

Winter 8-30-2016

Scholarly Publications of Librarians in Universities in Nigeria: 2000 2012 -- A Bibliometric Analysis

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Tsafe, Gadanga Aliyu Dr; basaka, basaka abubakar aminu nil; and Mohammed, Chiya Usman Dr, "Scholarly Publications of Librarians in Universities in Nigeria: 2000 2012 -- A Bibliometric Analysis" (2016). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 1394.
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**SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS OF LIBRARIANS IN UNIVERSITIES
IN NIGERIA: 2000-2012 –A Bibliometric Analysis**

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Abstract

This bibliometric study was designed to analyze the scholarly publications of librarians in Universities in Nigeria from 2000-2012. It was guided by six objectives and two null-hypotheses. The study covered 16 Universities located in the seven states of the North -West, Nigeria while the publications analyzed were journal articles, chapters in books, books, conference proceedings etc published by the librarians in the study area. The research design was descriptive survey method using bibliometric technique. One hundred and sixty five (165) librarians was the population purposively taken for the study. Self-designed questionnaire was the only instrument used for data collection. The instrument was administered by the researchers on the respondents. Out of the 165 copies of the instrument administered, 123 were completed and successfully retrieved. Descriptive statistics (frequency counts and percentages) was used to analyze the data on demographics and to answer the research questions. Inferential statistics (Chi-square(r) and ANOVA) were used to test the two null-hypotheses. Findings revealed that promotion motivated the librarians in the study area to publish. Total publication by the librarians was 373. Individually, majority of them (56.9%) had published at least one article. Male librarians published more (81.2%) than the females (18.8%). High-ranked librarians had more publications (71.7%) than the lower-ranked librarians (9.1%). Journal was the most preferred source for publication (56.1%) by the librarians. The most published area of interest was Information Technology and major constraints were workload, lack of internet access and cost of getting material published. Results of the two null-hypotheses indicated significant difference in Number of publications between male and female librarians and among librarians of various ranks Recommendations made included the need for librarians to publish beyond promotion, the need for the librarians to publish in other outlets than in journals only and the need for the librarians to explore untapped areas in their future researches.

Introduction

Scholarly publications are those documents published through peer-review process and accepted in the form of recorded sources such as books, chapters in books, conference papers and proceedings, articles in refereed journals, creative works and visual arts among others. Publications, according to Okafor (2011:1), is a means by which academics contribute new knowledge to the existing body of knowledge and are usually made public in the forms of journal articles, technical reports, books, chapters in books and other scholarly publications. Furthermore, Yusuf (2005), opined that research publication is a major index of an academic quality and is the determinant of his/her advancement in academic career.

One of the ways of analyzing the research outputs or publications of individuals, organizations, institutions or countries is through bibliometric analysis. The term “bibliometric” was coined by Pritchard in 1969 and defined as the application of mathematical and statistical methods to books and other media of communication. The aim of bibliometric analysis is to reveal the extent of research output, publications, activities, preference and nature of literature produced (Kasa, 2015). Librarians in Nigerian University libraries got academic status like their teaching counterparts via a circular from the National Universities Commission NUC in 1993.

Statement of the Problem

Demand for academic status by librarians in Universities was a universal phenomenon. According to Onohwakpor and Tiemo (2006), the struggle started in the United States in the 40's and spread to Britain and Canada in the 80's. In Nigeria, the struggle came to its climax in 1993 following an agreement reached between the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the Federal Government of Nigeria (NUC, 1993). This development though desired, came with it a lot of pains as many librarians became stagnated in their career positions (Idiodi and Bozimo, 2002).

Furthermore, publishing and creating information has not hitherto been part of the librarian's responsibility. According to Sitienei and Ocholla (2010:2), people generally, believed that librarians confined themselves to shelving, checking books in- and –out, classifying and cataloguing of books and other information materials in the library, in addition, to reporting for duty as early as 8.00am and closing as late as 4.00pm daily including weekends to carryout routine library services.

This strenuous nature of librarians' work combined with workload sometime make them to be at a disadvantage regarding the amount of time available for them to make meaningful scholarly research and publications. Similarly, personal discussions with colleagues in the study area and common knowledge gathered by the researchers through conferences, workshops and seminars over the years, had shown that many of the librarians have not make significant progress in research and publications. It is in the light of these discussions and observations that this research was deemed necessary by the researchers.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study were to:

1. Determine the reasons motivating librarians in the area to publish.
2. Determine the publications of librarians in the area.
3. Determine the publication of individual librarians in the area.
4. Determine the publications of librarians by gender.
5. Determine the publications of librarians by rank; and
6. Identify the constraints in their publication efforts.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested.

