

BOOKSTOCK MINIMUM REQUIREMENT IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: A CASE STUDY OF KANO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WUDIL LIBRARY

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Abstract

This paper presented the book stock minimum requirement in University libraries, a case study of Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil. The objective of the library is to supplement the teaching, learning and research activities of the University through acquisition, organisation of all forms of recorded and unpublished information in all fields of study patent to the goals of the University. The study employed survey research method. The researcher used structured oral interview, questionnaire and personal observation to collect data for this study. In the beginning of the interview the interviewee were briefed about the interview questions. The population of the study includes students from 2001 – 2013. The findings demonstrate recommended book stock level, available book stock level, percentage deficit and ratios. The study shows that the ratio should at least be 1:30, i.e. a reader to the ratio of thirty books. The study revealed that the library under study has been operating in a percentage deficit of 54.19% when the student population was only 88 in 2001 and 94.98% when the student population was 9,385 in 2013 which is seriously below the recommended standard. It is finally concluded and recommended that the best way to sustain academic programmes in the University is by equipping the library with necessary reading materials and Government should allocate a special grant to purchase books and other valuable materials to equip the library. The University management should equally release all library fees given by students to library management to purchase library resources. The management of Kano University of Science and Technology should try as much as possible to meet and go by the standard minimum requirement for better services. The Authority of Kano University of Science and Technology should ensure that the available bookstock should be increase to the minimum levels

Keywords: Book stock, University libraries, minimum standard, Requirement.

Introduction

University libraries are servicing centres of the academic programmes of the institutions. Their services cut across the various departments and schools and sometimes the immediate community. They therefore need to be well equipped with the necessary tools for effective service delivery.

For an institution to be considered a university, it must possess both human and material resources which include the staff, students, equipments, the library, laboratories, workshops and other infrastructural facilities. It is therefore clear that library in a University is a major unit that has to be put in to consideration for effective services to the institution community for the successful achievement of the desired goal.

According to Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) “the tripartite function of any University is to conserve recorded knowledge, to transmit or disseminate knowledge through teaching, conferences, seminars, publications and to advance knowledge through research” p.56. We are apt, in Nigeria, to identify the three basic functions of a university as teaching, research and public service. The

objective of university library according to Odeniran (2007) is that, University library is to serve the needs of the academic community which includes the students, staff and other users as recommended by the library authority. To provide reference materials at appropriate levels; to provide study areas for users, to provide a lending service appropriate to different types of users, and to provide active information service in form of answer to research questions.

The National Universities Commission (NUC) in its manual on university management (1997) stated that “The university library has been described as the academic heart of a university.” An American author, Foot (1997) describes the importance of a library to the University by putting it this way, “A University is a group of buildings gathered round a library”. Odiase (2000) stated the basic function of a university library is to select and acquire materials- books for use by the academic community- staff and students. It prepares the materials acquired for use. This involves cataloguing and classification. It circulates library materials through easy access to open shelving, and reserve section at the circulation desk. It gives reference services by assisting users in locating information and resources. It offers both formal and informal instruction on the use of the library.

According to Ogbonna (2009), The University library is the academic soul of an institution of higher learning. The library is, indeed, the true University of today. No academic institution achieves academic height or excellence that is greater than the potentials of its library. The primary responsibility of the academic library is to aid the parent institution in carrying out its academic programme. That is, it functions to satisfy the institutional teaching, study, and research objectives. Libraries in all educational institutions are to support the teaching, learning and research activities of the parent institution; an objective which is achieved through a systematic acquisition and organisation of all forms of recorded and documented information in all fields pertinent to the goal of the institution (Olanlokun, 2001)

This view is supported by many authors including Afolabi (1980) who recommended that. The Library as an education established, should supply students and staff with recorded ideas of value to them for their programmes of teaching, research and for the satisfaction of personal interest.

The standard requirement for university libraries according to Agboola (2000) is that, Governance of Nigerian University Commission libraries can be examined from the perspectives of external, internal and departmental administration. External governance of Nigerian Universities is largely the responsibility of National University Commission (NUC), which acts as a buffer between the federal government and the universities.

This body is responsible for the funding of Federal Universities and the issuing of guidelines for the running and establishment of new Universities (National Universities Commission, 1989). The NUC has tightened its grip on the quality of University education in the country by setting minimum standards for courses offered by the Universities (National Universities Commission, 1991).

