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## Attitude And Perception of Kabale National Teachers College Students' Towards Use of Library Materials

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ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION OF KABALE NATIONAL TEACHERS COLLEGE  
STUDENTS' TOWARDS USE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

By

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## Abstract

The study investigated utilization and attitude of Kabale national teachers college students towards use of library materials. The survey research design was used in the study. The population is 200 registered users randomly sampled. The questionnaire was used to collect data, 200 copies of the questionnaire were distributed, 196 were returned, while 184 were found suitable for analysis. The data were analyzed using frequency and statistical mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) to answer the research questions with a criterion mean of 2.50. The hypothesis was tested using Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient ( $r$ ) at 0.05 level of significance. The study found that attitude of the students' towards the use of library materials is high, but students' perception of adequacy of library materials in the various divisions of the library is low. While extent of use of library materials by students and the extent of students' perception of books in open access and reserved materials is high and adequate, with the exception of reference materials, special collection materials and databases which is low. The study recommended that the parent institution through the librarian should increase the collections in the various sections/divisions of the library to be more adequate, this will encourage students to utilize library resources effectively. The Librarian should ensure that the library subscribe to data bases, this will in no small way help in the provision of current resources to library users, this will also sustain student positive attitude and perception towards the use of library resources.

**Keywords:** Library, College Community, Reference Materials, Library Resources, Computer Laboratory

## **Introduction**

The purpose of any library is to promote the objective of the parent organization which is tied to teaching, learning and research in any institution of higher learning. The National Teachers college library is meant to serve students, tutors and members of the college community. The worth of any higher institution is measured largely by the worth of its library materials because of its exceptional role in the educational institution. The educational institution is involved in teaching, learning and research and cannot survive without a rich library collection that support the teaching, learning and research. The library provides current and timely information resources in both hard and soft copies (prints and nonprints) to support teaching, learning and research in any higher institution. The National Teachers Collage library provides a variety of services to compliment in all areas of knowledge for both staff and students use

Use of library materials simply means using the stock of the library for academic advancement, it's a situation where the library materials are seen as a catalyst in the educational system, a person or thing that uses something somewhere or someplace to achieve his or her purposes is a user, in the same context, one can state that those who make use of the library materials for their benefits are library users or utilizes'' (Ukih, 2012). The library is a store house of information where all types of resources in form books and electronic books are kept for utilization by students, teachers and researchers. Whittaker (1993) as cited in Ukih (2012), explained that a user is "a person who uses one or more of library services at least once a year. Hence, people who go either to the public, private, special school or academic libraries for some genuine reasons, requiring the attention of the library staff, are known as the library users or utilizes. Library users in the higher institution can be divided into external and internal users. The internal users consist of undergraduates, post-graduates, lecturers, research fellows and other members of the higher institutions, while the external users are those who are not members of the institution, but are also served by the libraries based on the principles of the library. Users of academic libraries are mostly made up of subject readers who concentrate their use of library materials on subject fields to solve academic queries and research.

Ganiyu, Edale, and Oluwafemi (2014) and Suleiman, Vashistha and Jimah (2018) also posited that Library users visit the library to receive sufficient and significant up-to-date information in print and nonprint, forms for effective teaching, learning and research that meets their information needs, and also allowing them to make important academic decisions. The implication is that the library is a catalyst to academic advancement. The library as perceived by Olajide and Adio (2017) is a busy information centre, where information is organized in various formats to the advantage of the users. However the worth of the library collection depends not only on the quantity and quality of information sources with an effective and efficient ways and means of providing and interpreting them to users. This is because some of the terms used in the library services, such as cataloguing, classification, charging and discharging, etc. are not common to the users, and therefore these terms should be interpreted in the easiest understandable ways (Mallaiah, Kumbar & Patil, 2008 and Olajide and Adio ,2017)).

