



Resource Sharing Practices and Management of Collections in Public University Libraries in South-East Nigeria

Abstract

This study investigated the correlation between resource sharing practices and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. A correlation research design approach was adopted for this study. The study population was 551 library staff made up of 10 university librarians and 541 professional and nonprofessional library staff from the ten public university libraries studied. The Bill-Godden statistical formula was used to derive the sample size of the study. Validated questionnaire and interview schedule were the instruments used for data collection. Data were analyzed using mean values and average mean to determine the mean variance. Chi-square statistics was used to test the five hypotheses used in the study on a significance level of 0.05. The results show that interlibrary loans constitute a strong variable in resource sharing practices and management of collections and that there is a strong correlation between consortia and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East Nigeria. The study recommended an urgent need to embrace active resource sharing practices among the studied university libraries as it would enable them to meet the information needs of the teeming library users especially against the current trend of dwindling financial resources and information glut.

Key words: resource sharing, collection management, interlibrary loan, consortium, interconnectivity

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1.1 Introduction

No single library can boast of being self-sufficient in terms of providing the information resources that will meet the information needs of its clientele satisfactorily. This makes a good case for resource sharing among libraries. Resource sharing entails all arrangements entered into by willing cooperating libraries to share their information resources together in order to serve their patrons better (Chisita&Fombad, 2019). The main purpose of resource sharing is to increase the use of library resources through making it

easily available to library users for the satisfaction of their information needs (Cuhader, Cimen & Turan, 2019).

Resource sharing saves cost and time to both librarians and library users. The libraries that are involved in resource sharing are saved the expenses of repurchasing materials that are already available in other libraries. Resource sharing enables libraries to cast away the evil silo mentality by enabling cooperating libraries to share the resources of one another (Chisita and Fombad, 2019). The proliferation of information resources in different formats,

coupled with the ever insufficient library budget; high cost of information resources and the dynamic information needs of library users is forcing university libraries to re-strategize their efforts in order to remain relevant to their parent institutions as organs that are assigned with the primary responsibilities of promoting research and learning (Jyoti, 2017). Hence the needs for resource sharing in order to serve the information needs of the library users. Sequel to the observations outlined above, it is imperative to carry out a study on resource sharing practices and management of collections in university libraries as none has been done among academic libraries in the South-East, Nigeria.

1.2 Statement of the problem

No library can be expected to hold in its collections all the resources that will meet the information needs of its users. As a result, libraries augment their local collections with the resources of other partnering libraries through resource sharing that allows them to offer their clientele access to broader universe of materials. A preliminary review of literature shows that many university libraries all over the world have resorted to resource sharing as a means to serve their user community satisfactorily and faithfully (Beryl, 2013). The resources sharing practices and management of collections in university libraries visited by the researcher during preliminary investigations leave much to be desired as most university libraries visited lacked the wherewithal or basic prerequisites to embark on resource sharing. Hence this research topic: Resource sharing practices and management of collections in university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the resource sharing practices and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. Other specific objectives of the study are to investigate:

- i. the relationship between interlibrary loan and the management of collections in

- public university libraries in South East, Nigeria;
- ii. the relationship between document delivery service and the management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria;
- iii. the relationship between cooperative acquisition/union catalogue and the management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria;
- iv. the relationship between participation in consortia and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria; and,
- v. the relationship between online resource sharing/interconnectivity and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

1.4 Research Questions

The following are the research questions put forward by the researcher to guide this study:

- i. What is the relationship between interlibrary loan and the management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?
- ii. What is the relationship between document delivery service (DDS) and the management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?
- iii. What is the relationship between cooperative acquisition/union catalogue and the management of collection in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?
- iv. What relationship exists between participation in consortia and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?
- v. What relationship exists between online resource sharing/interconnectivity and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

1.5 Hypotheses

The following five null hypotheses were tested in this study.

- Ho1. There is no significant relationship between interlibrary loan and the management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.
- Ho2. There is no significant relationship between document delivery service and the management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.
- Ho3. There is no significant relationship between cooperative acquisition/union catalogue and the management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria,
- Ho4. There is no significant relationship between participation in a consortia and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.
- Ho5 There is no significant relationship between online resource sharing/ interconnectivity and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

3.1 Methodology

This research adopted a correlation survey design. The population of the study is 551 and is made up of 541 professional and para-professional library staff and 10 university librarians working in the selected ten public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria comprising of Enugu, Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi and Imo states.