The influence of the National Universities Commission on library services in Nigerian Universities is largely in area of funding. The commission stipulated that Universities should fund their libraries at a level equal to between 5% and 8% of their recurring expenditures. Unfortunately over the years, this has been observed more in the breach by most Universities, particularly the state- funded ones over which the commission has no financial control. Nigerian University libraries are mainly funded from the recurring expenditures of the individual Universities. To ensure that they are not short- changed, the NUC at one time stipulated that between 5% and 8 % of the recurring funds of the Universities should go to the libraries. As a result of the generally poor funding of Universities, this has not been observed. This standing instruction was improved on through the institution of a 10% library development fund (LDF)

deducted directly from the recurring allocations of Federal Universities for the sole purpose of library maintenance. University Librarians are signatories to this account, while the National Universities Commission reserves the right to withhold subsequent library development funds if the previously released funds are not accounted for by the Universities (National Universities Commission, 1985)

NUC introduced accreditation of courses this involves visits to university libraries, among other teaching facilities in the universities, to determine the qualitative and quantitative aspects of their book and journal collection (Ifidon, 1995; National universities Commission, 1991). This requirement has forced University administrators to take library development more seriously. It has now become customary in most Nigerian Universities for more money to be released for the development of book and journal collections whenever accreditation visits are imminent.

Ifidon, Sam E. Establishment of standards for book stock in west Africa University libraries” Libri 33 (June, 1983): 92 – 106; Africa Journal of Academic librarianship 2 (December 1984): 54 – 60. The articles text in the two journals is identical. After reviewing University library collections standards in the western democracies as well as tentative efforts towards standards in Nigeria that “produced little result” ten factors that influence collection size are discussed. 1. Student body size 2. Faculty size 3. Library staff size 4. The curricular 5. Instruction Methods 6. Proximity of the libraries 7. Bookshop services 8. Annual acquisition rate 9. financial support 10. Library organization. A proposed quantitative collection standard for West African University based on data for 26 universities in the region. Calls for a basic collection of 50,000 plus 30 books per reader, and relates the 2 weight for a curricular program to its durations. Ifidon proposed standard is unique in that a maximum rather than minimum figure is derived. This article will be most use to individual interested in standards from theoretical perspectives.

The National University Commission (NUC) is the accrediting body for all the Universities in the country. The commission has the responsibility to ensure that specific academic standards are attained and maintained in all Universities. To ensure that the library offers the necessary support expected of it to the various academic Departments towards achieving their objective, the NUC insists that the library attains at least some minimum standards (NUC, 1991) where he Ifidon (1995) arrived at weighted average figure of 30 volumes per reader. The ratio should at least be 1:30 i.e. a reader to thirty books. Bozimo (1992) stated that book stocks constitute the essence of any library organisation. As long as books and other form of recorded communications continue to flow-in, the life and well- being of a library are assured. Similarly the sizes of the academic staff, their need to keep abreast of scholarship in their fields and their research interests have a major influence on the book stock. According to Bozimo (1992) the volume of books requirement is usually related to the size of the institution in terms of student population. There is also the need for adequate spread over all the subjects being offered in the institution. The acquisition of reading materials in the right number and quality is emphasized. We should note that there is no upper limit to what relevant materials that can be acquired. Libraries in all educational institutions are to support the teaching, learning and research activities of the parent institution; an objective which is achieved through a systematic acquisition and organisation of all forms of recorded and documented information in all field pertinent to the goal of the institution.

This view is supported by many authors including Afolabi (1980) who recommended that.

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Background on Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil, Library

The Kano University of Science and Technology Wudil, Library came into being with the commencement of academic activities by the University in April, 2001. The objectives of the library is to supplement the teaching, learning and research activities of the University through acquisition and by systematic organisation of all forms of recorded and unpublished information in all the field of study patent to the goals of the university. The library makes available materials to the University community especially those engaged in research and study. It is the academic nerve centre of the university. The University librarian is the head of the Department who coordinates, directs and controls the general administration and executes all policy matters as regards the operation of the library.