Igun and Adogbeji (2007), conducted a study on postgraduate students utilization of the library resources and found that majority of the students agreed that their major reason of using the library is to bring up to date their knowledge and skills. Consequently it is essential to be acquainted with the needs

and desire of the users or clientele in order to satisfy them. Olajide and Adio (2017) carried out a study on the level of Utilization of library resources and its satisfaction by undergraduate students in a Nigerian University. Their study revealed that erratic power supply, functional resources, adequate reading space, lack of physical facilities, like toilet, etc. are the major problems preventing students from effectively utilizing the resources in the library for their information needs and recommended construction of standard library building equipped with necessary physical facilities like toilet, spacious reading rooms, conference centers etc., and stand-by generator, Inverter or solar power as solutions to increased patronage and effective utilization of the library resources by the students. Okeke, Oghenetega and Nwabu (2013), conducted a study on students' attitude towards the use of reference and information services (RIS) in academic libraries Nigeria. The result from the study shows that students do not make proper use of reference services and sources due to stocked out of date materials and inexperienced staff in this division, and recommended enough fund, trained staff, user education programme for students and the provision of e-library for use by students.

Habiba and Chowdhury (2012), studied the use electronic resources and its impact at Dhaka University Library. The study ascertained that a large number of e-resources are made available in DU, and noted that, majority of the users of DUL use e-resources for their learning purpose. Further affirmed the availability of e-resources materials in DUL and those users are generally satisfied with these materials. However DUL lacks infrastructure facilities.

Usoro, Umoren and Akwang (2018), examined students' characteristics and information resources utilization in the University of Uyo library in Sothern Nigeria. The findings showed that there is significant relationship between age and students' utilization of University of Uyo library information resources, and further revealed a significant relationship between gender and students' utilization of University of Uyo library information resources.

Shrestha (2008), Carried out a study to determine the "Students use of the library resources and self-efficacy". The tried to find out the information seeking behavior of the graduate level students and their knowledge about the library resources and services made available to them. And how their fluency with the resources and technology develops self-efficacy, the study also examined how the integration of the Internet has affected the information searching habit on students. Shrestha (2008) concluded that in today's fast paced world the desire for expediency has promoted students to place a premium on information that can be found easily and quickly. But that many students limit their search to electronic resources, choosing format over substance and convenience over accuracy. With reliance on the World Wide Web as a primary and often sole research tool has impacted the quality and thoroughness of student's projects and reduced student's familiarity with more traditional print resources and bibliographical databases in their college library collection. Consequently Internet has rapidly become one of the most powerful

global sources of wide range of information presenting many possibilities for the efficient and unlimited dissemination of information. It has contributed positively in enhancing the search effectiveness, which has lead to giving students psychological boost and problem solving ability.

Consequently, the new found confidence due to the easily accessible information resources has upgraded the learning ways among them. Students have become more competent and confident about what they could achieve in the given situations and knowledgeable about the ways that leads to the achievement Shrestha, 2008). With the emergence of the electronic resources as the main information sources the study has also revealed that all the libraries is automated with some having their own online catalogue system with subscription to electronic journal sites and bibliographic indexes. Even if the library did not have various electronic resources they gave Internet services through computer labs and online catalogue. But without proper knowledge of accessing the information sources both electronic or print students are vulnerable to the overloaded information and was not seen so much keen on using the library's electronic resources they preferred internet resources as its interface is easy to use and they could get unlimited information on the subjects. Proper guidance and lack of professional person along with the inadequate collection in the material as well as insufficient networking computers has been the main drawbacks on students exploring the resources. For them to be more interested towards libraries librarians along with the faculty members need to work together in educating them about the services and resources that is available and library should also work towards networking with other libraries so that it could provide better range of materials in given subject (Shrestha ,2008).

Similarly, Clabo (2002) carried out a study on how and why high school students use the library and its resources and also examined how teachers influence students' use of library resources. The participants were 11th-grade students attending public high schools in 3 east Tennessee counties. The study found most students visited the library at an early age with their mothers, although not on a regular basis. They were more likely to visit the school library than the public library, the primary reason being to locate information to complete school assignments. Clabo (2002) reported that Parents and English teachers were the most influential in encouraging library use, although teachers had more influence on female students than male students. Female students also visited the library on a more frequent basis.

