

Extent of Use of Print Information Sources in Delta State University Library

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Abstract: *This study examined the effective use of print sources of information in Delta state university libraries. The population consisted of 400 users of Delta state university library, Abraka. A structural questionnaire was employed to collect data from 400 users of the university libraries on purposively selected for this study. The research was designed to determine the extent to which print sources of information in the university library were effectively utilized. Three research questions were addressed in this study. Findings reveals among others that users still depend heavily on the print sources of information. Recommendations were proffered such as improving the methods of locating the appropriate information resources and the need to create users' awareness.*

Keywords: extent of use, print information sources, Delta state university, library

INTRODUCTION

The mission of university libraries is to create a learning environment in which users are provided with a variety of information resources and become competent. Administrators of university as well their libraries need to know whether faculty and students do make use of the resources of the library and whether the use of these resources genuinely help students with their assignments and research. The need to identify the factors that affect this use is paramount. This research information is a reliable basis for administrators and libraries to take the optimum measures of a broader and more effective use of library resources.

There are studies regarding the use of library resources found in the literature. However, most of these recent studies deal with the use of internet and electronic resources (Korobili, Tilikidae & Delistavrou, 2013). Academic research in Nigeria like their Greece counterpart has neglected the subject so far. Hence the need for accessing the use of library resources. The use of print sources has been under emphasized.

This study aimed to examine the use of library resources i.e. print sources as well as the barriers to the effective use of library resources. The study is vital to understanding the factors that play an important role in the use.

Objectives of the study

The general objectives of the study is to look at effective use of print sources of information in the university libraries. The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the various types of print sources that are more frequently use by the users.
2. To find out the areas of usefulness of print sources in the Delta state university library.
3. To determine the factors that hinder effective use of print sources in the Delta state university library.

Research Questions

1. What are the various types of print sources that are more frequently used by the users?
2. What are the areas of usefulness of print sources in Delta state university library?
3. What are the factors that hinder effective use of print sources in the Delta state university library?

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The technological changes found in the library have moved users of the academic libraries from using printed sources to using e-sources, more specifically the internet. For example the printed millions of publications still untouchable by electronics and for those who can take advantages of the newer devices. Library resources still serves a major source of information, that can recreate the events of the past and open up the vistas of the future. It is a means of understanding the historical events of the past, understanding the universe as a whole. An intelligent person who cannot read beyond the practical level to critical and creative level forgoes most of the wisdom and beauty that a good book can offer him.

Library resources enhance the reading habits of the individual. Reading satisfy the basic needs of self-esteem, esteem for other and curiosity or the need for success and personal adequacy. However, the conception of information has changed positively with the strategic uses of information and information systems (Popoola, 2002). The results of a survey at the university Hong Kong as stated by Woo (2005) showed that 68.8 percent of the respondents preferred to use journals online compared to 31.2 percent who prefer to use printed journals. It has been identified that discipline has a major influence on usage patterns and preferences (Lazinger, Bar-Ilan & Peritz, (1997). Age also plays an important role in usage, the younger the faculty members are, the more they use resource. Gender and academic rank have only a minor influence on the usage of e-sources (Bar-Ilan, Peritz and Wolman, 2003).

Korobili, Tilikidae and Delistavrou (2013) stated that as for specific services many studies identified that e-mail is considered the most important services because it increases cooperation with colleagues. Users who use electronic sources achieve greater scholarly productivity. There is also a positive relationship between the frequency of use of technologies and publications (Cohen, 1996). Limited time and lack of effective information retrieval skills are the main barriers to using resources. Faster access to information was noted as the main advantages of electronic sources (Ray and Day, 1998). Bar-Ilan, Peritz and Wolman, (2003) found that speed, accessibility and search ability were seen as the main advantages while the main disadvantages were lack of access, lack of coverage and low readability (Bar-Ilan, Peritz and Wolman 2003). Users' information over locked has the highest mean score (Heimlich, 2003).

The library still remains the nerve centre of information with the provision of essential information resources such as textbooks, used for reference and arranged to facilitate consultation. These resources facilitate teaching whose primary aim is not only to impart information about its subject but develop understanding of it. Books concentrate on demonstrating principles rather than recounting details. These principles are supplemented by descriptions, explanations, etc., only in sufficient numbers to ensure the reader's grasp of the principles. They help communication to students. This cannot be unless there are some principles involved.

A feature of textbooks is their longevity. Simply because of their concentration on principles, good textbooks will continue to sell to generation after generation of students even in the more rapidly changing disciplines within science and technology. The success of textbook depends not on its worth but on whether its methods of presentation enables its users to learn about the subject. The other significant difference to note about textbooks is that they are written at several levels, quite precisely calculated (Opara, 2006).

Other examples of print sources that can be found in the library are treatises, monographs, encyclopedias among others. These print source give an extended systematic exposition of the principles of a subject, usually with many references to both Primary and secondary, literature for example, treatises. They like the encyclopedia, attempt to cover the whole of its subject field. The true treatise sets out to be exhaustive, aiming for a complete presentation of the subject with full documentation. They are generally written by more than one expert used mainly for reference purposes and issued in parts over a long period (Opara, 2006).