Ho 1. There is no significant difference in Number of publications between the male and female academic librarians.

Ho 2. There is no significant difference in Number of publication among academic librarians of various ranks.

Methodology

Descriptive survey method was used in this study to analyze the publications of librarians in Universities in Nigeria. The population of the study was all the librarians in the 16 University libraries (9 federal, 6 states and 1 private) in North-West, Nigeria. The number of Universities and the librarians in the study area was obtained from the NUC Bulletin (2014). The entire one hundred and sixty five (165) librarians with academic status constituted the population purposively taken.

Self-designed questionnaire was used for data collection. The Questionnaire was pre-tested outside the study area at the University of Technology Minna and the University of Ilorin. A test-re-test of the questionnaire carried out at two intervals in (FUTMinna and Unilorin) where a reliability coefficient of 0.68 was obtained. One hundred and sixty five (165) copies of the questionnaire were administered on the respondents by the researchers. Completed copies of the questionnaire were retrieved from the respondents by the researchers. The data was then subjected to descriptive statistics (frequency counts and percentages) which generated appropriate graphs and tables that answered the research questions. Inferential statistical tools (Chi-Square(r) and ANOVA) at the 0.05 level of significance were used to test the two null- hypotheses of the study.

Literature Review

Academic libraries and librarians with academic status played very important role in the lives of all scholars and students who go through a University. In order for the library to

continue to be effective and efficient in this role, it is required that librarians increase their research productivity so as to improve on the practice of librarianship. Therefore, the role of librarians in the promotion of quality teaching, research and public services cannot be overemphasized as any shortfall of these would eventually affect the performance of the academic programmes in many disciplines.

Poynter (as cited in Sitienei, 2009) further underscored the value of publishing to all authors including librarians. According to the author, publishing can bring about prestige, recognition, wealth and acceleration in librarians' career. It also helps to promote the librarians' department and attract the attention of administration to the department.

Research and publication also promotes advancement and recognition for librarians. In addition, librarians who regularly do research and publish are thought to be more receptive to change and have more effective relationships with other faculty members than those who do not. The participation of librarians in research and publication activities according to Dahiru and Alli (2006) provides a lot of benefits for individual librarians and the library where they work.

The study about publications by librarians had a long and rich history in research literature. According to Lotka (as cited in Daniel et al, 2012) Cattell, published the first systematic data collection on scientific publications per author in 1903 which provided strong evidences of the existence of large differences across individual researchers. Watson (1997) surveyed the publishing requirements of academic librarians over a five year period in ten (10) large Universities in the United States. His findings were that 292 librarians produced 1,106 articles during the time frame which worked out an average of 4.2 per librarian.

Hart (1999) concluded from his study of Penn State University that librarians are highly active in terms of research and scholarly publications as each librarian was found to have on

the average produced slightly more than nine publications. A study of librarians at Oregon State University in 2010, reported a general upward trend in peer reviewed articles over a ten-year period (Wirth, Kelley and Webster, 2010). Another study by Ani and Onyancha (2011) on research productivity of Nigerian Universities using the Web Science database showed the University of Ibadan as the most productive University in Nigeria with Biology and Applied Microbiology as the most productive disciplines. Kennedy and Brancolini (2012) surveyed the research activities of librarians since finishing their Master of Library Science (MLS) degree and reported that 62% of the respondents had performed research, but only 77% of these researchers had disseminated the results of their research as published articles, conference presentations etc.

Before the 1990s when librarians in Nigerian Universities acquired academic status, evidence of productivity was not a serious criterion for promotion as it was only for faculty members (Lawal, 2002). Salaran (2010) described the range of activities on which academic staff can and should be evaluated as ranging from producing research publications to conducting research for business and teaching students.

The gender of authors according to Wood and Park (2013), is often another demographic factor frequently investigated by researchers on publication output of academics. Taking a journal-based approach in their land mark study, Olsgaard and Olsgaard (1980) developed what had come to be known as the Olsgaard profile of librarian authors. Their findings revealed that males affiliated with institutions located in the Northeast and Midwest regions of the United States were over-represented as authors in the top Library and Information Science (LIS) journals compared to their relative numbers in the field. Similarly, Joswick (1999) studied the article publications pattern of academic librarians in Illinois and revealed that female authors were more prolific. Of the fifty-nine authors who published more than one article, 33.9% were male and 66.1% were females.

