academicresearchJournals

Academic Research Journal on Health Information Management

Research paper

Availability and utilization of Non- Print Resources in Legacy University, Okija. Anambra State

Adaeze Nwona NZEWI, PhD (CLN)

Medical library, College of Health Sciences and Technology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nnewi Campus

The study was carried out to investigate the Availability and utilization of Non- Print Resources in Legacy University, Okija Anambra StateDescriptive survey research design was used for the study. Three objectives and three research questions were formulated to guide the study. Simple sampling was used to select LUO Library and proportionate stratified random sampling was adopted to select 805 undergraduate library users. Instrument for data collection included well-structured questionnaire and observation checklist. Eight hundred copies of questionnaires were distributed to the users of the universities selected with 70.8% return rate. The study used frequency count, percentage and mean score as statistical measures. : The result revealed that Out of fifteen non print information resources needed in university library, aggregate of eight are available and are in use, five are available and not in use while two are not available. It was also revealed that Computer is the most adequate collection of non -print information resources (mean=3.40) in these universities' libraries.

Keywords: Availability, utilization, Non- Print, Resources, Legacy, University, and Okija

INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of the academic library is to provide collections and services in support of higher education. The functions of universities are conservation of knowledge and ideas, teaching, publication, research, extension service and interpretation and thus, university libraries are very essential to achieve the objectives of university education. The impact of information science during the last decades directly causes the spread of non-print and fugitive materials and as a result, libraries world over have acquired large collections of such materials. There are several reasons for procuring non-print materials in university libraries.

Popoola and Haliso (n.d) define information resources as those information bearing materials that are both printed, non-printed and electronic formats such as, textbooks, journals, index, abstracts newspapers and magazines, reports CD-ROMs, Data-bases, internet/E-mail, video tapes/cassette, diskettes, magnetic disk, computer, microform etc. These information materials are the raw materials that libraries acquire, catalogue, stock and make available to their patrons, as well as use to provide various other services. Library resources comprises of both human and material components of the library. They are harnessed together to achieve the objectives of library establishment. Without resources the purpose of setting up a library cannot be achieved. The importance of resources in our educational institutions have been in the minds of great authors their patrons can better be imagined form rapidly rising burgeoning classes of

citizenry burning with zeal to acquire further knowledge necessary for personal and national development process. The resources in the libraries can be grouped according to formats. The main formats include; printed and non-printed and electronic materials. For the purpose of this research study, the researcher shall emphasize on non-print or e-resources will be used interchangeably due to evolution of ICT that took over audio-visual materials.

Thus, the significance of equipping academic libraries with quality information resources in higher learning institutions cannot be over emphasized. University libraries across the world spend a lot of money to subscribe to e-resources to enhance the availability of e-resources to users (Ruzegea, & Msonde, (2020). Legacy University, Okija (LUO) like other higher learning institutions, spend huge amounts of money to subscribe to e-resources with the aim of satisfying the teaching, learning and research needs of the university. Similarly, Tanzania is among the developing countries that receive free access to academic and professional peer-reviewed e-resources through Research4Life programmes such as HINARI, AGORA, OARE, GOAL and ARDI. Therefore, it is important for the University to ensure that e-resources are optimally utilized by faculties, students, and researchers to promote students' academic achievement. In that regard, several training sessions have been conducted to enable LUO students to acquire knowledge on how to access and utilize e-resources in their educational and research work. Despite these efforts, and the value of e-resources, access to and usage of e-resources among LUO students leaves much to be desired. Akpojotor (2016) mentioned some reasons for the students' inability to access and exploit e-resources. These include lack of awareness of the availability of e-resources at the library, lack of information literacy skills on how to access e-resources, and lack of ICT competence among users of e-resources (Kinengyere, Kiyingi & Baziraake, 2012).

The failure of students to access and use e-resources is a major problem in most universities in developing countries (Gathoni, 2012). However, the level of severity may differ from one university to another as well as from situation to situation. Thus, understanding the students' awareness and usage of e-resources at LUO becomes important to help librarians organize the resources accordingly and to make library planning, practice, and policy improvement. The study was guided three research objectives**:**

1. Identify e-resources available for use in the LUO Library
2. Identify how adequate is collection of e-resources /non-print information resources in their university library?
3. Determine the extent of utilization of non-print information resources in the LUO, Library

Research questions

1. What are the e-resources available for use in the LUO library?
2. How adequate is collection of e-resources /non-print information resources in their university library?
3. To what extent of utilization of non-print information resources in the LUO library?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Usage of E-Resources/Non-print materials

The usage of e-resources in higher learning institutions has become more popular in recent years due to their currency and rich content. Various studies have been conducted to realize whether the subscribed e-resources are effectively being utilized. Factors such as awareness, search skills, infrastructure, and lack of training have been pointed out as factors that influence usage of e-resources. For example, Megameno (2010) investigated the usage of e-resources among nursing students at the University of Namibia. The findings from this study reveal that 86.4% of the students did not use the available e-resources because they were not aware of their availability. Similarly, the study conducted by Kwafoa, Osman and Afful-Arthur (2016) on the usage of e-resources at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana shows that 92% of the respondents were aware of the existence of e-resources at their institution. Interestingly, respondents had no idea that those e-resources were subscribed to by the university library. Moreover, the study by Chandra et al (2014) found that slow internet speed and frequent power outage are among the common problems that affect the effective usage of e-resources.

