



AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES IN BAUCHI STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT: *Academic institutions of learning are attached to academic libraries to serve the teaching and research needs of staff and students. These libraries serve two complementary purposes: to support the college curriculum and to support the research of the colleges and students. In the process, the library plays a key role in the nation-building process. Therefore, this study examined the awareness and utilization of library resources in the Bauchi State College of Agriculture library. The objective of the study was to identify the types of resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library, to determine the frequency of awareness of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library. It is also to identify the problems being faced by the users in utilization of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library and make recommendations for improvement. A descriptive survey was used for the study. In all, 142 users were selected for the study. The analysis of data was based on frequency counts, percentages, mean score and confidence interval. The major finding of the study is that there are many library resources such as textbooks, journals, research monographs, research reports, newspapers, indexes/abstracts, internet services and dictionaries/encyclopedias amongst others and that lecturers use the library mainly for consultation of reference materials. They also use it for research purposes and borrowing of books. A major finding was also that lecturers utilized books more than any other source of information. A number of recommendations were put forward for the improvement of library use but the most prominent suggestion was that more up to date and relevant materials should be acquired by the library, and lecturers should be informed of newly acquired materials.*

KEYWORDS: Library, College Libraries, Utilization, Information Resources, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

College of agriculture, Bauchi, Bauchi State, like any other Colleges of Agriculture in Nigeria and the world over is a training institution with students and staff that are engaged in training of both middle and high-level manpower for the agricultural sector. In any training institution of this magnitude, the library plays a central role in supporting teaching, learning and researches in the institution. This study therefore, assessed the extent of awareness and utilization of the



college library resources by the users of the institution in supporting their teaching, learning and researches. The College of Agriculture was established via the laws enacted by the Bauchi State House of Assembly namely '*College of Agriculture Law 2012*' came into being in 2014 in the then Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic Bauchi State. The College of Agriculture's status is to train middle manpower in the sector to meet the agricultural needs of the state and the country in general. Since the establishment of the college, it has been training Higher National Diploma, National Diploma and Certificates in Agriculture and related fields. The academic staff, students and researchers have been engaged in one research or the other in agricultural fields. The college has library materials to support the teaching, learning and research needs of staff and students as well as providing community services to the surrounding communities. Libraries are established in institutions of learning for the purposes of providing, organizing, and making available both print and non-print information resources for students, academic and visiting members of the community to aid teaching, learning and research. It is observed that there has not been any study in recent times to assess the extent of awareness and utilization of the college library resources by the users in Bauchi State College of Agriculture, Library.

Awareness is knowledge about something that exists or understanding of a situation or subject at the present time based on information or experience (Ani & Ahiauzu, 2008). It can also be seen as knowledge or perception of a situation, fact, consciousness, recognition, realization, grasp and acknowledgement concern about and well-informed interest or familiarity in a particular situation or development. On the other hand, Utilization simply means using library resources. A person or thing that uses something somewhere or someplace to achieve his or her purposes is a utilizer or user. In the same context, one can state that those who make use of the library materials for their benefits are library users or patrons. Also, those who enter the library and find such library materials useful are library users. Aina (2004) sees the term "user" to include all those who avail themselves of the services offered by a library. The term comprises different terms such as patrons, clients, information users, information seekers, consumers, readers, etc. these terms can be used interchangeably because they all relate to those seeking the services of a library. Hence, people who go either to the public, private, special school or academic libraries for some genuine reasons, requiring the attention of the library staff, are known as the library users or clients. Library users in the universities can be divided administratively into external and internal users. The internal users consist of undergraduates, postgraduates, lecturers, research fellows and other members of the tertiary institutions, while the external users are those who are not members of the institution but are also served by the libraries but under the certain specific official arrangement.

Statement of the Problem

It is generally expected that academic libraries should be fully utilized in order to enhance teaching and learning. When an academic library is regularly used, by Users they are able to update their knowledge in their fields of specialization and become more effective in the discharge of their duties. Above all the quality of graduates produced by the College will be high, while lecturers can compete favourably with their counterparts elsewhere.



The likely consequence of this scenario is that most lecturers will not be up to date in their knowledge in their fields of specialization and may likely not give out their best to students. Lecturers may also not be able to compete favourably with their counterparts in other Colleges when it comes to the presentation of papers and seminars.

Also, the inadequate use of College library's collection, will not justify the large sum of money spent on the acquisition of materials, and staff salaries, and it will likely affect the quality of teaching and learning in the institution. It may likely result in the production of half-baked graduates. Ifidon (1999) stressed the fact that it is important to know the extent of library use because one's impression of library use may be entirely different from what is on the ground. It is also true that such factors like the number of hours a library is open and the library's programme of instruction amongst many other factors may influence library use and it is only by an investigation that the true cause may be established. A research on the awareness and utilization of library resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library will enable us to know the extent of utilization of the resources. From personal observations the College of Agriculture library Bauchi is not adequately utilized by users. it is in light of the above that, this study is carried out.

Objectives of the Study.

