

Full Length Research

Information Seeking Behavior of Inmate Students in National Open University of Nigeria, Lagos State

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Information access and use are key factors in nation building. Every individual and corporate organizations/institutions need adequate information to survive effectively. Unfortunately, the case appears different among developing nations' inmates considering their peculiar circumstances especially in Nigeria with severe cases of insecurity issues in recent times. Thus, this study investigates the information behavior of inmate students of (Maximum Security Custodial Centre-Kirikiri, Apapa Lagos in National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Lagos State. The study was a descriptive survey type using questionnaire as means of data collection from all the 362 NOUN inmate students in the targeted facility via the total enumerative sampling technique. Complete data subsequently gathered from 280 respondents after thorough data cleaning which represents 77.4% response rate approximately were analyzed using statistical tools such as the frequency count, simple percentages, mean and standard deviation in answering the study research questions; while formulated hypotheses were tested using correlation analysis and simple regression analysis at 5% level of significance. Major findings that emanated from the study show that the information needs of inmates are many, likewise their sources of information used, as well as their search strategies. However, the coefficient of its determination (R^2) obtained is 0.154 which means that Inmates' information search strategies/behaviour accounts for only 15.4% of their total/general information needs. The implication is that the information search behaviour of NOUN inmate students is relatively poor and must be improved upon if they must succeed as students especially in their academic pursuit. The study also found that inmates are confronted with many challenges upon which recommendations were further made.

KEYWORDS: Information Needs, Information Behavior, Inmate Students, Security, Custodial Centre-Lagos.

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INTRODUCTION

Information is key to every nation's social-political and economic development. Effective national development largely depends on both individual and corporate information access and utilization. The role of information access and utilization in nation building is indispensable. Thus, the present-day world information order is commonly referred to as the information era, where information is the most important factor that drives all economic activities of man. It is an era

wherein the value of information is increasingly considered as the most important element for societal growth and development.

Information in this regard has been variously considered as power. In essence, information possess the strength required for nation building including effectiveness in security issues where inmates' information needs and behaviour are salient factors. This could be one of the reasons why most scholars in the field of economics recently considered information as the fifth factor in nation building in relation to "factors of production i.e. after land, labour, capital and entrepreneur". This is simply because of information value and potentials in growing organizations and institutions such as custodial or correctional centres for inmates (Oyediran-Tidings, Onyenania & Fadimu, 2019). Moreover, information has been acknowledged as the new gold (Nnandi, 2019). Some other scholars and business entities particularly those in the telecommunication industry have described units of information (data) as life. For instance, "Global-com has specifically tagged data as life"; while others see information as the new gold and diamond upon which the new generation of people and organizations would leverage or reliably anchor their growth and developmental plans. All of these emphases are only trying to acknowledge the place of data/information in the life of the modern man and its indispensability in human societal growth and development. Individuals and nations that recognize the power in information have never regretted it, but have continued to enjoy its benefits in improving their individual persons and organizations as well as institutions such as the Maximum Security Custodial Centre (Kirikiri) Apapa Lagos, Nigeria wherein the inmates are the underlying factors.

Inmates are usually seen as offenders of the law of any nation who are under government restricted custody otherwise known as correctional centres. This category of persons also need information that could bring about knowledge and wisdom required of them to be more enlightened not only to enable them decrease from criminal issues but to be humane and productive towards national growth and development since information is now the main driver of the modern man and society (Molloy & Snow 2012). Indeed, the modern day society and economy has been tagged as the information driven era. It is a period in human history where information is the key driver of all aspects of the human economic activities. To effectively thrive in this modern era, someone would need a variety of information to succeed no matter how well versed he or she would be in a field of learning or profession. Information plays significant role in our individual and national life. There is no field of human activity where information is not an important component. Information has become the basics of human existence. In fact, information is becoming so persuasive and omnibus that there is hardly any endeavor in which it is not an important component. It is an indispensable raw material for decision-making and a vital ingredient for social development. For instance, many wise economic persons and managers do not need warehouse or shops and physical security apparatus or sales people to engage or operate their businesses and institutions. All they need to do is to network with owners of physical business premises and embark on online economic/marketing activities and delivery. Thereby helping to cut-down on production and overhead costs if not totally eliminating unnecessary business expenses of the past millennium. The national Open University of Nigeria also falls into this category of institutions as mirrored in this current study. Therefore, the need to study all aspects of information has been a concern to a large number of people and research workers.

