

Availability and Use of Non-Print Materials in Libraries: A Study of Selected University Libraries in South-South Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The study was carried out to investigate the utilization of non-print information resources and user's satisfaction in Federal University libraries in south-south Nigeria.

Design/Methodology/Approach: Descriptive survey research design was used for the study. Three objectives and three research questions were formulated to guide the study. Purposive sampling was used to select 2 universities and proportionate stratified random sampling was adopted to select 805 undergraduate library users. Instrument for data collection included well structured questionnaire and observation checklist. Eight hundred copies of questionnaires were distributed to the users of the universities selected with 70.8% return rate. The study used frequency count, percentage and mean score as statistical measures.

Findings: The result revealed that Out of fifteen non print information resources needed in federal university library in South –South Nigeria, aggregate of eight are available and are in use, five are available and not in use while two are not available. It was also revealed that Computer is the most adequate collection of non -print information resources (mean=3.40) in these universities' libraries.

Implication: Suggested solution to the availability and use of non-print materials in University libraries included Separate allocation of funds exclusively to acquire and maintain non-print materials must be provided to university libraries in the South-South Nigeria.

Originality/Value: It was recommended that there should be a well spelt out selection policy and criteria for acquisition of non print information resources in university libraries in the South-South Nigeria.

Introduction

The main purpose of the academic library is to provide collections and services in support of higher education. The functions of universities are conservation of knowledge and ideas, teaching, publication, research, extension service and interpretation and thus, university libraries are very essential to achieve the objectives of university education.

The impact of information science during the last decades directly causes the spread of non-print and fugitive materials and as a result, libraries world over have acquired large collections of such materials. There are several reasons for procuring non-print materials in university libraries.

Ogunsola (2004) admits that university libraries have long been recognized as the "heart" of their universities, university libraries are different from other types of libraries because of the peculiar

Such materials are acquired to support teaching and research and to supplement traditional printed "learning resources (Kumar & Padmini 2011)."

A university library is a part of a university set up, therefore, it exist to serve the objectives of its parent organization. According to Kumar (2006) university is supposed to perform the following functions, teaching, and research, and publication, conservation of knowledge and ideals extension services. According to Kumar (2006) a well administered university library directs its activities towards the fulfillment of the university objective.

academic needs of the clientele they serve. Its users include professors, other cadres of lecturers, undergraduate and post graduate students etc. the university library collections, organizations and

services are geared towards meeting the research and academic needs of members of its community. The university library as a center of study performs a support function i.e. to support learning teaching and research process in the university. The library can only play this pivotal role by stock building, acquiring, processing, organizing and making available the needed materials.

One of the objectives of establishing a university is to promote scholarship, research and learning in the various fields of learning. As stated in the National policy on education, one of the goals of university education is to acquire both physical and intellectual skills which will enable individuals to become self reliant and useful members of the society FME, (2004). Behind the mission and vision of the university education is the university library which is the academic library serving the university community the university libraries have long been recognized as the "heart" of their universities the primary purpose of university libraries according to Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009) is to support teaching, learning and research in ways consistent with and supportive of the institution's mission and goals, in addition, library resources and services should be sufficient in quality, depth, diversity and currency to support the institution curriculum, as a result of this, university libraries are often considered as the most important resources center of an institution.

Popoola and Haliso (2009) define information resources as those information bearing materials that are both printed, non-printed and electronic formats such as, textbooks, journals, index, abstracts newspapers and magazines, reports CD-ROMs, Data-bases, internet/E-mail, video tapes/cassette, diskettes, magnetic disk, computer, microform etc. These information materials are the raw materials that libraries acquire, catalogue, stock and make available to their patrons, as well as use to provide various other services.

Library resources comprises of both human and material components of the library. They are harnessed together to achieve the objectives of library establishment. Without resources the purpose of setting up a library cannot be achieved. The importance of resources in our educational institutions have been in the minds of great authors. According to Aguolu (1993) library resources in our educational system are responsible for what he called academic health, intellectual vitality and effectiveness of any tertiary education establishment. Dauda (1993) rightly observed that the inability of libraries to satisfy the urgent needs

of their patrons can better be imagined from rapidly rising burgeoning classes of citizenry burning with zeal to acquire further knowledge necessary for personal and national development process. The resources in the libraries can be grouped according to formats. The main formats include; printed and non-printed and electronic materials. For the purpose of this research study, the researcher shall emphasize on non-print materials as well as some other additional resources other than books, journals or any text based printed material.

