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Information Need and Academic Achievement of First Year Postgraduate Students of Adeleke University, Ede Osun State Nigeria.

Elizabeth Adenekan
lizzyadenekan@gmail.com

Oluchi Precious Ogbonna
Lead City University, Ibadan, ooluchi9@gmail.com

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Introduction

Academic achievement refers to students learning outcomes of a school curriculum (Tian & Sun, 2018). It is a term used to refer to the performance outcome of students. It could be further stipulated that academic achievement is the degree to which curriculum objectives are realized in students (Tian & Sun, 2018). In the university, academic achievement is measured by a grading scale system known as Grade Point Average (GPA) (Spinath, 2012). Grade Point Average is crucial to the academic development of postgraduate students and during the course of their programme, students would be faced with a lot of information challenges which might affect their academic achievement in school on the long run. Information is crucial for any nation's development. This is why academic libraries are shaping the future of the students through their tremendous roles in providing the right information through their resources and services.

Subsequently, information need is a basic concept in information science. Need implies lack of something, which if present would further the welfare of man or make it easier for the attainment of whatever objectives he/she may have in mind (Salawu, 2019). Information need could be expressed in the question; what information would further this job or this research, and could be recognized as doing so by the recipient. In sense making situation, information need can be regarded as an anomalous state of knowledge, or a gap in individual's knowledge in sense making situations (Salawu, 2019). For a student to experience an information need, there must be a motive behind it. Nowadays, information has become one of the most integral elements in our daily lives. The information need of the user is a cognitive process which begins with a problem and the demand to solve it. To meet these information needs, the information seeker's searching is continuously driven by many reasons and in many contexts. Like other people, postgraduate students need various information and they use different sources of information (Vellaichamy, 2013).

In any society, information needs of individuals are influence by the purpose and goals at hand. It stems from a vague awareness of something missing and as culminating in locating information that contributes to understanding and meaning (Ahmadul & Md, 2012). It is important to highlight that information needs of students are diverse and constantly changing. Therefore, it is necessary to state that postgraduate students' need information and course materials for their all-round development which will help them to have a better academic achievement (Manjunath, &

Surrendra, 2018). This study seek to find out how information need of first year postgraduate students influence their academic achievement.

Statement of the Problem

The study of information need is important for students. Postgraduate students in any tertiary institution of learning are expected to use information from different sources of information. However, it has been observed that they do not use most of the information provided in the university library and they seem to have inadequate knowledge of how to identify their information needs. This research therefore tends to find out if postgraduate students of Adeleke University have the ability to identify their various information needs and how these have affected their academic achievements.

Research Questions

1. What is the level of academic achievement of postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede?
2. What are the various types of information need postgraduate students require for their daily activities as regard their academic achievement in Adeleke University, Ede?

Research Objectives

1. Ascertain the level of academic achievement of postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede.
2. Analyze the various types of information need the postgraduate students require for their daily activities as regard their academic achievement in Adeleke University, Ede.

Research Hypothesis

H₀₁ Types of information needs will not significantly influence academic achievement of postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede.

Literature Review

Concept of Academic Achievement

According to Tia and Shun (2018) academic achievement is seen as a kind of learning outcome related to school curriculum. It is a set of grades that could be obtained from daily and monthly exams that shows students abilities of understanding curricula and applying them in daily life (Salar, Baghaei, Ghavami & Zare, 2013). Academic achievement can also be referred to as the developmental level students attain through curriculum learning in a certain period of time under the teachers guidance and on the basis of experience in knowledge, skills, abilities, affects, attitudes and values (Tia & Shun, 2018). Ndaji, Little and Cole (2016) posits that academic achievement indicates the educational achievements and cognitive objectives of students through passing many exams and measuring marks because it is an indicator of evaluating the educational system and students' achievement in the cognitive aspects.

Academic achievement is important for the successful development of students as well as young people in the society. It is argued that students who do well in school are better able to make the transition into adulthood and to achieve occupational and economic success (Tounesia, 2012).

Concept of Information Need

Information is an important and key resource. Information can be regarded as a processed data that makes meaning to an individual. We are in the information era and information is crucial for any nation's development. Information is also seen as the primary agent of action and change and the development of any nation is not possible until information is made available at the door step of those who need it (Vellaichamy, 2013).

Need implies lack of something, which if present would further the welfare of man or make it easier for the attainment of whatever objectives he/she may have in mind (Salawu, 2019). On the other hand, information need could be expressed in the question; what information would further this job or this research, and could be recognized as doing so by the recipient. In sense making situation, information need can be regarded as an anomalous state of knowledge, or a gap in individual's knowledge in sense making situations (Salawu, 2019). For a student to experience an information need, there must be a motive behind it. Information needs of individuals in any society are influenced by the purpose and goals at hand. Information needs of individuals differ and they

can be categorized as; educational and academic information needs, political information needs, business information needs, social and entertainment information needs, agricultural, geographical and environmental information needs, medical and health information needs, religious and cultural information needs, legal and human rights information needs and international and global information needs (Manjunath, & Surrendra, 2018).