In this modern electronic age the growth of literature is increasing exponentially and university libraries are facing a lot of problems in meeting the information needs of users. Knowledge is organized in such a way that it can be easily retrieved. Knowledge has grown so enormous and classification systems have become so complex that logical arrangement of library materials is a necessity (Ukpak, 2007). No matter the type of library, you will find the books and other library materials arranged accordingly to a definite plan. However, online catalogue users face more search options than they realized (Nwachukwu and Blakes, 2013).

METHODOLOGY

In order to accomplish the set of objectives, a survey was conducted among all users of the library of Delta state university library, Abraka. The population comprised 400 users. The procedures resulted in 280 usable questionnaires administered and retrieved from among the 400 which was judged large enough sample for generalization.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study are presented under the following sub-sections based on the research questions.

Table 1: Type of print sources frequency used

	No. respondents	Percentage
Books	60	21
Encyclopedia	23	8
Monographs	22	8
Treatises	20	7
Newspapers	35	13
Magazines	20	7
Conference literature	32	12
Journals	48	17
Handbooks	12	4
Bibliographies	8	3
	280	100

Table 1 above shows the resources frequently used in Delta state university libraries. The result reveals that respondents used all the type of resources listed. The three most frequently used resources are books (21%), journals (17%) and newspapers (13%).

Table 2: Perceived areas of usefulness of print sources

	No. of respondents	Percentage
Research	90	32
Assignments	45	16
Educational tasks	80	29
Current information	35	12
Scientific information	30	11
	280	100

Table 2 above shows the areas of usefulness of resources in the university libraries. The result reveals that all the resources are useful. The most useful areas of print sources in the university library are in the area of research (32%). This is followed by educational tasks (29%) and assignments 16%.

Table 3: Barriers encountering when using print sources

	No. of respondents	Percentage
I have problems accessing the catalogues	90	32
I face problems in locating the appropriate information resources	95	34
Lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively	50	18
Lack of time	25	9
Use of printed sources is exclusively for the elderly	12	4
My discipline does not allow the use of print sources in the library	8	7
	280	100

Table 3 above shows the problems hindering effective use of print sources of information in the university library. The result reveals that of all the factors that affects the use of information sources, problems in locating the appropriate information resources is the most factors that hinders the use of print sources of information in the university library. This is followed by problems accessing the catalogues and lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively.

DISCUSSION

The findings from the study are quite revealing. University libraries' users still depend heavily on the use of print sources to become competent. The library still remain the nerve centre of information with the provision of essential information resources such as textbooks, treatises, monographs and encyclopedia among others used for reference and arranged to facilitate consultation. The results indicates that the print sources of information frequently used are the textbooks. This is followed by journals and newspapers. This sources of information facilitate teaching, impact information about its subjects and develop understanding print sources are seen as teaching instruments that impact information about its subjects and develop understanding (Opara, 2006). The study is not in-line with Korobili, Tilikidou and Delistavrou (2013) who stated

that the technological changes found in the library have moved users of the academic libraries from using printed sources to using e-sources. Korobili, Tilikidou and Delistavrou (2013) stated further that as for specific services many studies identified that e-mail is considered the most important services because it increases cooperation with colleagues. Users who use electronic sources achieve greater scholarly productivity. However, Korobili, Tilikidou and Delistavrou (2013) emphasized that the printed millions of publications still untouchable by electronic means and for those who can take advantages of the never devices.

The findings from the study also revealed that the problems in locating the appropriate information resources is the most factors that hindered the use of printed sources in the university libraries. The study is in-line with Cohen (1996) that there is also a positive relationship between the frequency of use of technologies and publications. Ray and Day (1996) on the other hand stated that limited and lack of effective information retrieval skills are the main barrier to using resources. Heimlich (2003) stated also that lack of access, lack of coverage and low constitute hindrance to the use of information resources.

Library resources enhance the reading habits of the individual. Reading satisfy the basic needs of self-esteem, esteem for others and the need for success and personal adequacy. However, the conception of information has changed positively with the strategic uses of information and information systems (Popooia, 2002).

CONCLUSION

University libraries carry out the functions of acquisition of knowledge for easy retrieval storage and preservation. They are charged with the responsibility of acquiring information resources to support teaching, learning and research. The libraries are established as power house for the procurement of textbooks, journals and current information resources to promote academic excellence. The libraries need to take the use of resources very seriously in order to close the information gap.

The finding has revealed that university library still the nerve centre of providing scholarly materials for assignments, teaching and research. It is obvious from the findings on the data analysis that most users of the university libraries have problems in accessing the catalogues. They also face problems in accessing the appropriate information resources. Therefore, university library need to take optimum measures of effective use of library resources. Knowledge need to be organized in such a way that it can be easily retrieved.

Recommendations

In the light of the above findings the following recommendations are made:

- 1) Libraries need to do more to encourage the use of print sources of information since the users still depend heavily on the print sources and since the printed millions of publications are still untouchable by electronic means.

- 2) Libraries should improve its methods of locating the appropriate information resources since users still face the problems of locating the appropriate resources in the university libraries. The need for training and retraining of users in this direction is quite necessary.
- 3) Libraries need to create users awareness services to help effective utilization of current and scientific information.

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