

Library Development Committee: A Panacea to Effective Academic Library Servicing in Nigeria Public Universities

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Abstract

This study was conducted on appraisal of library development committee activities as catalyst to enhancing academic library services in Kwara State University, Malete. The study was conducted using a qualitative research design. The interview guide has twelve items in which questions were sought on types of library services provided in Kwara State University, Malete. Interview approach was chosen in order to collect a well-detailed and comprehensive data and information on the appraisal of library development committee activities as catalyst to enhancing academic library services. The study found that the types of library services provided in Kwara State Library are: current awareness services (CAS), selective dissemination of information (SDI), reprographics services, reference services, circulation services, collection development service. The finding also shows that the challenges faced by library development committee are; poor funding, deficit infrastructure and nonchalant attitude. However, the solutions to the challenges militating against the success of library development committee are: provision of adequate fund for the library and appropriate use of fund meant for the library.

Keywords: *Library, Library development committee, Library service*

Introduction

Overtime, academic libraries are faced with challenges of being perceived as not relevant due to impressions in some quarters that libraries are not needed in the age of computer and internet. It is erroneously assumed that all information that could ever be required is available on the Internet and can be accessed on a computer without the help of librarians. Consequently, libraries must prove that they are still relevant in the internet era. The functionality of library cannot be underestimated despite the era of rapid globalization. However, In order to achieve this goals, policies, plans, programmes to support the provision of information services by libraries and appraisal of library development committee must be put to place. (Akpan, 2019). According to Awotola and Olowolagba (2018), academic libraries are libraries that are found in higher educational institutions of learning like the Universities, Colleges of Education and Polytechnics. Academic libraries serve to meet the information needs of its users and serve as the backbone of its parent institution. Therefore, it must provide

service and guidance to its users, as well as suitable space and conducive conditions and environment in which they can work. In addition, an academic library must house collections of special value which should be part of the universities and the nation's heritage, and this requires a lot of funding (Ogunrobi, 2019).

Academic library services are provided to students, faculty members and its immediate community with a mission of aiding research, teaching and learning as well as community service. Thus, these services include circulation service, serial service, social media service, selective dissemination of information and current awareness services, all these services involve libraries and librarians in given adequate information to the users (Nkiko, 2019). Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2019) stated that constant appraisal of the library committee is the surest way of providing improved services to ascertain whether the library is meeting its expected goals; so that adjustments should be made where necessary for effective library service provision. More so, the primary purpose of appraisal is to gather information on how the library committee is accomplishing its objectives with a view to improving the delivery of library services. Quality service provision is one that fully meets the expectations and requirements of the users. If a library provides appropriate service to the right user at the right time and in the required form, then it could be argued to be maintaining quality (Peter, 2018).

Academic libraries down the ages have been charged with the responsibility of managing information resources and providing effective services. However, there are numerous problems affecting academic libraries in Nigeria in their bid to provide effective services to the users. Also, it has been noted that the academic library practices in many universities in the country is nothing to write home about. Studies such as Abubakar (2021) & Abayode (2021) found that it is not only one factor that is responsible for the imperfection in academic libraries. Other factors include absence of library development committee, declining reading attitude among others. The library development committee can have influence on matters affecting the libraries. However, the absence of library committee in any university has been a concern to most people whose interest is on the library and documentation services. It is in the light of the above that this study examines appraisal of library development committee activities as catalyst to academic library services: A case study of Kwara State University, Malete.

Literature Review

Generally, in designing the national policy on education, one of the goals of university education is to acquire both physical and intellectual skills to enable individuals to become self-reliant and useful members of the society (Chaka, 2020; UNESCO, 2020). From librarians' point of view, the national policy on education in its statement above was actually referring to the library; as this is

what the library is known for. Libraries are known for acquiring information resources and making such accessible to users for utilization (Nwezeh & Shabi, 2021). Budd (2021) opined that considering this function of the library therefore, behind the mission and vision of the education is the library. No wonder a library is always found in any institution of learning. This without doubt shows that the success of any academic institution depends on the library.

