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## A Survey on the Use of Library Information Resources by Students of Ondo State School of Nursing Akure, Ondo State Nigeria

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### **Abstract:**

*This study surveyed the use of library information resources by the students of Ondo State School of Nursing, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria. Descriptive research was employed to carry out the study. Random sampling was used to select one hundred and fifty (150) respondents. 150 copies of questionnaires were therefore administered to the students Nurses in the Institution library and one hundred and thirty-seven (137) copies were retrieved from the respondents. The study made use of descriptive statistics in analysing the data collected from the respondents. The findings revealed that female respondents were more than male respondents. Majority of the respondents agreed that they are having textbooks, encyclopedia, handbook, manuals, newspapers/magazines, reports, and dictionaries and biography. It was also revealed that most of the respondents use the library information resources regularly. The various purposes of using library information resources by the respondents were revealed, and majority of the respondents agreed to the use of the library information resources for the purpose of research, information to supplement class notes, news update on their field of study, for assignment and examination. The study revealed that majority of the respondents 76 (55.5%) of the respondents were satisfied with the library information resources. However, some challenges encountered by the respondents in their use of the resources indicated. Among these; lack of adequate time, skills on how to effectively use the information resources and lack of internet access. This study therefore gave some recommendations that will assist the students Nurses in using the library information resources. These include: free periods should be included in the student lecture time table, provision of adequate skills in the use of the library information resources and provision of internet facilities in the library.*

**Keywords:** Use, Library Information Resources, Students, Nursing

### **1. Introduction**

Libraries are very essential in any organization, especially in higher Institutions of learning. Libraries in higher institution of learning are regarded as the nerve centre of the academic community because it plays a central support role in the educational programmes and helps in the realization of academic dreams and goals. Agbaje (2014) define a library as an organized collection of sources of information and similar resources made accessible to a specific community for reference or borrowing. Agbaje noted that the resources may be physical, digital in a physical building or virtual space. Agboola & Bamigboye (2011) observed that students are important part of the set-up of academic Institutions and perhaps the major users of the academic library facilities. They affirmed that the need for good libraries in higher Institutions of learning cannot be over-emphasized, as the quality of any education depends on the library, not the library as a magnificent building but the use of it. Olajide & Otunla (2015) in a similar view acknowledged that the use of information resources is even more important than their availability, because this is when information will transform into knowledge.

Library information resources are materials (both print and non-print)acquired by a library to meet the information needs of library user. They are used to support curricular and personal information needs. As information resources are important in the library, its usage is also very important. For a library in higher Institutions of learning, such as school of Nursing to function as the centre where academic excellence can be achieved, library information resources must be available, adequate and accessible. In addition, the use of information resources must be emphasized by stakeholders of all academic communities.

Nursing profession is essential in any society. Nurses play a major role in health sector of any nation. To qualify as a professional nurse, one must undergo training or study in a university, school of nursing and other health training institutions. Students' nurses need library information resources for them to perform excellently in their course of study. Anyanwu, Oparaku & Benson (2016) states that, the role of nurses in health care delivery, information is very crucial tool for nurses and how they acquire and use the

information are key determinants of their performance. The use of library information resources will assist the student nurses to perform excellently in their academic and also help them to function well as professional nurses when they graduate from the school.

### *1.1. Profile of Ondo State School of Nursing, Akure*

Ondo state school of Nursing Akure was established to commerce the new standard of nursing training in January 1976 when Dr. Olugbenga Alabi was the commissioner for health in the defunct western state. The school was formally located at old hospital site, Oke –Eda but moved to its present site in 1980. It started with a student population of 40 and one trained tutor assisted by experienced professional nurses. The first principal of the school of nursing was Prince Deji Adegbulu. In 1986, the Government decided to merge the School of Nursing and the School of Midwifery under the same umbrella of one principal between 1987 and 1995. However, the two schools were separated in October 1995 to enhance better performance. The school undertakes the training of both basic and post basic student Nurses. The motto of the school is “knowledge, integrity and service to mankind”.

### *1.2. Statement of the Problem*

Library is an integral part of higher institution of learning. It is regarded as an engine room in any academic community. Daniel (2004) posit that the school library remains the power house of educational institution and that educational institution without a library is like a motor car without the engine and a body without the soul. For a library of an institution of higher learning to be seen as a nerve centre, there must be adequate provision of library information resources and for the library to have positive impact on the academic community such as school of nursing, there must be usage of the library information resources. Anyanwu (2015) notes that, the value of a library’s collection lies in its effective utilization by the user community. The usefulness of a library can be known through the usage of the information resources. Since the use of library information resources is considered to be relevant and important, it will be imperative to conduct a study on the use of library information resources. This study therefore attempts to survey the use of library information resources by the students of Ondo state school of nursing Akure, Ondo state Nigeria.

