

21ST CENTURY UNDERGRADUATE VARIABLES AND THEIR INFORMATION SEARCH BEHAVIOURS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR.

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Abstract

The study was design investigate under graduates' variables and their information sourcing behaviours in the twenty-first century in behaviours in University of Calabar, Calabar Nigeria, for this to be achieved two research questions and two null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Detail literature review was carried on the variables of the study. Survey research design was adopted and the population of the study was 3,321 registered 2019/2020 academic session, who registered as users of University of Calabar library. The sample of 200 respondent drawn through accidental sampling technique was used. The data collection was done using a structuring questionnaire constructed by the researcher tapped 'University Under Graduates' Information Sourcing Behaviours Questionnaire' (UUGISBQ). The instrument was subjected to face validity. One-way analysis of variance and independent t-test were used to analyzed the data and tested at .05 level of significance after which one of the hypotheses rejected and one retained, the results therefore indicated that; age of under graduates does not significant influence their information sourcing behaviours, there is a significant influence of University under

graduates' gender on information sourcing behaviours in University of Calabar, Calabar. Based on the findings the following recommendations that, the University administration organize training and retraining programmes for academic staff, more information sourcing channels should be created.

Introduction

Information searching is the act of actively seeking information in order to answer specific query. Information searching behavior is the behavior which stems from searching interacting with the system in question. Human being is considered has the most intelligent in the animal kingdom. He works hard to make his life more comfortable by acquiring knowledge through various means. By doing so, he makes use of available information by applying different means. The process of searching for information you gain more knowledge and understanding that makes an individual more knowledgeable. However, information is best described as a proceed of structured data. It is one of the essential commodities needed by University under graduate to achieve height in their educational pursuit. University undergraduates keep on searching for information day in and out from different means to meet up their daily responsibility in school. Information searching is important and integral part for every student who wants to succeed. There is a general assumption that experience is the best teacher, and experience counts on age. So, the popular belief that the older you are, the better you become and perform, this is what the researcher intend to confirm. Here, the researcher reviewed literature due to age difference among students.

In a study conducted by Ofoegbu and Asogwa (2013), influence of age on information and communication technology (ICT) competencies of lower and middle basic science and technology teachers in Enugu State, Nigeria. Data were collected with ICT competencies of lower and middle basic science and technology teachers. Questionnaire from 13,630 teachers drawn through stratified random sampling from all the zones of the state. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used in analyzing the data. The result shows that the basic science and technology teachers aged 25-35 years can carry out all operations but not moderately well. Those aged 36-46 years can carry 20 out of the 45 items only moderately well. Those aged 47-60 can carry 18 out of the 45 items only moderately well. While Ofoegbu and Asogwa (2013) competencies of lower and middle basic

science and technology teachers in Enugu State, using 13,630 teachers drawn through stratified random sampling from all the zones of the state with questionnaire as instrument for data collection and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) as the statistical tool, the present study used 800 graduate students drawn through stratified random sampling technique and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used in the data analysis.

Sanni, Awoleye, Egbetokun and Siyanbola (2009) studied influence of students' age and their usage of the internet among undergraduates in Nigeria: A case study of Obafemi Awolowo University. The sample of the study was 300 students selected across different academic disciplines, questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection and simple percentage was used in analyzing the data. The result of the study shows that age of the students does not have significant influence on their usage of the internet.

Sanni, Awoleye, Egbetokun and Siyanbola (2009) used 300 students selected across different academic discipline with questionnaire as the instrument for data collection and simple percentage for the analysis of the data. The sample size is small and simple percentage is weak. Statistical tool when compared with 800 graduate students drawn through stratified random sampling technique and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) that was used in analyzing the data of the present study.