Meanwhile, academic libraries in Nigeria can be traced back to pre-independence period when the University of Ibadan and its library were established in 1948. Academic library is a part of the university set-up to support teaching, learning, research and publication functions of the tertiary institution. In addition to the basic services, academic library provides reference service, current awareness service, indexing and abstracting service, document delivery service, reprographic service, and library exhibitions (Nwezeh & Shabi, 2021). Rubin and Rubin (2020) described academic libraries as the libraries that are affiliated to universities, polytechnics, and monotechnics. They are established to support their parent institutions in actualizing their objectives of teaching, learning and research. However, study has shown that there is a decline in the use of library physical collections and services which may jeopardize the reason for the establishment of the library in the first place and negatively affect the quality of teaching, learning and research in institutions.

Library services means services that are provided towards the information needs of the users for example, circulation services, reference services, audiovisual services etc. More so, library services are the services such as library activities, programs etc. which are provided by academic libraries to enable users meet their information need (Umoh, 2019). However, to facilitate academic success, academic libraries must provide access broad range of services such as reference and referral services, orientation activities, and instruction sessions that teach students the critical thinking skills necessary for using library information resources (Dempsey, 2019).

According to Atanda (2019), the following are the services rendered by academic libraries in Nigeria: Moses (2019) noted that circulation and borrowing service is one of the types of services provided in academic libraries. It is one of the most vital services rendered by academic libraries in Nigeria to users. These services are being provided to users for example students, staff, researchers and other potential patrons at large which are outside the academic environment. Academic library provides these services by providing information resources that will meet their information needs. Baro (2020) viewed that reference and referral service is another type of service rendered in the library. It is the kind of library service in which contact between the user and the reference librarian is established. This is done through assisting, matching the user with the library materials which could be print or electronic resources. Interestingly, these

services can be facilitated and made possible remotely by the use of social media network or platforms.

Baro (2020) stated that library as a social institution is charged with the function of preserving and disseminating human culture and civilization contained in books. It is one of the important platforms to encourage growth and development in the future. This is because, academic library is an institution established by the society, for the society and of the society. As such, it must run on the sound line so that it becomes a model for all the members of the society. Library committee is the committee responsible for the provision of a library services. However, a governing body of a library is also known by different names like library committee, library board and board of directors, library trustees and advisory committee. Though, in Nigeria, such governing body is commonly called a library committee (Manwadkar, 2020).

Furthermore, library committee is body consisting of certain persons, which is assigned a particular job. Such committee mostly supervises and advises the librarian in matters in which public participation is essential. Library committee also consists of some selected members who are responsible for the progress of the institution and making a well plan and policy for the development of the library (Olanlokun & Salisu, 2022). Library committee became essential because it makes policies for the library development, to properly control and make the library management efficient in decision making. Library committee is also needed for the development of the library, to help the library to achieve its aims and objectives and to create coordination between income and expenditure (Oduagwu, 2020).

A library committee of a tertiary institution should be representative of the institution, its members are chosen based on criteria's. A library committee of a tertiary institution functions should be informative and advisory. Normally, a library committee of a tertiary institution has few powers, as it is intended to serve in an advisory rather than in an administrative capacity (Nkiko, 2019). According to Richard (2018), a library committee advises the management on matters concerning the public interest. It is desirable that it should be advisory in nature and not to perform administrative functions. A library committee should restrict itself to general policy and not with specific applications. A library committee also ensure better understanding between the library policy and the users, the committee keeps the librarians on alert since it will also act as a watch dog of the library activities and in some cases, it takes up the job of recruiting efficient librarian for the organization (Olanlokun & Salisu, 2022).