### *1.3. Objectives of the Study*

The main objective of this study is to examine the use of library information resources by the students of Ondo state school of nursing Akure, Ondo state Nigeria. The study was conducted with the following specific objectives

- To find out the available library information resources at the Ondo state school of nursing, Akure Ondo state Nigeria
- To investigate how frequent the students of the school use the library information resources
- To examine their purpose of using the library information resources
- To determine the student level of satisfaction with the information resources in their institution library.
- To identify the challenges encountered by the students in their use of the library information resources in their institution

### *1.4. Research Questions*

- What are the available library information resources in Ondo state school of nursing library?
- How frequent do the students use the library information resources in their institution library?
- What is the purpose of using the library information resources in their institution?
- How satisfied are the students with the library information resources in their institution library?
- What are the challenges encountered by the students in their use of library information resources in the Institution library?

## **2. Literature Review**

Library is an important service institution in any society, especially among educational institution. It is concerned with the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of information. Oluwatobi, Ehioghae, Aluko & Onasote (2014) posit that library serves a vital and important channel where information is acquired, processed and disseminated through the provision of appropriate information resources in its various format i.e. print and non –print. According to Abolaji (2009) the modern library is not only a collection of textbooks. It includes other sources like reference materials, books relating to school curriculum, general books not relating to a specific subject area, periodicals, newspapers, audio-visual materials, government publications and electronically stored and retrievable materials. This resource enables libraries to play a crucial role in the success of lifelong education of community and society in general. Jato, Ogunniyi & Olubiyo (2014) note that library more than any other place provides ideal environment and vital information resources for students to develop and sustain good study habits necessary for excellent performance in academic works.

Library information resources are needed in higher institution of learning, because of the crucial role they perform in teaching and learning process. Magoi (2014) agreed that the library as an information centre, is saddled with the responsibility of generating information resources to address user’s needs and demands, irrespective of classes or races in the society. Usman (1995) cited by Magoi (2014) defined information resources as “ the material possessed by a library which may include; books, periodicals, films, microfilms that contain recorded knowledge. Ugwuanyi, Okwor&Ezejia (2011) maintained that the abundance of information resources provided by libraries makes them a potential learning environment.

Library information resources are provided in higher institution of learning for use by the academic community. Owusu-Acheaw & Larson (2014) acknowledged that critical use of information resources is fundamental to higher education. They agreed that informed library users know that library has more resources that are more comprehensive and scholarly than other sources such as the cyber.

Onye (2016) maintained that the utilization of information depends on the information resources available in the library and also accessible to the students. Onye also stressed that the objectives of the library may not be realizable unless its resources reach optimal capacity and use by the faculty and students who depends on its information resources. On the type of information resources available at FUTO library, Onye reported that all the participants 681(100%) indicated that textbooks are available in the library while 572 (84%) confirmed that the library has serials, 115(16.9%) agreed that the library has computers, 314(46.1%) show the presence of internet, and 90(13.2%) indicated the library possessed films (audio-visuals). Also revealed in the study, are the factors militating against the utilization of information resources. The analysis showed that 574(84.3%) of the participants indicated that poor facilities affected the use of information resources. Next is lack of current information resources 431(63.3%), followed by limited access to information resources 410(60.2%) while 157(23.1%) and 102(15%) indicate poor usage skill and poor staff attitude.

Mamo & Amidu (2016) observed that the advancement of an academic staff unlike other staff depends largely if not entirely on his research output which depends critically on the availability of suitable facilities including adequate library resources. On the extent of availability of information resources and services in the library, their study revealed that 36 respondents representing 54.5% stated that books were available to aid the effective use of the library resources and services, 9 respondents representing 13.6% indicated that audio-visual materials were available to aid effective use of library resources and services while 18 respondents representing 27.3% said journal publications were available to aid the effective use of the library resources and services. Their study also indicated that majority of their respondents, 32(49.2%) use the library resources and services weekly. It was revealed in their study that lack of current information resources and improper shelving of information resources were the major factors hindering the effective use of library resources.

