

## Collection Development Variables and Utilization of Information Resources in University Libraries, South-South, Nigeria

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### Abstract

*This study investigated the relationship between collection development variables, and utilization of information resources in university libraries, south-south, Nigeria. To achieve the purpose of this study, two research questions were raised and two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Ex-post facto research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 16620 students and a sample of 800 respondents was awareness for the study. The awareness was done through the stratified and purposive random sampling technique. The results of the analyses revealed a significant relationship between awareness, acquisition and utilization of information resources. Based on these findings, it was recommended, among others that: Government should prioritize funding for the acquisition of information resources for university libraries*

### Keywords

collection development variables, utilization, information resources and libraries



## I. Introduction

Libraries are essential nerve centers in the academic communities, saddled with the responsibility of collecting, organizing, storing and disseminating relevant and adequate information resources such as books, journals, newspapers/magazines, pamphlets, and government publications essential for the academic growth and development of students. In the wake of Information and Communications Technology, libraries now hold other information resources such as CD-ROMs, electronic books (e-books,) electronic journals (e-journals) and others. These give the libraries tremendous opportunities of extending her services to other academic communities outside the confines of their own community and also give students more access to utilize the electronic information resources.

Information resources refer to the numerous media by which information is recorded for students and scholars to help them meet their educational needs. In pursuit of their goals, these resources function as means that expose students to academic accomplishment. They are expected to support the curriculum and extra-curricular activities which positively contribute to their academic success. Students who depend on these information resources for all their curricula needs such as doing assignments, writing of test, writing of term papers, seminars papers, and preparing for examinations are usually ahead of their counterparts who do not utilize the resources for further studies.

Awareness of information resources is an aspect of collection development which involves the professional and technical skills of choosing relevant information resources covering different areas in a given educational curricula from a list of publications for the university libraries. This helps the librarians to select only those information resources that are demanded and useful to the students in print and non-print formats. For information resources to be effectively utilized the library holdings must be such that will satisfy the students' information needs and this can only be achieved through proper information resources selection. To prevent discouragement and lack of interest in the students which can lead to underutilization. Where students show lack of interest in utilizing library information resources, it can be that the information resources selected are of no relevance to the students, hence their underutilization.

Acquisition is the process and procedure of ordering print and non-print information resources for a library. This is usually done through designated librarians known as acquisition librarians. It is also a process of acquiring qualitative and relevant information resources to meet the needs of the students and build-up a balanced collection to meet the objectives of the library. Where the acquired information resources fall short of this expectation, the tendency for such information resources to be utilized will be very low, but if the library acquires current, accurate and relevant information resources that readily meets the students' needs, it will increase utilization. In an attempt to address the problem of underutilization of information resources in federal university libraries, certain variables such as awareness of information resources and acquisition of information resources, have been considered to affect the utilization of information resources by students.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

From observations and informal discussions with students and colleagues have revealed that there appears to be no corresponding improvement in the utilization of information resources by students, despite all the investment by government and the private sector in providing journals, textbooks, magazines, newspapers, reference materials like dictionaries and encyclopedias and e-resources to enhance students' academic proficiency, they still do not make ample use of the resources. In the same vein, library staff are trained to provide user-oriented services in the libraries and this is aimed at attracting the students to the library, to use the information resources as expected. It is on this premise that the researcher attempts to find out whether collection development variables relate to the utilization of information resources in federal university libraries in South-South, Nigeria.

### **1.2 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study is to investigate how collection development variables can relate to utilization of information resources in university libraries in South-south, Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to:

Determine the relationship between awareness of availability of information resources and utilization of information resources.

Find out the relationship between acquisition of information resources and utilization of information resources.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. How does awareness of information resources relate to utilization of information resources?

2. To what extent does acquisition of information resources relate to utilization of information resources?

#### 1.4 Hypotheses

To properly guide the conduct of this study, two null hypotheses were formulated:

- H01 - Awareness of information resources does not significantly relate to utilization of information resources.
- H02- There is no significant relationship between acquisition of information of resource and utilization of information resources.

## II. Review of Literature

Many studies have been conducted in the area of information resources, including awareness and acquisition of information resources in the libraries. Okiki (2014) conducted a study on awareness of academics on availability of information resources for research productivity in federal universities in Nigeria. The aim was to survey the exposure of academics to electronic information resources. Also, to highlight the challenges faced by the users and suggests some corrective measures for its improvement. He stressed that Students need to be aware on how to make adequate use of information resources. If they are not well informed on the available library holdings, they cannot access and sufficiently use these resources at their disposal and this may affect their academic and research progress. Jogan (2015) examined postgraduate students' views on the access, awareness and usage in facilitating their research and their satisfaction with the sources and services currently provided. The paper records the reasons why Post graduate students use electronic information resources are; research activity, Paper writing for publication, and referring course materials. It suggests further for an improvement in the access facilities with high Internet speed and subscription to more e-resources by the University Library. The present study also attempts to encounter different problems faced by the students during accessing e-resource.

