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**FACTORS AFFECTING AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND USE OF
INFORMATION TOOLS AND FACILITIES IN AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES BY POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS OF
FUAA, FUAM AND MOUA CASE STUDY IN NIGERIA**

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FACTORS AFFECTING AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND USE OF INFORMATION TOOLS AND FACILITIES IN AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES BY POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS OF FUA, FUAM AND MOUA CASE STUDY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The case study is to identify the Factors Affecting Availability, Accessibility and Use of Information Tools and Facilities in Agriculture University Libraries by Postgraduate Students of FUA, FUAM AND MOUA CASE STUDY in Nigeria. A quantitative method was adopted. Random sampling strategy was used. A method of data collection is questionnaire administered to users of the libraries sampled. Major findings testify that, the current agricultural information available, accessible and utilized is insufficient and agricultural information was inadequate in agriculture university libraries in studied. ICTs infrastructure and internet services existed in agriculture university libraries but were not well developed; constraints confronted the users, includes internet connectivity, power failure, attitudes of the staffs, current information resources particularly e-journals and e-books, information resources related to agricultural information such as databases, e-journals, e-books were the information needs identified are not much available. The study recommended, the Improvement of the existing information resources and facilities for the user's information needs and where possible new qualified library professionals should be employ. Subscriptions of offline databases such as, E-Granary to access agricultural information offline; overcoming constraints by focused library management; university authority, TETFund should look in to the possible area of income sources and funding the library beyond annual budget like consultancy services, printing, binding, publishing, donations from philanthropists. There is a need for policies that facilitate cooperation between agriculture university libraries and agricultural research institution libraries for collaboration and information sharing for collection, processing, storage and dissemination of agricultural information and the capturing, documenting and sharing of the resources

INTRODUCTION

Library is an institution where information resources are systematically selected, acquired, organized, processed, stored, managed, retrieved and disseminated by librarians; therefore, agricultural library in the other hand is a place established for the particular purpose of selecting, acquiring, organizing, processing and disseminating of relevant information resources, providing services and facilities to an institutions related to the curriculum and courses offered in the

Universities for agricultural research, teaching, learning and community services in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the institutions; In light of the above therefore, the essence of establishing the university of Agriculture libraries is to provide information resources, services and facilities to academics, researchers, students, livestock producers, agricultural business organizations, research workers and subject specialists with the anticipation to meet the challenge of man, food and hunger and to make for a sustainable development and economic growth in the country

LITERATURE REVIEW

Types of Information Resources Available and accessible in Agriculture University Library

Consequently, the study carried out by Vijayakumar (2017) opined that majority of the respondents said that newspapers, project reports, subject books, CD-ROM database and reference books are available and thesis, general books and web resources are less available. His views were corroborated by Kwaghgba and et-al (2015), Onye (2016), Yaseen and et-al (2016), Ajiji (2017), Aladeniyi and Temitope (2018) and Das Parnab (2015), while Abubakar (2017). It stressed the e-databases subscribed to research by agricultural scientists in federal University libraries in Nigeria such as AGORA and African Journals, others include CD-ROM, MEDLINE, PubMed, Biomed Central, Online and HINARI, CAB Abstracts, BEAST CD, VET CD, and TEEAL. This finding is agreed upon by Bello and Chioma (2020) an evaluation of the extent of ICT deployment in academic libraries in Oyo State, Nigeria, on the globalization of library and information services, where they confirmed the availability of E-Granary, EBSCOHOST, JSTOR, Jaypee Digital, HINARI, AGORA and OARE with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and partial Institutional Repository (IR). These views were agreed upon by Rukwaro (2015) Ekene and et-al (2016) They claimed that libraries receive information materials such as books, theses, papers, magazines, encyclopedias, dictionaries, e-journals e-books, etc. But Akpe and et-al (2018) has a different opinion where he stated that information resources are not sufficient. This indicates that the views of respondents on their responses to the types of information requirements in the Library are not too different from each other. The study conducted by Afianmagbon and et-al (2020) Availability of information resources as factors that