This said, information has to be integrated with knowledge to be used and applied appropriately. It means that information needs knowledge and experience to solve problems. Students as the largest chunk of library users need information in their daily life. They need information and course materials for their all-round development which will help them to have a better academic achievement (Manjunath, & Surrendra, 2018).

Academic Achievement and Information Need of Students

Academic libraries are shaping the future of the students through their tremendous roles in providing the right information through their resources and services. A study revealed that information need stems from a vague awareness of something missing and as culminating in locating information that contributes to understanding and meaning (Ahmadul & Md, 2012). The study further explained that information need arises wherever individuals find themselves in a situation requiring knowledge to deal with the situation as they see fit. The study also stated that information needs are diverse and constantly changing and not amenable to generalization. It can be social, economic, political, cultural or educational and it is characterized mostly by the information seeking behaviour of the person in need of information (Okonoko, Njideka & Mazah, 2015). Therefore, to meet these information needs, the information seeker's searching is continuously driven by many reasons and in many contexts. Like other students, postgraduate students need various information and they use different sources of information (Manjunath, & Surrendra, 2018).

Methodology

The descriptive research design was used for the study. Population was a total of 88 first year postgraduate students of Adeleke University. Total enumeration method was used to get a sample of 88 respondents for the study. Data was collected with the use of questionnaires adapted from the study of Gavsiddappa Anandhalli (2018). The questionnaire was administered to the

postgraduate students directly by the researcher. Data obtained was analysed using descriptive statistics using frequency and count method. Analysis of variance test was used to test the hypothesis.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Demographics

Respondents by Gender

Characteristics	Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sex	Male	39	44.3
	Female	49	56
	Total	88	100.0

Table 4.1.1 above shows that a total of 39 which represents 44.3% of the respondents are male students while a total of 49 with the percentage of 56% of the respondents are female students. This finding reveals that among the first year postgraduate students of Adeleke University, majority of the study population (56%) belongs to the female category while 44.3% of the respondents belongs to the male category. From the findings, one can infer from the analysis that there are more female students in Adeleke University who registered or enrolled for a postgraduate programme than male students.

Academic Achievement of First Year Postgraduate Students

Research Question 1: What is the level of academic achievement of undergraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede?

Level of Academic Achievement of Adeleke University Students

S/N	Level of Academic Achievement	Low %	Average %	High %
Subjective academic achievement				
1	How will you rank your academic achievement	10 (3.5%)	47 (44.76)	80 (76.19)
Objective academic achievement				
2	The grade I mostly achieve in school is...	7 (2.4%)	45 (42.857)	62 (59.047)

3	My commitment to learning is...	15 (5.2%)	15 (5.2%)	87 (30.3%)
4.	The positive value that influences my academic achievement is	32 (30.476)	40 (38.095)	62 (59.047)

Table 4.2.1 above shows the analysis of the respondent's agreement with the identified level of their academic achievement in Adeleke University. It shows that first year postgraduate students ranked their academic achievement high with the percentage of 80 (76.19%). On the grade the student mostly achieve in school, 62(59.04%) of the respondents appear to achieve high grades in school while 45 (42.857%) of the respondent usually achieve average grade in school while only 7 (2.4%) of the respondents have a low level of academic achievement. With the percentage rate of 87 (30.3%) the students response showed that they have high commitment to learning while 15(5.2%) of the respondents agreed that their commitment to learning is on the average and low at the same time. Also, on the positive value that influences students' academic achievement, 62 (59.047%) of the respondents showed high level, 40 (38.095%) of the respondents indicated that the positive values that influences their academic achievement is on the average while 32 (30.47%) of the responded recorded low level on the positive values that influences their academic achievement. From this findings, it is clear that level of academic achievement of postgraduate students in Adeleke University is agreed to be high. The analysis further show that majority of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that having information literacy skills influences them to have high academic achievements in their various studies.

Types of Information Needs of First Year Postgraduate Students

What are the various types of information need postgraduate students require for their day-to-day activities as regard their academic achievement in Adeleke University, Ede?

Types of Information Need of the students

S/N	Types of Information Need	Frequency	%
1	I need information to pass my exams and other academic activities (Academic Information)	84	95.4

2	I need information to improve my knowledge (Generalized information)	76	86.3
3	I need subject related information (Subject Information)	81	92.0
4	I need information to improve and sustain my health (Health Information)	62	70.4
5	I need information about the happenings in my environment (Environmental Information)	55	62.5
6	I need information on current happenings (current Information)	61	69.3
7	I need information about all the political activities (Political Information)	45	51.1
8	I need government related information (Govt. Information)	32	36.3
9	I need financial related information (Financial Information)	47	53.4

The result on the table above reveal that 84 (95.4%) of the students' needs information to pass their exams and other academic activities often, while 76 (86.3%) need information to improve their knowledge. On I need subject related information (Subject Information), 81 (92.0%) of the respondents indicated that they need the information frequently, while 62 (70.4%) of the respondents indicated to need information to improve and sustain their health (Health Information). The result also show that 55 (62.5%) of the respondents show that they need information about the happenings in their environment (Environmental Information), 61 (69.3%) need information on current happenings (current Information) while 45 (51.1%) need information about all the political activities (Political Information). Also 32 (36.3%) of the respondents agreed to need government related information (Govt. Information) while 47 (53.4%) of the respondents indicated that they need financial related information (Financial Information) more. From this result, one can infer that Adeleke University postgraduate students are more concerned about having information that will help them pass their exams, information that will improve their knowledge, as well as information that will help them in their specific subject areas. This can only mean that Adeleke University being a relatively new school, the students are working hard to position themselves academically and this which will in turn make them have high academic achievements.

