A Survey of the Availability and Utilization of Information Resources in the Circulation Unit in Federal College of Education (Technical) Bichi Library

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ABSTRACT
The purpose of the study was to investigate the availability and utilization of information resources in Federal College of Education (Technical) Bichi library. Three objectives and three research questions were raised to guide the study. The study employed quantitative methodology and survey research design. The total number of 892 registered students from the college between 2019-2021 academic session formed the population of the study. A sample of 270 students (10% sample) was used based on sample size calculator. The stratified sampling technique was employed in sampling the population. The instrument used for data collection was questionnaire. The instrument was validated and a reliability test was conducted before it was administered to respondents. Data generated was analyzed using simple percentage and descriptive statistics. Mean was use to answer some research questions. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents utilize the information resources available in the circulation unit of the library because of adequacy. It concludes that information resources were made available to the staff and students of the College. Majority of the respondents used the library for study and research purposes rather than for leisure and recreational purpose. The findings also showed that users also utilize information resources even though they were encountering some challenges when accessing the materials such as lack of proper shelving and shelf-reading, lack of library catalog, and user's behavior. The study recommended that library management should ensure that the problem faced by the users of the library in utilizing the information resources are minimized and that the suggested strategies that will help to overcome the challenges facing the students in the use of the information resources should be adopted.

KEYWORDS: Information, Resources, Library, Circulation, Utilization, Availability,

INTRODUCTION
Information is one of the several resources that are needed and utilized by human beings for their development. The exact nature of information is not easy to describe, perhaps the most explicit definition in the literature define information as recorded experience that is used in decision making. The dependency on information on every spare of life has increased day by day.

Researchers and scientist are always curious to know the latest information and major development in their area of interest through scientific publications and productions. In a research environment, libraries are helping users with relevant information within the required time. When users use the information resources, the mind elevates the information resources on the basis of benefits derived from the information. This results in the formation of attitude, when the information has helped him in the professional work, it results in positive attitude, which results in the satisfaction. When user is not satisfied by the used resources, it results in negative attitudes, leading to dissatisfaction. Satisfaction enhances the usage of the resources. Therefore, it becomes necessary for the libraries to know how far the users are using the resources acquired by them. In this context, an attempt has been made in the present paper to study the availability and utilization of information resources by users in federal college of education (technical) Bichi library.

The College library is seen as the heart of the institution, because the library can stand on its own but the university/college cannot stand on its own. In universities, the three major infrastructures are laboratories, teachers/classrooms and libraries that contain rich and balanced information resources including equipment that can support the teaching, learning and research work. Library and information resources are materials which convey, carry or contain information for use by the students (Ugwuanyi, 2007). Peschers (2005) emphasized that information resources include illustrated books, comics, dictionaries, encyclopedias, serials, fiction and nonfiction. Library resources are of diverse formats.

Availability of library resources means ensuring their presence in the library for immediate use (Ugah 2007). According to Ajibero (2004), the essence of libraries is to satisfy the needs of users by providing information resources and services that meet the College programs curriculum. Oyelekan and Iyartsuun (2011) conducted a study on evaluative study of reader services in University of agriculture library Makurdi. The study revealed that users were satisfied with lending services, reserve materials services, and bindery services. The study also showed that inter library loan, current awareness, library orientation and photocopying services were not suitable to them.

Ogbuiyi and Okpe (2013) evaluated the use of library materials and services in private universities in Nigeria. Among the objectives of the study was to investigate the degree of users satisfaction in library materials and perception of services. The study shows that 60% of the respondents agreed that text books were adequate, 72% of respondents agreed that supply of newspapers in the library are regular, and 59.9% respondents accepted that the reference services was perfect.

Users satisfaction with academic library performances as conducted by Ijeikhumhen, Aghojare and Fredinand (2015), revealed that users were satisfied with the photocopying and scanning services, current books on shelves, access to electronic information resources such as books and journals, complete relevant journals, friendly

users card catalogue to locate resources, longer hours to locate resources via the internet and the opening hours were suitable.

Despite the availability of studies on user's satisfaction with library resources and services in universities/colleges libraries, however, no study found to have been conducted on the survey of the availability and utilization of information resources in circulation unit of federal college of Education (Technical) Bichi library. It is in the light of the above that this study tends to fill this gap in knowledge. This study therefore embarked on investing the availability and utilization of information resources in the circulation unit of FCE (T) Bichi library.

1.2 Research Objectives
The study is design to achieve the following objectives:
1. To determine the available resources in the circulation unit of FCE (T) Bichi library.
2. To determine the extent of utilization of the information resources available.
3. To identify the challenges associated with the use of information resources available.

1.3 Research Questions
The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:-
1. What are the information resources available in the circulation unit of FCE (T) Bichi library?
2. What are the extent of usage of the information resources available?
3. What are the challenges associated with the use of the information resources available in the circulation unit?

METHODOLOGY
The survey research method was adopted for the study, and a validated questionnaire was the instrument used for collecting data. The total population of the study comprises 892 students that are among the users of the library with effect from 2019-2021 academic sessions (NCE I, 420 Students, NCE II, 265 students, NCE III, 207 students). The stratified sampling technique was employed to sample the entire population of the library users because of the diverse population. It was employed in order to derive the sample of the study base on gender characteristics. Thus, 270 respondents were selected for the study base on 95%confidence level and 5% confidence interval of sample size calculator. The instrument use for data collection was validated by a superior officer and some library staff were given for a reliability test before it was administered to the respondents. However, out of 270 questionnaires that were distributed, the same 270 were returned and 260 were found useful. The completed and returned questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics, percentage, and frequency distribution. Mean

was used to answer the research questions. The bench mark for this was 2.50(4+3+2+1=10/4=2.50). The decision rule was: any item with mean value of 2.50 and above was remarked accepted, while any item with mean value less than 2.50 was remarked not accepted.