The university library offers to users, services in the following units:

- **Circulation Unit:**-This unit provides facilities for borrowing books in accordance with the laid down procedures.
- **Reference Unit:** - This unit house material to help readers find the basic general information of interest to them and also inquiries are attended to in the section.
- **Serial Unit:**-This unit houses periodicals, journals and documents as well as proceeding of conferences, and seminars. Materials in this unit are not for borrowing but only for reference purposes. These materials in this unit are primarily for research purposes where users can connect and browse the net to search for information.
- **E- Library Unit:** The University library has electronic library where students have access to internet services to search for information electronically; the library has access to databases for use.

The operation hours of the library: Monday - Thursday 9:00am 8:00pm
Friday - 8:00am – 1:00pm & 3:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday - 9:00am – 2:00pm

The library extends hours of operation during examination from 9:00am – 10:00pm (Monday – Friday) the library closes during public holidays (KUST, 2009, Student Hand Book).

The library has a total of thirty six (36) Staff, Academic librarians are eight (8), Para professionals are seventeen (17) and Non paraprofessionals are eleven (11) , also the library has a total of Fifteen Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty Five (15, 525) books and Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred and Ten (17,710) Serials Publications.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to determine the bookstock minimum requirement of Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil Library, the specific objectives are:

1. To determine the total students enrolments
2. To identify the recommended book stock level
3. To identify the available book stock level
4. To study the ratios of the book stock level
5. To identify the percentage deficit of the book stock level
6. To find out the library standard minimum requirement.

Research Questions

The following research questions were used to guide the study

1. What is the total students' enrolment?
2. What are the recommended book stock levels?
3. What are the available book stock levels?
4. What is the ratio of the book stock level?
5. What is the percentage deficit of book stock level?
6. Does the library meet the standard minimum requirement?

Methodology

Survey research method was use to carry out this research, the researcher used a series of instrument for the collection of reliable information. These are oral interview, questionnaire and personal observation. The major purpose of survey research is description of the state of affairs as it exists at present. The focus of the study was to ascertain whether the university library has enough book stock in the library to cover the challenges of NUC accreditation and to achieve it set objectives according to the minimum standard established. Interview was conducted for University academic secretary, University librarian and Information Resources development librarian and relevant information was gathered from them. The data collected were carefully analysed and correlated with those collected from the Information Resources development Unit using simple percentage.

Let us now look at the book stock quantity as it relates to the recommended minimum standard ratio to the reader from 2001 – 2013.

Result and Discussion

TABLE 1: SHOWING BOOK STOCK LEVEL FROM 2001– 2013

Session	SP	RBSL	ABSL	BSD	PD	R
2000/2001	88	2,640	1,262	1378	52.19%	1:14
2001/2002	368	11,040	2,569	8471	76.73%	1:7
2002/2003	727	21,040	4,226	16,814	79.91%	1:6
2003/2004	1,004	30,120	4,952	25,168	83.55%	1:5
2004/2005	1,334	40,020	5,834	34,186	85.42%	1:4
2005/2006	1,446	43,380	5,923	37,457	86.34%	1:4
2006/2007	1,770	53,100	7,816	45,284	85.28%	1:4
2007/2008	2,441	73,230	8,859	64,371	87.90%	1:4
2008/2009	2,872	86,160	9,029	77,131	89.52%	1:3
2009/2010	3,699	110,970	9,308	101,662	91.61%	1:3
2010/2011	4,661	139,830	12,059	127,771	91.37%	1:3
2011/2012	7,065	211,950	13,104	198,846	93.81%	1:2
2012/2013	9,385	281,460	14,127	267,333	94.98%	1.2

Source: Survey, 2013

SP= Student Population
RBSL= Recommended Book Stock Level
ABSL= Available Book Stock Level
BSD= Book Stock Deficit
PD= Percentage Deficit
R= Ratio
1:30= A reader to the ratio of thirty

Table 1 shows and address the research questions, i.e. the population of the students, recommended book stock level, available book stock level, book stock deficit and percentage deficit and ratio.

Major findings of the study

In summary, this study revealed that:

1. The library has been operating on percentage deficit below the recommended standard from 2001 – 2013
2. The total student enrolments increase each year as indicated in the table 1.
3. The available book stock level is per less than the recommended bookstock level

This also revealed that the library as at 2013 supposed to have a total of 281,460 as recommended bookstock level but the library under study has only 14,127 books as the student population increase to 9,385 and the percentage deficit is 94.98% and the ratio is 1:2, this indicate that the library has been operating on percentage deficit. This collaborate with Ifidon (1995) made an analysis of Bozimo (1992) recommendations which arrived at a weighted average figure of 30 volumes per reader. The ratio should be 1:30 as recommended minimum standard requirement.

