

*Full Length Research*

# Utilization of Library Resources by Undergraduate Students of Library and Information Science, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike

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This study examined the utilization of library resources by LIS students of MOUUA. The study was guided by four specific objectives and four research questions. The study employed descriptive survey research design, while the population of the study is two hundred and fifty two (252), comprising of 100 level students (110), 300 level students (2), and 400 level students (140). The proportionate stratified sampling technique was used as the sampling technique. Only one instrument (questionnaire) was used. The questionnaire was validated by professionals from LIS Department, MOUUA. Mean was used in analyzing data for the study. The study identified that books, journals, reference materials and Indexes/abstracts are the information needs of undergraduate students of LIS in MOUUA library, The study also determined a positive perception of LIS students, of the information resources in the library, Indicated that the major challenge faced by undergraduate students of LIS in the use of library resources in MOUUA library is inconsistent power supply, and identified maintenance of constant supply of power as the main solution to the challenges of utilizing library resources in MOUUA library.. The study therefore recommended that: The management of the university should ensure that library resources identified to be utilized to a low extent should be improved upon, to encourage their utilization. The university should ensure encourage higher extent of utilization of library resources by undergraduates in order to achieve user satisfaction. The universities authority should ensure that current library materials are provided maintain early opening of the library, constant power supply, library should be courteous, and facilities in the library should be maintained.

**Keywords:** Concept of Library, Utilization of Academic Library, Library Information Resources, Information Resources Available in Academic Library and Library Services Rendered in Academic Library

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## INTRODUCTION

### Background to the Study

The major aim of any university library is to support teaching, learning and research activities of its parent institution. University libraries must therefore, make sure that their resources are well utilized as this is essential for educational development of the students (Onifade, Ogbuyi and Omeluzor, 2013). These libraries exist to enhance the acquisition of knowledge by their clientele through the provision of reading materials - book and non-book, for the purposes of teaching, learning and research. A university library, according to Mallaiah, Kumbar and Mudhol (2008) occupies the central and primary place in teaching and research, therefore, it has to meet the diverse and growing needs of educational programmes at the undergraduate, post-graduate and research levels. Since academic libraries, according to Adetimirin (2007), are to acquire and organise both print and electronic formats for accessibility and use by its clientele, it is therefore necessary to adopt information and communication technologies (ICTs) in Nigerian University Libraries in the process of lending and borrowing its collections.

The library today is a busy information centre, where information is packaged in various formats to the advantage of the users. The value of the library collection depends not only on the quantity of information sources but on the effective ways and means of providing and interpreting them to users. Some of the terms used in the library activities such as cataloguing, classification, charging and discharging, etc. are not common to the users; hence these should be interpreted in the easiest understandable ways (Mallaiah, Kumbar and Patil, 2008).

The primary purpose of university libraries, according to Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009) is to support teaching, learning and research, in ways consistent with, and supportive of, the institution's mission and goals. In addition, library resources and services should be sufficient in quality, depth, diversity, and currency to support the institution curriculum. As a result of this, university libraries are often considered as the most important resource centre of an academic institution.

However, university education in Nigeria is facing a critical challenge in meeting new demand of 21st Century with its ever-increasing population growth, inadequate library facilities and resources. Adequate library resources and services should be available at the appropriate level, for degrees offered, to support intellectual, cultural, and technical development of students enrolled in Nigerian universities. The growth of research in all fields of human endeavors is becoming increasingly detailed and sophisticated Faculty members and students have realized that the library has a great

role to play in the provision of information necessary for their day-to-day research and their academic work.

According to Quadri, Adetimirin and Idowu (2014), the undergraduates need information to satisfy their social and psychological needs and to promote and enhance their academic pursuit during their course of study in the university. The purpose of the university libraries is to provide adequate and relevant information resources both in print and non-print formats. The print information resources like journals, textbooks, magazines, newspapers and reference materials and non-print like CD-ROM, audio-visual materials, micro film, micro fiches, databases, and e-resources are to support assignments, projects work, term papers and seminar presentations by providing relevant information and services for effective and efficient achievement of academic excellent. However, one of the objectives of the study is to find out the perceptions of students on adequacy of the information resources in the library.

### Brief History of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike Library

The University Library was established at the inception of the university in 1994, following the promulgation of Decree No. 48 of 1992. It provides materials to support teaching, learning, research and extension services. The library aims at helping the university develop as a centre of academic excellence in the provision of agricultural literature and other reading materials for national development. To achieve the above objective, the university library co-ordinates all library services in the university for the benefit of staff and students. The university library also co-operates with other libraries within and outside Nigeria in the provision of learning and information management resources. ([mouau.edu.ng/library](http://mouau.edu.ng/library))

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, is one of the three Universities of Agriculture established by the Federal Government of Nigeria. Two Universities of Agriculture had earlier been established at Abeokuta (Ogun State) and Makurdi (Benue State) in 1988. The Universities of Agriculture are charged with the central mandate and mission of imparting agricultural education in a scientific but practical way, coupled with applied research and such extension services as would assist in achieving national self-sufficiency in food and fibre production in the minimum time while at the same time catalyzing and sustaining rural development.

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, came into existence precisely on the 13th day of November, 1992 when the Federal Government of Nigeria promulgated the Federal Universities of Agriculture Decree 1992 (also cited as Decree NQ 48 of

1992). This enabling law culminated in the appointment of the pioneer Governing Council led by Alhaji Mohammad Liman and the first Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Placid Njoku.