The objective of this study is to determine the awareness and utilization of library resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library. Specifically, the study seeks to

1. To identify the types of resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library.
2. To determine the level of awareness of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library
3. To determine the frequency of utilization of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library.
4. To identify the challenges being faced by the users in the utilization of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There is a plethora of literature on the relevance of libraries to academic institutions. According to Anunobi and Okoye (2008), a well-established library is essential for any academic institution. A well-stocked and organized library is a pride of any educational institution (Ogunniyi, Akerele & Afolabi, 2011). The academic health, intellectual vitality and effectiveness of educational institutions in producing high-quality graduates into the labour market depend largely on the quality of information resources available in their libraries (Ugboma & Edewor, 2012). Academic libraries are therefore expected to serve as viable platforms for the advancement of teaching, learning, and research activities in their parent institutions through the provision of relevant information resources and adequate services. The purpose of establishing college



libraries will be defeated if users do not derive maximum satisfaction from their stock of information resources and services offered to them.

Owing to the fact libraries users have varying information needs, there is a need for college libraries to provide a nexus between their users and the relevant information resources and services in order to be effective. The effectiveness of libraries has often been measured by the volume of library materials available to clients, the amount of use of services and resources, and the apparent or quantified utilization by the clients (Simmonds & Andaleeb, 2001). Osaghale (2008) opined that library services must create a balance between specific research and information needs and a usable collection of information materials to meet the needs of the institution's academic programmes. Igben (1993) noted that for a library to be most functional, the services it renders should correspond closely with the needs of its users.

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The study population comprises 642 users who were selected for the study. The main instrument for data collection for this study was the questionnaire was the data collection instrument used. A total of 142 copies of the questionnaires were distributed to users, out of which 130 (91.5%) were returned in a usable form.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

The analysis of data collected was based on frequency counts, percentages.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents across the College.

S/N	Category of Library Users	Copies of Questionnaire Administered	Copies of Questionnaire Returned
1.	Staff	67	62
2.	Students	75	68
	Total	142	130

A total number of 142 copies of questionnaire were administered, 130 copies were returned and found valid for analysis representing a response rate of 91.5%.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Gender.

S/N	Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Male	92	71
2.	Female	38	29
	Total	130	100



The table above shows that there are more males (71%) than females (29%). This implies that males use the College of Agriculture library Bauchi more than females.

Table 3: Types of Library Resources Mostly Utilized by the Users.

S/N	Library Resources	SA/A	SD/D	Total
1.	Textbooks	126(97%)	4(3%)	130(100%)
2.	Journals	44(34%)	86(66%)	130(100%)
3.	Reference materials	28(22%)	102(78%)	130(100%)
4.	Newspapers/magazines	6(5%)	124(95%)	130(100%)
5.	Project reports	119(92%)	11(8%)	130(100%)
6.	e-books	5(4%)	125(96%)	130(100%)
7.	Audio-visual resources	7(5%)	123(95%)	130(100%)

Key: SA=Strongly Agree, A= Agree, SD= Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree

Table 3 reveals the types of library resources mostly utilized in the Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library. It shows that 126 (97%) and 119 (92%) of the respondents used textbooks and project reports respectively, 44 (34%) utilized reference materials, while 6 (5%) and 5(4%) respondents expressed that they consult newspapers/magazines and e-books accordingly. However, the table revealed that 124 (95%), 102(78%), 125(96%), 88(66%) and 123 (95%) respondents do not use e-books, newspapers, reference materials and journals respectively while 123 (95%) of the respondents stated that they do not use audio-visual resources of the library.

Table 4: Level of awareness of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library

S/N	Library Resources	HA/A	LA/NA	Total
1.	Textbooks	115(88%)	15(12%)	130(100%)
2.	Journals	22(17%)	108(83%)	130(100%)
3.	Reference materials	12(9%)	118(91%)	130(100%)
4.	Newspapers/magazines	46(35%)	84(65%)	130(100%)
5.	Project reports	103(79%)	27(21%)	130(100%)
6.	e-books	2(2%)	128(98%)	130(100%)
7.	Audio-visual resources	4(3%)	126(97%)	130(100%)

Key: HA/A=Highly Aware/Aware, LA/NA=Low Aware/ Not Aware

Table 4 presents the level of awareness of the library materials in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library. Figures from the table depict that most of the respondents were highly aware of textbooks 115(88%) and project reports 103(79%). However, most of the respondents 108(83%), 118(91%), 84(65%), 128(98%) and 126(97%) have low awareness or not aware of the library resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library.



Table 5: Frequency of Utilization of the Resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library.