Non-print materials or media are often referred to as audio-visual resources. They are library materials of advanced technology, some of which require special equipment to operate. Some of them are listened to, some are viewed while others can be both listened to and viewed. According to Anazaku (2011) the term audio-visual material is commonly used to refer to those instructional materials that may be used to convey meaning without complete dependence upon verbal symbols or language. According to library glossary online (2010) defined non-print or audiovisual materials, as items in formats other images or words printed on papers. Multimedia and computer based information have contributed to great explosion of audiovisual materials in libraries. Almost every library user or visitor is a potential user of audiovisual and multimedia materials as well as of print. Omekwu (2002).

Non-print materials are rapidly becoming important information and learning resource materials for the health of academic library. These are library materials produced in digital formats, such as, e-journals, e-books, reference work published online and CD-ROM, bibliographic databases, and other web based resources Okoro (2008).

Today's library operates in a dynamic ICT environment; the term ICT simply stands for, information and communication technology. Mailer (2005) observed that the whole range of technologies, which are involved in information processing and electronic communication are referred to as information and communication technology (ICT). It includes the radio, television, videos, computers, e-mail, Internet etc. Nkanu (2006) identifies computers, photocopies, CD-ROMs, Database, printers, videotapes and audiotapes as some examples of ICT.

Non-print media have come to dominate administration, storage and communication in business and commerce and play a large part in

sales and marketing. Over the next few years they will provide the major mechanism for recording events and archiving the activities of society. The importance of studying these media in their own right assumes a greater significance as they become ever more essential to the infrastructure of the society.

Keeping in view the above, the present topic has been chosen with an aim to study the role of non-print materials in academic libraries especially in university libraries. As many studies have been conducted relating to print media, the researcher felt that this is the right time to examine the importance of non-print materials in university libraries as the society is passing through a transitional stage from traditional information environment to electronic environment.

Information resources utilization in this work refers to the various means used for disseminating information to help library users to build an inquiry mind, utilization of the library information resources becomes indispensable. The use of library information resources stimulates interest, excitement and instills confidence in the user to develop his talents, potentials and capabilities both academically and socially. Self and social adjustment is essentially same of the effects of information resources produce on the user at the university level information resources utilization is very important as the students try to make discovery on their own. Utilization of information resources by students generally enhances the frontier of knowledge while at the same time building a virile socio-economic base for information resources to be effectively used by the students, they have to be accessible. The more accessible sources are the more likely they are to be used Ugah (2007).

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify non-print information resources available for use in the Federal University libraries in south-south Nigeria.
2. Identify purpose of using non-print information resources in the Federal University libraries in south-south Nigeria
3. Determine the extent of utilization of non-print information resources in the federal university libraries.

Research Questions

To achieve the purpose of this study, answer will be sought for the following research questions:

1. What types of non-print information resources are available in the Federal University libraries in south south Nigeria?

2. What is purpose of using non-print information resources in Federal University libraries in south-south Nigeria?
3. What is the extent of utilization of non-print information resources in federal university libraries?

METHODOLOGY

Design of the Study

The study adopted the descriptive survey design. The study which involves The Availability and Use of Non-print Information Resources and Users Satisfaction in South-South Federal University Libraries lend itself to descriptive survey because it involved collecting of data for the purpose of describing and interpreting existing conditions on practice in the Federal University Libraries that involved large population.

Area of the Study

The area of the study is South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The universities in South- South region are in Nigeria's oil rich delta region whose contributions to strategic human capital development cannot be overemphasized. The researcher carried this study in this area in the position that the institutions in this area are well equipped with information communication technologies and the students are ICTs compliant.

Population of the Study

The federal universities under study are namely: university of Port- Harcourt, Rivers state, university of Uyo, Akwa –Ibom state, university of Calabar, Cross-River state, federal university of Petroleum Resources Effurun Warri, Delta, university of Otuoke, Bayelsa, and university of Benin Edo state.

