

## LIBRARY SKILLS AND VALUE ORIENTATION; IMPLICATIONS FOR CKUKWUEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU MEDICAL STUDENTS.

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### Abstract

**Purpose:** The study focuses on value orientation; which demands the inculcation of the right principles in the acquisition of library skills by students for academic excellence in order to maintain values in the education of medical students. The purpose of this study is to examine library skills and value orientation and the implication for Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu medical students. The study was guided by four specific research objectives and research questions.

**Design/Methodology/Approach:** A descriptive survey research design was used to elicit responses from the entire population of 276 medical students of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, Awka Campus. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire, the data was analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean scores and frequencies).

**Findings:** The findings of the study revealed that the library skills required by medical students is the ability to carry out their task confidently, identify, search and located the needed educational resources relevant to their studies; it also shows that the value orientation needed by medical students is library user education; the effect is improvement of students' internet ability search and review of relevant literatures in their field.

**Implication:** the enhancement of the knowledge of medical students to apply best treatment on patients through easy access to information.

**Originality/ Value:** The study recommended regular library orientation for the enhancement of library skills and user education for all levels of medical students and that lecturers should give students more assignments that will motivate them to use the resources of the library.

**Keywords:** Library, Library skills and Value Orientation

## INTRUDUCTION

Medical libraries are information resource centers established to support teaching and learning in college of medicine and to provide medical information material that would assist medical lecturers and medical students in their valued academic activities and pursuit (Eke, Opara, Njoku & Okoye, 2018)

Library skills and value orientation are two vital aspects of educational pursuit requirements that would aid the medical students to be able to achieve their invaluable professional educational pursuit for medical students to effectively access the available resources provided by the library, they must build some library skills through training and

orientation in order to be able to find and use information effectively for ones studies and research; which involves identifying, utilizing, managing and communicating information. (Anyaoku., Ezeani; & Osuigwe, 2015).

When students are trained to have the right library skills and place value on the orientation given to them, part of the outcome as revealed by researchers would be that students can become self-directed independent learners who are prepared for life-long learning. Moreover, students will be trained to access information, search, select and retrieve their required information in the area of their discipline (Suliman, 2012; Eke, Opara, Njoku & Okoye, 2018)

Value orientation is the guiding principles that determine the actions of the medical students as it relates to their profession and academic pursuit. It is the worth of providing the right information resources that would aid them discharge their medical duties rightly without allowing the eroding of the application of right values to affect them. Value orientation is vital because according to Madukoma (2013) and as seen by other researchers it is the principle of right and wrong that are inculcated into the medical students through the consultations and use of the right medical resources in the library, which would automatically led to excellent performance in the discharge of their medical academic pursuit and medical practice on graduation, because the avenue through which the library provide services to users is via library orientation which sometimes is not well internalized by the new students. (Kwabena, Akwasi & Vida, 2021)

### **Statement of the problem**

Acquisition of the right library skills and value orientation is vital to the academic pursuit of students; particularly the medical students. It has been observed with dismay the problem students face in trying to identify, locate and retrieve the right information resources, needed in the medical field for their studies and research; in spite, of the fact that medical library staff make efforts to educate students on how to use its resources and services.

There is therefore, the need for inculcation of the right values into the medical students for the building of the vital library skills that will enhance their academic performance and the building of a better society, where medical students will graduate with the right valued skill to protect the Hippocratic oath taken on graduation. It is against this background that the study seeks to examine library skills and value orientation; implication for

Chukwuemreka Odumegwu Ojukwu University medical students.

### **Objectives of the study**

The general objective of the study was to examine the library skills and value orientation; implications for Chukwuemreka Odumegwu Ojukwu University medical students; specifically, the study sought to:

1. Identify the library skills required by medical students.
2. Ascertain the value orientation needed by medical students for enhancement of library skill.
3. Find out the effect of library skills on the research outcome of medical students.
4. Find out the implications of enhanced library skills and value orientation to medical students' performance.