S/N	Library Resources	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Never
1.	Textbooks	21(16%)	58(45%)	32(25%)	8(6%)	11(8%)	-
2.	Journals	5(4%)	11(8%)	23(18%)	15(12%)	36(28%)	40(30%)
3.	Reference Materials	12(9%)	17(13%)	20(15%)	31(24%)	43(34%)	7(5%)
4.	Newspapers/ Magazines	10(8%)	23(18%)	39(30%)	20(15%)	16(12%)	22(17%)
5.	Project Reports	20(15%)	23(18%)	28(21%)	34(26%)	15(12%)	10(8%)
6.	E-books	2(1%)	4(3%)	3(2%)	6(5%)	10(8%)	105(81%)
7.	Audio-Visual Resources	12(9%)	17(13%)	26(20%)	19(15%)	27(21%)	29(22%)

Table 5 presents the frequency of utilization of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library. Figures from the table depict that most of the respondents used textbooks (45%) and newspapers/magazines (18%) on weekly basis, reference materials (15%) on a monthly basis while (30%) of the respondents have never used journals. However, most of the respondents (26%) consulted project reports quarterly while the majority of them (81%) have never used e-books. While the majority of them (22%) have never used audio-visual resources of the library.

Table 6: Challenges being faced by the users in utilization of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library.

S/N	Statements	SA/A	SD/D
1.	The library has insufficient textbooks and up-to-date information resources	45(36%)	85(64%)
2.	I am not aware of the available library information resources	74(57%)	56(43%)
3.	The library facilities are inadequate, and this discourages me from using the library	81(62%)	49(38%)
4.	The library staff do not attend to me on time	88(68%)	42(32%)
5.	I am not aware of the library e-book and find it difficult to use the library's electronic information resources	126(97%)	4(3%)

Key: SA=Strongly Agree, A= Agree, SD= Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree

The table above illustrates the challenges being faced by the users in utilization of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library. More than half of the respondents 85(64%) stated that the library has insufficient textbooks and up-to-date information resources while 74(57%) of the respondents claimed that they were not aware of the available library information



resources. 81 (62%) respondents noted that the facilities in the library are inadequate and that discouraged them from using the library, while other respondents 88(68%) stated that the library staff does not attend to them on time. Furthermore, the majority of the respondents 126(97%) expressed that they were not aware of the library's e-books and find it difficult to use the library's electronic information resources.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings revealed the types of library resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library, level of awareness of the resources, frequency of utilization and the challenges being faced by users in the utilization of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library.

The study also revealed that males were the majority of users in the College of Agriculture library Bauchi. Mostly the types of library resources consulted by the respondents in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library were textbooks and project reports. This conforms to the findings of Hammed and Osunrinade (2010) as well as Agboola (2009) who noted that users prefer to use textbooks in their study. However, reference materials 102(78%), journals 86(66%), newspapers 124(95%), e-books 125(96%) and audio-visual 123(95%) resources which clearly indicated that majority of the respondents were not consulting these types of library resources. On level of awareness of the resources in the library, most of the respondents 108(83%), 118(91%), 84(65%), 128(98%) and 126(97%) have low awareness or not aware of the library resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library, this is due to fact that there were no signs post, exhibition and publicity of the availability of such resources. On the frequency of use of information resources in the library, most of the respondents used textbooks 58(45%) and newspapers/magazines 23(18%) on weekly basis, reference materials 20(15%) on a monthly basis while 40(30%) of the respondents have never used journals. This is in line with the views of Ugah (2007); Igbeka and Ola (2010) posited that users frequently used textbooks, journals, reference materials and newspapers/magazines. However, most of the respondents 34(26%) consulted project reports quarterly while the majority of them 105(81%) have never used e-books. The majority of the respondents 29(22%) have never used audio-visual resources of the library.

More so, it was also discovered that the audio-visual unit is in a separate building far away from the library which hardly for users to use. In line with the challenges being faced by the users in the utilization of the resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library. More than half of the respondents 85(64%) stated that the library has insufficient textbooks and up-to-date information resources which served as major hindrance being faced by the users in the utilization of the library resources, not aware of the available library information resources claimed by the users 74(57%) and 126(97%) of the respondents contributed to the challenges being faced by the users in the utilization of the library resources. 81 (62%) respondents noted that the facilities in the library were inadequate and that discouraged them from using the library, Furthermore, other respondents 88(68%) stated that the library staff does not attend to them on time.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study has established that 92(71%) of the respondents were male users in the College of Agriculture library Bauchi. The study further established that textbooks and project reports were the major types of library resources consulted by users. It was found out that reference material, journals, newspapers, e-books and audio-visual were not consulted by the users frequently. However, most of the respondents have low awareness or not aware of the library resources in Bauchi State College of Agriculture Library. Based on the foregoing, the following recommendations were made:

1. The Colleges Management should be proactive by providing orientation and awareness services to improve the level of awareness of the clients on the available information resources and services in the library.
2. The Management of Colleges of Agriculture Bauchi should introduce general studies on the use of the library in their curriculum; this will be going to assist the students in gaining full knowledge of the library and its importance to the academic activities in the college.
3. The Management of Colleges of Agriculture Bauchi to upgrade the library structure and also established electronic libraries to their clients and also attached the audio-visual resources to the main library so that the users would have awareness and other electronic information resources of the library.
4. There is a need for training and re-training of the staff for effective and efficient service delivery to the users.

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