It is generally known that library committee plays a critical role in the development of academic libraries. It has become a standard practice for every

academic library to have a library committee. These committees are expected to be functional and vibrant thus performing advisory, regulatory, selection and de-selection, policy formulating and other decision-making roles (Bichi, 2018). The school governing bodies have the authority and responsibility of making decisions about various policies, procedures and committees. One of the responsibilities of a school governing body is to create sub-committees to perform some particular functions of the school aims and objectives (Nkiko, 2019). It is within the committee structure to take far reaching decisions regarding the development of the academic libraries. Thus, a library committee comprises of people representing all academic departments and programs. In effect of this, the membership composition of the committee is usually high-powered comprising representatives of faculty, the academic board of the institution, financial department, students, the head librarian and other major stakeholders (Ifidion, 2020). However, the composition could differ from institution to institution especially depending on the legislation establishing the particular tertiary institution. To give it the needed authority to function as expected. It is often chaired by the Pro-Vice Chancellor or Vice-Rector or Provost with the university librarian as the secretary (Oduagwu, 2020).

More so, all these arrangements are made to ensure that the library committee plays essential and effective roles in the sustainable development of a library. However, the library committee may be referred to differently in academic libraries for example; it is called library council, library board, library governing board, library management committee. The committee meets twice each semester. The main functions are: to assist the university librarian to select materials and in recruitment of competent staff (Nkiko, 2019). A library committee serves their department and programs as a knowledgeable resource for library information. The committee maintains a good relationship with the government and secures the interest of the library in the overall government organization and financial structure in planning an improvement. The committee therefore enlarge public and official understanding of the library, its purpose, problems and progress so that its public relationship may be fruitful (Ifidion, 2020).

Library committees play a vital role in the success of academic libraries. Library committees provide input on a wide range of library services and initiatives. This includes collection development, program planning, budget allocation, staffing, and facilities. By doing so, the library committees can help to ensure that the library meets the needs of its users and fulfills its mission. There is a growing body of research that supports the positive impact of library committees on service delivery (Brannen et al., 2016). According to given (2017), library committees can help to improve Communication between the library and its users, increase the visibility and support for the library, and build community.

Another study, by Wilson (2018), it was stated that library committees can play a variety of roles in academic libraries, including providing input on collection development, planning programs, allocating budgets, hiring staff, and planning facilities. The study also found that library committees can help to promote communication and collaboration between the library and its users, staff, and stakeholders. However, the impact of library committees can vary depending on the specific library and the committee's composition and structure. Therefore, it is important for libraries to carefully consider the needs of their users and the goals of the library when forming and managing library committees. The impact of library committees on service delivery suggests that they can be a valuable asset to libraries. By providing input on a variety of library services and initiatives, library committees can help to ensure that the library meets the needs of its users and fulfills its mission. Some specific examples of how library committees can impact service delivery include collection development; program planning; budget allocation; staffing; and facilities (Terpis, 2020). Cruz (2019) noted that there are different types of library committees, which include standing committee, ad-hoc committee, recommending committee, executive committee, nominated committee, and building committee. However, the focus of this study is the library development committee as a catalyst to the academic library services.

Universities authorities are yet to acknowledge the fact that the committee plays an integral role in the development of the library. The aim of library committee is to ensure smooth functioning of the library and coordination with the management, faculty members and students. According to Oduagwu (2020), the following are the roles and functions of library development committee: to work as an advisory committee and guides the librarian for executing various projects; to act as a reporting and planning committee for successfully completing library activities. More so, it act as advocate for the library, form the decision-making groups; it act as a coordinator between the library and the academic development programs; it prepare budget and proposals for the development of the Library; it increase collection of reading materials, related to physiotherapy; it promote the library's role and enhance its effectiveness in the educational process; it adopt measures to enhance reading habits of students; it support researchers for their research activity and it work towards improvement and modernization of library (Abubakar, 2021).

In terms of acquiring new materials into the library, the committee play another vital role and function such as: to discuss and recommend list of books and journals suggested by faculty and students; to shortlist the list of books and journals for purchasing; to decide and finalize the list of books for procurement after perusal and discussion of the comparison statement prepared by the librarian; to put up procurement list with supplier suggestion i.e. comparison statement to the principal for final approval; to confirm received items and approve the

received invoices and therefore forward the invoice to the Principal for further approval (Amechi, 2020).