### **Research questions**

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the library skills required by medical students?
2. What are the value orientation needed by medical students for the enhancement of library skills?
3. What are the effects of library skills on the research outcome of medical students?
4. What are the implications of enhanced library skills to medical students performance?

### **Literature Review**

#### **Library Skills**

Library skill is proficiency information literacy and the ability to navigate through the resources of the library to retrieve required materials and information for studies and research. There are skills

required to delve into the library research process in all fields of endeavor like in the medical field. (UCL, 2024).

Library skills involve a student researcher or a user knowing how to search for information, evaluate the information to ascertain its usefulness for the required task. It also requires the ability to define the areas of information needs, identify, reference and communicate the retrieved information. There is vital need for students to develop library skills; they develop it by first leaning to unlock the library resources through the use of both the traditional catalogue and the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The next step is to know how to use the variety of databases available in the users' area of information needs. For instances medical students should be conversant with the medical databases in the medical line (Shoa & Purpur, 2016).

### **Value Orientation**

Orientation as indicated by Jang-Fatal (2013) is the introduction of individuals to the principles, policies of an institution and the right roles expected by the individual in the organization. It is a guiding principle of a profession that members are to align and adjust to in the surroundings. In this case medical students receive the guide to understand, assimilate and practice the content of their profession without adulteration. The goals of value orientation is to make students realize and internalize the right reasons for engaging in various academic programme, so they can follow the expected principles to become real professionals in the health and medical sector (MSU,2024). To acquire library skills would require library orientation to familiarize medical students and other students of the history of the medical library, current undertakings and future plan for users. (Jang-Fatal, 2023).

### **Implications of Value orientation**

The implication of value orientation is that it would help library staff to devise different ways to engage medical students. There is need to think of creative ways to engage students through value orientation; this includes: showcasing library resources, introducing students to library services, library's own orientation workshops and demonstrations of relevant databases covering thought provoking topics that may get them thinking about how useful the library can be for the students. It also involves engaging students to locate desired library materials, access information resources, encourage students to send copies of their research assignment for information/material aids and to keep medical students up-to-date on new resources, formats and library collections in medical discipline. (Jang-Fatal, 2013).

Further implication is that as revealed students are made to know the core values, policies, procedures and other relevant information they need. It would guide and shape the students ability to understand the mission, values of the institution (Library, College) and their place in the college and expectations, all these would help them integrate smoothly into the objectives, principles and culture of the library and the college (Jong-Fatal 2023).

### **Methodology**

The study adopted a descriptive survey design to examine library skill and value orientation; implications for Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University medical students. A total population of 276 medical students of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University was used for the study. The categories of students used were in 300 level to 600 level so they can answer the questions based on their real experience. The

instrument for data collection were 276 copies of questionnaire; with 30 item questions to elicit response from the population. The data collected for this study

were analyzed using frequency tables and mean scores; with the adoption of a criterion mean point of 2.50.

**Results and Discussion**

**Research Question 1.** What are the library skills required by medical students.

**Table 1: Mean Scores on Library Skills Required by Medical Students**

RANKING	ITEM STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	X	DECISION
1.	Developing research skills through the writing of medical term papers and research work.	170	106	0	0	3.62	Agreed
2.	Identification and location of educational resources relevant to their studies.	165	111	0	0	3.59	Agreed
3.	Ability to confidently generate valued Knowledge in the medical field.	155	121	0	0	3.56	Agreed
4.	Information on specialized medical research tools/ collections	150	126	0	0	3.54	Agreed
5.	Literature and internet search with confidence without phobia.	140	136	0	0	3.51	Agreed
6.	Quick information searching skills and Access to online medical resources.	129	147	0	0	3,47	Agreed
7.	Relevant information skills	120	154	0	0	3.41	Agreed
8.	Individual research consultation.	0	55	221	0	2.19	Agreed
	<b>CLUSTER MEAN</b>					<b>3.63</b>	Agreed