The total population of the study comprises of 22,128 registered undergraduate library users in the six federal universities in the South- South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The information gathered by the researcher from the circulation librarian's office of the respective Universities, University of Calabar, Cross- River state has 4,027, registered library users, University of Port-Harcourt, River state has 3,257 registered library users and University of Uyo, Akwa –Ibom state has 4,136 registered undergraduate library users. Federal university of Petroleum Resources Effurun Warri, Delta has 3331 registered undergraduate users, federal university of Otuoke, Bayelsa has 2541 registered undergraduate users, and federal university of Benin, Edo has 4836 registered library users.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size comprises of 2,283 registered undergraduate library users. Due to the large population of the study, the researcher

decided to use purposive sampling to select three universities for the study. Three universities were chosen from the six federal universities because it is 50% of the total number of the universities. The three federal universities are; university of Calabar, Cross-River state with population of 4,027, university of Port-Harcourt, River state with population of 4,136 and university of Uyo, Akwa-Ibom state with population of 3,257 bringing the total number to 11,420. The researcher used proportionate stratified random sampling to select registered undergraduate users from all levels of study in the three universities. These students are grouped according to the three federal universities and sample taken based on the number of each population. This sampling technique was used to ensure greater representativeness of the sample relative to the population and guarantees that minority constituents of the population are represented in the sample.

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument uses for data collection are questionnaire and observational checklist. The researcher developed a structured questionnaire titled Utilization of Non- print Information Resources and Users Satisfaction Questionnaire (UNIRUSQ)and also used interview for this study. The instruments were used to obtain valid and

reliable data from the students for the study. The questionnaire is structured based on research questions using 4 point rating scale. The questionnaire has four sections. Section A deals with personal information. It contains six items. Section B deals with adequacy collection of non-print information resources in the federal university library. It has fifteen items. Section C contains question on the extent of utilization of non-print information resources in the federal university library. It contains fifteen items. Section D contains questions on the purpose of the use of non-print information resources. It has eleven items. There are a total of forty seven items on the whole. The respondents carefully read the instructions provided and ticked the appropriate option as applicable.

RESULTS

This chapter contains the presentation of results of the analysis of data obtained, which is done in accordance with the research questions that guided the research exercise. The chapter also presents the major findings of the study.

Research Question 1: What types of non print information resources are available in the federal university Libraries?

To provide answers to the above question, the relevant data are presented in table 1 and 2 .

Table 1: Observation Checklist of availability of non print information resources in Federal universities in south-South Nigeria.

SN	Resources	Institution									Total (%)			R
		UNIPOINT			UNIUYO			UNICAL			AU	ANU	NA	
		AU	ANU	NA	AU	ANU	NA	AU	ANU	NA				
1	Radio		√			√				√	0(0%)	2(66.7)	1(33.3)	ANU
2	Tape and cassettes			√			√			√	0(0%)	0(0%)	3(100%)	NA
3	Maps	√			√			√			3(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	AU
4	Transparencie s			√	√			√			2(66.7)	0(0%)	1(33.3)	AU
5	Filmstrip			√			√			√	0(0%)	0(0%)	3(100%)	NA
6	Television		√			√			√		0(0%)	3(100%)	0(0%)	ANU
7	Multimedia projector		√			√			√		0(0%)	3(100%)	0(0%)	ANU
8	Slides		√			√			√		0(0%)	3(100%)	0(0%)	ANU
9	Computers	√			√			√			3(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	AU
10	OPAC		√			√				√	0(0%)	2(66.7)	1(33.3)	ANU
11	Internet	√			√			√			3(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	AU
12	Local area network	√			√			√			3(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	AU
13	Electronic data bases	√			√			√			3(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	AU
14	E-books	√			√			√			3(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	AU
15	E-journals	√			√			√			3(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	AU

Total%	7(46.7%)	5(33.3%)	3(20%)	8(53.3%)	5(33.3%)	2(13.3%)	8(53.3%)	3(20%)	4(26.7%)				
R	AU			AU			AU						

5(33.3%) were available and not in use, while 3(20%) were not available.

The result presented in table 1 showed that out of fifteen non print information resources needed in federal university library in south –south Nigeria, aggregate of eight are available and in used and available , five are available and not in use while two are not available.

In UNIUYO, 8(53.3%) are available and in use, 5(33.3%) were available and not in use, while 2(13.3%) were not available In UNICAL, 8(53.3%) are available and in use, 3(20%) are available and not in use, while 4(26.7%) were not available.