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, is situated in an axis along the Umuahialkot Ekpene road. Its location is ten kilometers East of Umuahia, the Abia State Capital. Umudike and other host neighbours are agrarian communities. This brings to fore the role of the University as one specializing in agriculture and related programmes. The University inherited the immovable facilities and properties of former Federal College of Agriculture which has been moved to Ishiagu in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. The National Root Crops Research Institute has common boundaries and share facilities with the University. (mouau.edu.ng/library).

### Statement of Problem

Despite several efforts that are being made by the library management to proffer solution to the problems of ever rising costs of library resources, inelastic library budget and technological advancement which are leading to obsolete information within a very short time. It was observed by the researcher, that library users, most especially undergraduates, were complaining of inability of library to meet their information needs. To develop need-based collection that would always meet the information needs of users therefore, a survey of students' utilization of library resources is being undertaken, to measure the library resources in term of its value and utility by the clientele. Such survey will reveal the users' satisfaction with regard to the adequacy or otherwise of the resources. The study, therefore surveys utilization of library resources by students of library and information science of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

### Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to examine the information needs and utilization of library resources by undergraduate students of library and information science, MOUUAU.

The specific objectives are;

1. Determine the level of utilization of the resources in the library by library and information science undergraduates.
2. Find out the perceptions of the students on the adequacy of the information resources in the

library.

3. Determine the problems experienced by the students in utilizing the library resources.
4. Offer suggestions for improved library resources.

### Research Questions

1. What is the level of utilization of the resources in the library by library and information science undergraduates?
2. What are the perceptions of the students on adequacy of the information resources in the library?
3. What are the problems experienced by the students in utilizing the resources?
4. What are the suggestions for improving library services?

### Significance of the Study

This research work is significant and the findings of this study will be beneficial to the following categories of people; Library users/students, Lecturers, Library staff, and Library management.

The outcome of this study will help to educate the general public and the Library users/students on the level of utilization of library resources by library and information science undergraduate students in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

This will help the University Lecturers to clear the air on the speculations on the level and extent of the utilization of library resources by undergraduate students in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

This study is significant in its effort to identify the various factors that hinder the effective utilization of library resources by the students of the selected population of the University as well as proffer necessary solutions to these problems in order to ensure utilization of library resources by undergraduate students of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

The study would be useful to library administrators on the need to properly acquire and integrate the equipment needed for functional library resources in the Library to enable the undergraduate students have unrestricted access to the library resources for their studies.

Further, this research will also give insight on how some certain strategies should be further inculcated to enhance and improve the utilization of library resources in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike Library which made specific provision for the use of the library resources. This is very important in view of the central role the Library Management and the University Lecturers have to play to enhance students Awareness

and utilization of library resources available in the school's library.

The research will also analyze the various decisions of our Library Management and staffs with regard to the specific policies as regards to e-resources, it will also serve as a resource base to other scholars and researchers interested in carrying out further research in this filed subsequently, if applied will go to an extent to provide new explanation to this topic.

### **Scope of the Study**

This research work centres on the utilization of Library resources by undergraduate students. It will seek to determine the level of utilization of the resources in the library. It will ascertain the perceptions of students on adequacy of the information resources in the library. It will further determine the problems experienced by the students in utilizing the resources. The study will also examine the factors affecting the utilization and offer suggestion for improved library services, where necessary. The study is delineated to the Undergraduate students in Library and information science, College of Education of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike in Abia state, Nigeria.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The review of related literature will be carried out under the following sub-headings

- Conceptual Framework
- Empirical Studies
- Summary of Literature Review

### **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

Relevant literature would be viewed and arranged under the following sub-heading; Concept of Library, Utilization of Academic Library, Information Resources Available in Academic Libraries, Library Information Resources, Library Services Rendered in Academic Libraries.

#### **Concept of Library**

A library is regarded as a place where knowledge is stored and its main objective is to meet the needs of the users. The importance of this repository of knowledge called library, shows the necessity of literature review in the academic world. Olorunsaye (2003) quoted Opee

(1985) who described literature review as "gathering" of information about how other have approached or dealt with similarly problems". Literature review is therefore a means to discovering what has been previously done on the subject and the methodology that has been applied. It must then be noted that, unless excellent libraries are available, it would not be possible to make references to need literature for review.

A lot of studies have been carried out on library use. This is so because it is the users that make the library and its services come alive. A library that is not used is as good as dead as it cannot justify its existence. It is therefore the use to which the library is put that infuses life into its resources and services; hence, use and user studies cannot outlive their usefulness. Akinade (2000) observed that the expectations of people are high when sourcing and retrieving information and when such information needs are not met, frustration usually set in and this may drive the users away from the library. Akande (2003) therefore noted that the use of library resources is uppermost in the minds of the university libraries as this will enable the management know how best they can serve their users. Users' study is thus regarded as a veritable tool for the assessment of libraries and their services (Tsafe, 2004).

However, literature has revealed that information availability does not mean accessibility and utilization; therefore, university libraries have to market their resources and services to attract users. Osinulu (1998) also confirmed in her study that low use of the library is due to lack of awareness on the part of users. Ozoemelem (2009), on the other hand, stated that informed library users know that libraries have resources that are more comprehensive and scholarly than most websites provide but the problem is that these resources they are not straightforward like that on the webs. Though users use the library for different purposes, Oyesiku and Oduwole (2004) study on the use of academic library revealed that students use the library mostly during examinations period. In a study conducted by Igun and Adogbeji (2007) among the postgraduate students, majority of the students claimed that their main purpose of using the library is to update their knowledge and skills. It is therefore, essential to know the needs and opinions of the users in order to satisfy them. In buttressing this, Bassey (2006) posited that satisfying the request of users implies providing the actual information or services that will meet their needs.