Rank or position of librarians in both public and private Universities have often been investigated with a view to determining how this factor affect the productivity of these librarians especially, in the area of research and publications. A study by Ocholla, Ocholla and Onyancha (2013) revealed that in terms of journal contributions by the rank or position of librarians, it was evident that the most productive librarians were those in leadership positions, meaning that they also possibly had a long history of library services experience. Their findings showed that only 25 (less than 30%) of the Directors/University librarians and Deputy Directors/University librarians from 60 public Universities covered by the study had research publications indexed in the database.

Several studies conducted by researchers in library and information science indicated a preference by librarians to publish their research works in journals and conference proceedings. According to Abiolu (2013), scholarly journals still remained the prominent and certified means of sharing research findings and ascertaining new ideas between and among academics. Many academic librarians from southern African public Universities, according to Ocholla and Ocholla (2007) do not publish in visible scholarly outlets indexed by international database.

A research carried out by Wood and Park (2013) on publication activities of academic librarians in Tennessee state, revealed that Tennessee Libraries- a peer-review professional journal of the Tennessee Library Association was the most popular publication outlet for academic librarians in the state indicating that 47(35%) of the articles analyzed by them were published in the journal. Similarly, a study by Idiodi and Bozimo (2012) revealed that librarians in South-South Nigerian University libraries produced most of their published works in journal articles with more emphasis on local journals. This, the authors, attributed to the inability of the librarians to meet the international publishing standard of most foreign journals.

A number of scholars had attempted to analyze subject interests of librarians they studied in their researches. A study on research trends in library and information science at the International Islamic University of Malaysia by Abdoulaye (2002) indicated that “Information Technology” was the most researched subject interest by library and information science scholars, academics and practitioners in Malaysia. Edewor (2013), reported that a total of nine (9) subjects areas featured prominently but that “Information Technology” ranked the highest (34%) in all the issues studied while “Resource Sharing”, “Personnel records Management” and Technical Services” ranked lowest.

Constraints are usually problems that researchers encountered in their researches, publications and other scholarly activities which tend to lower their morale. In the views of Okafor and Dike (2010), the comparatively low research output in Nigeria and other developing countries as compared to their counterparts in developed countries as reported in some researches may be due to lack of access to adequate information sources. A study by Wood and Park (2013) on publishing output of academic librarians in Tennessee also speculated that factors such as mentoring and release time might have engendered an acclimate that encourages librarians to publish.

Results and Discussions

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaires Administered and Returned

Universities	Number of Librarians	Copies of Questionnaire Administered	Copies of Questionnaire Retrieved	Useable Number	%
ABU	50	50	30	30	60%
BUK	34	34	17	17	50%
UDUS	17	17	17	17	100%
NDA	1	1	1	1	100%
NPA	3	3	3	3	100%
FUB	2	2	2	2	100%
FUD	9	9	5	5	55%
FUDMA	5	5	5	5	100%
FUG	2	2	2	2	100%
KADSU	10	10	5	5	50%
KUST	8	8	8	8	100%
KEBSUT	5	5	5	5	100%
NWUK	5	5	5	5	100%
SOSU	5	5	5	5	100%
UMYU	7	7	7	7	100%
KATU	2	2	2	2	100%
TOTAL	165	165	123	123	75%

Source: Field work

A total of one hundred and sixty five (165) copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents. 123 copies were completed and successfully retrieved. This gave a response rate of 75%.