*Source: Field Data, 2024*

Table 1, presents data from responses by medical students on the library skills required by medical students. The results show that developing research skills through the writing of medical term papers and research work was the highest item with a mean score of (3.62) which is an indication that the respondents strongly agree to the item. This is closely followed by identification and location of educational resources relevant to their studies with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest ranking. Ability to confidently generate valued knowledge in the medical field ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a mean score of (3.56). Ability to identify information on specialized

medical research tool/collection ranked 4<sup>th</sup>, with a mean score of (3.54). All the items were accepted because they

were above the mean criterion mean point of (2.50), except item 8 on individual research consultation which ranked 8<sup>th</sup>, with a mean score of (2.19) which indicates that the respondents disagree with the item as a library skill required by medical students. This finding agrees with (Shoa & Purpur, 2016), that highlighted that students should have the ability to define their areas of information needs, identify references and communicate the retrieved information.

**Research Question 2** What are the value orientation needed by medical students for the enhancement of library skills

**Table 2: Mean Scores on the value orientation needed by medical students for the enhancement of library skills**

RANKING	ITEM STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	X	DECISION
1.	User education, public relation and internet literature sear	181	95	0	0	3.66	Agreed
2.	Resolve to search and use only the right medical information materials that will add value to medical profession	177	99	0	0	3.64	Agreed
3.	Determination to protect the guiding principles of medical profession.	157	119	0	0	3.57	Agreed
4.	Keeping the Hippocratic oath of the medical profession by using the right resources in the library that will help the student pass well without examination misconduct.	97	179	0	0	3.35	Agreed
5.	Regular library orientation for all levels of medical students for the enhancement of library skills.	86	190	0	0	3.32	Agreed
6.	Valued service to the society and positive advancement of the frontiers of medical knowledge.	76	200	0	0	3.28	Agreed
7.	Skills for the retrieval and selection of the required information in all areas of the medical field.	56	220	0	0	3.20	Agreed
	CLUSTER MEAN					3.43	Agreed

*Source: Field Data, 2024*

Table 2, shows that the respondents agreed with all the item statements as the valued orientation needed by medical students for the enhancement of library skills with cluster mean of (3.43). The order of the highest ranking of the item statements to the lowest are as follow: user education, public relation, and internet literature search (3.66); resolve to search and use only the right medical information materials that will add value to medical profession (3.64); determination to protect the guiding principles of medical

profession (3.57); keeping the Hippocratic oath of the medical profession by using the right resources in the library that will help the students pass well without examination misconduct (3.35); regular library orientation for all levels of medical students for the enhancement of library skills (3.32); valued service to the society and positive advancement of the frontiers of medical knowledge (3.28) and skills for the retrieval and selection of the required information in all areas of the medical field (3.20).

This finding is in agreement with the assertion of Bamidele (2015) that orientation provides students with good academic information regarding academic programmes, policies and regulations that enhance students’ learning. The finding also agree with the goal of value orientation as stated by (MSV,2024) which is to make

students realize and internalize the right reasons for engaging in various academic programmes.

**Research Question 3.** What are the effects of library skills on the research outcome of medical students

**Table 3: Mean Scores on the effects of library skills on the research outcome of medical students**

RANKING	Item Statement	SA	A	D	SD	X	DECISION
1.	Enhances individual research consultation.	200	76	0	0	3.73	Agreed
2.	Students would be trained in retrieval and selection of the required information in all areas of the medical field.	192	84	0	0	3.70	Agreed
3.	Improves medical student ability to identify and locate educational resources relevant to their studies.	190	86	0	0	3.69	Agreed
4.	Enhanced utilization of information on specialized medical research tools/ collections	152	124	0	0	3.55	Agreed
5.	Improved valued service to the society and positive advancement of the frontiers of medical knowledge.	149	127	0	0	3.54	Agreed
6.	Students would be trained in retrieval and selection of the required information in all areas of the medical field.	136	140	0	0	3.49	Agreed
7.	Ability to confidently generate valued knowledge in the medical field.	102	174	0	0	3.37	Agreed
8.	Developing high standard research skills through the writing of medical term papers and research work.	93	183	0	0	3.34	Agreed
9.	Literature and internet search with confidence without phobia.	70	206	0	0	3.25	Agreed
10.	Improves information searching skills and access to online medical resources.	57	217	0	0	3.21	Agreed
	CLUSTER MEAN					3.49	Agreed

