

Awareness and Usage of University of Ilorin Library Collections by Undergraduate Students

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Abstract

This study was undertaken to investigate the awareness and usage of University of Ilorin Library collections by undergraduate students. The relevance of a library can be determined by the extent of utilization of its collections by the users. Libraries usually acquire information materials to meet the diverse information needs of its users. The study adopted descriptive method of survey research design. The study population comprised 43,983 students which comprises all undergraduate students in the University of Ilorin. A total of 394 copies of questionnaires were administered using simple random sampling technique out of which 370 copies were returned and found useful for the study, thereby indicating a response rate of 93.9%. The data collected were analyzed using frequencies and percentage. Findings from the study revealed that high percentage of the respondents attested to the availability of textbooks, newspapers, reference materials and serials materials and also aware of the following library collections e-books, abstracts and indexes. The study found that majority of the respondents makes use of library collections for examination preparation. Furthermore, some of the challenges faced by undergraduate students in using the library's collections include lack of awareness of some of the library's collection, poor internet connectivity and outdated library collections. The study concluded that commonly available materials at the University of Ilorin library include: textbooks, newspapers, reference materials, serial materials. Appropriate recommendations such as embarking on awareness programmes by the Library Management, improvement in Internet connectivity and acquiring of up-to-date materials were put forward to solve the challenges highlighted by the study.

Keywords: *Library, Academic Library, Usage, Library Collections, Information and Communication Technology, Current Awareness Services, Undergraduate Students*

Introduction

University of Ilorin was established as a full-fledged University in October, 1976. It took off with only three (3) faculties, namely, Arts, Education and Sciences. Presently there are fifteen (15) faculties, namely, Agriculture, Arts, Basic Medical Science, Clinical Science, Communication and Information Sciences, Education, Engineering and Technology, Environmental Sciences, Law, Life Sciences, Management Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences and Veterinary Medicines. The University of Ilorin Library was established at the same time when the University was established and registered its foundation users on November, 1976. The library was established to provide strong bibliographical support to its parent institution. This is done by providing up to date resources for staff, students, and other researchers. The University of Ilorin Library has other faculty libraries apart from the main campus library. The library presently caters for a user population of about 43,983 students comprises all undergraduate students in the University of Ilorin.

A library is very important in any academic institution as it houses various information materials that help to support various information needs of the library users. Academic libraries have been described as the “hub” of the learning community as it provides students with the opportunity to advance their knowledge. Therefore, it is vital for

intellectual development. An Academic library is a place where academic information sources are acquired, organized, processed, stored and made available to meet the information needs of the parent institution and considered as an organ around which all academic activities revolve (Ogbuiyi & Okpe, 2013). The content of libraries is no more restricted to traditional printed resources such as books, magazines or journals but to online resources and other electronic-driven materials (Yebowaah & Plockey, 2017). Electronics library resources facilitate an effective provision of information to all caliber of users, promote collaborative efforts in research; using communication network tools and encourages generation and dissemination of knowledge. The use of electronic library resources does not however take the place of printed resources but facilitates it through access to large stock of library materials. In view of this, libraries have transformed into digital and virtual libraries where books, journals and magazines have changed into e-books, e-journals, and e-magazines (Akpojotor, 2016).

Modern day libraries have various equipment that can be used to access the various library resources, which could either be in print or electronic formats such as computer, printer, scanner and CD-ROMS. This change in technology has affected the way in which materials are acquired, organized and accessed. The adoption of ICT in libraries helps for easy access and retrieval of information materials e.g. through the online public access catalogue (OPAC), the library users can have access to a vast range of the library's collections (Prabhakar & Rani, 2017).