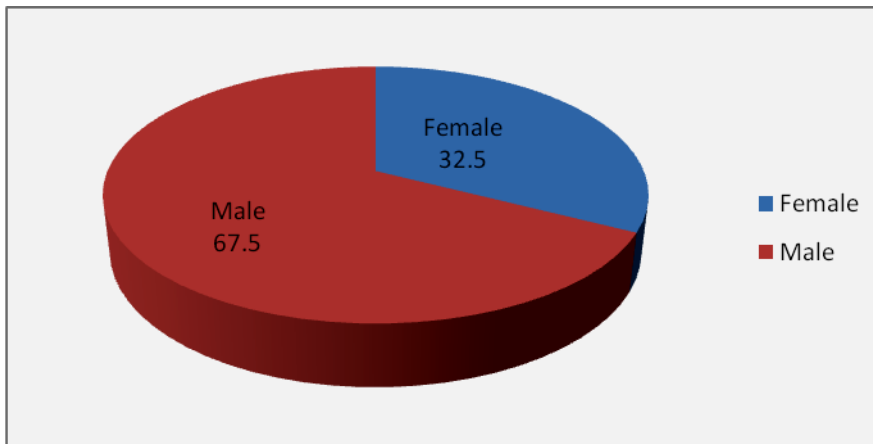


Fig. 1: Gender of the Respondents

Male respondents, 83 (67.5%) were more in number than the females, 40 (32.5%)

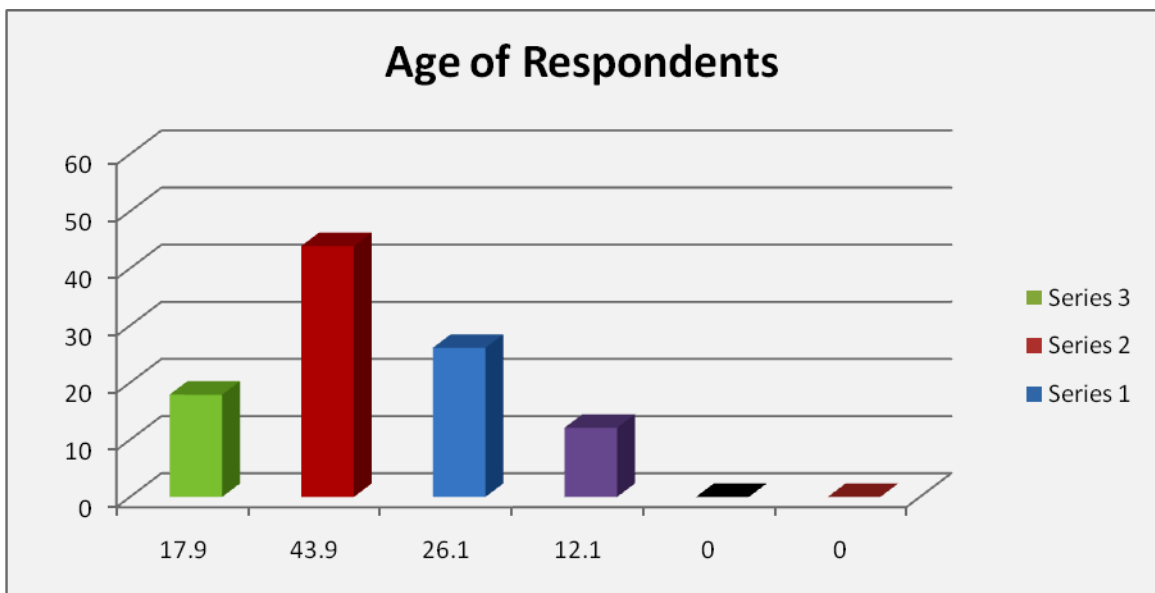


Fig. 2: Age of Respondents

Fig 2 above shows the average age of the respondents. The highest, 54 (43.9%) were between the ages of 30-39 years followed by 32 (26.1%) in the age range of 40-49 then 22 (17.9%) between the ages of 20-29 years, and the least, 15 (12.1%), were between the ages of 50-59 years.

