

Full Length Research

Selection and Acquisition of Library Materials in Academic Libraries: A Case Study of Sokoine National Agricultural Library (SNAL) And Mzumbe University Library.

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This study assessed selection and acquisition of library materials in SNAL and MZUMBE library. Research design shows in detail the important procedures necessary for obtaining information resources that are needed to solve the research problem. Population of the study covered the librarians of Sokoine national agricultural library and Mzumbe university library, population was chosen basing on the fact that Librarians are the one who deals with selection of library materials at Sokoine National Library and Mzumbe University Library. The study involved 15 librarians who provide information about selection and acquisition of library materials at SNAL and 15 librarians at Mzumbe university library. Therefore the total population study will be with 30 respondents. The sample was chosen basing on the fact that the sample of 30 is significant comparing to the population also these are minimum number that provide the sufficient information when drawings in the distribution curve show a good impression graphs. The researcher used random sampling techniques by selecting librarian randomly, the researcher uses this to help researcher to get sample size which will give out results that would have been obtained if the entire population had been measured. Questionnaire was used to collect the data from the respondent believed that the use of questionnaires is less expensive since they can be sent to a large number of people ,so researcher chooses this particular method for them to reach respondents and also saving time for data collection. The finding of this study shows that selection and acquisition of academic library materials depend on contemporary significance, format and ease of use, while purchase, gift/donation and exchanges were highly rated methods of acquisition of library materials. The challenges encountered during the course of the study include failure to submit accurate bibliographic information of the requested item, book supplies fail to deliver ordered item on time, delay of submission of list of materials to be acquired by library user, and organizing incoming request.

Keywords: library materials, Academic Library, Research design, Selection and Acquisition

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INTRODUCTION

Academic Library, Academic libraries contain materials that support both general research and the specific programs and degrees offered at the institution (Teresa, 2010).

Selection is the process of choosing while acquisition is the process of obtaining library materials. (Anyanwu, etal, 2006) selection must be precede acquisition, what to select depends on the type of library is interested in serving primarily its clientele which could be homogenous or heterogeneous (O.duaagwu, 2002). Book selection is used as a generic term covering the selection of both book and non-book material for library.

Common criteria used by selectors for the acquisition of information resources at the University of Iowa Libraries are listed below:

- curriculum support
- cost (ongoing or one-time)
- standard source availability (i.e., standard or "core" materials on subjects studied at the University)
- faculty research support
- graduate student research support
- subject representation (i.e., representative materials on major trends in scholarship)
- collection continuity (i.e., maintenance of strong existing collections)
- inter-institutional agreements (i.e., agreements with other academic libraries to take responsibility for collecting on particular subject areas)

Acquisition in other hand is a process of obtaining books and other items for the library, documentation Centre, or archives (Harrados, 2000). Acquisition is carried out through purchase, gift, exchange and legal deposit. Provision of current information which supports the curriculum of the parent institution is a result of selection and acquisition in the sokoine library.

Acquisition is the most important services in the library in other hand is the process of obtaining books and other materials or items for the library documentation Centre or archives, example my case study Sokoine National Agricultural Library and Mzumbe University Library do the acquisition and selection of library materials, the acquisition is carried out through purchases, gift, exchange and legal deposit. Acquisition will be done in order to acquire current materials in various fields to satisfy users, to acquire relevant technologies to support management and provision of information services also to make the replacement of the lost or damaged materials. Acquisition of library materials is done when the selection process is already done and the acquisition

process increasing and helps to develop the library collection. "According to American library association.

Acquisition of library resources in any library is to add more volume of books that will add value to the information needs of its users. Therefore, the methods involves in the acquisition of library resources include gift/donation, exchange and purchase.

• Acquisition by gift/donation

This refers to materials that are donated to the library freely by individual or groups. Gift are very valuable sources of enriching the library book collection. Most libraries receive books and other library materials as gift from individuals, institutions, libraries and organizations, country and others. Wilkinson and Lewis, (2003).

• Acquisition by exchange

This is concrete arrangement between libraries that have common needs for exchange of published materials. In using this method of acquisition, the libraries can enter into agreements with several libraries. According to Edoka (2000), acquisition by exchange involves an arrangement whereby a library exchange its duplicate or especially purchased items for those of another library or libraries.