Statement of the Problem

The relevance of a library can be determined by the extent of utilization of its collections by the users. Libraries usually acquire information materials to meet the diverse information needs of its users. There are different categories of users in the academic libraries, including the undergraduate students. It has been observed that most of these students rarely visit the library and when they do, they do not make effective use of the library's collections, which could be as a result of lack of awareness of the users about the library's collections as well as how to make effective use of the collections. Akpojotor (2016) described awareness as individual knowledge of situation fact, consciousness, recognition, realization, grasp and acknowledgement concern about and well-informed interest or familiarity in a particular situation or development. Yebowa and plockey (2017) examined the awareness and use of electronic resources in University libraries using university for Development studies library as a case study. Therefore, there is a need for libraries to devise a means of creating awareness among its users about information materials acquired in their various disciplines such as through current awareness services and also organize user education programmes on the effective use of the library's collections. It is based on this foregoing that this study seeks to examine awareness and usage of University of Ilorin Library collections by undergraduate students.

Objectives of the Study

The broad aim of this study is to determine the extent of awareness and usage of University of Ilorin Library collections by undergraduate students. Therefore, some research questions are identified below:

This study seeks to provide answers to the following research questions:

1. What types of collections are available in the University of Ilorin Library for undergraduate students' use?
2. What is the level of awareness of University of Ilorin Library collections among undergraduate students?

3. What is the purpose of usage of University of Ilorin library collections by undergraduate students?
4. What is the extent of usage of University of Ilorin Library collections by undergraduate students?
5. What are the challenges faced by undergraduate students when using the University of Ilorin Library's collections?

Study Justification

This study is of importance in terms of its contribution to the body of knowledge as it adds to existing literature and theories on the awareness and usage of library collections by undergraduate students.

This study would be of benefit to the University of Ilorin undergraduate students as it will enable them to be aware of the information materials available in their various fields of interest, as well as how to make proper and effective use of the library and its collections. It will also be of benefit to the University of Ilorin Library management as it will provide an insight on the challenges faced by undergraduate students when using the library collections.

Review of Related Literature

So much literature has been written in awareness and usage of University of Ilorin library collections by undergraduate students. Efforts have been made to review relevant literature in this study. In the higher institution environment, the library plays major information providing system supports teaching, learning and research with information materials of various types (Anyaku, 2015).

Library collections are important to support teaching, learning, research and development in academic institutions. There are various types of materials available in academic libraries to satisfy the diverse needs of its users. Information is available in two main formats namely, print and non-print and these include published and unpublished sources. Print materials include books, periodicals, maps, technical reports, indexes, abstracts, journals etc. Nkamnebe, Egwuatu, and Nkamnebe (2017) identified the information resources and services available in Nigeria Police Academy Library, Wudil Kano State to include textbooks, dictionaries, encyclopedia, journals, e-resources, abstract, indexes, CD-ROMs, newspapers, magazines, gazettes, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), handbooks/manuals, and resources on security and related matter.

Selvaraj and Gadagin (2017) highlighted some of the electronic resources that can be found in the library, which include e-databases, e-journals, e-books, e-manuscripts, Internet, e-newspapers, e-maps, e-thesis, e-magazines, e-project reports, and DVDs. Yebowah and Plockey (2017) examined the awareness and use of electronic resources in university libraries using University for Development Studies Library as a case study. The results indicate that 88.8% of the respondents were users of the Library and 65% were aware of the availability of e-resources in the Library. Akpojotor (2016) examined the awareness and usage of electronic information resources by postgraduate students of Library and Information Science discipline in Southern part of Nigeria. The study found that the students are highly aware and use electronic information resources.

Olajide and Adio (2017) accessed the effective utilization of university library resources by undergraduate students in Federal University Oye-Ekiti. The study revealed that majority of the respondents visit the library occasionally while a lower

percentage of the respondents visited the library daily. The study further revealed that erratic power supply, functional resources, adequate reading space, lack of physical facilities like toilets etc. are the major problems preventing students from effectively utilizing the resources in the library. Oni et al (2016) submits that the inability of Universities libraries to meet the information requirements of some library users might have forced them to use personal collections when conducting research. Lack of time is the main reason given for not using electronic resources. Unfamiliarity with computerized searching come next. He however, identified four barriers to the effective provision of electronic resources in those libraries, namely, lack of strategic planning, lack of adequate fund; lack of use of internet to provide information services to users and lack of consistent training for users in new ICT services. According to Yebowah&Plockey (2017) some factors were identified as challenges associated with the use of e-resources in the library. Problem of password, low internet speed, inadequate staff and inadequate computers in the library.