According to Aina, as far back as 2004, "information means many things to different people. To some people, information is news, while others refer to it as facts, and yet to others, it is essentially data. So also, Okiy (2004) who viewed information as a message, document, resources or data that can change a person's knowledge, it consists of facts, data and knowledge contained in published or unpublished sources and transmitted orally or in print form which enables the receiver to be better informed about issues, problems or events. While the health workers associate information as medical records, engineers refer to information as bits and data, librarians on their own part associate information with recorded knowledge, and the microbiologists consider information as genes in DNA, which are transmitted from one generation to the other. Aina (2004) further stressed that information can be used interchangeably as news, facts, data and knowledge. Ukachi (2010) sees information as an important resource for individual growth and survival".

Progress recorded in modern society through individual human efforts depends largely on the provision of the right kind of information, format and at the right time. Thus, there are different categories of information users and behavioural patterns which includes: students such as the inmate students of the National Open University upon which this paper anchors among other categories of information seekers or users such as lecturers, lawyers, farmers, rural and urban women, researchers, doctors, nurses and others too numerous to mention. However, this research work dwells on "Student inmates" as its information user group or category with regards to their information needs, sources and information behaviour or search strategies among others.

Information needs on one hand, connotes areas/aspects of an individual information wants for the purpose of earning a living and attaining higher standards of living socially and economically; while information behavior is a field of science that seeks to understand the way individuals or people search and use information products. It can include information seeking and information retrieval aimed at understanding why people seek information or purposes of information need

and how they use it.

The term 'information behavior' notably came into existence through "Thomas D. Wilson in 1981 that is now widely adopted and regarded as Wilson's model of information behavior as cited in information behavior literature as briefly reflected/depicted in this current study below. Thus, in year 2000, Wilson defined information behavior as - the totality of human behavior in relation to sources and channels of information".

Information use and users could be described as information behavior in line with Wilson's (1999) information behaviour concept which was considered and described as: "the identification of a need for information; the search for information; and the actual use of such information". When information need arises, and sources adequately identified, searched for and utilized, it helps to better the lots of the individual and provides him or her with the opportunity to be law abiding and productive towards the development of a nation. Unfortunately, some citizens or individuals fall short of the role of information in self-development due to one reason or the other in society. It is upon this backdrop, that this paper investigates the information behavior of National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) inmate students of maximum security custodial centre Kirikiri, Apapa Lagos.

Statement of the Problem

Today's world of information explosion landscape is predominantly driving by information technologies, information experts and information users all over the world. In spite of the enormous amount of information products and services in existence, some categories of persons are still information deficient otherwise regarded as information poor. This set of people are either denied information by powers that be or deny themselves information through their information behaviour patterns. As a result, they tend to be cut-off from the normal norms and value of society and sometimes pose to be injurious to societal development. Inmates majorly falls into this category of persons in our society right from inception especially those in the African continent such as Nigeria. Thus, it is not uncommon to hear issues of jail break in Nigeria which is increasing becoming a pandemic on its own right following their reprisal effects on the Nigeria security apparatus and on the general nation's economic system and outcome in most recent times. These anomalies may not be unconnected to issues of inmates' information needs and behaviour among others that require empirical evidence of this nature. Thus, this study examines the information behavior of National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) inmate students of maximum security custodial centre (Kirikiri), Apapa-Lagos.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to explore the information needs and seeking behavior of National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) inmate students of maximum security custodial centre, Lagos; while its specific objectives are to:

1. To identify the information needs of NOUN inmate students of maximum security custodial centre, Apapa Lagos
2. To find out NOUN inmate students' sources and media for information access and use
3. To investigate the information behavior (search strategies) of NOUN inmate students
4. To identify the challenges confronting NOUN inmate students' information access and use.

Research Questions

1. What are the various information needs of inmates (Purposes for Information Need)?
2. What are the sources and media for accessing/obtaining information by NOUN inmate students?
3. What are the information behaviors (search strategies) of NOUN inmate students?
4. What are the challenges confronting NOUN inmate students accessing their information needs and use?

Hypotheses

H_0^1 : There is no significant linear relationship between information needs, search behaviours and sources.

H_0^2 : Information behaviours (search strategies) do not have significant effect on inmate students' information needs.

