AVAILABILITY AND PATRONAGE OF COLLEGE OF EDUCATION LIBRARY INFORMATION RESOURCES AMONG ACADEMICS IN IKERE EKITI, EKITI STATE

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Abstract

This study seeks to examine availability and patronage of College of Education library information resources among academics in Ikere Ekiti, Ekiti State. Four research questions guided the study. The research design for the study is a descriptive survey. The target population of the study is academics from five schools Viz. School of Education, School of Languages, School of Science, School of Arts and Social Science and School of Vocational and Technical Education. However, 101 academics constituted the sample for the study. No sample was drawn since the population is small. Researchers' self-designed instrument tagged "Patronage of Academics in College Library Questionnaire" (PACLQ) was used in collecting data for the study. The Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the reliability coefficient of the instrument. The data collected from the respondents were subjected to both descriptive statistical mean with standard deviation and statistical analysis of frequency counts and percentages. The study showed that newspapers, journals, textbooks, encyclopedia, dictionaries, novels and theses/dissertations were available in the library but patronized occasionally. The findings revealed the barriers to use of available information resources in the library which include epileptic power supply, non-availability of internet connectivity, non-availability of current information materials, obsolete and out-dated journals among others. Based on the findings, the study recommended that College library should be properly funded so as to provide necessary information needed by the users, current or new editions and relevant materials particularly books and journals should be acquired, lecturers should be regularly informed of newly acquired materials among others.

Keywords: Availability, Patronage, College of Education, Information resources, Academics

Introduction

Over the years, library supports education efforts by providing teaching resources, information and services. The library represents a structure that houses a collection of services and resources. It alludes to an alternative meaning of aggregate useful materials, printed or audiovisual content that serves common use in all fields of subjects. Library plays the enviable part of the knowledge source, selection, acquisition, organizes, storage, protection and dissemination. This implies that the library information architecture and services are meant to enhance, complement and supplement teaching and learning (Omodara & Ojo, 2019).

Tyonum and Ezeogu (2016) stated that the effective use of library is the bedrock of academic excellence. Academic library is the library attached to tertiary institutions, such as polytechnics, universities, colleges of education etc. Ogbuiyi and Okpe (2017) described the college library as a place where information resources and services are acquired, organized, processed, stored and made available to meet the information needs of users and the entire community. Therefore, the presence of library in higher institutions help to accelerate the implementation of educational programs so that the aims and objectives of education could

be achieved (Suleiman, Hanafi & Tanslikhan, 2018). Little wonder that the National Policy on Education (2013) described library as the heart of the education enterprise.

Omodara and Ojo (2019) agreed that library is established to take care of the information need of students, lecturers, researchers and other community of scholars. More also, academic library provides information materials required for the academic programmes of the parent institution. It provides information resources in different formats to the academics to enable them access information that will support their research and teaching. It provides an alternative that can make available the information sources and resources for the intellectual growth of the lecturers. They succinctly said that no system of education is complete without well-equipped library. Hence, for education to be qualitative, effective and efficient there must be availability of library that well equipped with current informational resources. This means that any educational institutions without library are not worth its salt.

Meaningful and effective teaching and learning cannot take place without informational resources present in library. Hussaini, Veshistha and Jimah (2018) described library information resources as materials that allow libraries to effectively perform functions of providing information to users. These include; printed resources viz. text books, journals, reference materials, manuscripts, newspapers, treatises, etc. e-resources such as e-books and e-journals, audio-visual materials such as films, tapes, slides, television, videos and data stored on electronic media such as CDs and DVDs. These resources however constitute integral part of research, teaching and learning resources. Ofodila and Ifijeh (2013) explained that the quality of information resources in academic libraries have influence on the patronage of users in the tertiary institution. Ugah (2011) observed that there is a tendency to produce quality graduates and research works if there is an availability of quality resources in the library. But, the academics that are starved of current information resources would likely be ill-prepared to produce quality graduates. Ogbebor (2011) submitted that people in different professions use library resources to assist them in their work and gain information on their personal interests.

However, the worth of a library in the present age is determined not just by its resources but on the users' perception and extent of utilization of these resources. Ijiekhuamhen, Aghojare and Omosekejimi (2015) opined that the extent to which the users' needs are satisfied in the libraries depends on the adequacy and accuracy of the organization of information resources, volume of library resources, their relevance and adequacy to users' needs and the presence of effective information retrieval tools (indexes, abstracts, bibliographies cards and OPAC catalogues) in providing access to its collection. In addition, the cooperation of the library personnel in bringing these information resources to the attention of the users and creating the awareness of the users to the availability of these resources cannot be left out.