In terms of data purchasing, the library committee decide and finalize purchasing of appropriate database by taking suggestions from subject experts, they also put-up recommended database for further approval. However, in terms of book binding, the library committee finalizes the list for books and journals for binding; finalize the vendor on the basis of lowest cost, quality of binding and good service; check the quality of bound books and journals, received from the vendor and approve the binding quality and received bill (Farcet, & Marcinec, 2020). In terms of preparing the library budget, the committee prepare library budget based on continuation and starting of projects every year for approval by apex bodies and it ensure proper and complete utilization of library budget as per allocation. In terms of programs for library promotion, the library committee decides the library promotion activities every year and it also help in the organization of various activities related to library promotion (Rajkoomar, 2021). Furthermore, in terms of infrastructural maintenance, the library committee takes decision for library related maintenance work, the library committee inform general maintenance committee about required maintenance and thy also confirm the quality of maintenance work and approve. In terms of policy and decision making, the library committee frame and revise library rules and regulations for book circulation and computer facility available in the library, it also confirms compliance of rules and regulations (Iwhiwhu, 2018). The library committee is also responsible for the following function: selection of library personnel's, decide the policy and aims of the academic library and the tertiary institution. It also responsible for the creation of rules for well organize academic library, it gives direction for annual reports and security of library properties. The library committee is therefore responsible for selecting proper books, periodicals and other information records relevant and useful to the user community; it also accepts gifts and donations for the library (Nkiko, 2019).

Research Methodology

The design adopted for this study is the exploratory research design. Nevertheless, the qualitative research approach used in this study is exploratory in nature, which is why it concerns non-numerical data. The total population of professional staff at Kwara state university library are fifteen (15) in numbers as stipulated in the university handbook presently. However, at the time of this study, only seven were present so therefore the seven on seat were the target group. After careful consideration, the interview was deemed the best instrument to use for this study. For this research a physical interview approach was used to collect data from the participants about their experiences on the library development committee activities as catalyst to enhancing academic library services in KWASU Library, Malete. The interview was conducted using structured format that involved

designing an interview guide. The interview guide was designed with the research questions at the back of the researchers' minds. The interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed for analysis.

The analysis was carried out using the thematic analysis. Braun and Clarke's (2006) framework was adopted for this study. The framework involves six (6) steps of linear process, which include familiarization with the data, coding of the data, generating the initial themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes, and writing the report. The familiarization phase involved the analyst reading through the transcripts for a good understanding. After this, codes were extracted with the study's objectives at the back of the researcher's mind. Codes were grouped to formulate themes; after which, the themes were reviewed, defined, and named for clear language understanding.

Responses from Interviews Services Provided in the Library

The findings of the study showed that the types of library services provided in Kwara State University library include reference service, serial services, reprographic services, current awareness services, selective dissemination of information, circulation services, electronic/online services, collection development services, lending services, library cooperation, and online public access catalogue (OPAC).

Participant 7:

"We render reference services, serial services, reprographic services current awareness services, selective dissemination of information and so on."

Participant 2:

"KWASU library offers collection development services, user services, lending services and online services as well."

Participant 6:

"We render current awareness services (CAS) and selective dissemination of information (SDI) for our users. We also offer online public access catalog (OPAC)

services, photocopy services, reference services and so on.”

Library Development Commitment and Composition

Results showed that there are different types of committees in Kwara State University Library, which include library development committee, welfare committee, general library committee, professional and library and publication committee. However, the two most prominent committees are the library development committee and library and publication committee. Findings showed that while library and publication committee regulates the activities of the library that has to do with publications (with respect to what journals to acquire), the library development committee is a requirement by TETFUND who is a major benefactor in giving intervention.

Participant 1:

“Yes, there are committees that operate within KWASU library and they are the library development committee, professional library committee and general library committee.”