Literature review

The review of related literature in this paper was carried out under the following sub-headings:

Information seeking behavior

Information seeking behavior is the deliberate search for information occasioned by a need to meet certain goals (Wilson, 2000). The process of seeking information could compel an individual person to either interact with manual information systems such as a library or with computer-based systems like the online databases (Wilson 2000). Information seeking behaviour, is therefore a broad term encompassing the ways individuals articulate their information needs, search, select, retrieve, evaluate and use the required information (Savolainen 2011). It was emphasized that “purposeful information seeking often starts by the user selecting information sources and applying different criteria to evaluate and prioritize such sources for use” (Bronstein 2010). This process could subsequently lead to better decision-making, improved task performance and attainment of good standards of living devoid of criminality which could result into undeserved punishment as often experienced by offenders of the law (inmates) upon which this study anchors.

Information Seeking Behavior of Inmates

Inmates all over the world need information in different area of their live even as they go through the correctional processes especially as it pertains to their health matters. Such information need generally to include health information on diseases outbreak such as epidemics e.g. COVID-19; as well as security information and reading or study enhancements information for the improvement of their education through seminars and workshop for better lifestyle and personal development. In achieving these goals, inmates under educational programmes could engage in various information seeking behaviour via strategies such as browsing through the internet if given the opportunity, visiting websites, consulting library collections (books, journals, reference sources, archival materials etc.) as well as attending seminars/workshops and other documented experiences and through words of mouth from colleagues. Folorunso’s (2014) study on information seeking behavior of social science students in a research institute in Nigeria, revealed that students need information for “seminar papers, assignments, workshop research papers, as well as on current affairs to keep abreast of new developments in their fields of study”. To achieve these needs or meet their information needs, they therefore rely on news papers, journals, books, online sources and as well attend conferences and workshops. Folorunso (2014) study showed different patterns of e-resources usage among academics or students. In particular, junior students especially those engaging in research were found to use electronic resources about two times much more than other categories of students in satisfying their information needs. In a similar development, Urquhart et al., (2006), emphasized that despite the apparent predominance of the search engine and e-mail as part of sources of information seeking behavior, books are still considered as a reliable and basic information resource for people with challenges in health and correctional facilities such as inmates. Their study also showed that many individuals including inmates and health personnel still turn to books as well as to the Internet for routine needs more frequently than ever.

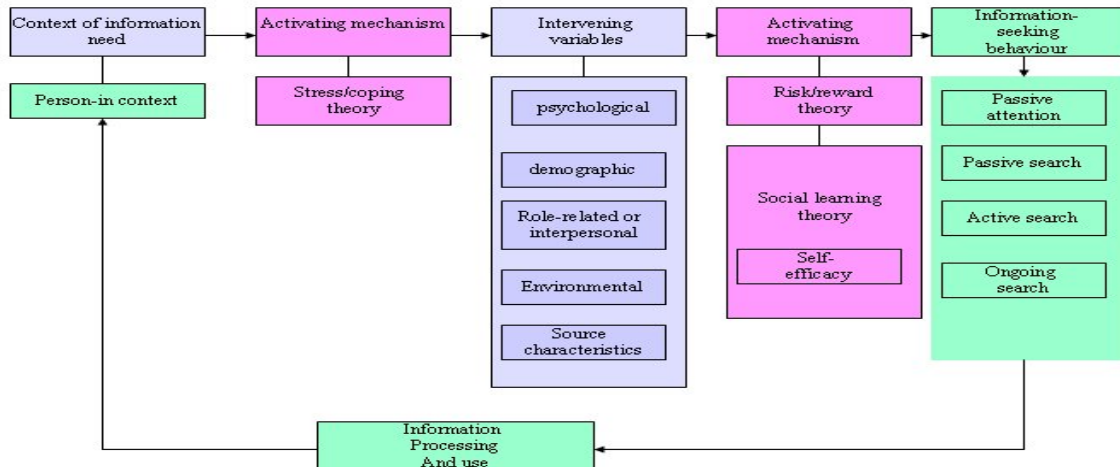
Challenges Confronting Information Access and Use

Several challenges have been found by scholars to confront individuals and inmates alike in their search for information and use among Nigerians including inmates. Such “challenges faced by inmates during and after the incarceration and transition period back into society according to Cochran (2013) include:

- Information search skills and access problems.
- Poor Internet connectivity problems.
- Inadequate government support to overcome high cost of information materials.
- Poor power supply issues in Nigeria.
- Inadequate information practitioners/librarians as support system.
- Poor publicity of information resources relating to inmates’ health issues and management.
- Insufficient time to use available information resources in libraries by inmates
- Poor information literacy issues.
- Lack of awareness of existence information resources generally among others”.