• Acquisition by purchase

Purchase is the buying of information materials by the library directly from the open market or through the book vendor s. most libraries apart from National library acquired materials for the library by this major method (ode and omokaro, 2007)

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There has been little recent research on selection and acquisition of library materials in academic libraries per see, most of studies were on Collection development in academic libraries where by selection and acquisition is a small part in collection development, According to Mwilongo (2020) a study on collection development practices in academic libraries in Tanzania, the findings revealed that collection development practices in academic libraries in Tanzania are constrained by inadequate funding, lack of skills for hybrid collection management and lack of collection development policy catering for both print- and electronic-based information resources. On the basis of the findings, the study recommends that academic libraries should establish a comprehensive collection development policy and introduce professional development programmes to library staff for efficient management of hybrid collections.

Other studies were on selection and acquisition particularly on electronic resources such studies are like: According to Khatri (2019) a study on Selection and Acquisition of Electronic Resources in Academic Libraries: Challenges, reported that with information explosion there has been a rapid increase in the number of e-resources published across the world. In addition to this, the cost of e-resources has risen steeply. This has resulted in libraries finding it difficult to acquire all the required information resources from the budget available from its parent body.

This study intends to cover a gap on Selection and acquisition of library materials in academic library, covering the selection and acquisition of library materials in academic libraries in Tanzania

Research objectives

General objectives

1. To investigate the selection and acquisition of library materials at Sokoine University Agricultural Library (SNAL) and Mzumbe University Library

Specific objectives

- I. To identify different types of library materials selected and acquired at Sokoine university agricultural library and mzumbe university library
- II. To identify the strategies and method used in selection and acquisition of library material at SNAL and Mzumbe university library.
- III. To assesses the problems facing selection and acquisition of library materials and their possible solution at SNAL and Mzumbe university library.

Research questions

- I. What is the need for selection and acquisition of material in the library at SNAL and Mzumbe university library?
- II. What is strategies method library can adopt for selection and acquisition of material at SNAL and Mzumbe university library?
- III. What is the measure taken to improve the selection and acquisitions of library materials at SNAL and Mzumbe university library?

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

In this chapter the researcher covers the methodology

used in the research in order to evaluate the research findings, and this area will cover research design, study area, population of the study, sampling procedure and data analysis

Research design

Research design it show in detail the important procedures necessary for obtaining information resources that are needed to solve the research problem (Kothari, 2004). The methods used in field is critically examines events, opinions, altitudes, or ideas within the aims of providing accurate information about selection and acquisition of library materials at Sokoine national agricultural library and Mzumbe university library.

Refer to the full cases of which sample are taken (Saunders, 2007). Population of the study covered the librarians of Sokoine national agricultural library and Mzumbe university library, population was chosen basing on the fact that Librarians are the one who deals with selection of library materials at Sokoine National Library and Mzumbe University Library.

The study involved 15 librarians who provide information about selection and acquisition of library materials at SNAL and 15 librarians at Mzumbe university library. Therefore the total population study will be with 30 respondents .The sample was choosen basing on the fact that the sample of 30 is significant comparing to the population also these are minimum number that provide the sufficient information when drawings in the distribution curve show a good impression graphs.

The researcher used random sampling techniques by selecting librarian randomly, the researcher uses this to help researcher to get sample size which will give out results that would have been obtained if the entire population had been measured.

Questionnaire was used to collect the data from the respondent .(Leedy 2005) believed that the use of questionnaires is less expensive since they can be sent to a large number of people ,so researcher chooses this particular method for them to reach respondents and also saving time for data collection.

The data analysis was by using Statistical Package for social Scientists (SPSS).

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the research results and discussion. Data presentation was based on the systematic arrangement of the specific objectives of the study. The collected answers of questionnaire to facilitate both analysis and good arrangement format. Presentation of the finding were preceded by a presentation of the respondent`s profiles and other demographic information, which added value to findings from the study, followed by data presentation and discussion of the findings.

Presentation and Analysis of Data

The total sample size for this study involved 30 respondents. The researchers therefore, distributed a total of 30 questionnaires where 30 (100%) were library staff from (Mzumbe) and SUA library provide the required the information.

Background Information of Respondents

In order to get background information, respondents were asked to provide information about their demographic characteristics, namely age, gender and education level, Background information was important in obtaining the overall characteristics of respondents. The data on background information are presented as follows:

Age of respondents

Age of the respondents is one of the most important characteristics in understanding their views about the particular problems; by and large age indicates level of maturity of individuals in that sense age becomes more important to examine the response.