Among many users of the university library are the postgraduate students. This class of students are regarded as 'matured students' because they have pass through the undergraduate stage and are now facing a higher level of academic studies. Rasul and Singh (2010) observed that there are scanty literatures on the needs of the postgraduate students, yet they form a significant

group of researchers in a university. Furthermore, they noted that how the postgraduate students perceive the role of their university library matters a lot. This is very important because the nature of postgraduate study demands that students must do a lot of independent studies on their own. The use of library resources and services is thus indispensable to the postgraduate students in order to achieve their academic objective. As a result, Olofinsawe and Oyeniyi (2010) affirmed that academic libraries have to build strong collection of information resources in physical and digital format to cater for knowledge requirements of their users.

According to Forrest (2009), the library's success should be measured not in terms of what it has (inputs) but of what it does, the activities it supports, its outputs, for example circulation transactions, reference questions answered, classes taught and students enrolled. This also explains the significant role of the library staff, as they have to treat the users as important guests and, in that way, they will contribute to their satisfaction. "The library's success is measured by what happens as a result of those activities and encounters, the impacts or outcomes (for example fostering student learning success, supporting faculty productivity, enhancing institutional reputation). If we can frame experiences for our students, faculty and visitors – our guests – that linger in their memory long after they have left our libraries and our campuses, we will continue to remain central to the academic enterprise" (Forrest, 2009).

According to Nwalo (2003), a library is primarily set up to acquire, organize, store and make accessible to the users, within the quickest possible time all forms of information materials which they require. The systematic acquisition, organization and dissemination at books not mere label distinguishes a library from either a reading room or store house at books.

Edoka (2000) opines that in general the function of academic libraries are to provide information materials required for the academic programs of the parent institution and also provide information resources in consonance with the needs of the faculty and students. The objectives of university can only be achieved by the selection and acquisition of relevant materials that are built around the course offered in the institutions. The acquisition of just any material is not enough. The librarian has to know whether the right materials are acquired and used this is usually achieved through systematic evaluation (Edoka and Okafor 2002).

### **Utilization of Academic Libraries**

There is a lot of literature on utilization of Library information resources and services such as Ogbomo and Adomi, (2003), Turtle, (2005) Haruna, (2004) and Swarna, (2004) among others. In a study carried out by

Hussain and Kumar, (2013) on utilization of information resources and service of the postgraduate students, majority of the users frequently visit the library almost daily and it was further found that books, newspapers and periodicals are the most used by user. In addition, in a study on students and faculty use of academic libraries in Nigeria, Okiy, (2000) found that respondents used books more than other materials and that they browsed the shelves to locate these materials. In line with findings, Ugah, (2007) further found out that textbooks account for most library visit. Based on the gap in literature on the extent of utilization of the library information resources for effective research output among postgraduate students of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, it becomes critical to understudy this population of postgraduate students.

Akinbode (2002) opined that it is the responsibility of the library to render certain services to users so as to make maximum use of library materials. Services to be rendered to users include instruction on the use of the library, issuance of guide to the library and the library regulations to readers, provision of general and specific information, assistance on location of documents; reservation of documents for the benefit of readers.

Omoniwa (1986) explained that library service is not propaganda but involves generating, collecting synthesizing and disseminating up-to-date, accurate, unbiased and relevant information available in books, periodicals, bulletins, guides, abstracts, indexes, bibliographies and non-book format which can be stored and retrieved whenever needed. This is to say that it is the primary responsibility of the library to identify the information needs of its target audience, collate the necessary available data and feed the analyzed information back to it users. According to Ifidon (1999), university library is a service organization with the primary obligation to provide the bibliographic resources in fulfillment of university mission.

Adegun (2015) conducted a research on Effectiveness of Library Services and Resources in an African University and observed that if library services and resources are adequate and readily available, it would result to increase in use. Also, if there is improvement in the response to users' needs, the end result will be an increase in the library's role in the pursuit of user's educational goals, research and needs. In developing nations like Nigeria, where book buying is a luxury because of the prohibitive cost and limited book markets, it becomes a matter of priority for the library to provide effective service and resources to its numerous users. The library should not only build adequate and balanced functional resources, but also provide access to the resources. The more detailed the assistance given, the more humbly it is given, the more certain will be the satisfaction of the user and an increase in library use. In

providing effective service and resources in university libraries, the librarian should cater for varying level of users within and outside the university. Library resources need to be used adequately in order to justify the huge amount invested in them.

Universities have a mandate to generate new knowledge and also encourage the transfer and adoption of new innovations. Since this requires an atmosphere of research, libraries are left with no options or choice than to provide access to relevant information resources by applying this to enable quick access, integrate and repackage information for the end user that will capacitate and enrich higher educational institutions means of conducting research.

Many scholars have written on utilization of resources and services such as Ogbomo and Adomi, (2003), Turtle, (2005) Haruna, (2004) and Swarna, (2004) among others. In a study carried out by Hussain and Kumar, (2013) on utilization of information resources and services by the postgraduate students, majority of the users frequently visit the library almost daily and it was further found that books, newspapers and periodicals are the most used by user. In addition, in a study on students and faculty use of academic libraries in Nigeria, Okiy, (2000) found that respondents used books more than other materials and that they browsed the shelves to locate these materials. In line with findings, Ugah, (2007) further found out that textbooks account for most library visit.

Basically, library information resources are materials that users consult in making decisions and also for problem-solving. These sources could be primary or secondary sources. Ojedokun(2007) noted that primary sources are uninterpreted, first hand materials such as records and raw data. In other words, library information sources are sources that users make use of from time to time in order to meet their information needs. These could also refer to audiovisual materials, such as Audio CD and CD-ROM for data storage which do not depend solely on reading to get their meanings but they convey relevant information.