influence research productivity of academic staff at Lead City University, Nigeria, on information literacy skills, indicates high level information resources availability to lecturers and other academic staff in Lead City University who are utilizing them in conducting researches. However, Abubakar (2020) a case study of pharmaceutical science students from the University of Jos investigated the availability and accessibility of information resources in university libraries for academic use by students and revealed that books are some of the library's information resources. Journal, web libraries and internet, e-books, computers, e-journals, encyclopedia index, handbooks, newspaper and magazines are other information resources that were strongly suggested by respondents, some of the data resources were shown poor, as revealed by respondents, while more than half of the respondents recognized them. They are: audio-visual conference proceedings and abstracts and indexes for monographs and regular CD-ROM databases. However, Kutu and Olabode (2020) has a different view in his study on the availability of information resources in libraries, as he stated that the most available print information resources were newspapers, textbooks and journal collections while the least available included indexes, technical reports and manuscripts. This view was corroborated by Ilogho and et-al (2020), Swaminathan and et-al (2020) and Babarinde and Festus (2020). In terms of accessibility, scholars have divergent views on accessing information resources. However, according to Jabbar et-al (2020), Study Accessibility and Use of Research Scholars' Institutional Repository: A Case of the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore, they stated that users accessed Information Resources out of campus while other respondents accessed Information Resources within campus and some did so through IP and very few used other mode of access. This study is similar to that of Jan and Reman (2020) the University Students of Pakistan: A Quantitative Study of Khushal Khan Khattak University of Karak-Pakistan on Internet Usability and Accessibility, they found out that majority of the students of the Khushal Khan Khattak University Karakwas accessing the Internet at their homes, hostels and the University Library. Interestingly, others were accessing the Internet at classrooms and Computers. However, Olubiyo and Yemi (2020) have different view on their study On Knowledge, Accessibility and Use of Serial Publications among Adeyemi College of Education Undergraduate Students, Ondo Library, they stated that students access serial materials by asking staff, following directional signs, browsing racks and shelves and searching periodical catalogue in that order.

Types of Infrastructural Facilities Available in Agriculture University Libraries

Gwang (2016) in the study the Influence of Planning on Infrastructural Resources Provision in Nigerian University Libraries investigated infrastructural resource provision in university libraries in Nigeria's North Central Zone and found that infrastructural resources were provided to a large extent and planning was found to have a significant influence on the provision of infrastructural resources in the university libraries. This study is relatively similar to Renge and S (2016) conducted among Yoga Science Libraries in Maharashtra on library services, facilities and information technology. Ifijehet- and et-al (2016) on the Digital Inclusion and Sustainable Development in Nigeria respectively where they agree upon the facilities available in their respective libraries; while Kalbande and Chavan (2017) report on the ICT infrastructure facilities at the Agriculture College Libraries of Maharashtra. The study revealed that all computer libraries have internet connectivity facilities for accessing e-resources. Similarly Choudhary and Mukut (2017) An ICT Infrastructure and Application Evaluation was conducted in the Cachar District Selected College Libraries, Assam., The researcher said that in today's fast growing digital environment, it has become imperative for the library and information centers to implement ICT for effective management of library operations and providing user centric library services to meet the expectations of the new generation of tech-savvy library users. While Omeluzor and et-al (2017) stressed the infrastructure of libraries as an indicator of the turnover intentions of university librarians in Nigeria the outcome reported that some of the library services in university libraries in the two zones were severely dilapidated some were in a state of dilapidation, while others were nearly dilapidated; the air conditioner, the desks, the seats, the Internet and the power supply were severely dilapidated and almost dilapidated. Olasupo (2017) stressed that in library services, infrastructural facilities are necessary in order to allow librarians to provide customers with quality services. It can also increase the career and efficiency of librarians. However, most of the Agriculture University Libraries in Nigeria have inefficient infrastructural facilities for effective services based on the literature reviewed. The findings were corroborated that of Babatunde and et-al (2020), Mahanta (2020) and Abbas (2020)