Diogu (2011) evaluated the acquisition practices in Polytechnic Libraries in South Eastern zone of Nigeria. The study revealed that information materials such as books, journals, and reference materials are more current than other information materials in the library and that collection development policy is available but encompasses only the area of acquisition. Outdated materials, resistance to change, worn out materials, inadequate professionals/librarians, lack of cooperation from parent organization, problem of storage facilities, lack of funds, lack of collection development policy and duplication of titles are some of the major problems encountered in developing library collections. Based on the research findings, it was recommended that libraries should have a written collection development policy that will embrace acquisition, selection, weeding, gifts and exchanges, there should be constant staff training/orientation, and librarians should consult with lecturers in order to get information on the institutions curriculum thus acquiring materials that will suit the curriculum, employment of qualified librarians. The study concluded that adequate and efficient evaluation of acquisition practices and collection development in Polytechnic and academic libraries at large would effectively support librarians, lecturers and students research output. Ozioko and Ebere (2011) were of the opinion that acquisition should not only be viewed from the angle of growth in volumes and titles, but in the quality of acquired materials in enhancing effective information delivery and usage of such to reduce user frustration. The information resource in the libraries makes or mars a library collection and its services.

### III. Research Methods

The study adopted the ex-post facto design. This research was carried out in south-south Nigeria. The targeted population of the study was the students who registered in their libraries in five federal universities in south-south zone of Nigeria. A sample of eight hundred students who have registered in their libraries, from five federal university libraries namely, university of Benin, University of Uyo, university of Port Harcourt, University of Calabar, University of Bayelsa. The sampling technique adopted for this study was purposive sampling technique. The data collected were then analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation.

### IV. Discussion

#### 4.1 Results

##### a. Hypothesis 1

The hypothesis states that the awareness of information resources does not significantly relate to utilization of information resources in south-south zone of Nigeria. This was tested using Person product moment correlation analysis as presented in table 1.

**Table 1.** Person product moment correlation showing the awareness of availability information resources and utilization of information resources

Variables	$\bar{X}$	SD	r-value	p-level
Awareness of availability information resources	13.69	3.41	.194	.000
Utilization of information resources	15.04	3.36		

\*Significant at p-value, df=798

From table 1, calculated r-value of .194 is greater than the critical r-value of .088 at .05 level of significant with 798 degrees of freedom. With this result the null hypothesis was rejected. This result implies that there is a significant relationship between awareness of availability information resources and utilization of information resources.

##### b. Hypothesis 2

This hypothesis states that there is no significant relationship between acquisition of information of resource and utilization of information resources in south-south zone of Nigeria. This was tested using Person product moment correlation analysis as presented in table 2

**Table 2.** Pearson product moment correlation showing the acquisition of information of resources and utilization of information resources

Variables	$\bar{X}$	SD	r-value	p-level
acquisition of information of resources	14.29	3.72	.321*	.000
utilization of information resources	15.04	3.36		

\*Significant at p-value, df = 798

The result of the analysis is presented in Table 2 below. The result in Table 2 below reveals that the calculated r-value of .321 is greater than the critical r-value of .088 at .05

level of significant with 798 degrees of freedom. With this result the null hypothesis was rejected. This result implies that there is a significant relationship between acquisition of information of resources and utilization of information resources. This means that the information resources are acquired, the more they would be utilized of by students.

#### **4.2 Discussion of Findings**

This section is concerned with the discussion of findings that emerged from the results of the analysis. The discussion is presented according to the hypotheses of the study. The result of the hypothesis indicated that there is a significant relationship between awareness of availability information resources and utilization of information resources. Awareness of availability of information resources is a strong motivation for utilization of such information resources. There may exist an up-to-date library with a diverse forms of information resources, but with low patronage due to inadequate or lack of awareness campaigns to bring to the notice of the students, the available information resources and services provided by the library. It is therefore vital for librarians to create awareness concerning the library and its stock of information resources and services rendered. This view is in line with Popoola (2008), who states that the level of awareness is an important quantity regarding the level of utilization. This view agrees with that of Ranganathan and Babu (2012), who stressed that the use of information resources largely depends on the user's awareness and ability to navigate the maze of information resources available in print and electronic formats.

The finding revealed that there is a significant relationship between acquisition of information resources and utilization of information resources. Acquisition provides the library with diverse and adequate information resources in print and electronic formats to suit the need of the students. This finding is in line with Adesanya (2015) who held that, if the information resources are inadequate for the needs of the students, the library will not be heavily used. The study carried out by Oyedum (2012) on effects of environmental factors, information literacy, and course of study and resources availability to students' use of university libraries in Nigeria. Where acquisition of information resources is not optimum, the achievement of the educational goals of the university is a mirage.

#### **V. Conclusion**

On the basis of these findings, it was concluded that awareness of information resources and acquisition of information resources, significantly relate to utilization of information resources in the university libraries. This implies that where the information resources are excellently aware and acquired there will be maximum utilization of information resources by students in Nigerian universities.

1. Librarians should continue to create awareness about the library, its holdings and services in order to keep the students informed all time.
2. Librarians should continue to prioritize funding the acquisition of information resources for university libraries

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