Studies carried out; Oluwatobi, Ehioghae, Aluko-Arowole and Onasote (2014) revealed that the most frequently used library materials are the online database and this is followed by Dictionaries, books, encyclopedia which are used daily, while the least is use material is CDROM database. In other words, undergraduates utilize online database of the university and dictionaries often to enhance their research study than any other information resources available in the library. Hussain and Kumar, (2013) also found that books, newspapers and periodicals are the most used by undergraduate students sampled in their studies. This finding also correlates with Ugai (2001) who found out that textbooks account for most library visits.

## **Library Information Resources**

Information resource, as a concept, has been interchangeably used for information materials, information carriers, or learning resources. Aina (2004) while describing the range of information carriers stresses that information required by the user appears in a variety of formats such as books, serials, maps, compact disc, and the likes. Igben (1993) believes that any library or information service is in the business of providing services to its user community. It is however observed, that dissemination of knowledge being the overall goal of the library can be evaluated in terms of relationships between potential information contained in the information carriers in the library collection and the degree of satisfaction of the patron's needs (Akinpelu, 1995). Umunakwe (1988) as quoted by Sado and Ibeun (2006) avers that the yardstick to measure any library is the quality of its collection, adding that any money spent on a standard collection is money wisely spent. The writers reveal from the findings that books and journals in the libraries are grossly inadequate in number and volume compared to the year of establishment to these libraries.

Library resources, according to the Dictionary for Library and Information science (1997) refer to all the items purchased by a library or library system to satisfy the information needs of its users, including books and non-book or rather called print and non-print resources such as newspapers and periodicals, reference materials, music scores, maps, microforms, and non-prints media, as distinct from equipment supplies." Supporting this Aina (2004) posited that information resources of libraries normally include books, journals, gazetteers, pamphlets, audio-visual materials, government documents and serials. Some of them provide archives of literature, reports of federal, state and local government councils. However, for learning to be effective, teaching and research in the university, the library information resources must be relevant, current and in different formats print and non-print such as textbooks, journals, magazines, indexes and abstracts, encyclopaedia, thesis and dissertations, microforms and electronic databases, publications of international organizations. Inadequacy of information resources, according to Okanla, (2012) affects the academic performance negatively. Gbaje, (2007) reveals that the inability of a library to stock relevant books and literature has a great implication on the activities of academic institutions. According to Ajiboro, (2008) the decline in information resources can result to ineffective use of libraries.

The library stock as defined by Elatouri (1992) is an organized collection of books and non – book media, especially collected to support the educational program of the school. Where there is adequate library stock,

students will develop the habit of reading both for pleasure and for the purpose of gathering information for themselves. Adebimpe and Adeniran (2001) maintain that it is not out of place to say that the establishment of school libraries has a positive correlation with educational quality at school levels. Students learn easily when they are exposed to good learning resources materials and become more skillful in finding solution to problems. The library stock will develop and play its full role only if the college authorities and lecturers have a sincere believe that it is important to teaching and learning process.

Edoka (2000) however stated that libraries often provide public facilities for access to their electronic resources and the Internet Modern libraries are increasingly being redefined as places to get unrestricted access to information in many formats and from many sources. They are extending services beyond the physical walls of a building, by providing material accessible by electronic means, and by providing the assistance of librarians in navigating and analyzing very large amounts of information with a variety of digital tools.

Andaleeb and Simmons (2004) opined that library information resources are critical to user education, submitting that no library can satisfy all its' users all the time. They further posit that some libraries have very limited resources and clearly unable to satisfy their user whereas others are large in size, have substantial holdings and can provide users with whatever they want will achieve high productivity of user satisfaction. Obviously, the availability of library information resources can have a significant influence on user satisfaction.

The quantity and quality of information materials are fundamental to the survival of a library or information centre and to its parent body. In this regard, Nwalo (2000) notes that availability of relevant information materials is the hallmark of a library while Oyelude (2004) observes that it is one of the good qualities of a library. This is why academic libraries acquire and organize both print and electronic information resources for information materials for their users. Alternatively, however, as she opines, students and staff of tertiary institutions use information and communication technologies to retrieve current information electronically which is another form of information resource.

Yusuf (2001) reports that availability of adequate resources especially books and other related materials is sine qua-non for the existence of every academic library. Therefore, academic libraries should continue to struggle to acquire and organize relevant printed and other forms of recorded knowledge for the benefit of the community. Institutions of higher learning according to Egwin (2006) are established primarily to discharge the tripartite functions of teaching, research and community development. He further adduces that success in the execution of these responsibilities depends on a number

of factors. One of the factors relevant in this regard is the availability of a carefully selected and organized collection of books, information and learning materials.

### **Information Resources Available in Academic Libraries**

IFLA publication (1979) defined the library as any organized collection of printed books and periodicals or any other graphic and audio-visual materials and the services of the staff to provide such materials as are required to meet the information, research educational or recreational needs of its user. Library information resources support teaching and learning functions by facilitating research and scholarship of students and lecturers but this is not the situation in most developing countries because the libraries are struggling to survive due to financial constraints. Accessing Nigerian libraries against UNESCO 1979 definition could be unexplainable to some minds but some of our libraries do not have adequate books, periodicals and audio visuals been acquired into the libraries not to talk of a 2007 definition of UNESCO which may include electronic/digital resources. The question then is "how many academic libraries in Nigeria fit into this definition of a library as defined by UNESCO?" "Can Nigerian university libraries boast of adequate collection of books, periodicals and electronic resources to meet with the needs of library users?" "Can Nigerian university libraries meet the information, research, educational and recreational needs of Nigerian students and researchers?"