Demographic Characteristics Age of respondents at SUA and MZUMBE library.

The result of the demographic distribution of the study in relation to age of the respondents shows that majority of the respondents (53.3%) fall with age range of 21-30 years, followed by 31-40 years (46.7%). These indicate that the respondents are within their active age at work.

The gender of the respondent

The descriptive analysis result shows that 50.0% of the respondents are male 15 and 50.0% of respondents are female 15 from total respondents 30.

The results show that 60.0% of the respondents have between 1-5years work experience, 40.0% have between 6-10years experience.

The result show that 56.7% of respondents 17 are from SUA and 43.3% of respondents 13 are from MZUMBE.

The institution

The above findings show that there is equal number of education level for certificate and diploma have the equal number and percentage 10(33.3%) and they have highest frequency and high number of respondent while

the rest 6(20.0) had the master level and 4(13.3%) had the degree level. So we can generally that the diploma respondent at SUA and MZUMBE had the high frequency followed by master's respondent.

Education level

The result of the descriptive analysis further shows that majority of the respondents (46.7%) are librarian, 23.3% are lecturer, and the remaining librarian officer and assistant librarian have 16.7% and 13.3%. So, that librarian has the highest frequency.

Material selected and acquired

Further descriptive analysis was conducted on the types of library materials selected and acquired in SUA and MZUMBE library. The result as presented in table above shows that 53.3% and 46.7% are types of materials which are Journals and Books respectively selected and acquired at SUA and MZUMBE library.

Strategies used in acquisition and selection of materials

The descriptive analysis result of element strategies used in acquisition and selection of materials in SUA and MZUMBE library. Majority of respondents shows 13(43.3%) use user need assessment, 9(30.0%) use evaluation of resources, and 8(26.7%) they use weeding. So, that respondent they prefer to use user need assessment in these two institutions.

Methods used to selection and acquisitions of library materials

The descriptive analysis result of the methods used in selection and acquisition of library materials in SUA and MZUMBE library. Majority of respondents shows 13(43.3%) purchase, 10(33.3%) donation/gift, 7(23.3%) legal deposit.so that the method which is most used in selection and acquisition of materials is purchase.

Most preferred methods in acquisition and selection of library materials

The descriptive result on the most preferred method in acquisition and selection of library materials majority mentioned is 20(66.7%) purchase because the movement management allocates fund for acquisition of library materials every year.

Challenges facing selection and acquisition in ordering library materials

The descriptive result on the challenges of selection and acquisition in ordering library materials in SUA and MZUMBE library, majority of respondents mentioned about 11(36.7%) organizing incoming request, followed by 9(30.0%) request processing, 6(20.0%) checking for request details accuracy, 4(13.3%) receiving request for material. The highest percentage is requesting processing.

The problems encountered in the process of selection and acquisition of materials in electronic System

The descriptive result on challenges encounter in the process of selection and acquisition of materials in electronic system majority shows 15(50.0%) lack of training in ICTS use, 7(23.3%) poor internet connectivity and delaying processing data have the equal percentage and 1(3.3%) frequent power cuts . So, that the challenge with highest frequency is lack of training in ICTS use.

Suggested solutions towards challenges in selection and acquisition of library material

The respondents were asked to mention different possible solution of selection and acquisition of library materials. The above table shows that 36.7% majority of respondents mention solution about trained staff selector, followed by 33.3% enough fund, and the rest 30.0% policies. So, that the above are the possible solution but trained staff selectors have the highest frequency.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

The finding of this study shows that selection and acquisition of academic library materials depend on contemporary significance, format and ease of use, while purchase, gift/donation and exchanges were highly rated methods of acquisition of library materials. The challenges encountered during the course of the study include failure to submit accurate bibliographic information of the requested item, book supplies fail to deliver ordered item on time, delay of submission of list of materials to be acquired by library user, and organizing incoming request.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends that established library standard that at least five percent of total library holdings must be withdrawn every year if viable academic library collection is to be maintained. SUAL and MZUMBE library should allocate enough fund to support improvement of acquisition of materials, and also should have expertise of professional and trained staff.

The collage library should have a clearly defined set of selection criteria that can help the librarian in the selection process.

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