Utilization and attitude of usage of library resources varies according to individual's reason and purpose of visiting the library. Ishola and Ojeniyi ( 2015) examined users attitude towards the use of library catalogue in two selected university libraries in South West Nigeria, Analysis of the findings revealed that majority of users preferred going directly to the shelves to search for materials rather than going through the catalogue cabinet. The study also discovered that respondents viewed the catalogue as time wasting, as they felt it took them less time to find books directly on the shelves. The study further established that most of the students are yet to be mindful of the existence of the online public access catalogue, do not understand its operations and infrequently use the service despite the huge investment of resources on the catalog and the cabinet.

The Implication on Ishola and Ojeniyi ( 2015) suggested that Practical oriented users' education Programme on the effective use of catalogue for information retrieval by students should be enhance and perhaps step up the teaching. Similarly, Adayi, Abu and Ejiga (2017), examined the utilization of library in Nigeria Polytechnics by taking a survey of one the library catalogue by Higher National Diploma Students in Federal Polytechnics Idah library. Findings revealed that majority (49%) of HND students never used the catalogue before going to shelve, while 30% used catalogue rarely. This is because students lack searching skill and are unfamiliar with the catalogue. Moreover, they seldom locate items on the shelves that were indicated in the catalogue to be there. Consequently, Ishola and Ojeniyi (2015), recommended that user education programme should be made more pragmatic, regular shelving and shelf reading as well as preparation of guide for catalogue users should be stepped up.

Wilkinson (2015) carried out an investigation into usage of, and attitudes towards, e-books for academic study among tertiary students in New Zealand, the study found that students at the University of Waikato seem to have greater awareness of e-books, use e-books more, and have much higher levels of satisfaction with the ease of finding and using e-books. Many respondents were positive about e-books, mainly due to perceived convenience, but, when it comes to preference for book format, this study suggests that users retain a preference for print material. According to Wilkinson (2015) the implication for academic libraries in New Zealand is that they should quick to develop their e-book collections, need to be aware that, although knowledge of, and usage of e-books both seem to have increased rapidly in recent years, user preference remains resolutely in favour of print books. Gakibayo and Okello-Obura ( 2013),

focused on assessment of utilization of electronic information resources in Mbarara University Library by students in Uganda. The study established that utilization of e-resources was not only affected by lack of computer skills and information literacy skills but also lack of enough computers and slow internet connectivity. The frequency of use of these resources indicated that a lot need to be done to increase e-resource use.

Mwatele (2013) in his study identified awareness and familiarity of library and information resources, including their organization and retrieval tools, library skills and information literacy as the main factors that influence utilization of libraries' resources. The study revealed that lack of library and information skills, which are the foundation for empowering students with information literacy competencies of identifying, locating, and using of information resources, is the source of underutilization of integrated information resources accessible through Mombasa Library. And further stated that the level of information literacy among students can be raised through integrated library skills programme designed with the cooperation of all the stake holders. The study concluded that there is high correlation between the Mombasa Library and ICT Lab as a result of students use the ICT Lab to identify and locate physical materials available in the library and for accessing library's e-resources, and recommends need for instituting integrated programme for library skills in the Campus that will take into cognizance individual students' characteristics to ensure development of self-directed, lifelong learners.

### **Background of the Study**

National Teachers' College Kabale was established in 1989, with student's population of 460. The building that hosts the library was partly used as a lecture room for professional studies and also used as a chapel for St. Francis, a part was used as the college library. The library by 1989 has a collection of 500 books which were used for reference by both the lecturers and students. The sitting capacity at that time was about 80, with support from the British Council and later voluntary services oversea (VSO), the library was able to expand and the lecture room together with the chapel were moved elsewhere. The library windows were reinforced with security mesh to improve its security, the library had a staff capacity of one Librarian and two library Assistants. A library committee was formed in 1994 comprising of the Deputy Director, Heads of Departments and two students' representatives that is the Guild President and the Guild

minister of Education. Presently, the library has expanded both quantitatively and qualitatively, it has a book stock of around 20,000, 20 tapes and various magazines. The sitting capacity is now around 200 and is currently managed by two professional senior librarians and library assistant, and a secretary who operates the photocopying machine, binding, and laminating services.