Participant 7:

“Yes, there are many committees that operate within the library but the prominent one is the library development committee.”

Participant 6:

“Yes, there are numerous committees that operates within the library but the most prominent committee in the library is the library development committee. We have the welfare committee as well among others.”

Participant 5:

“The library and publication committee has to do with a body that regulates the activities of the library

that has to do with publications, what journals are relevant and should be acquired. It is an advisory committee to the lecturers and researchers as well, on where to publish their articles. The library development committee is a requirement by TETFUND who the major benefactor of the library in terms of is giving intervention to assist in the development of our collections. It is a requirement that a library development committee must be in place in order to enjoy the benefits from TETFUND.

The findings showed that the composition of the library development committee include the University Librarian (who is also the Chairman of the Committee), the Deputy University Librarian, deans of faculties, some professors, principal librarian, senior librarian, TETFUND desk officer, and some other members

Participant 5:

“The library development committee consists of the university librarian who is the chairman of the committee and also some other members of the committee and also which the TETFUND desk officer must be a member of the committee and some professors and deans. We also have a representative from each faculty who are part of the committee.”

Participant 6:

“The committee is made up of the university librarian, the deputy librarian, principal librarian and senior librarian. Asides these, other categories of librarians are not usually part of the committee.”

Roles of Library Development Committee

Findings showed that the roles of library development committee concern the development of the library and the collections. Specifically, the findings showed that the roles of library development committee include enhancement of provision of adequate services to users, maintenance of the library by calling the attention of the University management of the challenges facing the library through the University Librarian, recommendation of staff members for promotion, regulation of TETFUND fund, develop book budget, and policy making.

Participant 7:

“The role of the library development is associated with the development of the library and its collection entirely.”

Participant 1:

“The role which the library development committee performs is that they ensure the provision of adequate services for users, they ensure the provision of maintenance of the library by calling the attention of the university management through the university librarian who is the chairman of the committee on the challenges facing the library. Also on staff promotion, the library committee takes care of that and reports appropriately to the management for those that are due for promotion.”

Participant 5:

“The role of the library development committee is to take care of resources in terms of books and journals which

also serve as a guide to TETFUND intervention. It also deals with furniture's and equipment's as well. The role of the committee basically is to regulate the intervention TETFUND is trying to implement so by doing that, the committee looks at the quality and quantity of the services of the TETFUND intervention."

Participant 6:

"The role of the library development committee is to manage the affairs of the library for the development of the library in terms of purchasing, selecting, policy making and the general development of the library."

Results showed that the library development committee plays more of a mediatory role than an advisory role. The committee mediates between TETFUND and the university management. Findings however showed that the committee support in the area of issues that concern the development of the library by recommending the acquisition of resources especially during the period of accreditation and suggestions of reliable vendors or contractors.

Participant 7:

"The committee gives advice on anything has to do with the total development of the library."

Participant 1:

"On acquisition of resources most especially when accreditation is close. The library committee looks at

various programs coming for accreditation and also where the library materials are lacking so the committee advises the management to acquire the recent resources for those programs and these advisory roles are tantamount to the services the library provides including information services, dissemination of information and making books available for readers.”

Participant 5:

“They play a bit of this role by ensuring the right services are provided by suggestion of vendors or contractor that won’t give substandard materials or resources including furniture’s. In terms of resources, our books, we have professional librarians who are experts who know what materials to be acquired to the library. It is a mediatory role. It’s mediating between TETFUND and even the management. Not about anybody protecting his or her interest so the committee performs check and balance, which I think is very essential.”

Impacts of Library Development Committee on Service Delivery

Findings of the study showed that the library development committee is saddled with the responsibility of selecting the relevant materials to be acquired, from which vendor the library material is going to be acquired from, and how the funding is to be put to use in acquiring relevant materials.

Participant 2:

“There’s a representative from each academic units as well as someone from acquisition so when funds from the funding body (TETFUND) arrives, they make use of it judiciously by planning on what materials should be acquired.”