A sample size of 285 library staff, derived through the application of the statistical formula by William Bill-Godden (2004) and 10 university librarians were used for the study. A structured, open ended questionnaire constructed using the modified four point Likert rating scale and a structured interview were used as data instruments to collect data from 285 library staff and 10 university librarian respectively. The data gathered from the research instruments were quantitatively analyzed using statistical methods such as percentages and average mean. For the test of hypothesis, Chi-square was used to test the hypothesis.

4.1 Analysis of Data Based on Research Questions

Table 1: Mean Value Analysis of Relationship between Interlibrary Loan and Management of Collections in Public University Libraries

S/N	Relationship between Interlibrary Loan and Management of Collections	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean Value	Decision
a.	Engaging in interlibrary loan reduces the strain on the resources owned by my library	140	98	20	10	268	3.37	Not Significant
b.	Interlibrary loan reduces the impact of low budgets on the library in terms of materials available for use.	158	100	5	5	268	3.53	Significant
c.	Engaging in interlibrary loan increases the resources base at the disposal of our clientele in areas of need.	147	97	10	14	268	3.41	Not Significant
d.	Engaging in ILL sensitizes my library on our clientele's prospective area of needs.	162	98	4	4	268	3.56	Significant
e.	We obtain useful information about availability of resources in different fields through ILL.	149	108	9	2	268	3.51	Significant
Significant Mean Value= 3.48								

Result from Table 1, indicates that at a significant mean value of 3.48, resource sharing practices relate to management of collections because interlibrary loan reduces the impact of low budget on the library in terms of materials available for use ($x=3.56$), engaging in interlibrary loan sensitizes my library on our clientele's prospective area of needs ($x=3.56$) and also engaging in interlibrary loan helps us to obtain useful information about availability of resources in

different fields ($x=3.51$). Although, other resource sharing practices such as engaging in interlibrary loan helps in reducing the strain on the resources owned by my library ($x=3.37$) and engaging in interlibrary loan helps in increasing the resources base at the disposal of our clientele in areas of need ($x=3.41$) were considered insignificant relationship with management of collections because their mean values were less than the significant mean values of 3.48.

Table 2: Mean Value Analysis of Relationship between Document Delivery Service(DDS) and Management of Collections in Public University Libraries

S/ N	Relationship between Document Delivery Service(DDS) & Management of Collections	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean Value ²	Decision
a.	My library engages in both paper-based and online document (materials) delivery service with other libraries cooperatively.	157	103	5	3	268	3.54	Not Significant
b.	DDS exposes our staff to modern methods of collections processing and dissemination.	162	95	8	3	268	3.55	Not Significant
c.	Engaging in DDS exposes our staff to techniques of digital archiving of resources.	196	58	10	4	268	3.66	Significant
d.	Engaging in DDS enhances my library's ability and capability to handle reference services/queries effectively.	171	92	3	2	268	3.61	Significant
e.	DDS increases the resources base of my library which leads to effective service delivery.	181	79	5	3	268	3.63	Significant
Significant Mean Value= 3.60								

Table 2 shows the mean responses on relationship between document delivery service (DDS) and management of collections in public university libraries is greater than the significant mean value ($x=3.60$) in three main aspects. These are that engaging in DDS exposes our staff to techniques of digital archiving of resources ($x=3.66$), engaging in DDS enhances my library's ability and capability to handle reference services/queries effectively ($x=3.61$) and DDS increases the resources base of my library which leads to effective service delivery (x

$=3.63$). The other two reasons namely: my library engages in both paper-based and online document (materials) delivery service with other libraries cooperatively ($x=3.54$) and DDS exposes our staff to modern methods of collections processing and dissemination ($x=3.55$) have less than the significant mean value ($x=3.60$). The significant mean value ($x=3.60$) shows that document delivery service (DDS) has positive relationship with management of collections by staff in university libraries in South East, Nigeria

Table 3: Mean Value Analysis of Relationship between Cooperative Acquisition/Union Catalogue and Management of Collections in Public University Libraries

S/N	Relationship between Cooperative Acquisition/Union Catalogue and Management of Collections	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean Value	Decision
a.	Cooperative acquisition/union cataloguing helps in the reduction of work stress in the management of our library collections.	186	78	3	1	268	3.65	Significant
b.	Cooperative acquisition/union cataloguing helps reduce the man hours needed in the processing of materials.	192	64	7	5	268	3.65	Significant
c.	Cooperative acquisition and cataloguing is very cost effective in management of our library's resources.	180	82	3	3	268	3.63	Not Significant
d.	Cooperative acquisition and cataloguing exposes our resources to wider range of users thereby increasing utilizations.	184	74	6	4	268	3.63	Not Significant
e.	Cooperative acquisition and cataloguing is cumbersome and unwieldy for resources management.	177	83	6	2	268	3.62	Not Significant
Significant Mean Value= 3.64								