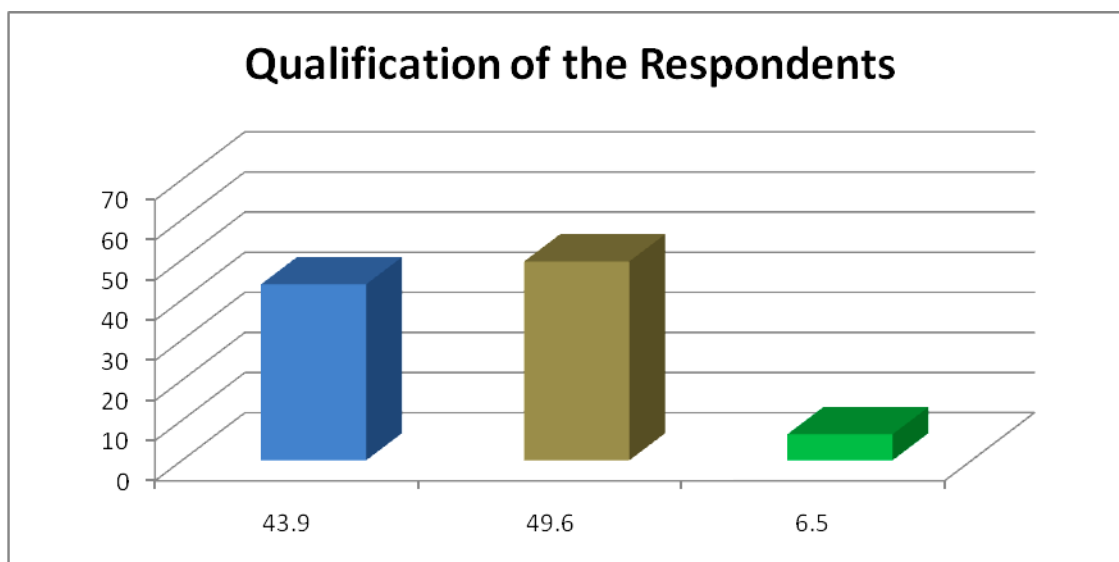


Fig. 3: Qualification of Respondents

Results in fig 3 above showed that 61 (49.6%) of the respondents held MLS Degree, 54 (43.9%) had BLS Degree, while 8 (6.5%) were Ph.D holders.

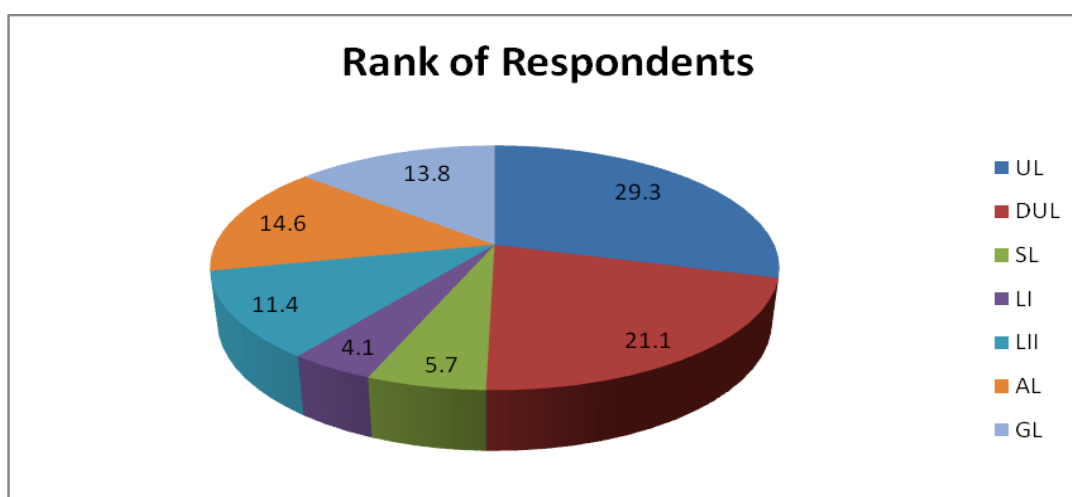


Fig. 4: Rank of Respondents

Results in fig 4 indicated that 7 (5.7%) of the respondents were University Librarians, 5 (4.1%) Deputy University Librarians; 14 (11.4%) Senior Librarians; 18 (14.6%) Librarians I; 17 (13.8%) Librarians II; 36 (29.3%) Assistant Librarians, while 26 (21.1%) were Graduate Librarians.