This aspect of the review is concerned with determining whether there is a difference between male and female graduate students in their information seeking behaviours. Even though much has not been done in this area of study, the researcher reviewed some studies that are focused on gender differences to enable us draw inferences, with similarities and differences as shall be discovered in this study. In a study conducted by Ofoegbu and Onuzulike (2013), influence of gender on ICT competencies possess by English language teachers for instructional delivery in Unity Schools of South-east, Nigeria. Data was collected with ICT competencies of English language teachers, questionnaire (ICTCELTQ) for the study from 82 teachers. Mean and standard deviation was used to determine the influence of gender on ICT competencies possess by English language teachers for instructional delivery in unity schools of south-east, Nigeria. The result of the study repealed that gender is not a significant factor in the ICT competencies possess by English language teachers for instructional delivery in unity schools in south-east, Nigeria. While Ofoegebu and

Onuzulike (2013) studies influence of gender on ICT competencies possess by English language teachers of south-east, Nigeria using 82 teachers with mean and standard deviation as statistical tool for the study. The present study investigated the influence of gender of students on the use of multiliteracy platforms in research in south-south, Nigeria using 800 graduate students drawn through stratified random sampling technique. Based on the classification of gender, independent t-test was used as the statistical tool.

Ofoegbu and Asogwa (2013), studied influence of gender on information and communication technology (ICT) competencies of lower and middle basic science and technology teachers in Enugu State, Nigeria. Data were collected with ICT competencies of lower and middle basic questionnaire from 13,630 teachers drawn through stratified random sampling from all the zones of the state. Mean and standard deviation was used in analyzing the data. The result shows that female respondents had higher mean score than the males, which indicates that female respondents had higher competencies than the males. While Ofoegbu and Asogwa (2013) studied influence of gender on information and communication technology (ICT) competencies of lower and middle basic science and technology teachers in Enugu state, using 13,630 teachers drawn thorough stratified random sampling from all the zones of the state with questionnaire as instrument for data collection using mean and standard deviation in analyzing the data, the present study investigated influence of gender on the use of multiliteracy platforms for research among graduate students in universities in south-south using 800 graduate students drawn through stratified random sampling with questionnaire as instrument for data collection and independent t-test was used for the analysis of data.

Ali (2009) studied gender of students and application of research skills. Data was collected with evaluation checklist for graduate students' application of research skills from 210 (110 theses and 100 dissertations) drawn through stratified and random sampling from four faculties (science, education, social science and management science) of the universities independent t-test was used to determine the influence of gender of students on the application of the research skills. The result of the study shows that gender of students does not influence their application of the research skills. While Ali (2009) studied gender of students and application of research skills, the present study determined the influence of gender of

students on the use of multiliteracy platforms for research among graduate students in universities in south-south, Nigeria. Stratified and simple random sampling was used in this study as Ali (2009), used stratified and simple random sampling to constitute the sample of the study from the faculties. Based on the classification of gender, independent t-test was used to determine the influence of gender of students on the use of the multiliteracy platforms in research as Au (2009) used independent t-test.

Despite that, Lin and Hsiao (2005) studied influence of gender on computer literacy of college students in Taiwan. Data were collected with questionnaire from 1520 respondents drawn from eleven distinctive departments, 37 classes in National Penghu Institute of Technology (NPIT) were administered. 1253 responses were usable, given a response rate of approximately 82%. The independent t-test was used to analyze the data. The result of the study shows that computer literacy of male students is better than that of female students except for security and ethic category. While Lin and Hsiao (2005) studied influence of gender on computer literacy of college students in Taiwan, the present study determined the influence of gender on use of multiliteracy platforms for research among graduate students in universities in south-south, Nigeria. Based on the classification of type of universities, stratified random sampling was used to constitute the sample of the study from the universities and independent t-test was used in analyzing the data.

Haliso (2011) studied influence of gender on information and communication technology (ICT) use by academic librarians in south-western, Nigeria. Data was collected through questionnaire from 153 academic librarians through enumeration technique. Simple percentage was used to determine the gender distribution and its statistical significance. The result shows that 119 (77.2%) were male librarians while 34(22.2%) were female librarians. Haliso (2011) used enumeration technique to constitute the sample of the study from the librarians and simple percentage study determined the influence of gender on the use of multiliteracy platforms for research among graduate students using stratified and simple random sampling and independent t-test as analysis technique which is better statistical tool than simple percentage.