Library resources are used for different purposes by library users of higher institutions of learning. Agyekummr & Filson C.R (2012) found in their study that most of the students use library resources and services to supplement their class notes assignment and helped them in examination preparation. Magio (2014) study shows that 100% of the respondents (academic staff) indicated very high on importance value to information needs for research purpose and also to satisfy the university as well as personal interest for research to meet up academic program in the university. Eighty-two (64%) indicated high for search to support teaching and thirty-one (24%) state high for leisure and recreation. Nwator-Orizu & Onwudinjo (2015) carried out a study on the availability and use of health information resources by doctors in teaching hospitals in south East Nigeria. Their findings show that medical doctors utilize health information resources for all variety of purposes. The purpose according to them are clinical care for patients, professional examination, better practice of specialty, updating knowledge and research and journal publication.

On the level of satisfaction on the use of library information resources, Oluwatobi, Ehioghuae, Aloko-arowolo & Ayoola Olusegun Onasote (2014) revealed the level of satisfaction with the library resources. They reported in their study that 8(15.7%) of the respondents said they are very much highly satisfied, 17(33.3%) are highly satisfied, 18(35.3%) are lowly satisfied, while 8(15.7%) are not satisfied. They however note that majority of the respondent's level of satisfaction with the use of library information resources is below average. In a library, there is need for users to be satisfied with the library information resources, for this will bring positive change to the library community.

On the challenges faced in accessing information sources, Olajide & Otunla (2015) study indicates that the major challenge faced by the respondents is lack of time. This was indicated by the majority (168, 69.1%) respondents. Anyaoku (2015) carried out a study on evaluating undergraduate students' awareness and use of medical library resources at Nnamdi Azikwe University, Nigeria. They reported that lack of computers and internet facilities, lack of current materials and poor environment conditions are the reasons deduced from the study for the under use of the library resources. Anyaoku therefore note that these barriers are weight enough to discourage students from the medical library.

### 3. Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study and the target population comprises of two hundred and forty (240) library users who patronizes the library regularly. A simple random sampling technique was used in which 150 library users were selected and used as instrument for data collection. A total of 150 questionnaires were administered. This exercise was carried out within two days, out of the questionnaires distributed; one hundred and thirty-seven (137) were retrieved from the respondents. The data collected from the respondents were analysed through the use of descriptive statistics.

### 4. Data Analysis and Discussion

Gender of Respondents

Frequency distribution (N=137)

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	56	40.88
Female	81	59.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 1: Gender distribution of respondents  
Source: Field Survey, 2016

The female respondents have the highest percentage frequency of response with 59.12% (81). When compared to the male respondents having a percentage frequency value of 40.88 % (56). This is expected, because in Nigeria, female seems to be more interested in Nursing, as this has also been observed in most of the hospitals.

- Research Question 1: What are the available library and information resources in your Institution library?

S/N	Available Library Information Resources	Mean ( $\bar{x}$ )	Std. Error	Std. Deviation
1	Textbooks	1.91	0.03	0.29
2	Journals	1.07	0.03	0.26
3	Directories	1.11	0.03	0.31
4	Encyclopedia	1.96	0.02	0.21
5	Handbook	1.91	0.02	0.28
6	Manuals	2.00	0.00	0.00
7	Newspapers/magazines	1.97	0.14	0.17
8	Reports	1.95	0.07	0.84
9	Atlases/maps	1.97	0.01	0.17
10	Dictionaries	1.93	0.02	0.26
11	Biography	1.91	0.02	0.28
12	Almanacs	1.01	0.01	0.12
13	Computer	1.12	0.03	0.33
14	Gazettes	1.01	0.01	0.12
15	Abstracts/index	1.02	0.01	0.15
16	Internet facilities	1.01	0.10	0.12
17	CD-Rom facilities	1.03	0.02	0.17
18	Medical records/ case notes	1.04	0.02	0.19
	Grand mean( $\bar{x}$ ) & Std. Error	1.50**	0.03*	

Table 2

Source: Author manual computation

\* $p < 0.05$  significant level

\*\*X the statement item(s) is significant

Table 2 was critically tested as 5% significant level on the available library information resources in the Institution library. Majority of the respondents agreed that they are having books, encyclopedia, handbook, manuals, newspapers/magazines, reports, dictionaries and biographies having mean values greater than the grand mean value at 1.50. This is also in agreement with the standard error value of 0.03 which is lesser than the test of significance at 0.05 levels.

- Research Question 2: How frequent do you use the library information Resources in your institution?

Options(s)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Daily	72	52.55
2-3 times a week	21	15.32
Once a week	16	11.67
Fortnightly	10	7.29
Monthly	7	5.10
Occasionally	11	8.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3

Source: Field survey, 2016

Majority of the respondents agreed that they use the library information resources daily with a percentage frequency value of 52.55% (72), which is subsequently followed by respondents that agreed that they use the resources 2-3 times a week, once a week, occasionally, fortnightly and monthly, with percentage frequency of 15.32% (21), 11.67% (16), 8.02% (11), 7.29 (10), 5.10% (7) respectively.