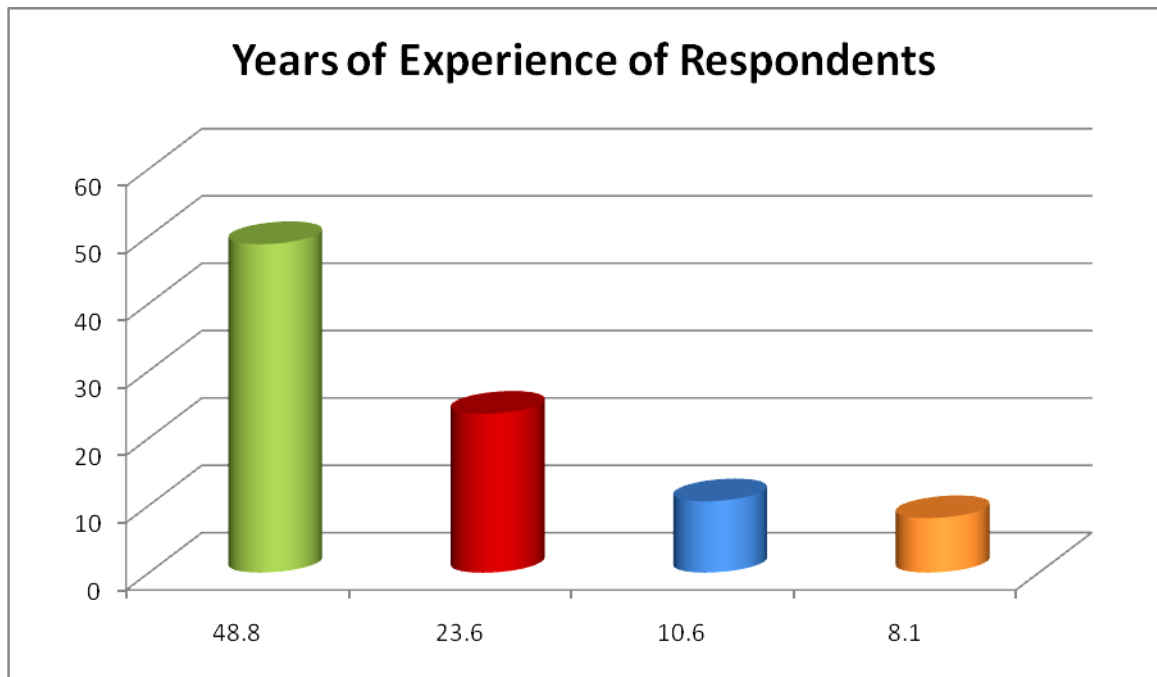


Fig. 5: Years Experience of Respondents

Fig. 5 above Indicates that majority of the respondents, 60 (48.8%) had 1 – 5 years of experience. 29 (23.6%) had 6-10 years of experience, while, 13 (10.6%) put in 16-20 years. Only 10 (8.1%) had 20 and above years of experience.

Research Question 1: What are the reasons motivating librarians to publish?

Table 2: Reasons that Motivated the Librarians to Publish

S/No.	Reasons	Publication				
		Yes	%	No	%	N
1.	Tenure	28	23%	95	77%	123
2.	Promotion	108	88%	15	12%	123
3.	Recognition	28	23%	95	77%	123
4.	Contribution to Knowledge	103	84%	20	16%	123
5.	Pleasure	8	7%	115	93%	123
6.	Prestige	7	6%	116	94%	123
7.	Productivity	101	82%	22	18%	123
8.	Visibility	2	2%	121	98%	123

The table above indicated that promotion was the highest ranked reason that motivated the librarians in the study area to publish, followed by contribution to knowledge and productivity while visibility was the least ranked reason. This finding is in agreement with that of Anilkumar (2013) who revealed that promotion remained the driving force behind faculty research and publications.

Research Question 2: What is the total publication of the librarians?

Table 3: Total Publications by the Librarians

Types of Publications	Number of Publications	Percentage of Publications
Journal Articles	257	69%
Published Books	2	0.5%
Chapters in books	7	1.9%
Edited works	12	3.2%
Conference papers	49	13.1%
Seminar papers	35	9.4%
Workshop papers	11	2.9%
TOTAL	373	100%

N=123

The results in the table above showed that a total of 373 different types of publications were produced within the period of study. Journal articles had the highest 257 (69%), followed by conference papers 49 (13.1%). seminar papers 35 (9.4%) and edited works 12 (3.2%). The least was book 2 (0.5%). This finding conforms to that of Hurd and Wilberly (1999) who revealed that librarians in Pennsylvania State University produced a total of 5,477 articles.

This further confirmed the assertion of the researchers that librarians in the area do not bother to publish.

Research Question 3: What is the total publication of individual librarians?

Table 4: **Individual Librarian's Publications**

Number of Journal Article	Percentage of Individual Publications				
	Yes	%	No	%	N
0-3	86	70%	37	30%	123
4-7	06	5%	117	95%	123
8-11	05	4%	118	96%	123
12-15	04	3%	119	97%	123
16-19	01	1%	122	99%	123

Results in the above table showed the publications of individual librarians. Majority of the librarians had published an average of least one article. Only one librarian (1%) had published up to 16 articles. This finding agreed with the findings of Okon, Patrick and Bosire (2014). These researchers established that most librarians are one time contributors. This has been a common trend among librarians in most Nigerian Universities.