These are pertinent questions that need to be answered in order to know the current state of library resources in Nigeria. Although university libraries in Nigeria are in a better shape in terms of resources (both printed and electronic) compared to public libraries. However, librarians in Nigeria are hardworking people putting in place libraries that users would access and use despite the few resources placed at their disposal. These problems could be minimized when library administrators are more vigorous in lobbying university administrators to see the importance of the library and to release more funds. However, there is little empirical data on how electronic/digital resources are being used by Nigerian undergraduates bearing in mind that most universities in Nigeria have not fully digitized their library resources.

Libraries from time immemorial have been essential constituents of scholastic enterprise and have been established alongside with academic institutions. The library is the centre-point around which academic activities revolve. Academic libraries have the aim of supporting activities like teaching learning, research and leisure (Abiolu, 2010). This means that they are saddled with the responsibility of provision of information

resources and information dissemination within the academic set-up. This responsibility is designed to make universities perform their roles effectively and efficiently in order to attain the objectives and aims for which they are established (Tsafo, 2004). The relationship between academic libraries and institutions of higher learning is symbolic (Ijatuyi, 1991). More often than not, academic libraries have been equated to what the heart is to the physical body.

### **Library Services Rendered in Academic Libraries**

The primary purpose of any library is to provide the information needs of its users. Likewise, all authorized users of academic and research libraries have a right to expect library services that commensurate with their needs, provided by competent librarians and founded on adequate collections which are easily available and accessible.

In the academic community, libraries are vital not only to continuing education and self-development, but also to research activities. They are indispensable because they are the nerve centre of all teaching, learning and research activities in a university. The fact that academic libraries occupy a paramount place in the life of their parent institutions has widely been discussed in many library literatures. Aloh (1988) described university libraries as the heart of the society, the only effective repository of racial memory.

Libraries in universities are established to help in achieving their primary objectives. According to Nok (2006), university libraries have derived their objectives to include provision of materials for undergraduate instruction, term papers and projects, support of faculty, external and collaborative research, personal development, leisure and cooperation with other academic libraries with the view to developing a network of academic library resources that are at the disposal of all scholars. Therefore, services provided by the academic libraries must be planned in relation to the other faculties in the community they serve.

The quality and effectiveness of academic libraries is connected with services, products, as well as staff, facilities and space (Pindlowa, 2002). Ugah (2011) is also of the opinion that quality in the content of a library is often treated as the quality of service and the quality of service which also affects the effectiveness of the library is important for each library to survive. Suleiman (2012) carried out a study on user education programs in academic libraries. The findings of the study revealed that users are in favor of various programs due to their adaptability, online public access catalogue, and easy access to several sources of information. For library services to keep pace with the needs of students, library

should increase number of employees' expert and skillful librarians who can provide user education programs.

Yu (2003) explored how Taiwanese College and Technical Institution libraries familiarize users with library facilities and information resources. The most common programs are a basic introduction to library services, OPAC instruction, searching tools, internet instruction, CD-ROMs, databases and electronic journals, and audio and video materials.

Oyesola, (1984) studied on the problems facing the library in increasing students' ability to locate materials they need, extend their knowledge of useful library tools, encourage learners to make extensive use of the library and to give Student's Perceptions of Library Services in Ekiti State University their rudimentary knowledge of appropriate study methods. One of the objectives of user education program is to enable students to patronize libraries for their academic activities.

Clarcke (1999) revealed the growth of user education within the context of arguments for and against it. Library orientation tours and different approaches to them are described, as well as the development of undergraduate and postgraduate programs of user education.

Muogilim, (1986) found the lack of ability of the students to exploit library facilities after taking a course in the use of library. The conclusion of his findings shows that students were allowed few connections with the library and its staff during the orientation program. Also, they were overloaded with so much information within such a short period of time that the chances of retention and internationalization of the avalanche of new information is quite slim. He concludes that high enrolment with inadequate physical facilities made effective work difficult.

### **Empirical Studies**

This section is concerned with a review of empirical studies done in the area of utilization of library resources.

Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009) carried out a study on the access and utilization of library resources among students at Ladoko Akintola University in Ogbomoso, Nigeria. A questionnaire was distributed to 600 university students, 393 of which were suitable for data analysis and finalization. Respondents were asked to provide rationale for making use of the library. The survey revealed that 76.8% of the respondents believed that, the library is a place used to read and study, 7.9% for research, and 4.3% go to the library to be loaned books. While 7.4% doze and socialize in the library. It was further revealed that Nigerian students perceive the library to be a serious academic workplace.

Igun and Adogbeji (2007) conducted a research on the use of library resources among the postgraduate



students, of University, Abia state University, Uturu, sample size of 250 post graduate students were administered a structured questionnaire to draw a conclusion, majority of the students claimed that their main purpose of using the library is to update their knowledge and skills. It is therefore essential to know the needs and desire of the users in order to satisfy them. However, literature has revealed that information availability does not mean accessibility and utilization; therefore, university libraries have to market their resources and services to attract users.

Sivathaasan, Achchuthan and Kajanathan (2013) survey on demographic variables and Utilization of electronic information resources. The study was carried out in Sri Lanka, the research design is a conceptual structure. The population consisted of two hundred and ninety-four (294) university lecturers and was stratified into five groups, which is stratified random sampling technique. The study revealed that there are significant mean differences among age group, teaching language and experiences of teachers on the Utilization of electronic information resources, whereas mean Utilization of electronic information resources do not differ significantly among five different faculties ( $F = 2.075$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ) study on use of EIRs and academic performance of university teachers, it was found that Utilization of electronic information resources has a strong positive association with academic performance ( $r = 0.623$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and it has an impact on academic performance at the rate of 38.8 % ( $R^2 = 0.388$ ). Utilization of e-resources has made changes in the trend of information behavior of Undergraduate students. In a related study by Brennan, Hurd B. and Weller (2002) they centered on how the adoption of electronic information resources has affected academics' information behavior and revealed that academics make fewer visits to the library and read more e-journals including e-books than the print era.