As shown on Table 3, cooperative acquisition/union catalogue relates to management of collection in public university libraries in South East, Nigeria because cooperative acquisition/union catalogue helps in the reduction of work stress in the management of our library collections ($x=3.65$) and cooperative acquisition/union cataloguing helps to reduce the man hours needed in the processing of materials ($x=3.65$). These constructs are said to be significantly related to management of collection by staff in university libraries in South East, Nigeria because their mean values

are up to or more than the significant mean value of 3.64. However, other indices such as cooperative acquisition/union catalogue is very cost effective in management of our library's resources ($x=3.63$), cooperative acquisition/ catalogue exposes our resources to wider range of users thereby increasing utilizations ($x=3.63$) and cooperative acquisition/catalogue is cumbersome and unwieldy for resources management ($x=3.62$) are all said to have insignificant correlations with management of collections in university libraries as their mean values are not up to the average mean value ($x=3.64$)

Table 4: Mean Value Analysis of Relationship between Participation in Consortia and Management of Collections in Public University Libraries

S/N	Relationship between Participation in Consortia and Management of Collections	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean Value	Decision
a.	Participating in consortia helps my library to keep a wider resource base that is easily accessible from cooperating institutions.	125	107	15	21	268	3.25	Not Significant

b.	Participating in consortia reduces the strain on my library collections development budget annually.	183	71	8	6	268	3.61	Significant
c.	Participating in consortia has helped my library operate effectively on a low budget.	154	98	9	7	268	3.49	Significant
d.	Participating in consortia has helped my library serve the information needs of the users effectively while operating with smaller in-house resources.	163	66	28	11	268	3.42	Not Significant
e.	Participating in consortia saves work time and stress in the management of resources.	172	56	18	22	268	3.41	Not Significant
Significant Mean Value= 3.44								

Result on Table 4 indicates that at a significant mean value of 3.44, participation in consortia affects management of collections by staff in university libraries in South-East, Nigeria in two main aspects. They are that participating in consortia reduces the strain on my library collections development budget annually ($x=3.61$) and participating in consortia has helped my library operate effectively on a low budget ($x=3.49$). Although, other participation in a consortia such as participating in consortia helps my library to keep a wider resource base that is easily accessible from cooperating institutions ($x=3.25$), participating in consortia has helped my library serve the information needs of the users effectively while operating with smaller in-house resources ($x=3.42$) and participating in consortia saves work time and stress in the management of resources ($x=3.41$) relate to management of collections, they are considered insignificant relationship because their mean values are less than the significant mean values of 3.44.

Table 5: Mean Value Analysis of Relationship between Online Resource Sharing/ Interconnectivity and Management of Collections in Public University Libraries

S/N	Relationship between Online Resource Sharing/Interconnectivity and Management of Collections	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean Value \bar{x}	Decision
a.	My library shares online resources with cooperating libraries, thereby reducing the cost of subscriptions to online resources.	113	106	26	23	268	3.20	Not Significant
b.	Sharing or interconnecting online resources helps my library to effectively utilize man hours in the management of collections.	128	105	27	8	268	3.32	Significant
c.	Sharing or interconnecting online resources helps my library discover ways of effective digital archiving of materials.	145	87	21	15	268	3.35	Significant
d.	Sharing/interconnecting online resources helps our library staff improve their skills in digital resources handling, processing and management	132	116	16	4	268	3.40	Significant
e.	Sharing/interconnecting online resources helps my library with knowledge in digital preservation and conservation of resources.	102	106	36	24	268	3.07	Not Significant
Significant Mean Value= 3.27								

Table 5 shows the mean responses on online resource sharing/interconnectivity and management of collections in public university libraries in South East, Nigeria are greater than the significant mean value ($x=3.27$) in three main aspects. These are that sharing or interconnecting online resources helps my library to effectively utilize man hours in the management of collections ($x=3.32$), sharing or interconnecting online resources helps my library discover ways of effective digital archiving of materials ($x =3.35$) and sharing/interconnecting online resources helps our library staff improve their skills in digital resources handling, processing and

management ($x =3.40$). These constructs are said to be significantly related to management of collection by staff in university libraries in South East, Nigeria because their mean values are up to or more than the significant mean values of 3.27. However, other reason such as sharing/interconnecting online resources helps my library with knowledge in digital preservation and conservation of resources ($x =3.07$) and that my library shares online resources with cooperating libraries, thereby reducing the cost of subscriptions to online resources management of collections($x =3.20$) are said to have insignificant mean value ($x =3.27$).