Research Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey using questionnaire to collect data. The target population was the undergraduate students in all the fifteen (15) faculties in the University of Ilorin. The estimated number of undergraduates in the University of Ilorin is 43,983. A total of 394 respondents were selected out of the total population. The stratified random sampling technique was used to select them across the fifteen (15) faculties in the university under review. The purposive sampling technique was used for this study. Therefore, the sample size is 394. The data collected for the study were analysed using the statistical package for social science (SPSS). In addition, frequency tables and simple percentage was further used for this study in order to assist in variable response comparison and give clear indications of response frequencies. A total of 395 copies of questionnaire were distributed and 370 (93.9%) copies of the questionnaire were retrieved. The response rate (93.9%) is considered adequate for the study because the standard and acceptable rate for most studies is 60%

Data presentation and Data Analysis

A total of 394 respondents were selected out of the total population. The stratified random sampling technique was used to select them across the fifteen (15) faculties in the university under review. The purposive sampling technique was used for this study. Therefore, the sample size is 394. The data collected for the study were analysed using the statistical package for social science (SPSS). In addition, frequency tables and simple percentage was further used for this study in order to assist in variable response comparison and give clear indications of response frequencies. A total of 395 copies of questionnaire were distributed and 370 (93.9%) copies of the questionnaire were retrieved. The response rate (93.9%) is considered adequate for the study because the standard and acceptable rate for most studies is 60%.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	132	35.7
Female	238	64.3
Total	370	100

Table .1 reveals that 132 (35.7%) of the respondents were male, while 238 (64.3%) were female. This implies that majority of the respondents were female and this is as a result of their higher population in the school.

Research question 1: What types of collections are available in the University of Ilorin Library for undergraduate students' use?

Table 2: Library Collections Available in the University of Ilorin Library

Library Collections	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Textbooks	360	97.3	10	2.7
Newspaper	228	77.8	82	22.2
Encyclopedia	208	56.2	162	43.8
Magazines	196	53.0	174	47.0
Indexes	140	37.8	230	62.2
Abstract	134	36.2	236	63.8
Memoranda	120	32.4	250	67.6
Bibliographies	220	59.5	150	40.5
Theses	144	38.9	226	61.1
Technical reports	98	26.5	272	73.5
E-books	176	47.6	194	52.4
Audio CD	70	18.9	300	81.1
Documentaries	166	44.9	204	55.1
Web Pages	74	20.0	296	80.0
Reference materials	216	58.4	154	41.6
Databases	110	29.7	260	70.3
Video CD	70	18.9	300	81.1
Maps	178	48.1	192	51.9
Microform	42	11.4	328	88.6
Manuscript	112	30.3	258	69.7

Table2 shows that(360; 97.3%) of the respondents attested to the availability of textbooks this is due to the reason that most undergraduate students consult textbooks to carry out their assignments, compile notes and for examination preparations, while (328; 88.6%)confirmed non-availability of microforms.

Research question 2: What is the level of awareness of University of Ilorin Library collections among undergraduate students?

Table 3: Awareness on Library Collections

Library Collections	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Textbooks	183	98.9	2	1.1
Newspaper	158	85.4	27	14.6
Memoranda	59	31.9	126	68.1
Bibliographies	122	65.9	63	34.1
Theses	85	45.9	100	54.1
E-books	110	65.4	64	34.6
Encyclopedia	121	65.4	64	34.6
Magazines	121	65.4	64	34.6
Audio CD	49	26.5	136	73.5
Documentaries	109	58.9	76	41.1
Web Pages	54	29.2	131	70.8
Reference materials	142	76.8	43	23.2
Databases	82	44.3	103	55.7

Indexes	96	51.9	89	48.1
Abstracts	85	45.9	100	54.1
Video CD	44	23.8	141	76.2
Maps	113	61.1	72	38.9
Microform	35	18.9	150	81.1
Manuscript	72	38.9	113	61.1

On the awareness of undergraduate students on Library collections, table 3 reveals that most of the respondents are aware of textbooks (183; 98.9%) as it is the most common type of information resource. Although, they were less aware of microforms (150; 81.1%).