Participant 4:

“Whenever books are to be acquired, the committee decides on how much(sic) budgetary allocations is available for the material to be acquired and after that is done, a list is sent to the university management and after the list has been sent back, the committee selects books to be purchased based on the available funds.”

Participant 6:

“In terms of acquisition of resources, it is tedious in terms of check and balances. For example, there might be a certain budget that wants to be used for the acquisition of materials so it needs to be balanced by taking cognizance of programs being run in the university, how much funds needs to be spent to balance the collection so all faculties need to be put into consideration. So, the committee will sit together and brainstorm on how these

funds will be used to acquire the relevant resources.”

Results of the study showed that the library development committee partakes in the decision making on infrastructural development of the library by calling attention of the university management to deteriorating infrastructure including the building, needed furniture, electronic gadgets supply and repairs, and also the library environment.

Participant 1:

“The committee calls the attention of the university to the infrastructures deteriorating in the library including the buildings as well. If any damage is detected, the committee calls the works department to be aware of the situation in order for repairs to be done.”

Participants 5:

“Like I stated earlier, the committee has to do with the totality of the development of the library including the furniture’s, equipment’s as well as buildings. The committee looks at the standard and quality of these infrastructures using a member or members of the committee who are expertise in this area. Who are then appointed to oversee the maintenance and give recommendations on it to the University management.”

The findings of the study showed that library development committee does not play much responsibility in the development of library policies.

Participant 2:

“They play minimal role as library policies are developed by another committee.”

Participant 5:

“The library policy guides the day-to-day activities in terms of acquisition of materials, in terms of mode of operandi generally so library policies is the sole responsibility of the professional librarians. The committee does not play much role in the decision making of library policies.”

Results of the study showed that the functions of the library development committee in terms of staff training and development include checking for conferences and workshops; and it was also shown that the committee develop training schedule for the staff members.

Participant 1:

“There is a standing committee responsible for that and these committee are subcommittee charged with the responsibility of checking for conferences, workshops. Also, a timetable is made for each staff so each staff is aware of when he/she is to go for training.”

Participant 2:

“The committee is charged with the responsibility of sending out staffs for training.

Participant 3:

“The committee is responsible for checking of trainings and conferences. Whenever there’s training, all staffs are informed.”

Participant 4:

“The committee ensures staffs attend trainings and seminars and the trainings are being rotated among the staffs. They also make recommendations of trainings and retrainings, workshops and so on.”

Challenges Militating against the Success of Library Development Committee

The findings of the study showed that the challenges faced by library development committee in Kwara State University, Malete include underfunding or insufficient funding by the majority (71.4%) of the participants. Meanwhile, results showed that there are issues of poor implementation.

Participant 1:

“The major challenge is underfunding which affects the provision of adequate services to users and also inadequate infrastructures for the learning of users.”

Participant 6:

“When decisions are made, there might be problems of implementation. For example, the

committee might decide to develop the collection of a particular department but the amount might be higher than what was being budgeted due to the cost of the materials. Although the university management is trying but financial backing is a problem.”

Solutions to the Challenges Militating against Library Development

Committee The findings of the study showed that some of the proffered solutions to the challenges militating against the success of library development commitment include effective disbursement of fund, library staff members should play good politics, support of the committee members, and provision of adequate funding.

Participant 1:

“There should be adequate disbursement of funds to enable the adequate provision of services to users as well as provision of infrastructures for the conducive (sic) learning of users.”

Participant 4:

“Good Lobbying from University management and government to get funding for the library.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study showed that the types of library services provided in Kwara State University library include reference service, serial services, reprographic services, current awareness services, selective dissemination of information, circulation services, electronic/online services, collection development services, lending services, library cooperation, and online public access catalogue (OPAC). This is consistent with the findings of previous studies of Atenda, (2019) and Dempsey (2019) which reported that academic libraries provide access broad range of services such as reference and referral services,

orientation activities, and instruction sessions that teach students the critical thinking skills necessary for using library information resources. Similarly, Moses (2019) showed that academic libraries in Nigeria provide circulation and lending services to their users.