Also, the researcher also observed that at UNIPORT, 7(46.7%) are available and in use,

Table 2: Mean ratings of respondents on how adequate is collection of non print information resources in their university library

S/N	Name of Institution	Name of Institution						Overall		R	D
		UNIPORT		UNIUYO		UNICAL		Mean	SD		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD				
1	Computers	3.22	.84	3.47	.80	3.46	.77	3.40	.81	1 st	FA
2	Local area network	3.24	.91	3.09	.80	3.16	.82	3.16	.84	2 nd	FA
3	Internet	3.14	.89	2.78	.98	2.93	.95	2.94	.96	3 rd	FA
4	Electronic data bases	2.92	1.07	2.89	.97	3.00	.96	2.94	1.00	4 th	FA
5	E-books	2.83	1.12	2.75	1.04	2.87	1.05	2.82	1.07	5 th	FA
6	Maps	2.70	.95	2.51	.90	2.59	.94	2.59	.93	6 th	FA
7	E-journals	2.69	1.09	2.46	1.02	2.61	1.06	2.58	1.06	7 th	FA
8	Transparencies	2.25	.82	2.42	.81	2.41	.77	2.37	.80	8 th	A
9	Television	2.52	1.13	2.24	1.01	2.33	1.06	2.35	1.07	9 th	A
10	Multimedia projector	1.99	.75	2.51	1.12	2.44	1.09	2.33	1.04	10 th	A
11	Radio	2.56	.81	2.09	.98	2.28	.96	2.29	.95	11 th	A
12	Filmstrip Slides	2.06	.99	2.37	.93	2.33	.96	2.27	.97	12 th	A
13	Filmstrip	2.04	.90	2.08	.81	2.17	.89	2.10	.87	13 th	A
14	OPAC	2.23	1.03	1.95	1.03	2.04	1.07	2.06	1.05	14 th	A
15	Tape and cassettes	1.35	.75	1.40	.78	1.23	.79	1.32	.79	15 th	IN

Table 2above shows the mean rating of the respondents on how adequate is collection of non print information resources in their university library in federal universities libraries in south-south, Nigeria. The overall mean results reveals that computers is the most adequate collection of non print information resources (mean=3.40) in these universities libraries. Also, items 1-7 were fairly adequate while items 8-14 were adequate collection of non- print information resources in

these libraries. However, tape and cassettes were observed as been inadequate in these libraries. Observation from the table indicates that for the fairly adequate items, UNIPORT was ranked highest in local area network, internet, maps and e journals with mean 3.24, 3.14, 2.70 and 2.69 respectively. UNICAL was ranked highest in electronic data bases (3.00) and e-books (2.82) while UNIUYO was highest in computers (3.47).

Research Question 2: What is the purpose of student’s use of non print information resources?

To provide answers to the above question, the relevant data are presented in table 3.

Table 3: Mean ratings of respondents on student’s purpose of use of non-print information resources

S/N		Name of Institution						Overall		R	
		UNIPOINT		UNIUYO		UNICAL		Mean	SD		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD				
1	For getting news alerts	3.55	.35	3.69	.74	3.68	.55	3.64	.73	1 st	SA
2	To facilitate research	3.54	.72	3.63	.69	3.62	.67	3.60	.69	2 nd	SA
3	To improve student's learning	3.71	.45	3.47	.50	3.56	.50	3.57	.50	3 rd	SA
4	To extend the scope of reading resources	3.47	.64	3.57	.65	3.59	.63	3.55	.64	4 th	SA
5	To search data bases of scholarly information	3.31	.62	3.47	.65	3.45	.63	3.42	.64	5 th	A
6	To access e-journal and e-books	3.51	.64	3.33	.63	3.41	.63	3.41	.63	6 th	A
7	For current awareness and update knowledge	3.48	.64	3.32	.57	3.39	.59	3.39	.60	7 th	A
8	To teach information literacy (i.e evaluate the online materials themselves)	3.46	.64	3.31	.63	3.39	.62	3.38	.63	8 th	A
9	To send and receive e-mail	3.35	.93	3.20	.87	3.27	.86	3.27	.89	9 th	A
10	To browse for information to write assignments	3.42	.69	3.04	.91	3.19	.86	3.20	.85	10 th	A
11	To register course and enroll for exams	3.42	.69	3.00	.85	3.20	.83	3.19	.82	11 th	A

Table 3 above shows the mean rating of the respondents on student’s purpose for using non print information resources in the federal universities libraries in south-south, Nigeria. The overall mean results (3.64) reveal that the main purpose was for getting news alerts while registration of courses and enrollment for exams (3.19) was the least purpose of use of non print information. Items 1-4 were strongly agreed to be the main purpose of use of non print information resources. Nevertheless, items 5-11 were only agreed to serve as the purpose in these libraries.

Observation from the table indicates that to improve student's learning (mean 3.71) is ranked highest in UNIPOINT; For getting news alerts (mean = 3.69 AND 3.68) is ranked highest in UNIUYO and UNICAL respectively.

Research Question 3: What is the extent of utilization of non print resources in your University?