Research question 3: What is the purpose of usage of University of Ilorin Library's collections?

Table 4: Purpose of Usage of Library's Collections

I use library collections for:	Strongly Agreed		Agreed		Disagreed		Strongly Disagreed	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
my research works	126	34.1	152	41.1	46	12.4	46	12.4
course work	194	52.4	134	36.2	28	7.6	14	3.8
obtaining current information	92	24.9	106	28.6	110	29.7	62	16.8
examination preparation	234	63.2	114	30.8	14	3.8	8	2.2
Recreation	46	12.4	96	25.9	132	35.7	96	25.9
personal self-development	158	42.7	126	34.1	42	11.4	44	11.9

Table. 4 shows that 126 (34.1%) and 152 (41.1%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that they used library collections for research work while 46 (12.4%) and 46 (12.4%) of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. However, 46 (12.4%) and 96 (25.9%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that they used library collections for recreation while 132 (35.7%) and 96 (25.9%) of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

Research question 4: What is the extent of usage of the University of Ilorin Library's collections by undergraduate students?

Table 5: Extent of Library Collections Usage by Undergraduate Students

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Frequency of visit		
Daily	116	31.4
Weekly	98	26.5
Monthly	6	1.6
Occasionally	150	40.5
Frequency of Usage		
Often	34	9.2
Not so often	94	25.4
Sometimes	82	22.2
Rarely	160	43.2

Rate of Collection Usage

Low	138	37.3
Average	176	47.6
High	42	11.4
Very High	14	3.8

On the extent of usage of library collections, table 5 reveals that 116 (31.4%) of the respondents visit the library daily, 98 (26.5%) visits the library weekly, 6 (1.6%) visit the library monthly while 150 (40.5%) visits the library occasionally. Also, it reveals that 34 (9.2%) of the respondents used the library collections often, 94 (25.4%) use the library collections not so often, 82 (22.2%) used it sometimes while 160 (43.2%) of the respondents used library collections rarely. Furthermore, it reveals that 138 (37.3%) of the respondents have low rating on the library collection usage, 176 (47.6%) average, 42 (11.4%) high and 14 (3.8%) very high. Following the aforementioned, it can be deduced that majority of the respondents visit the library occasionally. Out of those that visit the library, most of them rarely use the library collections, while some of the respondents rated their usage of library collection average.

Research question 5: What are the challenges faced by undergraduate students when using the University of Ilorin Library’s collection?

Table 6: Challenges Encountered when Using Library Collections

Challenges	Strongly Agreed		Agreed		Disagreed		Strongly Disagreed	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
poor electricity	42	11.4	86	23.2	128	34.6	114	30.8
poor internet connectivity	134	36.2	118	31.9	86	23.2	32	8.6
poor library settings	46	12.4	76	20.5	176	47.6	72	19.5
insufficient information materials	70	18.9	118	31.9	130	35.1	52	14.1
lackadaisical attitude of the library staff	90	24.3	118	31.9	102	27.6	60	16.2
high workload	60	16.2	96	25.9	160	43.2	54	14.6
unorganized collections	54	14.6	64	17.3	164	44.3	88	23.8
poor information retrieval skills	44	11.9	124	33.5	146	39.5	56	15.1
unfriendly staff	54	14.6	92	24.9	170	45.9	54	14.6
uncomfortable facilities	38	10.3	74	20.0	162	43.8	96	25.9
lack of sitting facilities	30	8.1	30	8.1	162	43.8	148	40.0
over population of users	96	25.9	134	36.2	104	28.1	36	9.7
outdated collection	108	29.2	140	37.8	86	23.2	36	9.7

On the challenges faced by undergraduate students, table6 shows that 134 (36.2%) and 118 (31.9%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that poor internet connectivity is a challenge to their use of library collections. However, 176 (47.6%) and 72 (19.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed that library settings is a challenge to their use of library.