4.2 Test of Hypotheses:

The following hypotheses were analyzed using SPSS Chi-Square statistics tool on a 0.05 level of significance.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between Interlibrary Loan and Management of Collections in Public University Libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Table 6: Chi- Square Test of significant relationship between Interlibrary Loan and Management of Collections

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	48.000 ^a	45	.352
Likelihood Ratio	47.134	45	.385
Linear-by-Linear Association	17.090	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	20		

a. 64 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .25.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between Document Delivery Service (DDS) and Management of Collections in Public University Libraries

Table 7: Chi -Square Test of significant relationship between Document Delivery Service (DDS) and Management of Collections

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	54.000 ^a	45	.168
Likelihood Ratio	50.953	45	.251
Linear-by-Linear Association	16.640	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	20		

64 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .25.

When Chi-Square statistical formulae was applied using SPSS to determine if document delivery service (DDS) has any significant relationship with management of collections by staff in university libraries in South-East, Nigeria, it was found that the $p=$ value (0.168) is greater than 0.05 level of significance as seen in Table 2. This means that document delivery service (DDS) has a significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries. We therefore reject the null hypothesis that states that document delivery service (DDS) does not have significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries in South- East, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant relationship between cooperative acquisition/ union catalogue and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Table 8 :Chi - Square Test of significant relationship between cooperative acquisition/union catalogue and management of collections

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	54.667 ^a	48	.236
Likelihood Ratio	51.633	48	.334
Linear-by-Linear Association	16.448	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	20		

a. 68 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5.
The minimum expected count is .25.

When Chi-Square statistical formula was applied using SPSS to determine if cooperative acquisition/union catalogue has any significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria, it was found that the $P=$ value (0.236) is greater than 0.05 level of significance as shown in Table 3. This means that cooperative acquisition/union catalogue has a significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries. We therefore reject the null hypothesis that states that cooperative acquisition/union catalogue does not have significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant relationship between participation in consortia and management of collection in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Table 9: Chi-Square Test of significant relationship between participation in consortia and management of collection

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	60.000 ^a	57	.368
Likelihood Ratio	55.452	57	.533
Linear-by-Linear Association	15.876	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	20		

a. 80 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .25.

When Chi-Square statistical formula was applied using SPSS to determine if participation in consortia has any significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria, it was found that the P=value (0.368) is greater than 0.05 level of significance shown in Table 4. This means that participation in a consortium has a significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries. We therefore reject the null hypothesis that states that participation in consortia does not have significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 5: There is no significant relationship between online resource sharing/interconnectivity and management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria

Table 10: Chi -Square Test of significant relationship between online resource sharing/interconnectivity and management of collections

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	60.010 ^a	54	.267
Likelihood Ratio	55.452	54	.420
Linear-by-Linear Association	16.497	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	20		

a. 76 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .25.

When Chi-Square statistical formula was applied using SPSS to determine if online resource sharing/interconnectivity has any significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria, it was found that the P=value (0.267) is greater than (0.05) and this establishes that online resource sharing/interconnectivity has a significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries as shown in Table 5. As a result, we therefore reject the null hypothesis that states that online resource sharing/interconnectivity does not have significant relationship with management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

5.1 Discussion of Findings

Finding from this study indicates that there is a significant relationship between interlibrary loan and the management of collections in public university libraries in South East, Nigeria. This aligns with the finding of Knievel *et al.* (2015) who revealed in their study that interlibrary loan along with

circulation statistics helps library to make a collection development decision. They noted that ILL borrowing request could be used to calculate the obsolescence of book based on its publication date and increases and decreases the number of circulations. However, Knowlton, Kristanciuk and Jabaity (2014) research work asserted that interlibrary loan does not meet patron information needs and hence not a potent tool for collection development. They discovered that accessing content from ILL entails laborious processes which do not support the new millennium information seeking behavior; a finding that runs against the spirit and letters of collaboration and exchanges, which drive success stories in information service today.

Result on Table 2 revealed that Document Delivery Service (DDS) correlates significantly with management of collections in public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. The finding of this research work collaborates the study of Cuhuder, Ciman & Turan (2019) who affirmed that academic libraries practicing in-transit services made use of document delivery service to deliver

information service to different library patrons. They noted that through document delivery services, participating libraries were able to save costs as duplication of materials is eliminated. Storing and shelving spaces are saved as well.