Research Question 4: What is the total publication of librarians by gender?

Table 5: **Publications of Librarians by Gender**

Gender	HP	NP	Total	JA	PB	CB	EW	CP	SP	WP	Total	%
Male	74	09	83	208	1	6	10	35	33	10	303	81.2
Female	28	12	40	49	1	1	2	14	2	1	70	18.8
Total	102	21	123	257	2	7	12	49	35	11	373	100

HP= Have Publication, NP=No Publication

KEY:

JA=Journal Articles

PB=Published Books

CB=Chapters in Books

EW=Edited Works

CP=Conference Proceedings

SP=Seminar Papers

WP=Workshop Papers

Results in the above table showed that male librarians had the highest publications of 303 (81.2%) while their female counterpart published only 70 (18.8%). This result is in agreement with that of Nwafor (1987) who reported that 14 male librarians produced 79 publications against 8 female librarians who produced 50 publications.

Research Question 6: What is the total publication of librarians by rank?

Table 6: Publications of Librarians by Rank

Rank	HP	NP	Total	JA	PB	CB	EW	CP	SP	WP	Total	%
UL	6	1	7	44	--	5	--	10	10	7	76	20.4%
DUL	5	--	5	41	--	--	--	18	3	---	62	16.6%
SL	14	---	14	57	--	---	3	13	8	---	81	21.7%
L I	18	---	18	34	--	--	--	3	7	1	46	12.3%
L II	16	1	17	28	1	2	6	3	2	---	41	11.1%
AL	26	10	36	25	--	--	2	2	2	1	33	8.8%
GL	17	9	26	28	1	1	1	--	3	2	34	9.1%
Total	102	21	123	257	2	7	12	49	35	11	373	100%

KEY:

UL=University Librarian

DUL=Deputy University Librarian

SL=Senior Librarian

L I=Librarian I

L II=Librarian II

AL=Assistant Librarian

GL=Graduate Librarian

Results in the table above showed that senior librarians had the highest number of publications, 81 (21.7%) followed by University librarians, 76 (20.4%) and Deputy University librarians 62 (16.6%). The least were Assistant librarians 33 (8.8%). This is expected as maturity and experience play a major role in research activities of academics. This finding is similar to that of Ocholla, Ocholla and Onyancha (2013) who maintained that in terms of contributions by rank of librarians, it was evident that the most productive librarians were those in the leadership positions, meaning that they also probably had a long history of library work.

Research Question 6: Where do librarians prefer to publish their researches?

Table 7: The Preferred Source for Publication by Librarians

S/No.	Source Preferred	Librarian	Percentage (%)
1.	Refereed Journal	69	56%
2.	Book Chapters	17	14%
3.	Authored Books	05	04%
4.	Conference Proceedings	32	26%
Total		123	100%

Results of the study indicated that majority of the respondents, (56%) preferred to publish in refereed journals. The least 5 (04%) preferred authored books. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Abiolu (2013) who concluded that scholarly journals still remained the prominent and certified means of sharing research findings and for ascertaining new ideas between and among academics.

Research Question 7: In which area of interests do librarians publish?

Table 8: The Most Published Area of Interest to Librarians.

S/No.	Area of Interest	No. of Librarians		No. of Publications	
		F	%	F	%
1.	Information and Communication Technology	31	25%	134	35%
2.	Information Resources Management	05	04%	12	3.2%
3.	Reference Services	10	08%	35	10%
4.	Cataloging	05	04%	13	3.4%
5.	Classification	04	03%	08	2.4%
6.	Library Automation	10	08%	45	12%
7.	Information Literacy	09	07%	29	08%
8.	Book Publishing	01	01%	04	01%
9.	Circulation Statistics	05	04%	10	2.6%
10.	Collection Development	01	01%	05	1.3%
11.	Theft and Mutilation	15	12%	18	4.8%
12.	Preservation of Library Materials	02	02%	07	1.8%
13.	Serials Management	04	03%	08	2.4%
14.	Library Security	02	02%	06	1.6%
15.	Library Building	05	04%	03	0.8%
16.	Natural Disasters	01	01%	08	2.4%
17.	Archival Sciences	02	02%	06	1.6%
18.	Library Administration	05	04%	10	2.6%
19.	Citation Analysis	02	02%	05	1.3%
20.	User Studies	04	03%	07	1.8%
Total		123	100%	373	100%

In the above table, twenty areas of interest were identified for the respondents. Of these areas, Information Technology was the highest. The least areas were library building and book publishing. This conform to the study by Edewor (2013), in which Information Technology ranked highest of all other areas of interest. This may possibly be because of the current trends in the use of ICT facilities in most academic libraries and or might be due to the lack of interest in other subject areas by the librarians in the study area.