Discussion of the Findings

Findings from this study showed that higher percentage of the respondents attested to the availability of textbooks, newspapers, bibliographies, reference materials and

magazines. These findings correlate with Oyewo (2015), Anyoku (2015), Nkamnebe&Egwuatu(2017), Selvaraj&Gadagin (2017)who reported that the most widely offered library resources and services are textbooks, newspapers, dictionaries, encyclopedia, abstracts, indexes, bibliographies, reference materials and magazines. On the other hand, respondents also attested to the non-availability of microforms, video CD, audio CD, web pages, technical reports, databases, manuscript, memoranda, abstract, indexes, theses, e-books and maps

On the awareness of library collections, findings from this study showed that a high percentage of the respondents are aware of the following library collections; textbooks, newspapers, reference materials, bibliographies, e-books, encyclopedia, magazines, maps, documentaries and indexes. However, higher percentage of the respondents are not aware of the following library collections; microform, Video CD, Audio CD, web pages, memoranda, manuscript, databases, abstract, and theses. This is in line with the findings of Ahmad and Panda (2013), Aina (2014), Namugera (2014), Anyaoku (2015), Akpojotor (2016), Yebowaah and Plockey (2017) where it was reported that the rate of awareness of some library resources services was rated low.

Also, on the purpose of usage of library collections findings showed that majority of the respondents agreed that they use library collections for examination preparation. From the observation, University Library's usually experience high rate of usage during examinations as students either go there to read and study. This is in line with Hulyah (2014), Naqvi (2014), Olajide&Adio (2017) who reported that majority of the respondents uses the library as place where they can read, study, carry out assignments, and also that the library was well used for research work. However, the least purpose of usage of library collections as agreed by the respondents is for recreation purpose this similar to the findings of Oni et al (2016).This is not surprising because the university library have little provision for recreation.

On the extent of library collections usage by undergraduate students, it can be deduced that majority of the respondents visit the library occasionally. Out of those that visit the library, most of them rarely use the library collections, while some of the respondents rated their usage of library collection average. This finding supports Yebowaah and Plockey (2017)who revealed that respondents used library once in a while, findings also revealed that respondents who use the library daily or monthly were few, which contradicts the findings of Ikenwe and Adegbilero-Iwari (2014),Oyewo (2015), who reported that most respondents visits the library daily, while few of them visited the library once in a week or month and very few rarely visited the library.

Among other challenges, findings from this study showed that majority of the respondents agreed that poor internet connectivity, outdated library collections, over population of users, lackadaisical attitude of the library staff, insufficient information materials are the challenges faced by undergraduate students when using library collections. This finding is similar to that of Oni et al (2016) and Yebowaah and Plockey (2017) who found that irregular power supply, poor attitude of library staff, limited access to available resources and slow speed of Internet access, are some of the challenges encountered in using library resources. However, most of the respondents do not see lack of sitting facilities, uncomfortable facilities, poor information retrieval skills, unorganized collections, poor library settings as impediments to their use of library collections, which contradicts Olajide and Adio (2017) who reported that inadequate reading space, lack of physical facilities and erratic power supply as

problems preventing students from effectively utilizing the resources in the library for their information needs.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, this study concludes that commonly available materials at the University of Ilorin Library include textbooks, newspapers, bibliographies, reference materials and magazines. This study also showed that a high percentage of the respondents are aware of textbooks, newspapers, reference materials, bibliographies, e-books, encyclopedias and magazines, in the University of Ilorin Library. Furthermore, most of the respondents used the collections for examination preparations and also poor internet connectivity, outdated library collections, lackadaisical attitude of the library staff, insufficient information materials are the challenges faced by the respondents.

Recommendations

From the findings and conclusion reached in this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. the Library Management should ensure the availability of different library collections.
2. the Library Management should embark on awareness services of their collections in order to keep the students abreast of their library collections.
3. students on the other hand, should ask questions from the library staff on any kind of service or library collections they believe will ease their academic activities.
4. the library has been adjudged as the hub of academic activities in the university. Therefore, students should endeavor to visit the library frequently.
5. the university management should strive to find solutions to factors that impede the use of library.
6. the library staff should characterize themselves with friendliness, welcoming and good attitude towards the students.
7. the library management should acquire information materials that are relevant and up-to-date.

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