Theoretical back by Davis Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) was first created by Davis in 1989, based on the theory of reasoned action (TRA). The TRA posits that

individual behavior is driven by behavioral intention where behavioral intention is a function of an individual's attitude towards the behavior and subjective norms surrounding the performance of the behaviours. In other words, it states that one's behaviours and intent to behave is a function of one's attitude toward the behaviours and their perception about the behaviour. Therefore, behaviours are the function of both attitudes and beliefs meanwhile, TAM proposes that perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness of technology are predictors of user attitude towards usage. Perceived ease of the use was also considered to influence perceived usefulness of technology. In this study information seeking behaviour was considered a system that makes use of internet and web technology in accomplishing its mission of delivering information to and interacting with the students through an internet interface. In TAM, perceived usefulness refers to the degree to which the user believes that using the technology will improve his or her work performance while perceived ease of use refers to low effortless he or she perceives using the technology will be. Both are considered distinct factors influencing the user's attitude towards using the technology, through perceived ease of use is also hypothesized to influence perceived usefulness and attitude towards using the technology. Finally, such attitude towards using technology, determines the behavioural intention of technological usage. Therefore, the research hypothesis based on the theory of the TAM in context of the internet knowledge background in information seeking behaviour, students' internet background knowledge have no significant influence on their information seeking behaviour.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Information seeking is an integral part of academic activity; as such every part academic must seek information to complete their academic pursuits. One would expect students with different behavior to seek information through conducting a good search work for acquisition of their academic pursuits. It is a crucial aspect of students' task in seeking information since its outcome is employed that make or make a student surprisingly experience has shown that students' information seeking behaviours is going down every day despite the easy accessibility of information these days. However, it could be some variables like age and gender have contributed to this. This can be observed on students' examination scripts and class assignment where no addition exploitation of terms or variable outside the lecturers notes. When assignments are given, it also observed

student copy from one another since they find it difficult to seek information using the available channel or opportunities.

There is need therefore to seek for simplified way of University under graduate in information searching behaviours in order to encourage them to use these various ways of searching for information. But variables such as age, and gender as it influences their information seeking behaviours in the University of calabar.

Research Questions

1. To what extent does university under graduates' age influence information searching behavior?
2. How does under graduates gender influence information searching behavior?

Statement of hypothesis

1. Under graduates age does not significant influence their information searching behavior in the University of Calabar.
2. There is no significant influence of under graduates' gender on information sea rching behavior in the University of Calabar

Significance of the study

The finding of this study will be great benefit to students, the University administration, and the government. To student, the study will expose them to better, quicker and easy method of seeking information than the traditional method of using only library. It will improve their information seeking skills as students themselves will begin to perceive the impact the study will also create an appreciable awareness in the students which could create a desire in the students as seeking information enhance the ability to solve problems and develop the ability for critical thinking as it concern information seeking.

Administrator of school will equal benefit from this study, in that it will help them to discover how age and gender influences information searching and then judge the institution performance in terms of policies. The society which send the children and wards to the university know various efficient and effective means of information seeking behaviour. And the government will assist where necessary.

Scope of the study

The study is limited to University of Calabar under graduates. The University is selected because of the high proliferation of information seeking channels devices among students. In terms of Under graduates, the study is limited to students' age and gender knowledge of information sourcing behaviours.

Methodology

The study was conducted at university of Calabar, Calabar, which is located in Cross River State, Nigeria Survey research design was adopted for the study and the population of the study was 3,321, 2019/2020 academic session, registered users of University of Calabar library. The sample of 200 respondent drawn through accidental sampling technique. The data collection was done using a structured questionnaire constructed by the researcher tapped 'University Under Graduates' Information Searching Behaviours Questionnaire' (UUGISBQ). The instrument was divided into two sections. Section "A" deals with bio data information of the respondents while Section "B" collected data on under graduates' information searching behaviours. The instrument was subjected to face validity while test retest reliability was used and the reliability coefficient range between 0.74 and 0.78. The instrument was personally administered respondents accidentally. The data collected where coded and used for analysis. One-way analysis of variance and independent t-test were used to analyzed the data and tested at .05 level of significance after which three of the null hypotheses were rejected and one retained, the results indicated that; there is a significant influence of students' academic discipline on the information seeking, age does not have any significant influence on the information searching behaviours of students, there is a significant influence of students gender on information searching behaviours, knowledge has a significant influence on information seeking behaviours in University of Calabar.