- Research Question 3: What are the purposes of using the library information resources in your institution library?

S/N	PURPOSE	MEAN(x)	Std Error	Std deviation
1	For research	1.93	0.02	0.25
2	To obtain information	1.91	0.03	0.29
3	To supplement class notes	1.85	0.03	0.35
4	For news update on my field of study	1.94	0.02	0.24
5	For assignment	1.92	0.02	0.27
6	Preparation for examination	1.82	0.03	0.38
7	To obtain news on sport	1.63	0.04	0.49
8	To obtain news on politics	1.02	0.01	0.15
9	For recreation	1.01	0.01	0.12
	Grand mean (x) & Std. Error mean		1.67**	0.02*

Table 4

Source: Author manual computation

\* $p < 0.05$  significant level\*\*  $\bar{X} > \bar{X}$  the statement item(s) is significant

Majority of the respondents agreed that the purpose for which they use the library information resources are for research, to obtain information, to supplement class notes, for news update on their field of study, to do assignment and for examination, having mean values greater than the grand mean value of 1.67. This is also in agreement with the standard error value of 0.02 lesser than the test of significance value of 0.05.

- Research Question 4: How satisfied are you with the library information resources in your Institution library?

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Very satisfied	19	13.9
Satisfied	76	55.5
Fairly satisfied	32	23.4
Not satisfied	10	7.3
Total	137	100

Table 5

Source: Field survey, 2016

As revealed in the table 5, majority of the respondents agreed that they are satisfied with the library resources with a percentage frequency of 55.5% (76). This is followed the respondents that indicated they fairly satisfied with the information resources, having a percentage frequency of 23.4 % (32). The analysis also revealed that respondents that are not satisfied with the library information resources recorded the lowest percentage frequency, having 7.3 % (10).

- Research Question 5: What are the challenges faced in the process of using the library information resources in your institution library?

S/N	Challenges	Mean ( $\bar{X}$ )	Std. error	Std. deviation
1	Lack of adequate time	1.92	0.02	0.27
2	Lack of adequate skills on how to effectively use the library information resources	1.21	0.03	0.39
3	Poor attitude of library staff	1.04	0.02	0.19
4	The atmosphere is not conducive for learning	1.02	0.1	0.15
5	Lack of internet access to access online information sources	1.96	0.02	0.21
6	Information sources are difficult to locate on the shelf	1.04	0.02	0.19
7	Lack of current nursing textbooks and journals	11.06	0.02	0.24
8	Location of the library is too far from the place of residence	1.04	0.02	0.21
	Grand Mean(X) & Std. Error mean	1.29**	0.03*	

Table 6

Source: Author manual computation

\* $p < 0.05$  significant level\*\*  $\bar{X} > \bar{X}$  the statement item(s) is significant

Table 6 shows that majority of the respondents agreed that the challenges they faced in the process of using the library information resources are lack of adequate time, lack of adequate skills on how to effectively use the information resources and lack of internet

access to access online information sources having mean values greater than the grand mean value of 1.29. This is also in agreement with the standard error value of 0.03 lesser than the test of significance value of 0.05.

## 5. Findings

The major findings of the study are;

- The female respondents in Ondo state school of Nursing has the highest percentage frequency with 81 (59.12%) while the male respondents are having 56(40.88%) percentage frequency
- Majority of the respondents agreed that textbooks, Encyclopedia, handbook, manuals, newspapers, magazines, reports, dictionaries and biography are available in their institution library
- Majority of the respondents agreed that they use library information resources for the purpose of research, to obtain information, to supplement class notes, for new update on their field of studies, assignment and preparation for examination
- Majority of the respondents said they are satisfied with the library information resources in their institution library.
- Major challenges encountered by the respondents are lack of adequate time, lack of adequate skills on how to effectively use the information resources and lack of internet facility to access online information sources

## 6. Conclusion

Nursing profession is a noble profession which focuses on health delivery. The students in the school of Nursing are meant to undergo training to be qualified as a professional Nurse. In realizing this, the library information resources have a significant role to play. Their effective usage of these resources will assist the student Nurses to perform excellently in their chosen career which will definitely bring about effective change in the society.

## 7. Recommendations

Following the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made;

- The school authority should ensure that the students are given adequate time to use the library information resources. They should make sure there are free periods on the lecture time table to enable the students have adequate time to consult the information resources in the library.
- Adequate training on how to effectively use the library information resources should be given to the students.
- Internet facilities should be provided in the Institution library.

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