Theoretical Understanding of Information Behaviour/Framework

Wilson's general "model of information seeking behavior"



Adapted figure 1. Wilson's general model of for information and seeking behaviour (1996}

Wilson's revised model of 1996 is presented in figure above. It pictures the cycle of information activities, from the rise of information need to the phase when information is being used". It includes various intervening variables, which have a significant influence on information behaviour, and mechanisms which activate such needs. From the above "Wilson's model of information seeking behaviour, Wilson assumes two propositions. First, is that information needs are secondary needs, caused by primary needs, which in accordance with definitions in psychology can be defined as physiological, cognitive or affective. Cognitive needs rise as an attempt to look for sense as it applies to world order, as well as the realization of a need to explain and make sense out of existing phenomena, which can also be simulated by common, non-utilitarian curiosity". He emphasized that the rise of a particular need is influenced by the context, which can be the person himself or the role the person plays in work and life, as well as the existing environments (social, political, economic, technological, etc.) of the individual. According to Wilson as far back 1981, the elements of such context intertwine; sometimes they condition each other, which were underlined in the earlier version of Wilson's model of 1981.

Moreover, Wilson's information seeking behaviour model suggests that "not all information needs that would make a person seek for information. For example, an individual does not engage in seeking activities if he or she is convinced that his possessed knowledge is sufficient to understand the situation and make a good decision. If the individual lacks such conviction, and while considering the stress connected with dangers associated with making mistakes or trespassing social or legal norms, including resultant financial implications, along side inability to answer or attend to the expectations of other people, would make information seeking behaviour occur. According to him, the bigger the stress, the bigger is the motivation to look for information up to a certain point where the stress paralyses such activities. Another activating factor is a necessity to cope with a situation or to solve a problem. Wanting a reward can induce this feeling of necessity too, even if the reward means only the comfort coming from eliminating the feeling of uncertainty. The risk/reward theory explains why. In some situations, people seek information while others don't depending on circumstances. Moreover, why certain information sources are more frequently used, some others are not which also depends on the nature or forms of required information. Generally, it depends on the amount and nature of perceived risk resulting from giving up information seeking quest. It can be risk of unnecessary expenditure, time loss or others. An important stimulator of information behavior is also the perception of self-efficacy, explained in depth by social learning theory". The expectation of efficacy is the estimation whether a person can successfully execute the behavior or not. It strongly affects decisions to undertake necessary activities, and determines whether a person even try to cope with the situation or not. These among other factors surrounding information needs and seeking behaviour usually leads to good living or inappropriate lifestyle as often connected with issues of imates in our society.

Research methodology

The study population consists of all the National Open University Inmate Students of the Maximum Security Custodial Centre Kirikiri, Apapa Lagos. The study is a descriptive survey type in which the questionnaire was the instrument used in data collection via the total enumerative sampling technique from a total population size of 362 inmates in the targeted facility. Complete data subsequently gathered from 280 respondents after thorough data cleaning representing 77.4% response rate approximately were analyzed using statistical tools such as the frequency count, simple percentages, mean and standard deviation to answer the study research questions; while formulated hypotheses were tested using correlation analysis and simple regression analysis at 5% level of significance in arriving at the major study results/findings as reported below.

Presentation of Results and Interpretation of Findings

Answers to research questions

Research Question One:

What are the various information needs of inmates (Purposes for Information Need)?

Table 1. Information Needs of Inmates (Purposes for Information Need)

Information Needs	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	NR (%)	Mean
Information for academic growth and development	144 (51.4)	135 (48.2)	-	-	1 (0.4)	3.52
Information to regain freedom from imprisonment	180 (64.3)	99 (35.4)	-	-	1 (0.4)	3.65
Information for personal development	81 (28.9)	189 (67.5)	9 (3.2)	-	1 (0.8)	3.26
Information on skills acquisition	72 (25.7)	171 (61.1)	27 (9.6)	9 (3.2)	1 (0.4)	3.10
Information on Health Care Needs	126 (45.0)	99 (35.4)	45 (16.1)	-	10 (3.6)	3.30
Information on Vocational development	72 (25.7)	153 (54.6)	27 (9.6)	9 (3.2)	19 (6.8)	3.10
Security Information	108 (38.6)	153 (54.6)	18 (6.4)	-	1 (0.4)	3.32
Information on national economic activities and development	45 (16.1)	144 (51.4)	63 (22.5)	9 (3.2)	19 (6.8)	2.86
Information on crime prevention and control	90 (32.1)	135 (48.2)	36 (12.9)	18 (6.4)	1 (0.4)	3.06
Information on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) activities for prisoners.	162 (57.9)	81 (28.9)	18 (6.4)	-	19 (6.8)	3.55