The finding of this study is also in tandem with the work of Luzius (2003) who discovered in his research work that faculty, staff and students use document delivery service as a convenience and time saving method of accessing information. He found out that nontraditional students and distance learners see this document delivery as a necessity. Instead of hunting through the library stacks, they can send the request to the library electronically and receive the journal articles or book chapters through their e-mails in a few days. However he noted that the continual growth of electronic publishing and electronic journal will slowly diminish document delivery services. This work is an eye opener to collection development librarians in our libraries.

Finding from this study indicates that there is a significant relationship between cooperative acquisition/union catalogue and management of collections in public university libraries in South East, Nigeria. The finding of this study validates the research result of Levenson and Hess (2020) that revealed that most librarians in ACRL agreed that their Libraries engaged in co-operative acquisition development in order to gain advantages of cost savings, greater depths and breath of information resources to their numerous patrons, substantial space saving in library for other purposes and access to a wide varieties of information resources. The finding of this study also agrees with that of Cuhuder, Ciman& Turan (2019) in their study of in-transit service obtained in some academic libraries in Turkey. They found out that libraries participating in in-transit service adopted co-operative acquisition of library resources in which each participating library

is assigned a subject area to cover and of which will be used mutually through in-transit service. The findings of this study agrees with Sejane (2017) research work on a survey of access and use of electronic information resources in academic libraries in Lesotho library consortium that it facilitates joint purchasing of new resources at to reduce cost and also joint licensing to obtain electronic information by participating libraries.

Finding from this study indicates that there is a significant relationship between consortia and management of collections in public university libraries in South East, Nigeria. This finding agrees with the result of the research work carried out by Das& Dutta (2017) on the use of UGC – infonet digital library consortium resources by the researchers at the University of North Bengal. Their finding shows that the consortium provides research scholars with wide varieties of electronic information resources for their use. The finding of this work also validates the research work of Chisita and Fombad (2019) who confirm in their research work on conundrum of resource sharing in Zimbabwe that Zambia university library consortium (ZUK) and College of research library consortia of Zambia (CARLI) were able to provide the information needs of their users through consortia. The consortia leverages on the offer of open access to ensure resource sharing. Lugya (2010) research result contrasts with the result of this work. He discovers in his comparative study of consortium of academic research libraries in Illinois (CARLI) in Illinois and Ugandan consortium organization in Uganda that the library consortium failed in Uganda and could not provide information resources that meet the information needs of its users

Result from Table 5 reveals that there is a relationship between online resource sharing/interconnectivity and management of collections in university libraries is significant. The finding of this research work is in

consonance with the research result study of Igwebuike (2012) that said that undergraduate students were leveraging on the offer of internet provided in their academic libraries to access numerous electronic information resources and that of Babatunde, Alhasan and Babalola (2020) who reported that e-books, e-Journal, e-Magazines, e-Newspaper, e-thesis and e-dissertation are information resources shared among university libraries. The finding of this work however, contrasts with research result of Adam & Usman (2013) that reported inadequate information and communication technology in Abubakar Tafawa Belewa University and Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi. This, according to their finding, culminates in poor access to e-information resources. It could also be deduced that poor information literacy knowledge might be a stumbling block in accessing electronic information resources in the institutions.

Conclusion

Many librarians have resorted to library resource sharing in order to be able to develop and manage information resources effectively. This research found out that the resource sharing practices of inter-library loan; document delivery services, cooperative acquisition/union catalogue, consortia and online resource sharing/interconnectivity have significant relationship with the management of collections in university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. As a result, resource sharing practices should be accorded its due importance by university libraries because of its inherent benefits in management of library collections more especially in this age of information explosion and tight or even meagre library budget and resources.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

1. Public university library management in

South-East, Nigeria should intensify their efforts in active resource sharing through deepening interlibrary loan services for efficient management of collections among themselves.

2. Document delivery services obtained among public university libraries in South-East, Nigeria should be upgraded and driven now by technology for effective management of collections amongst them.
3. Cooperative acquisition and union catalogue should be promoted as resource sharing practices that will help in management of collections among public university libraries in South-East Nigeria.
4. The Federal and State governments of Nigeria should as a matter of urgency initiate policies for academic libraries to come together in a consortia arrangement in order to tap from the sweet wine of resource sharing for effective management of collections among public university libraries in South-East Nigeria.
5. University library management should invest in ICT in order to facilitate robust online resource sharing/interconnectivity for effective management of university library collections among public university libraries in South-East Nigeria.

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