Discussion of Result

In our own situation here in Nigeria, Ifidon (1995) made an analysis of the Bozimo (1992) recommendation for University libraries where he Ifidon (1995) arrived at a weighted average figure of 30 volumes per reader. The ratio should at least be 1:30 i.e. a reader to the ratio of thirty books. Let us now look at the book stock quantity as it relates to the recommended minimum standard ratio to the reader from 2001 – 2013. Table (1) show how the situation is, in the institution under study.

$$\begin{aligned} SP \times 30 &= RBSL \\ &= RBSL - ABSL = BSD \\ &= BSD \div RBSL \times 100\% = PD \\ &= PD \end{aligned}$$

Table 1 above indicates that Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil, library.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In 2001, the total student population is } 88 \times 30 &= 2640 \\ &= 2640 - 1262 = 1378 \\ &= 1378 \div 2640 = 0.521 \times 100\% = 52.19\% \\ &= \mathbf{52.19\% \text{ as percentage Deficit}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In 2002, the total student population is } 368 \times 30 &= 11,040 \\ &= 11,040 - 2,569 = 8471 \\ &= 8471 \div 11,040 = 0.7673 \times 100\% = 76.73\% \\ &= \mathbf{76.73\% \text{ as Percentage Deficit}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In 2013, the total student population is } 9,385 \times 30 &= 281,460 \\ &= 281,460 - 14,127 = 267,333 \\ &= 267,333 \div 281,460 = 0.9498 \times 100\% = 94.98\% \\ &= \mathbf{94.98\% \text{ as percentage Deficit}} \end{aligned}$$

Based on the table, the finding greatly shows that the library as at 2013 supposed to have a total of 281,460 as the recommended book stock level but the library under study has only 14, 127 books as the student population increase to 9,385 and the percentage deficit is 94.98% and the ratio is 1:2 (approximately). The table one (1) is a clear indication that the library has been operating on percentage deficit below the recommended standard from 2001 to 2013.

This would have been bearable if all the books in the available stock are up to date and relevant to the current courses offered in the institution. It could also be noted that the yearly increase of the collections which include the purchases and donated items are not quite reasonable to cater for the increasing demand of information by the readers and the replacement of the worn-out materials in the collections.

The figure on the table shows only the student's ratio to the book stock level, where as if the staff population who are equally readers is added; the ratio will automatically drop downward. It may also be important to mention that some students made the following views about the institutions library book stock:

- a. The library is ill- equipped with books.
- b. The good ones are not enough, need to be improved.
- c. Some subjects offered have very little representation in the library.

Conclusion

In general, university library books are the major resources that are expected to give emphasis on more than other reading materials. Even without any recommended standard, the peculiar geo-cultural position of the institution where there is no any sister institution or well equipped library around demands that, the library should be adequately equipped to take care of the academic programmes of the institution. Equipping the library with relevant reading materials is like.

- a. Ensuring continuous flow of blood in human body
- b. Furnishing a skilled workman with all varieties of tools he needs for the best product.
- c. Providing the chances for Nigerians to translate the technical know-how of the foreign countries.
- d. Providing enough ground for the teaching and learning processes in the institution.

Recommendations

Base on the findings, the following recommendations are proffered:

1. The authority of Kano University of Science and Technology should be aware that the best way to sustain the academic programmes of the institution is by equipping the library with necessary reading materials and should therefore allocate a special grant for the purchase of books and other materials to equip the library.
2. The Authority of Kano University of Science and Technology should ensure the payment of 10% of the annual university budget to library development Fund to purchase library equipments.
3. The management of Kano University of Science and Technology should surrender all library fees given by student during registration to the library for the purchase of library resources.
4. The management of Kano University of Science and Technology should increase library fees to one thousand naira (N 1,000.00) per student .This will surely support the enrichment of our library collection annually.
5. The management of Kano University of Science and Technology should try as much as possible to meet the standard minimum requirement for better services.
6. The management of Kano University of Science and Technology should try as much as possible to operate above the recommended minimum standard.
7. The Authority of Kano University of Science and Technology should ensure that the available bookstock should be increase to the minimum levels

Finally, the management should explore and support the effort of getting books on donation which in most cases forms 40% - 50% of the annual increase of collections to many libraries.

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