Key: Strongly Agree (SA) Agree (A) Disagree (D) Strongly Disagree (SD) No Response (NR)

Table 1 shows that 99.6% of the inmates agree/strongly agree that they need information for academic growth and development. Moreover, 99.6 % also agree or strongly agree that they need information to regain freedom from imprisonment, 96.0% on the other hand, agree/strongly agree that they need information for personal development, while 86.8% agree or strongly agree that they need information on skills acquisition. Also, 80.4% of the inmates agree or strongly agree that they need information on healthcare needs, while 80.3% agree or strongly agree that they need information on vocational development. In like manner, about 93.2% of the participants agree or strongly agree that they need security information; while only 67.5 of the inmates agree or strongly agree that they need information on national economic activities and development. Lastly, about 80.3% agree or strongly agree that they need information on crime prevention and control as well as about 86.8% of the inmates agree or strongly agree that they need information on

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) activities for prisoners. This generally implies that the information needs of inmates are many which invariably cut across all aspects of personal and national needs for growth and development. This finding correlates with those of Folorunso (2014) and Urquhart et al. (2006), studies which showed that students seek information from different resources for the purpose of satisfying their seminar and research information needs; and that they still turn to books and journals for routine needs. Thus, they should not be deprived of access to necessary information that would help to facilitate their speedy rehabilitation and possible reintegration into normal societal lifestyle to enable them distance from criminality and contribute their quarter legally towards national development as enshrined or gleaned from the objectives of the maximum Kirikiri Correctional Centre of the country.

Research Question Two: What are the sources and media for accessing/obtaining information by inmate students?

Table 2. Preferred Source(s) of Information Needs

Source(s) of Information	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	NR (%)	Mean
Textbooks	144 (51.4)	108 (38.6)	27 (9.6)	-	1 (0.4)	3.42
Journals	45 (16.1)	117 (41.8)	81 (28.9)	18 (6.4)	19 (6.8)	2.72
Magazines	45 (16.1)	99 (35.4)	117 (41.8)	9 (3.2)	10 (3.6)	2.67
Newsletters.	45 (16.1)	81 (28.9)	99 (35.4)	45 (16.1)	10 (3.6)	2.47
Theses/ Dissertations and other archival materials	54 (19.3)	135 (48.2)	81 (28.9)	9 (3.2)	1 (0.4)	2.84
Newspapers	54 (19.3)	108 (38.6)	90 (32.1)	27 (9.6)	1 (0.4)	2.68
Conference/workshop proceedings or papers	90 (32.1)	144 (51.4)	27 (9.6)	18 (6.4)	1 (0.4)	3.10
Reference Books or Sources	45 (16.1)	162 (57.9)	45 (16.2)	18 (6.4)	10 (3.6)	2.87
Miscellaneous Papers	63 (22.5)	126 (45.0)	63 (22.5)	18 (6.4)	10 (3.6)	2.87
Convocation and Inaugural lectures	81 (28.9)	108 (38.6)	72 (25.7)	18 (6.4)	1 (0.4)	2.90
Television and Radio	63 (22.5)	117 (41.8)	54 (19.3)	45 (16.1)	1 (0.4)	2.71
Friends and relations/Prison Guards	108 (38.6)	153 (54.6)	-	9 (3.2)	10 (3.6)	3.33

Table 2 shows the sources of information. It reveals that 90.0% of the inmates agree or strongly agree that they sourced information from textbooks, while about 56.9% of them agreed or strongly agreed that they sourced information from journals, and 51.5% of them sourced from magazines; while only 45% of them agree of them strongly agree that they sourced from newsletters. In addition, table 2 shows that 67.5% agree or strongly agree that they sourced from theses/ dissertations and other archival materials, while 57.9% of the inmates agree/strongly agree that they sourced from Newspapers, 83.55 agree or strongly agree that they sourced from conference/workshop proceedings; as well as 74.0% of them agreed/strongly agreed that they sourced from Reference Books/materials. Lastly, it reveals that 67.5% of them agreed or strongly agreed that they source information from Miscellaneous Papers, 67.5% agree or strongly agree that they sourced from Convocation and Inaugural lectures, while 64.3% of them agreed/strongly agreed that they sourced information from Television and Radio, as well as majority of them (93.25%) of them agreeing or strongly agreed that they sourced information from friends, relations/Prison Guards. This finding is in support of the study outcome of Bronstein (2010) who disclosed that information seekers use different criteria, methods and sources such as newspapers, journals, textbooks, databases and e-resources in meeting their information needs.