In the same line, several studies have been conducted on students' access and usage of e-resources in higher learning institutions in Tanzania. For example, Mtega et al., (2014) investigated the usage of e-resources among agricultural researchers and extension staff. These researchers found that there was low usage of e-resources from popular agricultural databases. Factors such as poor ICT infrastructure, limited funds to subscribe to e-resources and low information literacy training contributed to low accessibility and usage of e-resources. On the other hand, Nkebukwa (2016) investigated the usage of electronic resources by students at the College of Business Education in Tanzania. The

findings reveal that most of the students were not using e-resources due to lack of awareness of the e-resources being available at the institution. The researcher noted that lack of searching skills and connected computers affected the usage of e-resources. Similarly, Katabalwa (2016) investigated the use of e-resources by postgraduate students at the University of Dara Salaam. Findings show that most of the students used e-journals for various purposes, including assignments, literature review, and research report writing, among others. The researcher mentioned issues such as frequent power outage, inadequate bandwidth, lack of training, lack of awareness, limited access to computers (Mollel & Mwantimwa, 2019) and difficulty in searching, among the challenges that affected the effective usage of e-resources.

The findings described above corroborate with Manda's (2005) study which reported that PERI resources provided in academic and research institutions in Tanzania were underutilized because potential users were not aware of the resources due to lack of publicity and low bandwidth. On that basis, it is crucial for library users to possess necessary skills and competence in using technological tools for effective access to and usage of e-resources.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the descriptive survey design. The study which involves The availability and use of non-print information resources LUO library lend itself to descriptive survey because it involved collecting of data for the purpose of describing and interpreting existing conditions on practice in the LUO, library that involved large population. The total population of the study comprises of 22,128 registered undergraduate library users in LUO Library. The information gathered by the researcher from the circulation librarian office. The sample size comprises of 2,283 registered undergraduate library users. The instrument uses for data collection are questionnaire and observational checklist. The researcher developed a structured questionnaire titled Utilization of Non- print Information Resources and Users (UNIRUSQ)and also used interview for this study. The instruments were used to obtain valid and reliable data from the students for the study. The questionnaire is structured based on research questions using 4 point rating scale. The questionnaire has four sections. Section A deals with personal information. Section B deals with adequacy collection of non-print information resources in the university library. Section C contains question on the extent of utilization of non-print information resources in the university library. Section D contains questions on the purpose of the use of non-print information resources. The respondents carefully read the instructions provided and ticked the appropriate option as applicable.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research question 1: what are thee-resources available for use in the LUO library?

Table 1: Observation Checklist of availability of non-print/ E-resources available in LUO ibrary.

S/N	Non- Print resources	LUO Library	Total percentage
1.	Radio		0(0%)
2.	Tape and cassettes		0(0%)
3.	Maps	√	3(100%)
4.	Transparencies		2(66.7)
5.	Filmstrip		0(0%)
6.	Television		0(0%)
7.	Multimedia projector		0(0%)
8.	Slides		0(0%)
9.	Computers	√	3(100%)
10.	OPAC		0(0%)
11.	Internet	√	3(100%)
12.	Local area network	√	3(100%)
13.	Electronic data bases	√	3(100%)
14.	E-books	√	3(100%)
15.	E-journals	√	3(100%)
	Total	**7(46.**	

The result presented in table 1 showed that out of fifteen non print information resources needed in LUO library, aggregate of eight are available and in used, five are available and not in use while two are not available

Research question 2: How adequate is collection of e-resources /non-print information resources in their university library?

Table 2: Mean ratings of respondents on how adequate is collection of non- print information resources in their university library

S/N	Non- Print resources	Mean	SD	R	D
1.	Computers	3.22	.84	1ST	FA
2.	Local area network	3.24	.91	2nd	FA
3.	Internet	3.14	.89	3rd	FA
4.	Electronic data bases	2.92	1.07	4th	FA
5.	E-books	2.83	1.12	5th	FA
6.	Maps	2.70	.95	6th	FA
7.	E-journals	2.69	1.09	7th	FA
8.	Transparencies	2.25	.82	8th	FA
9.	Television	2.52	1.13	9th	A
10.	Multimedia projector	1.99	.75	10th	A
11.	Radio	2.56	.81	11th	A
12.	Filmstrip Slides	2.06	.99	12th	A
13.	Filmstrip	2.04	.90	13th	A
14.	OPAC	2.23	1.03	14th	A
15.	Tape and cassettes	1.35	.75	15th	A

Table 2 above shows the mean rating of the respondents on how adequate is collection of non-print information resources in the university library. The overall mean results reveals that computers is the most adequate collection of non-print information resources (mean=3.40) in these universities libraries. Also, items 1-7 were fairly adequate while items 8-14 were adequate collection of non- print information resources in

Research question 3: To what extent of utilization of non-print information resources in the LUO, library?