These studies are very insightful to the current study because they examined the situation of Nigerian University Libraries with regard to the provision of information, services and adequate infrastructural facilities. For digital inclusion and sustainable development in the country,

effective planning should be implemented. To promote learning, librarians should be empowered with modern technical resources. Workers at the library must have access to training in ICT. Local and national programs and debates on internet policy, digital inclusion, connectivity and open data should include libraries. Agriculture University Libraries in the country should download free journals and e-databases and provide current information resources to users in their area of specialization as well as reduce the cost of access to the libraries. The study concludes that all the libraries sampled from the Agricultural University should have the requisite ICT infrastructure to access e-resources for the benefit of their users. The researcher emphasized that in today's fast-growing digital world, providing ICT facilities for the effective management of library operations and providing user library services to meet the needs of the new generation of tech-savvy library users has become imperative for the Agriculture University Library. The researcher emphasized the infrastructure of the Library as an indicator of the Librarians in Agriculture University Libraries in Nigeria's turnover intentions. In library services, infrastructural facilities are critical in enabling librarians to provide quality services to their clientele. It can also improve the career and productivity of librarians

The Utilization of Information Resources and Facilities in Agriculture University Libraries

The library is commonly referred to as the higher education institutions' information centre. It is responsible for the acquisition and provision of information tools, services and facilities and the promotion of teaching, study and involvement in the community. In view of the above, librarians conceived the concept of educating the user of the library in locating; finding and using the data they need on their everyday activities as the library "is a growing organism"

The Use of Information Resources in Agriculture University Libraries

In the same vein Oyewumi and et-al (2015) A research on Information Communication Technology (ICT) and its effect on the use of newspapers in University Libraries in Nigeria was conducted. The outcome clearly shows that most respondents used scholarly journals twice a month and on a monthly basis and used them deliberately for self-examination, learning more about a subject, assignment and coursework. The research also indicates that the participants can readily access academic journals. Most of them suggested that academic journals helped educate and guide them on how to conduct research and perform quality research. The finding was

agreed upon by Aba and et-al (2015) Oriogu and et-al (2015). A comparable view was that of the study carried out by students of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, on the availability, accessibility and usage of library information services (FUTO). The study reveals that World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail services, e-journal, e-books, e-database and DVD/CD ROMS, textbooks and internet are the resources that students mainly utilize. They often use tools for electronic content, such as databases, electronic journals, and electronic books. cybercafés, reports, handbooks seminar/conference maps/atlas, frequently, while CeRA Journals Indiastat, CABI abstract horticulture online database, Agricultural Economics database EBSCO resource J-Gate Plus Fortnightly, FAO and Agricola Agricat were utilized moderately to prepare for examination, browsing the web, up-dating knowledge, in-depth research work, up-dating and correspondence lecture notes. The majority of respondents decided to use the information tools to acquire general information and for analysis, assignment and study purposes. The discoveries were supported by Owolabi and et-al (2016), Kumar (2017), Akpe and et-al (2018), Aladeniyi and Temitope (2018) and also Salubi and et-al (2018); while Madondo and et-al (2017) and Madu and et-al (2018) In their research on the use of electronic information services by undergraduate students at the Faculty of Management and Administration at the University of Africa, Mutare, Zimbabwe and on the availability and use of ICT for information retrieval by undergraduate students at the Ramat Library, University of Maiduguri, respectively, they have contrary views. They asserted that undergraduate students at Africa University typically use electronic information services inadequately the results revealed the low level of computer usage in the library for the retrieval of information. CD ROM use was very poor and there was a low degree of internet use. Most respondents also did not use e-mail in the Library for information retrieval.

In addition, the above studies show beyond reasonable doubt that the respondents used knowledge services with serious disagreement that there is a low level of resource utilization in some African countries including Nigeria. But the degree of consumption is very high in developing countries like India. However, it is of great concern to access and use agricultural information, tools, services and facilities in the Agriculture University Libraries in Nigeria. But since then, what has happened? Any of the barriers may be discovered through current research.