This implies that inmates' sources or media used or preferred sources of obtaining/accessing requisite information are equally many irrespective their restricted circumstances.

Research Question Three: What are the information behaviors (information search strategies) of Inmates?**Table 3.** information behaviors (information search strategies) of Inmates

Information Behaviours	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	NR (%)	Mean
Start information search using information professionals such as librarians/libraries in NOUN and in Apapa Kirikiri	99 (35.4)	126 (45.0)	27 (9.6)	18 (6.4)	10 (3.6)	3.13
Internet information navigation search strategies	36 (12.9)	108 (38.6)	81 (28.9)	36 (12.9)	19 (6.8)	2.55
Use of library card catalogue or OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue)	36 (12.9)	126 (45.0)	99 (35.4)	9 (3.2)	10 (3.6)	2.70
Browsing through school library book shelves	90 (32.1)	144 (51.4)	36 (12.9)	-	10 (3.6)	3.20
Use of Abstracts and Indexes	63 (22.5)	153 (54.6)	45 (16.1)	9 (3.2)	10 (3.6)	3.00
Use of friends and relations (mouth to mouth approaches)	72 (25.7)	117 (41.8)	63 (22.5)	18 (6.4)	10 (3.6)	2.90

Table 3 shows that 80.4% of the inmates agree or strongly agree that they start information search using information professionals such as librarians/libraries in NOUN and in Apapa Kirikiri, 51.5% agree or strongly agree that they use Internet information navigation search strategies and 57.9% agree or strongly agree that they make use of library card catalogue or OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue). Lastly, 83.5% of them agree/strongly agree that they browse through school library book shelves, while 77.1% agree or strongly agree that they make use of Abstracts and Indexes as well as 67.5% of them agreeing/strongly agreed that they make use of friends and relations (mouth to mouth approaches). This equally implies that inmates' information behavior (information search strategies) are equally many.

Research Question Four: What are the factors challenging the information needs and seeking behaviours of Inmates?**Table 4.** Factors Challenging the Information Needs and Seeking Behaviours of Inmates

Challenging Factors	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	NR (%)	Mean
Low level of human relations practices in libraries and information centres	54 (19.3)	153 (54.6)	45 (16.1)	18 (6.4)	10 (3.6)	2.90
Inadequate access to public information resources	90 (32.1)	126 (45.0)	45 (16.1)	9 (6.4)	10 (3.6)	3.10
Poor Information search skills and access problems	54 (19.3)	171 (61.1)	27 (9.6)	18 (6.4)	10 (3.6)	2.97
Lack of access to Internet facilities	117 (41.8)	126 (45.0)	18 (6.4)	9 (3.20)	10 (3.6)	3.30
Insufficient access time to information facilities	90 (32.1)	153 (54.6)	27 (9.6)	-	10 (3.6)	3.23
Inadequate permission to relate with people	72 (25.7)	99 (35.4)	54 (19.3)	45 (16.1)	10 (3.6)	2.73
Low level of support from information/library personnel (s) due to poor human relations problems	72 (25.7)	162 (57.9)	18 (6.4)	18 (6.4)	10 (3.6)	3.07
Poor information literacy	90 (32.1)	117 (41.8)	63 (22.5)	-	10 (3.6)	3.10

Table 4 shows that 73.9% of the respondents agree or strongly agree that low level of human relations practices in libraries and information centres is a challenge to their information needs and seeking behaviours, while 77.1% agree or strongly agree that inadequate access to public information resources is a challenge and 80.4% agree or strongly agree that poor information search skills and access problems is a challenge. Also, Table 4 shows that majority (86.8%) of the inmates agree or strongly agree that lack of access to internet facilities is a challenge, while 86.7% agree or strongly

agree that insufficient access time to information facilities is a challenge and 61.1% agree or strongly agree that inadequate permission to relate with people is a challenge.