Table 3: Mean ratings of respondents on student's purpose of use of non-print information resources

S/N	Non- Print resources	Mean	SD	R	D
1.	For getting news alerts	3.55	.35	1ST	SA
2.	To facilitate research	3.54	.72	2nd	SA
3.	To improve student's learning	3.71	.45	3rd	SA
4.	To extend the scope of reading resources	3.47	.64	4th	SA
5.	To search data bases of scholarly information	3.31	.62	5th	A
6.	To access e-journal and e-books	3.51	.64	6th	A
7.	For current awareness and update knowledge	3.48	.64	7th	A
8.	To teach information literacy (i.e evaluate the online materials themselves)	3.46	.64	8th	A
9.	To send and receive e-mail	3.35	.93	9th	A
10.	To browse for information to write assignments	3.42	.69	10th	A
11.	To register course and enroll for exams	3.42	.69	11th	A

Table 3 above shows the mean rating of the respondents on student's purpose for using non print information resources in the LUO Library. The overall mean results (3.64) reveal that the main purpose was for getting news alerts while registration of courses and enrollment for exams (3.19) was the least purpose of use of non- print information. Items 1-4 were strongly agreed to be the main purpose of use of non- print information resources. Nevertheless, items 5-11 were only agreed to serve as the purpose in these library. Observation from the table indicates that to improve student's learning (mean 3.71).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

   This discussion is done in line with the purposes and research questions in chapter one covering the following: available non-print information resource available in LUO ibrary extent of utilization of non-print information resource in University Library. The findings of this showed that non print information resources in LUO Library include: Radio, Maps, Transparencies, Television, Multimedia projector, slides, Computers, OPAC., Internet, Local area network, data bases, E-books and E-journals ,but interesting things in our observation is that some of these resources were there but not being utilized. Nwezeh and Shabi, (2011) also resources like books, journals, news-papers, government publications, newspapers, government publications, indexes and abstracts as common information materials provided and utilized by academic libraries.
    Thus, library management should not only provide these resources, but also sought for awareness strategies to increase its utilization. Using the criterion mean, the results reveal that Computers, Internet, E-books, Local area network, Electronic data bases, OPAC E-journals and Maps were greatly utilized, while Television, Radio, Multimedia projector, Transparencies, Slides, Tape cassettes and CD-ROMS are not being used . Febede (2007) further buttress that the utilization of e-resources may be affected by the characteristic surrounding the user and information characteristics and overall information environment Filmstrip low utilized in University Library. More so, the research observed variation in the extent of utilization in samples federal universities. This is in obvious agreement with Febede (2007 states that utilization of resources may be affected by the characteristic surrounding the user and information characteristics and overall information environment. The following measures are suggested for availability and utilization of non-print materials in university libraries.

1.   University library authorities to build up the non-print material collection to meet the changing
2.   Section of audio-visual section should be built in the building.
3.   Funds should be voted for the audio-visual materials in the library.

REFERENCES

Akpojotor, L.O. (2016). Awareness and usage of electronic information resources among postgraduate students of library and information science in Southern Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal).*
Gathoni, N., (2012). Enhancing access to health information in Africa: a librarian's perspective. *Journal of health communication*, 17 (sup 2), pp.18-22.
Kinengyere, A.A., Kiyingi, G.W. & Baziraake, B.B. (2012). Factors affecting utilization of electronic health information resources in universities in Uganda, *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 59 (0), pp.90-96.
Megameno N.J. (2010). The use of electronic information services by undergraduate nursing students at the University of Namibia's Northern Campus: A descriptive study. *Information Development*, 26(1) pp.57-65.
Mollel, M.M. and Mwantimwa, K., (2019). Users' Acceptance of E-Resources Usage at the Institute of Finance Management, Tanzania. *International Journal of Education and Development using Information and Communication Technology*, vol. 15(4) pp.5-21.
Natarajan, K., Suresh, B., Sivaraman, P. and Sevukan, R., (2010). Use and user perception of electronic resources in Annamalai University: a case study, *Annals of Library, and Information Studies (ALIS),*. 57(1) pp. 59-64.
Nisha, F., and Ali, N, (2013). Awareness and use of e-journals by IIT Delhi and Delhi University library users. *Collection Building*, 32(2), pp.57-64.
Nkebukwa, L.L., (2016). Status on the Usage of Electronic-Resources by Students at the College of Business Education. *Business Education Journal*, 1 (2), pp.1-13.
Obaje, A.M. and Camble, E., (2008). Use of CD-ROM databases by staff and students in the University of Jos library. *An International Journal of Information and Communication Technology,* vol. 5, no. 1, pp.7-8
Okiki, O.C., (2012). Electronic information resources awareness, attitude and use by academic staff members of

University of Lagos, Nigeria, *Library Philosophy and Practices*. vol. 834, pp.1-9

Ruzegea, M & Msonde, S. (2021). University students' e-resource usage: predictors, problems and practical implications, *International Journal of Education and Development using Information and Communication Technology (IJEDICT),* 17(2), pp. 104-119