Utilization of Facilities in Agriculture University Libraries

Lodha and et-al (2013) opined that Library infrastructure is all the kinds of materials for discovery, searching, selection, ordering and receiving books, journals, films, newspapers, pamphlets or microforms designed for the preservation of resources in the library. The infrastructure includes required hardware, software, communication networks and other physical facilities, which helps to provide the system with good security and reliability in the long run and thus increases the overall performance of library services. This view was agreed upon by Renge and S (2016) in the study of Yoga-Science Libraries in Maharashtra, Library Services, Facilities and Information Technology. Similarly, Kalbande Chavan (2017) the ICT Infrastructure Facility analysis was conducted at the Agricultural College Libraries in Maharashtra. The research revealed that all libraries having computer facilities possess internet connection facilities for accessing e-resources. This finding is similar to that of Babatunde and et-al (2020) Infrastructure of Information and Communication Technology and personnel skill as correlates of successful resource sharing in North Central University Libraries, Nigeria. These views were concurred by Ogbuagu and et-al (2014), Egoeze and et-al (2014), Ezeala and Hindu (2016), Omeluzor and et-al (2017), Oriogu and et-al (2018) and Izevbekhai and Efosa (2020). A lack of adequate infrastructure facilities however is a major factor or aspect that affects the research performance of academic staff in libraries of agricultural universities around the world, especially in developing countries such as Nigeria. It is inferred from the analysis that all the sampled agricultural libraries have the requisite infrastructure to access e-services for the benefit of their users depending on the libraries' information resources.

Statement of the Problem

One of the cardinal objectives of libraries today are to meet the information needs of users by making information resources, services and facilities available and accessible; organizing and disseminating of information resources to users for optimum utilization. The quality of teaching, research and learning depends on the quality of the information resources and facilities available in the university libraries. However in spite of the above based on the pilot study it was assumed by the researcher that information resources available and accessible and facilities that are provided in the university of agriculture libraries sampled are not sufficient enough to meet the user's needs for optimum utilization and satisfaction, may be due financial constraints, lack of

guiding principle in acquiring the materials, accommodation spaces, selection policy and procedure and improper organization of the resources, unskillful and competencies among library staff. No study has been conducted to address the situation, in fact to the best of the researcher’s knowledge, there has not been any study carried out on Factors Affecting Availability, Accessibility and Use of Information Tools and Facilities in Agriculture University Libraries by Postgraduate Students of FUAA, FUAM AND MOUA in Nigeria. In the light of the above therefore, the need for this study becomes imperative; it has become expedient to ascertain the level of provision, access and utilization of information resources, facilities and the challenges associated with the use of information resources and facilities in University of Agriculture libraries sampled, Postgraduate Students are the respondents

Research Objectives

The general objective of this study is to carry out a study on Factors Influencing the Availability, Accessibility and Utilization of Information Resources and Facilities in Agriculture University Libraries in Nigeria by Postgraduate Students of FUAA, FUAM and MOUA in Nigeria. Specifically the study is designed to:

1. Find out the various types of information resources and infrastructural facilities that is available and accessible in university of agriculture libraries
2. Determine the extent is library resources are utilized in University of Agriculture Libraries under study
3. Identify challenges associated with the use of Information sources and facilities by library users in university of agriculture libraries under study

Table 1: Population of the respondents

S/N	Postgraduate students	Sampled	Questionnaire administered	Questionnaire retrieved
1	6933	78	78	59