To provide answers to the above question, the relevant data are presented in table 4

Table 4: Mean ratings of respondents on the extent of utilization of non print resources in their university

S/N		Name of Institution						Overall		R	
		UNIPOINT		UNIUYO		UNICAL		Mean	SD		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD				
1	Computers	3.30	.68	3.38	.80	3.42	.74	3.37	.75	1 st	GE
2	Internet	3.52	.68	3.12	.90	3.30	.84	3.30	.83	2 nd	GE
3	E-books	3.21	.88	3.05	.83	3.19	.81	3.15	.84	3 rd	GE
4	Local area network	3.36	.72	2.92	.89	3.06	.85	3.10	.85	4 th	GE
5	Electronic data bases	3.09	1.03	2.93	.95	3.09	.92	3.04	.97	5 th	GE

6	E-journals	3.08	.97	2.97	.87	3.07	.89	3.04	.91	6 th	GE
7	Maps	2.82	.92	2.87	.80	2.88	.86	2.86	.86	7 th	GE
8	Television	2.88	1.07	2.17	1.16	2.40	1.18	2.46	1.18	8 th	LE
9	Radio	2.28	.88	2.46	.83	2.40	.85	2.39	.86	9 th	LE
10	OPAC	2.50	.97	2.21	1.13	2.29	1.10	2.32	1.08	10 th	LE
11	Multimedia projector	2.26	.91	2.22	.79	2.31	.88	2.26	.86	11 th	LE
12	Transparencies	2.07	.80	2.36	.78	2.30	.81	2.25	.81	12 th	LE
13	Slides	2.22	.83	2.19	.70	2.28	.78	2.23	.77	13 th	LE
14	Tape and cassettes	2.10	.97	2.01	.84	2.05	.89	2.05	.90	14 th	LE
15	Filmstrip	2.00	1.03	1.74	.96	1.86	.99	1.86	1.00	15 th	LE

Table 2 above shows the mean rating of the respondents on the extent of utilization of available information resources in the federal universities libraries in south-south, Nigeria. . The overall mean results reveal that computers as an information resources is mostly utilized (mean=3.37) while filmstrip (1.86) is the least utilized by the respondents. Also, items 1-7 were greatly utilized in these School libraries. Nevertheless, items 8-15 were rarely utilized. Observation from the table indicates that UNIPORT ranked highest in internet (3.52), while UNICAL ranked highest in computer (3.42).

To provide answers to the above question, the relevant data are presented in table 5.

Discussion

This discussion is done in line with the purposes and research questions in chapter one covering the following: Types of non-print information resource available in federal University, extent of utilization of non-print information resource in federal University.

Types of non-print information resource available in federal University

The findings of this showed that non print information resources in Federal Universities in South-South Nigeria include: Radio, Maps, Transparencies, Television, Multimedia projector, slides, Computers, OPAC., Internet, Local area network, data bases, E-books and E-journals ,but interesting things in our observation is that some of these resources were there but not being utilized. Nwezeh and Shabi, (2011) also resources like books, journals, news-papers, government publications, newspapers, government publications, indexes and abstracts as common information materials provided and utilized by academic libraries. Thus, library management should not only provide these resources, but also sought for awareness strategies to increase its utilization.

Extent of utilization of non-print information resource in federal University

Using the criterion mean, the results reveal that Computers, Internet, E-books, Local area network, Electronic data bases, OPAC E-journals and Maps were greatly utilized, while Television, Radio, Multimedia projector, Transparencies, Slides, Tape cassettes and CD-ROMS are not being used . Febede (2007) further buttress that the utilization of e-resources may be affected by the characteristic surrounding the user and information characteristics and overall information environment Filmstrip low utilized in federal university in South-South. More so, the research observed variation in the extent of utilization in samples federal universities. For instant while Computer is mostly used in university of Port Harcourt, internet resources dominates in both university and Calabar and university of Uyo . This is in obvious agreement with Febede (2007 states that utilization of e-resources may be affected by the characteristic surrounding the user and information characteristics and overall information environment

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following measures are suggested for availability and utilization of non-print materials in university libraries.

☐☐ Separate allocation of funds exclusively to acquire and maintain non-print materials must be provided to university libraries.

☐☐ A selection committee for selection of non-print materials in university libraries must be appointed consisting of chief librarian, representatives from Arts and Sciences faculties, research scholars and students and library staff.

☐☐ Proper care and interest must be taken by the university library authorities to build up the ☐non-print material collection to meet the changing

information requirement of their users to satisfy

their demands relating to teaching and research.

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