### **Objective of the study**

The objective of the study is to:

1. To examine the attitude of students towards the use of library resources at national teachers college, Kabale.
2. To determine the extent of students perception of adequacy of library resources national teachers college, Kabale.
3. To examine the extent of use of library materials by students of national teachers college, Kabale.
4. To determine the relationship among attitude, perception and use of library materials by students of national teachers college, Kabale.

### **Research questions**

The study will provide answer to the following research questions:

1. What is the attitude of students towards the use of library materials at national teachers college , Kabale
2. What is the extent of students' perception of adequacy of library materials at national teachers college, Kabale
3. What is the extent of use of library materials by students of national teachers college, Kabale?
4. What is the relationship among attitude, perception and use of library materials by students of national teachers college, Kabale?

### **Hypothesis**

The following hypothesis was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

There is no significant relationship among attitude, perception and use of library materials by students of national teachers college, Kabale.

## Methodology

The survey research design was used in this study. The population is 350 registered users, while 200 was randomly sampled based on their accessibility in the library at the period the research was carried out. The questionnaire was used to collect data. The questionnaire was administered to respondents within a period of one week by the researcher. Out of the 200 questionnaire distributed, 196 were returned, while 184 were found suitable for analysis. The research questions were analyzed using statistical mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) with a criterion mean of 2.50. The Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient ( $r$ ) was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

TABLE I: Demographic Analysis of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	136	73.9
Female	48	26.1
Total	184	100

Table I, shows the demographic analysis of the respondents 136 (73.9%) of the respondents are male while 48 (26%) are female. From the data, there are more male than female students at the National teachers college Kable.

What is the attitude of students towards use of library materials?

**Table 2: Attitude of students towards use of library materials**

	N	Mean
Attitude of students towards use of library materials	184	2.75

Criterion Mean

2.50

Table 2 shows that with an aggregate mean of 2.75 which is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50, it can be concluded that the attitude of the students towards the use of library materials is high.

What is the extent of students' perception of adequacy of library materials in the various divisions of the library?

**Table 3: Students' perception of adequacy of library materials in the various divisions of the library**

<b>Library Materials</b>	<b>HA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>FA</b>	<b>IA</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Books in open access	91	46	26	21	3.13
Serials materials	23	31	96	34	2.23
Reference materials	37	33	18	96	2.06
Reserved materials	82	44	31	27	2.98
Special collection materials	48	39	28	69	2.36
Databases	16	43	32	88	1.98
<b>Aggregate Mean</b>					<b>2.46</b>
Criterion Mean					2.50

Table 3 shows that with an aggregate mean of 2.46 which is less than the criterion mean of 2.50, it can be concluded that the extent of students' perception of adequacy of library materials in the various divisions of the library is low. This is particularly so, but with the exception of books in open access (mean= 3.13) and reserved materials (mean= 2.98) which are higher than the criterion mean. This implies that the extent of students' perception of books in open access and reserved materials is adequate.

What is the extent of use of library materials by students?

**Table 4: Extent of students' use of library materials**

<b>Library Materials</b>	<b>VH</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>VL</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Books in open access	87	51	18	28	3.07
Serials materials	74	46	35	29	2.90
Reference materials	13	29	53	89	1.82

Reserved materials	86	58	23	17	3.16
Special collection materials	21	47	42	74	2.08
Databases	15	25	61	83	1.85
<b>Aggregate Mean</b>					<b>2.56</b>
Criterion Mean					2.50

Table 4 shows that with an aggregate mean of 2.56 which is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50, it can be concluded that the extent of use of library materials by students is high. This is particularly so, but with the exception of reference materials (mean= 1.82), special collection materials (mean= 2.08) and databases (mean= 1.85) which are less than the criterion mean. This implies that the extent of use of reference materials, special collection materials and databases is low, except books in open access and reserved materials. This implies that the extent of students' perception of books in open access and reserved materials is adequate.

What is the relationship among students' attitude, perception and use of library materials?