Figure 1

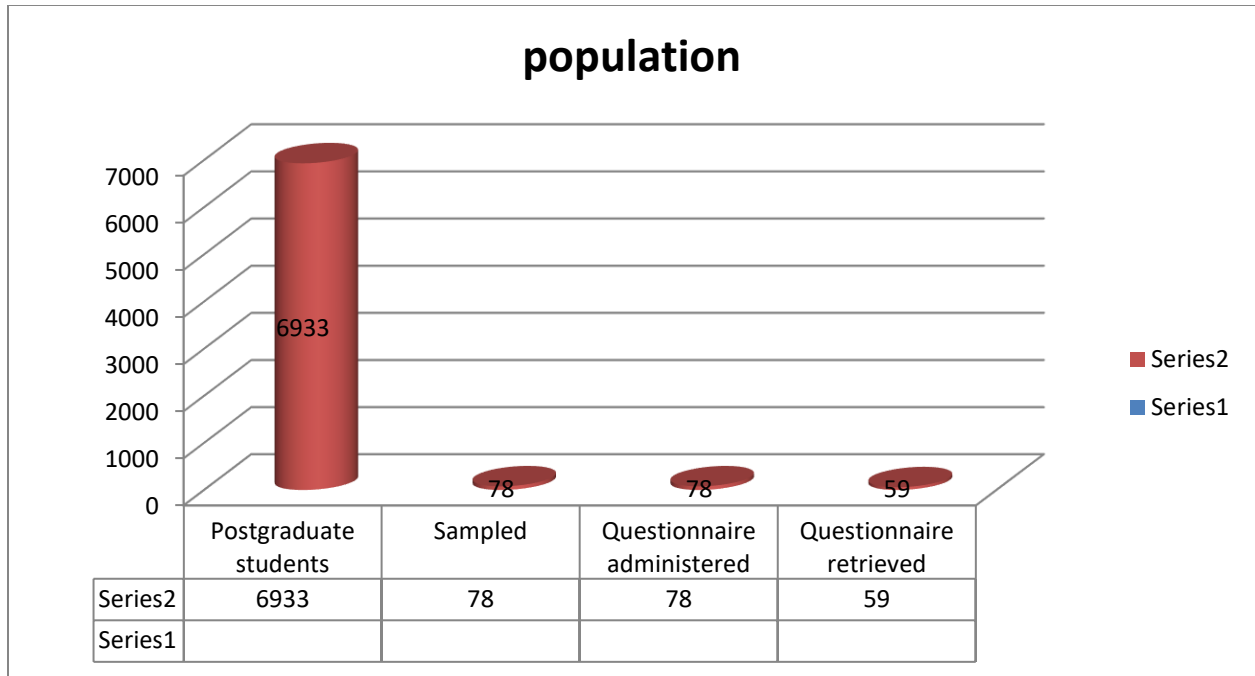
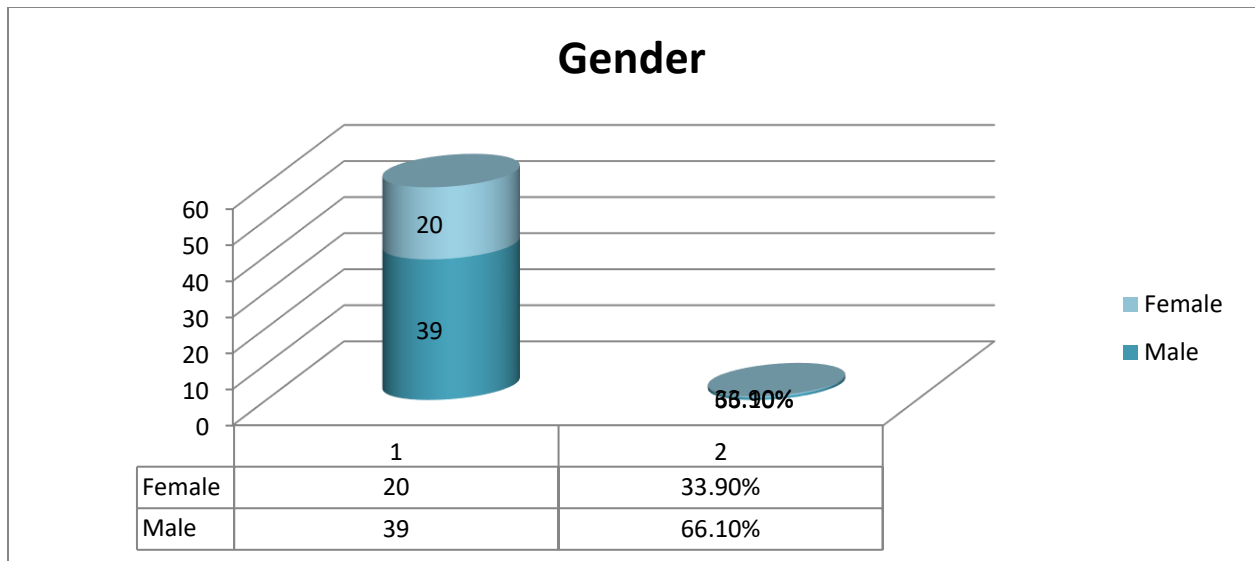


Table 1 revealed that 78 undergraduate students were selected as sample for this study. And 78 questionnaires were administered and retrieved 59 making 75.64%.