It is therefore necessary to survey the utilization of library resources by undergraduate students.

### **Summary of Literature Review**

The review of the literature was based on documentary sources, many of which consisted of journals, books, conference proceedings, electronic journals, electronic thesis, dissertation and electronic conference proceedings. etc.

The researcher extensively reviewed literature relevant to utilization of library resources by library and information science students in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. it was revealed that the purpose of the libraries is to provide adequate and relevant information resources both in print and non-print formats.

The review equally revealed that some factors militating against the utilization of library resource were lack of encouragement and proper guidance from lecturers and librarians to students to effectively use library resources; lack of effective internet searching skills by students to effectively exploit Library resources; fewer computers made available for the students to use; poor internet connectivity such as internet corruption, power failure and insufficient bandwidth; and lack of awareness on the available Library resources.

Despite the available literature on the utilization of library resources by students in Universities, none of the study focused on utilization of library resources by library and information science students of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. Hence, this study is directed to filling the gap in existing literature. In so doing, the stock of published knowledge in respect of utilization of library resources by library and information science students would be expanded for the betterment of research and scholarship.

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter is designed to present the methodology used for collecting data for the research work. In doing so, it discusses the following; research design, area of the study, population of the study, sample size and sampling techniques, instrument for data collection, validation of instrument, procedures of data collection, and data analysis will be covered.

#### **Research Design**

The study adopted the descriptive survey design, which is used to carry out and obtain information for the research. This method studies the population of interest by selecting study sample chosen from the population. This method is adopted primarily, because it is a suitable and efficient way of studying large population as only sample population is used in order to represent the entire population (Aina, 2002).

#### **Area of the Study**

The area of the study is Abia state which is one of the five states in South-east zone of Nigeria. Abia state covers an area of about 5,833.7 sq.km which is approximately 5.8 percent of the total land area of Nigeria, with its capital at Umuahia, it has 17 Local Government Area, namely; Abia North, Abia South, Isiala Ngwa, Ukwu west, Ukwu east, Obingwa, Ikwuano, Bende, Arochuku, Ohafia, Isuikwuato, Umuahia North,

Umuahia south, Ugwuanagbo and Osisioma. The occupations of the people of Abia state are mainly farming. Umudike, situated in an axis along the road from Umuahia to Ikot Ekpene. Its location is ten kilometers East of Umuahia, the Abia State Capital.

### Population of the Study

The target populations of this study are undergraduate students of Library and Information Science in College of Education, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, which consists of 255 students. These statistics was adopted from the records of the Course Representatives of each level.

### Sample and sampling techniques

The sample size is 51, which is 20% of the total population of 255 students of Library and Information Science.

In order to successfully carry out this research the respondents were randomly selected among 100 and 400 level students. random sampling strategy was applied and the population department was randomly selected. Busha and Harper (1980) assert that stratified sampling strategy ensures a more representative sample with less variation.

### Instrument for Data Collection

The questionnaire tagged: Utilization of library information resources Questionnaire (ULIRQ) was the only instrument used for data collection while simple percent statistical tool was used to answer the research questions. Part A; students' Bio data, (2 item statement) Part B; Consists of four sections: Section 1; determine the level of utilization of the resources in the library by library and information science undergraduates (1 item statement). Section 2; find out the perceptions of the students on the adequacy of the information resources in the library (1 item statement). Section 3; determine the problems experienced by the students in utilizing the library resources, (1 item statement). Section 4; offer suggestions for improved library resources, where necessary (1 item statement), and 6 item statements in all.

### Validation of Instrument

The instrument was validated to ensure both the content and construct validity. Based on this, the draft of questionnaire was presented to the project supervisor in the department of Library and information science in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, for her comments and suggestions. This is with the view of

checking the appropriateness before administration.

### Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire will be administered to the respondents/students personally by the researcher. By so doing, the researcher will be able to guide the respondents, in order to ascertain a more accurate and appropriate result needed for the research.

### Method of Data Analysis

Data analysis would be done by use of descriptive statistics methods. The raw data would be organized in such a way that it would be edited, classified and tabulated. Through editing, the raw data would be checked for accuracy, completeness and usefulness. The responses would be checked for legibility. Tables would be used in the data analysis processes to show the trends of events and to compare two or more variables of the research interest.

The mean was calculated thus:

$$X = \frac{\sum FX}{N}$$

N,

Where:  $\bar{X}$  = Mean, N = Total number of respondents

F = Frequency

$\sum$  = Summation Sign

The response values used in this study are: 4, 3, 2 and 1.

$$\text{Criterion Mean} = \frac{4+3+2+1}{4} = 2.50 \text{ (cut off point)}$$

### Decision Rule

Decision was taken using the four-point Likert scale of:

Very High Extent	(VHE): 4 points
High Extent	(HE): 3 points
Low Extent	(LE): 2 points
Very Low Extent	(VLE): 1 point

A mid-point of 2.50, which is the criterion mean is accepted as a positive response. This point is chosen because the individual average mean score is

$$\frac{4 + 3 + 2 + 1}{4} = \frac{10}{4} = 2.50$$

Based on this mean score of 2.50, a decision was taken that any item with a mean score of 2.50 and above was regarded as Accepted (A) while any item with mean score below 2.50 was regarded as Rejected (R).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The data analysis and results and discussion of results are presented in this chapter. It was presented under descriptive analysis, findings and discussions of findings.

### PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

#### Research Question 1: What is the extent of utilization of information resources in the university library?

**Table 1.** Mean responses of students on the extent to which they utilize the resources in the University Library.  
 N = 90

S/N	Items Statement	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	$\bar{x}$	RMK
1	Books	70	15	5	-	3.72	VHE
2	Journals	10	75	5	-	3.06	HE
3	Periodicals	-	5	75	10	1.94	LE
4	Reference Materials	85	5	-	-	3.94	VHE
5	Pamphlets	-	2	60	28	1.71	LE
6	Magazines	10	5	58	17	2.09	LE
7	Encyclopedia	5	5	10	70	1.39	VLE
8	Electronic Data Base	5	5	70	10	2.06	LE
9	Indexes/Abstracts	10	75	5	-	3.06	HE
	Cluster Mean					2.55	

The result of data analysis in table 1 shows that the cluster mean of the extent of utilization of library and information resources is 2.55, which is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50 on a four point rating scale. This shows that extents to which students utilize the resources in the university library is high.

#### Research question 2: What is the perception of students of the information resources in the University library?

**Table 2.** Mean responses of students on their perception of the information resources in the University Library.  
 N = 90

S/N	Items Statement	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{x}$	RMK
10	Information resources in the library are well organized	12	78	-	-	3.13	Accepted
11	The library provides training on the use of library	76	10	4	-	3.82	Accepted
12	Borrowing of information resources from the library is easy	80	6	4	-	3.84	Accepted
13	I am satisfied with the level of availability of resources in the library	14	66	5	5	2.99	Accepted
14	Library staff are helpful to users in the retrieval of information resources	5	10	70	5	2.17	Rejected
	Criterion mean					3,19	

The result of data analysis presented in table 2 shows that the cluster mean of the perception of information resources in the libraries is 3.19, which is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50 on a four point rating scale. This result indicates there is a positive perception of the information resources in the university library.

**Research question 3: What are the challenges experienced in utilizing information resources in the university library?**

**Table 3.** Mean responses of students on the challenges experienced in utilizing information resources in the University Library. **N = 90**

S/N	Items Statement	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{x}$	RMK
15	Obsolescence of library resources	14	68	6	2	3.04	Accepted
16	Opening hours of the library is short	20	60	6	4	3.07	Accepted
17	Power supply is inconsistent	85	5	-	-	3.94	Accepted
18	Attitude of the librarians is poor	82	8	-	-	3.91	Accepted
19	Breakdown of facilities is constant	-	-	68	22	1.76	Rejected
20	Unavailability of some of the information resources needed	25	55	5	5	3.11	Accepted
	Criterion mean					3.14	

The result of data analysis presented in table 1 shows that the cluster mean of the scores from table 3 on the challenges experience in utilizing information resources in the library is 3.14, which is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50 on a four point rating scale. This result shows all the items listed are the challenges students experience in utilizing information resources in the university library.

**Research question 4: What are the solutions to the challenges of utilizing information resources in the University Library?**

**Table 4.** Mean responses of students on the solutions to the challenges of utilizing information resources in the University Library. **N = 90**

S/N	Items Statement	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{x}$	RMK
21	Provision of current library resources	80	10	-	-	3.81	Accepted
22	Early opening of the library	20	58	10	2	3.07	Accepted
23	Constant power supply	85	5	-	-	3.94	Accepted
24	Librarians to be courteous	70	10	5	5	3.59	Accepted
25	Maintenance of facilities in the library	82	6	2	-	3.89	Accepted
26	Increased availability of library resources	72	12	6	-	3.73	Accepted
	Criterion mean					3.67	

Result of data analysis yielded a cluster mean of 3.67, which is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50 on a four point rating scale. This result indicates an agreement that all the items listed are the solutions to the challenges of utilizing information resources in the university library.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

Based on the results of data analysis,, the study:

- 1) Identified that books, journals, reference materials and Indexes/abstracts are utilized to a high extent by undergraduate students of LIS, MOUAU.
- 2). Ascertained that the perception of LIS students about information resources is positive, this because the students perceive that the library provides training on the use of library, borrowing of information resources

from the library is easy and satisfaction with the level of availability of resources in the library as perceptions of undergraduate students of LIS of the information Resources in the University Library.

- 3). Determined that obsolescence of library resources, short opening hours of the library, inconsistency in the supply of Power, poor attitude of the librarians, unavailability of some of the information resources needed are identified as challenges experienced by undergraduate students in utilizing information resources in the university Library.

4). Identified provision of current library resources, early opening of the library, constant power supply, librarians to be courteous, maintenance of facilities in the library, and increased availability of library resources as strategies to the challenges of utilizing information resources in the University Library.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Discussion of findings of the study are presented as follows:

### **Research Question 1: Extent to which undergraduates utilize resources in the University Library**

The study revealed that the following information resources are utilized to a high extent by the LIS students of MOUAU:

books, Journals, pamphlets, magazines, encyclopedia, electronic data base and indexes/abstracts The findings of the study agrees with that of Okiy (2000), who found that respondents used books more than other materials and that they browsed the shelves to locate materials.

### **Research Question 2: Perception of undergraduate students of the information resources in MOUAU Library**

The finding of this study revealed that the Perceptions of Undergraduate students of LIS of the information resources in MOUAU library is positive in that Information resources in the library are well organized, borrowing of information resources from the library is easy, The library provides training on the use of library, and satisfaction with the level of availability of resources in the library. This finding agrees with that of Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009), their findings revealed users borrow materials from the library easily.

### **Research Question 3: Challenges experienced by undergraduates in utilizing information resources in MOUAU Library**

The study further found that some of the challenges experienced by undergraduate students of LIS in utilizing information resources in MOUAU library are as follows: Obsolescence of library resources, opening hours of the library is short, power supply is inconsistent, Attitude of librarians is poor and unavailability of some of the information resources This finding conforms with that of

Egwim (2006) who reported that unavailability of carefully selected and organized collection of books are challenges respondents experienced in utilizing information resources in university library.