Research Question 8: What major constraints do librarians faced in their researches?

Table 9: Major Constraints Faced by Librarians in Their Researches

S/No.	Constraints Faced	Librarians Responses			
		Yes	%	No	%
1.	Poor Orientation	41	33%	82	67%
2.	Work Load	89	72%	34	28%
3.	Lack of Academic Freedom	19	15%	104	85%
4.	Rating of Journal Titles	24	20%	99	80%
5.	Cost of getting materials published	53	43%	70	57%
6.	Lack of Training	26	21%	97	79%
7.	Lack of good Libraries	15	12%	108	88%
8.	Lack of Internet Access	57	46%	66	54%
9.	Lack of Encouragement from Employers	39	32%	84	68%
10.	Inability to Publish	31	25%	92	75%
11.	Institution Policies	11	9%	112	91%
12.	Absence of Mentors	34	28%	89	72%
13.	Lack of Access to Relevant Materials	34	28%	89	72%
14.	Lack of Interest	02	2%	121	98%

Results from the above table indicated that there were a number of constraints faced by the librarians in their publication activities. Major constraints as revealed by the study were: workload, followed by lack of internet access and cost of getting materials published. The least was lack of interest. This finding is in agreement with that of Okafor and Dike (2010) who reported lack of access to information resources and workload as the major constraints faced by academics in Universities in Southern Nigeria. This is not surprising because most of the libraries in these Universities are grossly under staffed hence the too much burden on the available library staff in addition to other administrative duties.

Two hypotheses were tested using Chi-Square(r) and ANOVA. The results were as follows:

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in Number of publications between male and female librarians.

The outcome of the test of significant difference in Number of publications between the male and female respondents is presented in table 10.1 below:

Table 10.1: Gender Difference in Number of Publications of Librarians

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	Chi-Square values		P-value	Decision
					Cal. Value	Table Value		
Male	83	3.65	18.04	121	62.17	18.31	0.00	Reject H ₀₁
Female	40	1.75	7.13					

Results showed that the calculated Chi-Square (r) value of (62.17) is greater than the table value (18.31) at the 0.05 level of significance. The observed level of significance P-value (0.00) is less than the 0.05 level of significance. This means that there is significant difference in Number of publications between male and female librarians. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in Number of publications among librarians of various ranks

The outcome of the analysis of variance showing significant difference in Number of publications among librarians of various ranks is presented in table 10.2 below:

Table 10.2: Differences in Ranks and Number of Publications of Librarians

Group	N	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F. Cal	P-value	F. Critical
Between Groups		767.15	7	109.59	67.76	0.00	2.25
Within Groups	123	590.33	115	1.62			
Total	123	1357.48	122				

Table 10.2 showed the f-ratio value of (67.76) at 122 Degree of freedom. The critical f- value (2.25) is less than the f-ratio value (67.76). The P-value (0.00) is less than the 0.05 level of significance. This means that there is a significant difference in Number of publications among librarians of various ranks. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusion

From the findings of this study, it has been established that promotion was the major reason for publishing among librarians in the study area. Total publication by the librarians was 373 different types of publications. Productivity-wise, majority had published at least one article within the study period. The study had also confirmed the opinions of these researchers that a number of librarians in the area of study do not publish. This seems to be the common reason across Nigerian University libraries. The outcome had also, established that male librarians published more than their female counterparts and those in leadership position published more than those in lower ranks. This had been the trend for many years in Nigeria and other parts of the world.

Recommendations

1. Librarians in the area should try to publish for prestige and visibility like their counterparts in the faculty.
2. Librarians in the area should avail themselves of the opportunity of publishing in other outlets like books, conference proceedings and the like as against limiting their publications in journal outlets only.
3. The librarians should also consider exploring other un- tapped areas such as library building, book publishing, archives etc in their future research and publications.

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