Table 2: Demographic of respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage %
Male	39	66.10%
Female	20	33.90%

Figure 2



Based on the gender distribution 39 (66.10%) were male while the remaining 20 (33.90%) were female. The result from this table implies that there were more male among the students used for this study. Figure 2 below presents the result from the table in a bar chart.

RESULTS OF THE FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 3 Information resources available

Information resources		Yes	No
S/N	Print collection		
1	Journals	√	x
2	Text books	√	x
3	Conference proceedings	√	x
4	Technical report	√	x
5	Thesis/Dissertations/projects	√	x
6	Bulletins	√	x
7	Magazines	√	x
8	News papers	√	x
9	Maps	√	x
10	Government publications	√	x
11	Atlas		x
12	Dictionaries	√	x
13	Poster		x
	Databases		
1	AGORA	√	x
2	BIOLINE, BIOMED	√	x
3	OARE	√	x
4	DOAJ,HINDAWI, WORLDCAT	√	x
5	HINARI,POB MED, FRMED	√	x
6	PLOS	√	x
7	REPEE	√	x
8	WASH LAW, FINDLAW, HEINONLINE	√	x
9	LIBDEX	√	x
10	E-GRANARY	√	x

Table 4 Availability of Information, Facilities in Agriculture libraries sampled

Library facilities										
University	Drinking Water	Rest room Facilities	Lightening/Ventilation	AC (Heating &Cooling)	Uninterrupted Power	Suitable Humidity	Adequate Space Reading	Parking Facility	Availability of Transport	Noise Control
UAM	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MOUA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
FUAA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	NO	Yes	Yes

From Table 3 and 4 above It can be seen that out of the twenty three (23) information resources thirteen (13) are prints and ten (10) are electronic resources/databases (items) considered. Therefore out of fourteen (13) print resources thirteen (11) were available is only two (2) 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 Dictionaries, , Magazines and Bulletins the only one (1)that is not available are Posters and Atlas. Hence the total number of information resources available. The available electronic/databases information resources are: AGORA, BIOLINE, BIOMED, OARE, DOAJ,HINDAWI, WORLDCAT, HINARI,POB MED, FRMED, PLOS, REPEE, WASH LAW, FINDLAW, HEINONLINE , LIBDEX and E-GRANARY and OPAC while Drinking Water, Rest room Facilities and Uninterrupted Power in UAM and MOUA is not available is the only MOUA doesn't has Availability of Transport.

Table 5. Library resources and facilities available

FUAM	Postgraduates									
Library resources and services	Very high		High		Medium		Low		Very low	
frequency/%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Journals	10	55.56	7	38.89	1	5.56	0	0.00	0	0.00
Text books & Ref books	8	44.44	2	11.11	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	5.56
Conf proceedings & Technical reports	3	16.67	2	11.11	2	11.11	7	38.89	3	16.67
Government publications	4	22.22	3	16.67	3	16.67	5	27.78	3	16.67
Thesis /Dissertations/ projects	4	22.22	3	16.67	5	27.78	3	16.67	2	11.11
Magazines	3	16.67	5	27.78	6	33.33	3	16.67	1	5.56
News papers	2	11.11	6	33.33	5	27.78	4	22.22	1	5.56
Atlas, Maps&Posters	4	22.22	5	27.78	3	16.67	5	27.78	1	5.56
Manuscripts	3	16.67	2	11.11	8	44.44	3	16.67	2	11.11
E-databases	2	11.11	4	22.22	5	27.78	4	22.22	3	16.67
E-Books	4	22.22	3	16.67	5	27.78	3	16.67	2	11.11
E-Journals	4	22.22	4	22.22	5	27.78	4	22.22	1	5.56
E-thesis/projects	4	22.22	4	22.22	4	22.22	3	16.67	2	11.11
E-Newspapers&E-Zines	2	11.11	5	27.78	5	27.78	2	11.11	4	22.22
CDROM	4	22.22	4	22.22	4	22.22	3	16.67	2	11.11
Microfilms&Microfiche	6	33.33	3	16.67	6	33.33	2	11.11	1	5.56
Radio	9	50.00	2	11.11	5	27.78	2	11.11	0	0.00
Telvision	14	77.78	4	22.22	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
MOUA	Postgraduates									
Library resources and services	Very high		High		Medium		Low		Very low	
frequency/%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Journals	17	80.95	4	19.05	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Text books & Ref books	17	80.95	10	47.62	0	0.00	1	4.76	3	14.29
Conf proceedings & Technical reports	11	52.38	3	14.29	1	4.76	4	19.05	2	9.52
Government publications	11	52.38	1	4.76	3	14.29	4	19.05	2	9.52