Hypothesis

H₀₁ There will be no significant influence types of information need have on academic achievement of postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede.

Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.081 ^a	.007	.003	.41311

a. Predictors: (Constant), various types of Information

The results in table above indicates that when various types of information entered into the regression model it predicted Level of Academic Achievement ($R = .081$; $R^2 = .007$; Adj. $R^2 = .003$). With the value of R, it showed that there is positive influence between various types of information and level of academic achievement. Various types of information accounts for 0.7% variation in level of academic achievement. Hence, the null hypothesis I is rejected.

Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Err	Beta		
1 (Constant)	2.317	.167		13.838	.000
Various types of information need	.089	.065	.081	1.366	.173

a. Dependent Variable: Academic Achievement

Thus the model is: Level of academic achievement = 2.32 + (0 .09 various types of information need).

The findings from the analysis in the table above shows the analysis of variance of the various types of information needs of postgraduate students of Adeleke University. It was observed that (t-value = 13.838; $p < .001$) is higher than the P-value which is less than 0.05 hence, the null hypothesis I is rejected. This implies that the result reflects that there is a genuine influence of types of information needs on academic achievement. This further means that the more the information needs of the postgraduate students, the better their academic achievement in Adeleke University.

Discussion

For the present study, few research questions were set and addressed by using survey questionnaire and the result presented in tables. The present study has explored the information need and academic achievement of postgraduate students at Adeleke University which was underlying the different types of information needs and the level of their academic achievements.

The hypothesis of this study examined the significant influence various types of information needs have on academic achievement of postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede. The result revealed that various types of information needs (t -value = 13.838; $p < .001$) is higher than the P -value which is less than 0.05 hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis accepted. This means that the various types of information needs Adeleke students have makes significant influence or contribution to their academic achievement. The result also revealed that postgraduate students needs information to pass their exams and other academic activities frequently. The result further revealed that Adeleke postgraduate students mostly needs generalized information, subject information, health related information, environmental information as well as information on current happenings. This result is in agreement with the findings of Nwobasi et al (2013) which asserted that needs are diverse and can be social, economic, political, cultural or educational. This result can further be explained that information needs that makes Adeleke postgraduate students to search for information is an academic information.

Also, a study by Mohamed⁵ revealed that greater part of the postgraduate students utilizes information for academic purposes which in turn increases their academic achievement. Similarly, a study by Emmanuel et al (2009) supports the findings of this study by revealing that postgraduate students need academic information to write their course assignment, seminar papers, prepare for their class discussions and also to prepare for their examination and tests more than any other information. To further explain the result of this study and in an attempt to understand the need for information, Adeleke University postgraduate students were asked what information they often need. From the result revealed, it was quite obvious that most of the undergraduates needed academic information. This means that as postgraduate students, it is obvious that they need academic type of information and the higher their information needs, the higher their academic achievements.

Major Highlighted Findings of the Study

The study highlighted these important findings as follows:

- Majority of the study population (N=49-56%) belongs to female category. While, 44.3 % of the respondents belongs to male category.
- Large majority (N=80, (76.19) of the students required academic information followed by 62(59.04%) of the respondents who appear to achieve high grades in school. This means that they appear to have high level of academic achievement in their studies.
- On an average more than 84 (95.4%) of the students' needs information to pass their exams and other academic activities. This in-turn means that most of the postgraduate students are aware of their different types of information need.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The present study has examined the information need and academic achievement of first year postgraduate students of Adeleke University Ede, Osun State. Information sources identification and retrieval could be a challenge to students in postgraduate schools in Nigeria due to the overloads of several academic activities ranging from class assignments, class presentations, seminars, term paper writing, examination preparations etc. As revealed from this study, the most agreed type of information needed by the postgraduate students is academic information to enable them pass their exams other academic activities more than any other type of information. The study concluded that since understanding the actual need for information and identifying the sources to satisfy them is one of the steps towards meeting and satisfying information needs. Information providers, especially those involved in dissemination and bibliographic preparation and instructions should be more concerned and interested in providing strategic information to meet the students' academic information needs.

Based on the findings and review of literature studies repeatedly show strong positive correlations between types of information needs and academic achievements. The study recommended that the students should develop strong need for information and the ability to retrieve them from different sources so as to enhance their academic achievements. Hence the extra efforts should be made to raise the postgraduate students' awareness of the different types of information available in their environment.

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