Presentation of Results

Under graduates age does not significant influence their information searching behavior in University of Calabar. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to analysis the hypothesis and the result is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Description analysis and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) of influence of age on information searching behaviour N = 200

Age	SD	N	X
Below 20	3.09	230	8.99
20- 29	3.14	335	8.55
30 and Above	3.06	235	8.55

Sources of variation	SS	df	MS	F
Between group	32.552	2	16.276	1.69
Within Group	7663.296	193	9.615	.185
Total			195	

Significance at 0.05 level, $F_{2, 197} = 3.02$

Table 1 indicates the mean and standard deviation for each of the variable and also reflected the calculated f-ratio of 1.69 which are less than the critical f-ratio of 3.02 at 0.05 level of significant with 2 and 197 degree of freedom. The P-value .185 and .568 for two tailed test are greater than the chosen alpha. .05, with this result the null hypothesis was retained. The null hypothesis which state age does not have any significant influence on the information seeking behaviours of students in the University of Calabar is retained. This therefore implies that age of students in University of Calabar does not significantly influence their information seeking behaviours.

Hypothesis two

There is no significant influence of under graduates' gender on information searching behavior in the University of Calabar. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 2 using independent t-test

Table 2

Independent t-test analysis of variance of the influence of students' gender on information searching behaviours. N=200

Variation	N	X	SD	Cal Val	Df
Crit val					
Male	104	10.57	2.98	2.14	198
Female	96	8.67	3.10	1.96	

Significance at 0.05 level.

The result of the analysis as presented in Table 2 revealed that, the calculated t-value of 2.14 is significantly higher than the critical t-value of 1.96 at 0.05 Level of significant with 198 degree of freedom. With this result the null hypothesis is rejected while alternate hypothesis is retained. This therefore implies that under graduates' gender significantly influence information searching behaviours of in University of Calabar.

Discussion of findings

Hypothesis one

Age of under graduates does not have any significant influence on information sourcing behaviours in University of Calabar. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test this hypothesis. The result of the analysis shows that age of under graduate' has no significant influence in the information searching behaviours. It is not surprising that significant difference does not exist students age in this study which may be attributed to the fact that all the students are exposed to the same learning situation irrespective of age of the students. In agreement with this finding is a study conducted by Sanni, Awoleye, Egbetokun and Siyanbola (2009) that discovered age of the students does not have significant influence in their usage of the internet information seeking. Meanwhile, there are other research findings that contrast with this finding, for instance, Ofoegbu and Asogwa (2013) in their study confirmed that the basic science and technology teachers aged 25-35 years can carry out all operations on information and communication technology (ICT) moderately well. Those aged 36-46 years can carry 20 out of the 45 items only moderately well. Those aged 47-60 can carry 18 out of the 45 items only moderately well.

There is no significant influence of under graduate gender on information searching behaviours in University of Calabar. From the result, there is significant influence of students' gender on their information seeking behaviours. This therefore implies that the gender of students significantly influenced information seeking behaviours. This result implied that the gender of students (male and female) significantly matter when it comes to information seeking behaviours.

In agreement with this finding was a study conducted by Ofoegbu and Asogwu (2013) that found out technology (ICT) competencies of lower and middle basic science technology. Haliso (2011) also found that 119 (77.2%) male librarians use information and communication technology (ICT) in seeking information while 34(22.2%) were female librarians.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that information searching is an integral part in academic activity, so under graduates in the University should not allow variables such age and gender to influence them negatively in their academic pursuit rather these variables should be a contributing factor for their academic excellence.

Recommendations

1. University administrators should organize training and retraining programmes for academic staff and students on different dimensions of information seeking behaviour.
2. Seminars and workshop should be organized on regular basis for various means of information seeking in the university.
3. Librarians should encourage students to registered and use the library for their different information needs.

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