Thesis /Dissertations/ projects	6	28.57	4	19.05	3	14.29	2	9.52	0	0.00
Magazines	5	23.81	4	19.05	4	19.05	6	28.57	2	9.52
News papers	3	14.29	5	23.81	8	38.10	2	9.52	2	9.52
Atlas, Maps&Posters	6	28.57	2	9.52	8	38.10	3	14.29	2	9.52
Manuscripts	5	23.81	3	14.29	9	42.86	1	4.76	3	14.29
E-databases	4	19.05	4	19.05	7	33.33	6	28.57	0	0.00
E-Books	2	9.52	3	14.29	8	38.10	6	28.57	2	9.52
E-Journals	2	9.52	3	14.29	8	38.10	6	28.57	2	9.52
E-thesis/projects	2	9.52	3	14.29	10	47.62	6	28.57	1	4.76
E-Newspapers&E-Zines	2	9.52	5	23.81	5	23.81	7	33.33	0	0.00
CDROM	5	23.81	6	28.57	2	9.52	8	38.10	1	4.76
Microfilms&Microfiche	6	28.57	4	19.05	2	9.52	9	42.86	0	0.00
Radio	9	42.86	3	14.29	1	4.76	6	28.57	2	9.52
Television	10	47.62	0	0.00	5	23.81	4	19.05	2	9.52
FUAA	Postgraduates									
Library resources and services	Very high		High		Medium		Low		Very low	
frequency/%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Journals	13	65.00	2	10.00	3	15.00	1	5.00	1	5.00
Text books & Ref books	11	55.00	1	5.00	6	30.00	1	5.00	1	5.00
Conf proceedings & Technical reports	5	25.00	2	10.00	7	35.00	3	15.00	3	15.00
Government publications	3	15.00	4	20.00	6	30.00	5	25.00	2	10.00
Thesis /Dissertations/ projects	6	30.00	2	10.00	4	20.00	5	25.00	3	15.00
Magazines	4	20.00	4	20.00	6	30.00	4	20.00	2	10.00
News papers	4	20.00	5	25.00	8	40.00	2	10.00	1	5.00
Atlas, Maps&Posters	5	25.00	4	20.00	7	35.00	3	15.00	1	5.00
Manuscripts	3	15.00	4	20.00	9	45.00	4	20.00	0	0.00
E-databases	7	35.00	0	0.00	8	40.00	4	20.00	1	5.00
E-Books	8	40.00	2	10.00	5	25.00	4	20.00	1	5.00
E-Journals	11	55.00	0	0.00	3	15.00	3	15.00	3	15.00
E-thesis/projects	7	35.00	3	15.00	3	15.00	5	25.00	2	10.00
E-Newspapers&E-Zines	4	20.00	5	25.00	3	15.00	4	20.00	4	20.00
CDROM	5	25.00	4	20.00	4	20.00	3	15.00	4	20.00
Microfilms&Microfiche	7	35.00	5	25.00	4	20.00	2	10.00	2	10.00
Radio	8	40.00	8	40.00	3	15.00	0	0.00	1	5.00
Television	11	55.00	4	20.00	2	10.00	0	0.00	3	15.00

In order to ascertain the extent of utilization of Information Resources, and Facilities in Agriculture University Libraries studied, the respondents were provided with a list of Information Resources and Facilities to rank according to priority. Above table shows the

information Sources rank as per priority in Agriculture University Libraries studied. Majority of the respondents ranked books, newspapers; journals and magazines with higher score (73.68), (40.0), (72.22) and (56.0) respectively. Government publication and Atlas, Maps and Posters are the type of Library information resources were ranked lower with score (5.26)