Data Analysis
Gender of the respondents:
This section presents questionnaires collected on the basis of gender of the research respondents. Out of 270 copies of questionnaires distributed, 260 (96%) was retrieved, comprising of 170 (65%) male and 90(35%) female users of the library. This shows that majority of the library users were male.

Research question 1:
What are the resources available in the circulation unit of FCE (T) Bichi library?
Table 1; Adequacy of the resources available in the circulation unit of FCE (T) Bichi library

S/N	Information resources	Adequate (frequency and % of the respondents)	Not adequate (frequency and % of the respondents)
1	General Studies	160 (61.5%)	100 (38.5%)
2	Pure sciences	200 (76.9%)	60 (23.1%)
3	Technology	180 (69.2%)	80 (30.8%)
4	Social sciences	160 (61.5%)	100 (38.5%)
5	Arts	120 (46.2%)	140 (53.8%)
6	Education	220 (84.6%)	40 (15.4%)

Table 1 shows that majority of the respondents are aware of the resources available in the circulation unit of the library. The resource that are adequate are pure science, education and technology (i.e76.9%, 84.6%, & 69.2% accordingly), followed by social sciences and general studies (61.5% each). Only few of the respondents are aware of the availability of arts studies materials (46.2%)respectively.

Research Question 2:
What are the levels of usage of the information resources available?

Table 2 shows the level of usage of information resources available in the circulation unit of FCE (T) Bichi library.

S/N	categories	Always use	Sometimes use	Never use
1	General studies	60 (23%)	80 (30.8%)	120 (46.2%)
2	Pure sciences	100 (38.5%)	80 (30.8%)	70 (26.9%)
3	Technology	120 (46.2%)	100 (38.5%)	40 (15.4%)
4	Social sciences	200 (76.9%)	10 (3.8%)	50 (19.2%)
5	Arts	140 (53.8%)	100 (38.5%)	20 (7.7%)
6	Education	220 (84.6%)	30 (11.5%)	10 (3.8%)

As seen in the previous table (table 1), the most available resources in the circulation unit of the library is the education resources. In consonance with that, the information resources are used by almost all categories of users, the maximum used materials are the education, social science and arts (84.6%, 76.9%, and 53.8%) respectively. Another resources that are sometimes used are the technology resources (46.2%) and pure science (38.5%). On the other hand, it is observed from the table that general studies are not very popular among users. Very few respondents always use those resources (23%).

Research Question 3:
What are the challenges associated with the use of information resources available in circulation unit of FCE (T) Bichi library?
Table 3 shows the challenges associated with the use of information resources in the circulation unit of FCE (T) Bichi library.

	Variables	SA	A	SD	D	Mean X	SD	Remarks
1	Lack of catalog to access materials	30	65	100	65	3.25	2.59	Accepted
2	Inability to locate materials from the shelve	80	100	50	30	3.15	2.51	Accepted
3	Non-availability of current resources	40	50	100	70	2.49	2.16	Rejected
4	Poor organization of information resources	20	30	150	60	2.56	2.40	Accepted
5	Inadequate copies of books	50	80	75	55	3.18	2.56	Accepted
6	Insufficient ICTs	45	65	50	100	3.00	2.52	Accepted
7	Interrupted power supply	15	15	80	150	2.58	2.42	Accepted

Table 3above represents challenges associated with the use of information resources in the circulation unit. It was indicated that lack of standard catalog to access the materials is the major challenge with 2.59 percent of the total responses. Other accepted variables are inability to locate materials (mean 3.15 & SD 2.51), poor organization of information resources (mean 2.56 & SD 2.40), inadequate copies of books (mean 3.18 & SD 2.56), insufficient ICTs (mean 3.00 & 2.52), and interrupted power supply (mean 2.58 & SD 2.42) are all identified by the respondents as some challenges faced in accessing information resources. Only non availability of current resources is a rejected statement by the respondents with a mean of 2.49 and SD of 2.16 respectively.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Research question one was on the types of information resources available in circulation unit of federal college of education (Technical) Bichi library. Findings reveals that the types of information resources available for users in the library are adequate.

Research question two was on the extent of usage of information resources available in the circulation unit of the library. Findings reveals that staff and students of the college utilize the information resources available in the library for teaching, learning and research purposes.

Research question three was on the challenges faced by the users of the library in using the information resources. Findings reveals that there are many problems faced by the users in using the information resources available in the circulation unit of the library.

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that the majority of the college library users were male. It is discovered from the studies that most of the respondents use social science and education resources for study and research purpose. Users were satisfied with the resources available in the circulation unit of the library. It is also seen from the studies that there are some challenges faced by users associated with using the resources available in the circulation unit of the library. This shows that there are a lot of work to be done in order to improve on the library resources and services rendered to library users.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above findings, the following recommendations are made:

1.FCE (T) Bichi library should focus on user's need and they have to continuously improve various information resources to create good environment for their users.

2.It is also necessary to enhance personnel service, attitude and quality, especially circulation unit personnel, in hope of satisfying the need of users in different fields.

3.Users should fully utilized information resources in the circulation unit to maximize their benefits. If they find any difficulty in accessing the resources, they should respond immediately so that the problem can be improved.

4.The library should work upon providing effective services to their users and they have to provide remote access to all its users.

5.There should be constant power supply and adequate available resources in the circulation unit of the library that will facilitate the use of resources and met up with the demand of the modern era.

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