### **Research Question 4: Solutions to the challenges of utilizing information resources in MOUAU library**

The finding of the study revealed that the Solutions to the challenges of utilizing information resources in MOUAU library include the following: Provision of current library resources, Early opening of the library, Constant power supply, Maintenance of facilities in the library and Increased availability of library resources. This finding is in agreement with Igun and Adogbeji (2007), his finding revealed that solution to the challenges of utilizing information resources in MOUAU library is to make available library information resources to the users.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

### **Summary**

The study examined the utilization of library resources by undergraduate students of Library and Information Science, MOUAU. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. Population of the study is 252. Through proportionate stratified sampling technique, the sample size of 90 undergraduate students was used as the respondents from which data for the study was collected.

The instrument used for data collection is a structured questionnaire. The instrument was captioned Utilization of Library Information Resources Questionnaire (ULIRQ). The instrument was validated. The validity of the questionnaire was determined by experts in the department of Library and Information Science. Data for the study was collected by the researcher with the help of the Course Representatives through face to face administration.

The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics method such as means to answer the research questions. Results of data analysis identified the following as information resources in MOUAU library that were utilized to a high extent by undergraduates of LIS: books, journals, reference materials, and indexes/abstracts.

The result also determined a positive perception of LIS students, of the information resources in the university library as they perceive that Information resources in the library are well organized, the library provides training on the use of library, and borrowing of information resources from the library is easy. However, Library staffs are helpful to users in the retrieval of information resources received yielded the lowest mean score of 2.17.

Challenges experienced in utilizing information

resources in the university library undergraduates identified are: Obsolescence of available information resources, opening hours of the library is short, power supply is inconsistent, attitude of the librarians is poor, and unavailability of some of the information resources needed.

Identified as strategies to the challenges experience in the utilization of library resources in the library by undergraduate students of LIS are: Provision of current library resources, early opening of the library, constant power supply, librarians to be courteous, and maintenance of facilities in the library and increased availability of library resources.

## CONCLUSION

From the results and findings obtained in this study, the following major conclusions were drawn:

- (1) The major library resources that undergraduate students of LIS MOUAU utilized the library information resources to a high extent.
- (2) Undergraduate students of LIS MOUAU have a positive perception of resources in MOUAU library is.
- (3) The major challenge faced by undergraduate students of LIS MOUAU in the use of library resources in MOUAU library is inconsistent power supply.
- (4) The main solution to the challenges of utilizing information is maintenance of constant supply of power.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

The findings of the study have implication for the management of libraries in Abia State who are directly responsible for the provision of library resources in libraries they must ensure that library users especially undergraduates are adequately satisfied through the provision of library information resources.

However, the findings of the study on the extent to which Undergraduates utilize resources in the university library revealed that books, journals, reference materials and indexes/abstracts are the library information resources that undergraduate students of LIS MOUAU. This has an implication on the academic performance of undergraduate student of LIS MOUAU which reflects on the quality of graduates that graduate from MOUAU. Therefore, since utilization of library information resources can lead to good academic performance of undergraduates, the management of the university library should ensure that library information resources are

adequately provided to facilitate utilization by undergraduates.

The findings of this study on perceptions of undergraduate students of LIS of the information resources in the University Library revealed that Information resources in the library are well organized, the library provides training on the use of library, borrowing of information resources from the library is easy and they are satisfied with the level of availability of resources in the library. They also perceived that library staffs are not helpful to the undergraduates in the retrieval of information resources. This implies that there is need to organize training by the management of the university libraries for staff in the library to facilitate efficiency in the discharge of their duties to library users to avoid falling standard of education.

The findings of the study on the challenges experience in utilizing information resources in the university library revealed that the following challenges were identified: currency of library resources is low, opening hours of the library is short, power supply is inconsistent and unavailability of some of the information resources needed. Also, constant breakdown of facility is not accepted as a challenge. This has an implication on the academic performance of pupils and this will in turn reflect on the quality and strength of the graduates from the university.

The findings of this study on strategies to the challenges of utilizing information resources in the university library identified the following as strategies to the challenges of utilizing library resources in MOUAU library: This implies that there is urgent need for the government and other authorities concerned to implement the strategies to avoid the falling standard of education in university.

Government as the financiers or funding authorities of the universities in the country should ensure that information library resources are provided in the university library, if they are to function efficiently and effectively. This study has revealed the need for adequate utilization of library resources in the university library to the government and other relevant authorities; it is left for them to provide all the necessary information resources to satisfy the information needs of undergraduate students in the university.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The findings of the study were limited by the following factors: The inability of the researcher to extend this study to other universities in Abia State but could not due to time and economic limitations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been made based on the findings, discussions and implication of the study:

1. The management of the university should ensure that library resources identified to be utilized to a low extent should be improved upon, to encourage their utilization.
2. The university should also encourage higher extent of utilization of library resources by undergraduates in order to achieve user satisfaction.
3. The university authority should ensure current library materials are provided, maintain early opening of the library, constant power supply, librarians should be courteous, facilities in the library should be maintained.
4. The universities management should make sure that adequate fund is made available to the university libraries to enable them acquire all the necessary information resources to satisfy the information needs of undergraduates and other library users.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

In view of the limitations of the study, the following suggestions are made for further research:

1. A study on the utilization of library resources by undergraduate students of polytechnics in Abia State, Nigeria.
2. A comparative study of the utilization of library resources by undergraduate students of polytechnics and universities in Abia State.

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