researcher was the viewed that improvement of library information resources will no doubt guarantee the

continuous patronage of the library by the students in the university. To achieve this, library as an ocean of information must also be properly funded to address major constraints such as Poor internet connectivity, Lack of awareness, irrelevant materials, search techniques to retrieve information effectively, , shortage of loan period and Lack of studying spaces Slow internet services

Recommendation

The following are the recommendations made by the researcher on the basis of the data analysis:

The Nigerian University Commission (NUC) and Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) should find means of reducing the mark of university entry for females at least 120 marks as against the 180 marks for both male and female so that the number of female will be increase and support them to be enrolled in the university

Students should be given orientation or user education to have a skills to identify, access the appropriate information resource and save time when retrieving the needed information

The Agriculture Library should provide the Electronic Resources Librarian who will provide digital information resources available in the library and ensure that e-resources are downloaded in the library for use by all students

Agriculture Library Consortium should be established or joined by the library; this may help in providing adequate information resources in different area of specialization and expand their digital resource to meet the user needs. Many full-text online databases AGORA, AGRIS AGRICOLA, PubMed, Biomed Central BEAST CD, VET CD, TEEAL, AGRICOLA some are quite expensive, but through consortium access can be provided to the students. This will help students have uninterrupted access to digital information

Constraints to students for effective utilization of Information Resources in the Agriculture University Library are Poor internet connectivity, Lack of awareness, irrelevant materials, Lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively, Lack of skills to use electronic information Resources, shortage of loan period and Lack of studying spaces the researcher recommended that the university management of Federal University of Agriculture Library (FUAA) Ogun State should look into the development and growth of the information

resources in the library as a matter of urgency through the process of free downloading and subscription of online databases. Some of the free databases include AGORA, AGRIS AGRICOLA, PubMed, Biomed Central BEAST CD, VET CD, TEEAL, AGRICOLA. It was argued that lack of skills to access DIRs hinder undergraduate students to make use of e-resources therefore, the researcher suggests that management of the university library should try to train their students in up-to-date 21st century skills of Information Communication technologies (ICTs)

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