Lastly, it shows that 83.6% agree or strongly agree that low level of support from information/library personnel (s) due to poor human relations problems is a challenge; while 73.9% agree or strongly agree that poor information literacy is a challenge. These findings are indication that the challenges confronting inmates' information search behavior are very many. This finding is also in line with Cochran (2013) who found that inmates in correctional centres are often faced with myriads of issues especially during the incarceration and transition period back into society.

Hypotheses Testing

The hypotheses for the study are tested using correlation analysis and simple regression analysis at 5% level of significance.

H_0^1 : There is no significant linear relationship between information needs, search behaviours and sources.

Table 5. Correlation coefficients of the relationship between information needs, search behaviours and sources

S/N	Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation	n	1	2
1.	Information Needs	75.54	13.01	279		
2.	Information Sources	62.65	16.26	279	0.430**	
3.	Information Behaviour	64.04	15.19	270	0.392**	0.797**

** Significant at 5% level of significant

Table 5 shows that inmates' Information Needs is rated with a mean of 75.54% (sd = 13.01%) information sources is rated a mean of 62.65% (sd = 16.26%) and information behaviour was rate a mean of 64.04% (sd = 15.19%). The correlation coefficient between information needs and information sources is 0.43 which implies that there is a weak positive and significant relationship between information needs of inmates and their source of information ($p < 0.05$). This means that the more NOUN students' inmates need information, the more the source of information they must consult.

The correlation coefficient between information needs and information behaviour is 0.392 which implies that there is also a weak positive and significant relationship between information needs of inmates and their information search behaviour ($p < 0.05$). This mean that the more NOUN students' inmates need information, the greater their information search behaviours.

The correlation coefficient between information search behaviour and information sources is 0.797 which implies that there is a strong positive and significant relationship between information search behaviour of inmates and their sources of information ($p < 0.05$). This means that the greater the information search behaviour of inmates the more sources of information they must use.

H_0^2 : Information behaviours (search strategies) does not have significant effect on inmate students' information needs.

Table 6. Regression analysis of the relationship between Information behaviours (search strategies) and inmate students' information needs

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error		
(Constant)	54.487	3.167	17.205	<0.001
Information Search Behaviour	0.336	0.048	6.973	<0.001
F = 48.622; p < 0.001; R² = 0.154				

a. Dependent Variable: Information Needs

The model fitted for the effect is given as:

Inmate students Information Needs = 54.487 + 0.336 Information Search Behaviour

The model shows that a percent increase in the Inmates' information search behaviour will increase their access to required information/needs by 0.336% and the effect is positive and significant (**B = 0.336; p < 0.05**). The coefficient of determination (R^2) obtained is 0.154 which means that Inmates' information search behaviour accounts for only 15.4%

of their information needs. The implication of this is that the information search behaviour of NOUN inmate students is relatively poor and must be improved upon if they must succeed as students especially in their academic pursuit.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing, it is clearly understood through the observed facts and figures that inmates in correctional centres especially those at the maximum security custodial centre Kirikiri, Apapa Lagos, needs a lot information and knowledge necessary to enhance their learning outcome and rehabilitation initiatives of the government especially by giving them the opportunity to improve upon their educational background via the educational window provided by NOUN for such exercise in Nigeria. The inmates need to access and use the right information to ensure that success is attained not only in their academic pursuit but for their overall effective rehabilitation initiatives at the correctional facilities. Indeed, it was found that the information needs of inmates are many just like other citizens in the country irrespective of their restricted environment; as well as possesses considerably good or positive information search strategies through available information sources irrespective of the identified challenges confronting them in their information access and utilization. However, the coefficient of its determination (R^2) obtained is 0.154 which means that Inmates' information search behaviour accounts for only 15.4% of their total or general information needs. The implication is that the information search behaviour of NOUN inmate students is relatively poor and must be improved upon if they must succeed as students especially in their academic pursuit. Thus, the following additional recommendations were made among others:

- i. Government should continue to find avenues to provide inmates with improved educational opportunities as part of the correctional facilities put in place for inmates in their correctional efforts through adequate funding.
- ii. Government should ensure that appropriate solutions are provided to overcome the identified challenges of inmates in their rehabilitation processes.
- iii. The inmates on their own part should continue to make frantic efforts to improve their level of information access and use in order to effectively meet their academic and general rehabilitation information needs among others.

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