Results of the study showed that there are different types of committees in Kwara State University Library, which include library development committee, welfare committee, general library committee, professional and library and publication committee. This is consistent the findings of Baro (2020) that libraries have different kinds of committees.

However, the two most prominent committees are the library development committee and library and publication committee. Odogwu (2020) showed that library committee became essential because it makes policies for the library development, to properly control and make the library management efficient in decision making. Findings showed that while library and publication committee regulates the activities of the library that has to do with publications (with respect to what journals and books to acquire), the library development committee is a requirement by TETFUND who is a major benefactor in giving intervention. The findings showed that the composition of the library development committee include the University Librarian (who is also the Chairman of the Committee), the Deputy University Librarian, Deans of faculties, some professors, principal librarian, senior librarian, TETFUND desk officer, and some other members.

Findings showed that the roles of library development committee concern the development of the library and the collections. Specifically, the findings showed that the roles of library development committee include enhancement of provision of adequate services to users, maintenance of the library by calling the attention of the University management of the challenges facing the library through the University Librarian, recommendation of staff members for promotion, regulation of TETFUND fund, developing book budget, and policy making. This is consistent with the findings of Given (2017) that library development committee is involved in staff training. Results showed that the library development committee plays more of a mediatory role than an advisory role. The committee mediates between TETFUND and other funding as well as other development strategies and the university management. Findings however showed that the library committee rendered support in the area of issues that concern the development of the library by recommending the acquisition of resources especially during the period of accreditation and suggestions of reliable vendors or contractors. This is similar with the findings of Ifidon (2020).

Findings of the study showed that the library development committee is saddled with the responsibility of selecting the relevant materials to be acquired, from

which vendor the library material is going to be acquired from, and how the funding is to be put to use in acquiring relevant materials. This is same as the findings of Bichi (2018). Results of the study showed that the library development committee partakes in the decision making on infrastructural development of the library by calling attention of the university management to deteriorating infrastructure including the building, needed furniture, electronic gadgets supply and repairs, and also the library environment. This is consistent with the results of Nkiko (2019). The findings of this study showed that library development committee does not play much responsibility in the development of library policies. Results of the study showed that the functions of the library development committee in terms of staff training and development include checking for conferences and workshops; and it was also shown that the committee develop training schedule for the staff members.

The findings of this study showed that the challenges faced by library development committee in Kwara State University, Malete include inadequate funding or insufficient funding by the majority of the participants. Meanwhile, results also showed that there are issues of poor implementation of funds. Broadbank (2015) stated that there are several problems encountered or faced by library committee in the development of academic library. Meanwhile, Singh and Kaur (2019) showed that the main mandate of academic libraries is provision and access to information and knowledge as well as supporting the mission of their parent institutions which is teaching, learning and research.

The findings of the study showed that some of the proffered solutions to the challenges militating against the success of library development commitment include effective disbursement of fund, library staff members, support of the committee members, and provision of adequate funding. Nkiko (2021) reported provision of adequate facilities and information resources that could result in students using the libraries as a study space as major strategies to alleviate the problems militating against the success by library committee. Another suggestion proffered to assuage the challenge according to a recent article by Momodu (2022) is that the tendency to abide library rules and regulations has become a common phenomenon amongst the staff and this has resulted into varying degree of legitimate behaviors in the use and provision of library services.

Summary and Conclusion

The study concluded that the library development committee is saddled with the responsibility of selecting the relevant materials to be acquired, from which vendor the library material is going to be acquired from, and how the funding is to be put to use in acquiring relevant materials.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are provided based on the findings of the study:

1. Government should provide more funding for libraries.
2. Adequate infrastructural facilities should be provided within the libraries
3. The library development committee should include student representatives since students are important stakeholders of the university.
4. Library development committee should partake in developing policies for the library.
5. Staff members in the library should play good role and they should support the committee members.

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