Constraints affecting utilization of information resources

In order to define the restrictions on the usage of information resources sampled in the Agriculture University Libraries, the findings indicates that Poor internet work services Speed and other technical problems and Erratic power supply are the major constraints that hinder easy access and utilization of information resources as well as information about both print and digital new arrivals and lack of library space for conducive reading

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVISIONS OF INFORMATION RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

1. Provision of Facilities which are in high demand amongst the users, based on the needs of the different types of users, textbooks, journals, offline databases, e.g., E-Granary and other resources are to be procured by the Library. The responses to the questionnaire suggest that the users, especially academic staff, prefer to have many copies of prescribed journals and textbooks in the Library. The Post-graduates and academic staff suggested that apart from textbooks, reference books and periodicals should also be added to the existing collection.

2. With the advent of networking, internet and the information explosion the contemporary academic and students have these newfangled technologies, chances are more for most of them to access the information resources in the Library online rather than physically visiting the Library. If provisions are made in the Library to capture the information resource usage of these users, who access the Library through computer networks greater insights about the level of utilization could be gained. Library staff also requires in house training programmes on how to use these new technologies and information retrieval techniques so that they can give valuable inputs to the Library users. Findings reveal that the users hardly approach the Library staff for any assistance but not as to the reasons for such a scenario. It could either be because that (a) the Library staff are not well trained to assist the users, or (b) the staff are not fully cognizant of all the resources available in the Library, or (c) the staff are not skilled enough to guide in use of

various information resources, especially e-resources, or (d) lack the communication skills to share their knowledge with the users. Whatever reason, the ultimate losers are both the information providers and users of the Library resources and facilities. The Library staff would be upset or the security of at risk if maximum utilization of the existing information resources and facilities are not happening and the users would regret that they could not get on time information needed for their teaching, learning and research.

3. It is essential to train the Library staff on all these aspects and improve their relationships and skills. Efforts could also be made to create a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) module about the availability, location and ways and means of using these facilities which would prove very useful for the end user. 4. Subscription to different digital information resources and e-databases is warranted so that the users will have access to different types of information resources necessary for their academic pursuit and research work. With the advent of internet and information explosion, it has become almost impossible to physically acquire the different resources you're required in the Library and if the Library could subscribe to different online and offline databases the user could access any information they need in the library. Provision of Information Resources and facilities in Agriculture

4. Information resources should be accessible in a structured way and customized to meet user requirements by daily shelving and shelf reading at least every two hours, better cataloguing, classification and stacking of information resources so that it is easy to find information resources through well-designed user education/orientation programs to educate their users about the information resources These programs help users of libraries explore the information tools, services and facilities available to the fullest degree.

5. In order to illuminate the resources available in the digital library, the library should establish an institutional archive and also view new arrival editions in the library.

6. Formulate a sound 'collection growth strategy" for online knowledge services in particular. It is important to periodically update the preferred knowledge services, such as subject papers, reference books, and back volumes of journals, thesis/dissertation and research reports,

bibliographies and reviews. It is important to upgrade electronic tools, such as CD-ROMs, online journals/e-journals, online full-text databases and e-books, and to regularly review their collection to assess the quality of information resources and infrastructure facilities.

7. By dividing reading space and sitting between men and women, having a separate section called "Research Section" and providing facilities such as a separate rest room and the internet, computers and printers with qualified staff may allow them to have a comfortable physical atmosphere.

8. Although online journals and databases are on the verge of becoming a reality, the study recommends that document delivery and inter-library loan services be expanded internationally, so that academic and non-academic services are maintained.

CONCLUSION

This study has explored the degree to which specific information resources and facilities are provided to Agriculture University Libraries sampled. The study also found that both print and electronic information resources played an essential role in the academic pursuits of the postgraduate students in Agriculture University Libraries under study. The researcher has attempted to know the existing information resources and facilities in the respective university libraries and also to carry their assessment by the respondents so as to know their information requirements. The study has analyzed various issues related to the utilization of the existing Library resources, facilities available provided to the users in the Agriculture University Libraries in country.

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