*Source: Field Data, 2024*

Table 3, shows the responses on 10 item statements on the effects of library skills on the research outcome of medical students. The table shows a total agreement among the respondents on the effects of library skills on

the research outcome of medical students with a cluster mean of (3.49)., which is above the criterion mean point of (2.50)., hence, the agreement on the effects of library skills on the research outcome of medical students

include: enhanced individual research consultation, students would be trained on retrieval and selection of the required information in all areas of the medical field and enhanced utilization of information on specialized medical research tools/collections. All these findings are in line with Anyaoku et.al (2015) that library skills will aid students to find and use

information effectively and they will be able to identify, utilize, manage and communicate information.

**Research Question 4.** What are the implications of enhanced library skills to medical students performance

**Table 4 Mean Scores on the implications of enhanced library skills to medical students performance**

RANKING	ITEM STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	X	DECISION
1.	Enhanced knowledge to apply best treatment to patients on graduation.	180	96	0	0	3.65	Agreed
2.	Enhanced academic performance.	177	99	0	0	3.64	Agreed
3.	Students can confidently identify, locate and access the relevant medical library databases.	160	117	0	0	3.58	Agreed
4.	Keeps medical students up-to-date on new resources and library collections in medical discipline.	146	130	0	0	3.53	Agreed
5.	Effective utilization of the showcased library resources.	121	155	0	0	3.44	Agreed
	CLUSTER MEAN					3.57	Agreed

*Source: Field Data, 2024*

Table 4 shows that majority of the respondents are in agreement with all the 5 item statements as the implications of enhanced library skills to medical students' performance. The agreement from the highest ranking to the last ranking indicates that the implications of enhanced library skills to students performance include: enhanced knowledge to apply the best treatment to patients on graduation (3.65);

enhanced academic performance (3.64); students can confidently identify, locate and access the relevant medical library databases (3.58); keeping medical students up-to-date on new resources and library collections in medical discipline (3.53) and effective utilization of the showcased library resources (3.53). The result revealed a cluster mean score of (3.57) which is an indication that all the item statements are the implications of

enhanced library skills to medical students. This finding is in consonance with Jang-Fatal (2013) that the inculcation of the right skills will keep students up-to-date on library collections, engage students to locate desired library materials and access information resources relevant to their field.

## Conclusion

Orientation is of great essence in every academic institution for the students to align with the principles guiding the academic programme they belong to; part of the ways of achieving this, is to make students realize the need to acquire the right library skills for enhanced academic performance. This explains why the study delved into library skills and value orientation; implications for Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Medical students. The study found out that some of the library skills required by medical students include; developing research skills through the writing of medical term paper, the findings also revealed that the highest ranked value orientation needed by medical students for the enhancement of library skills is user education, public relation and internet literature search. While the effects of library skills on the research outcome of medical students is to improve students' internet ability search, review of relevant literatures in their field of study and enhanced individual research; and the implication is the enhancement of their knowledge to apply

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best treatment on patients through easy access to information. The study recommended regular library orientation for the enhancement of library skills and user education for all levels of medical students and that lecturers should give students more assignments that will motivate them to use the resources of the library. The study has contributed to the body of knowledge because it covered the library skills and value orientation for medical students and has provided new literature in the area of medical students library skills and value orientation

## Recommendations

From the findings the study recommended the following:

1. Management of the university should formulate policies that would allow the inclusion of user education as a mandatory course for all levels of students.
2. Library staff should encourage students to develop required skills that can easily aid them to retrieve the right information resources for their studies
3. Librarians should liaise with faculties and departments to organize yearly orientation for students in the library.
4. Lecturers should give students more assignments that will motivate them to use the resources of the library regularly.

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