**Table 5: Relationship among students' attitude, perception and use of library Materials**

R	R Square	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Coefficients	B	Sig.
.960	.922	168.724	2	84.362	1074.519	.000	Attitude of students towards use of library materials	.142	.014
		14.211	181	.079					
		182.935	183					Students perception of adequacy of library materials	.895

From Table 5 a significant regression equation was found ( $F(2,181) = 1074.519, p < 0.000$ ), with an  $R^2$  of 0.922. It was found that both attitude and perception of students predicted use of library materials (.142 + .895) by 92% implying a high prediction. This implies that there is a significant relationship among students' attitude, perception and use of library materials. This means that an

increase in the attitude and perception of students will lead to a corresponding increase in the use of library materials.

What is the relationship between students' attitude and use of library materials?

**Table 6: Relationship between students' attitude and use of library materials**

		Attitude of students towards use of library materials	Extent of use of library materials by students
Attitude of students towards use of library materials	Pearson Correlation	1	.675**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	184	184
Extent of use of library materials by students	Pearson Correlation	.675**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	184	184

From Table 6, Pearson correlation coefficient  $r (=0.675)$ . Since the significant value (Sig.2-tailed) is 0.000 (which is less than 0.05), it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between students' attitude and use of library materials. This implies that an increase/decrease in students' attitude may lead to a corresponding increase/decrease in the use of materials.

What is the relationship between students' perception and use of library materials?

**Table 7: Relationship between students' perception and use of library materials**

	Extent of use of library materials by students	Students perception of adequacy of library materials

Extent of use of library materials by students	Pearson Correlation	1	.959**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	184	184
Students perception of adequacy of library materials	Pearson Correlation	.959**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	184	184

From Table 7, Pearson correlation coefficient  $r (=0.959)$ . Since the significant value (Sig.2-tailed) is 0.000 (which is less than 0.05), it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between students' perception and use of library materials. This implies that an increase/decrease in students' perception may lead to a corresponding increase/decrease in the use of materials.

### **Discussions of Findings**

The study found that attitude of the students' towards the use of library materials is high. Another findings from the study revealed that students' perception of adequacy of library materials in the various divisions of the library is low. The study found that extent of use of library materials by students is high while the extent of students' perception of books in open access and reserved materials is also adequate. But with the exception of reference materials, special collection materials and databases which is low. The implication is that the extent of use of reference materials, special collection materials and databases by students' is low, except books in open access and reserved materials.

The study also found that both attitude and perception of students predicted use of library materials. That there is a significant relationship among students' attitude, perception and use of

library materials. The implication from the result of the study is that an increase in the attitude and perception of students will lead to a corresponding increase in the use of library materials.

Furthermore, the study also found that there is a significant relationship between students' attitude and use of library materials and that an increase/decrease in students' attitude may lead to a corresponding increase/decrease in the use of materials. Finally, the study revealed that there is a significant relationship between students' perception and use of library materials and that an increase/decrease in students' perception may lead to a corresponding increase/decrease in the use of materials.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Attitude and perception of Kabale national teachers collage students' towards the use of library materials were explored in this study. To this end, it was established in the study that attitude of the students' towards the use of library materials is high. However, students' perception of adequacy of library materials in the various divisions of the library is low. While extent of use of library materials by students and the extent of students' perception of books in open access and reserved materials is high and adequate, with the exception of reference materials, special collection materials and databases which is low. The implication is that the extent of use of reference materials, special collection materials and databases by students' is low, except books in open access and reserved materials.

The study also found that both attitude and perception of students predicted use of library materials and there is a significant relationship among students' attitude, perception and use of library materials. The implication from the result of the study is that an increase in the attitude and perception of students will lead to a corresponding increase in the use of library materials. The study also found that there is a significant relationship between students' attitude and use of

library materials and that an increase/decrease in students' attitude may lead to a corresponding increase/decrease in the use of materials. Finally, the study revealed that there is a significant relationship between students' perception and use of library materials and that an increase/decrease in students' perception may lead to a corresponding increase/decrease in the use of materials. Consequently, based on the findings from the study, it is therefore recommended that the parent institution through the librarian should increase the collections in the various sections/divisions of the library to be more adequate, this will encourage students to utilize library resources effectively. The Librarian should ensure that the library subscribe to data bases, this will in no small way help in the provision of current resources to library users, this will also sustain student positive attitude and perception towards the use of library resources.

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