Similarly, Gabbay and Shoham (2017) opined that the attitudes of academic members towards the use of academic library are influenced by size of the collection, reputation and availability of recent printed and electronic resources. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the library to know whether the academics make use of resources of the library or the use of the resources genuinely help the academics with their teaching and research responsibility. Ogbuiyi and Okpe (2017) emphasized that neither a good book nor a good library can make the individual educated. But, it is the successful use of the books and library that makes the well informed, stable and well-adjusted learned individual.

However, Onwukanjo and Joseph (2017) observed that users' satisfaction in the library is a function of how the services are rendered as well as the degree of availability and accessibility of needed information resources. Users would use the library more effectively if they find its services and collections satisfactory but would discourage others from visiting

the library if dissatisfied with the services and collections. Users' satisfactions have a great significant influence on the use of library resources. Therefore, to justify the existence of any academic library, such library must provide and make accessible current, adequate and relevant information resources and services to satisfy all users. Ikenwe and Adegbilero (2014) in their study believed that the librarians should have prior knowledge of the availability and usability of relevant information resource in the library. Omodara and Ojo (2019) submitted that they should also provide the library user education on how to use of information retrieval tools, as well as services like information, current awareness, reference and readers' advisory services.

Furthermore, the availability of information resources in the library without patronizing render such library underutilized. No matter how library is rich in terms of volumes of books and e-resources, is good as dead if the information resources are not utilized. Odu (2017) observed that the expectations of people are high when sourcing and retrieving information and when such information needs are not met, frustration usually set in and this may drive the users away from the library. These information resources may be available in the library yet inaccessible to users due to poor organization, cataloguing, classifying, indexing and abstracting (Nwachukwu, 2014).

Onwukanjo and Joseph (2017) in their study identified the information materials available in Federal University of Technology Minna Library viz. journals, books, electronic materials. They further identified the challenges faced by users when accessing available resources via. lack of awareness services, lack of providing printing and photocopying service, users do not make use of catalogue, bibliography, abstract and lack of user education. Ogbuiyi and Okpe (2017) established in their study that 40% and 32.5% at Lead City University and Covenant University respectively made use of library occasionally while Emerole and Ogugua (2017) found out that there was a relatively low patronage of library resources and services in the Federal University of Technology Owerri.

In related studies, Ofodile and Ifijeh (2013) established that lack of current listing of literature, unavailability and accessibility of current information materials, epileptic power supply, lack of guidance in the use of library information materials, poor attitude and unfriendliness of the library staff, non-availability of internet connectivity, and obsolete and out dated journals as barriers to library patronage in Ladoke Akintola University library, Ogbomosho. Oyesiku and Oduwole (2014) investigated use of academic library, a survey of Olabisi Onabanjo University library observed that because of economic recession, especially in Africa, acquisition of relevant and current books and journals is a very difficult task for most university libraries and is a major factor affecting library patronage. Among factors influencing library patronage by faculties of the university community include inadequacy of library materials, inadequate funding, non-availability of library resources probably due to mutilation and stealing by delinquent users and lack of integration of library resources and services in planning, administration, scarcity and shortage of foreign exchange.

Furthermore, Barfi, Afful-Arthur and Agyapong (2018) in their findings established that the users were not informed of new arrivals, inadequate instruction on library use, inadequate trained library staff, unavailability of automatic generator to power sockets, non-availability of lecturers in book selection and few up to date. Filson and Agyekum (2014) in their study revealed that most of the information resources in the Colleges of Education libraries in Ghana were irrelevant to the teaching, learning and research activities. The findings further indicated that there was a problem with government funding the libraries. The researchers recommended that the library collections should be adequately funded to maintain growth in existing areas and ensure that new areas are taken care off.

Meanwhile, the theoretical framework for this study is the Theory of Human Attitude. The theory was developed by Alreck and Settle (1985) and Carl Hovland et al. (1953). The theory stipulates that attitudes are psychological predispositions, because it predisposes people to act in a certain way towards the object of the attitude. The attitude comes before behaviour and affects the way person's act. Similarly, Carl Hovland et al. (1953) as cited in Mukherjee (2012) further proposed that our attitudes are learned in much the same way as our behavior following the principles of behaviorism. We learn to associate a particular stimulus with certain information and feelings. The theory is deemed appropriate for the study because the reason for not patronizing college library by academics is their perception on the availability of quality and current information resources. The knowledge component indicates that, the feelings and actions of academics are based on their knowledge of a particular object or subject. What people know or perceive about a particular subject is very important because it affects how they behave or act towards it.

Statement of the Problem

Libraries have been identified as one of the elements for open access to information, which is crucial to educational development. Library resources and services constitute an integral part of research, teaching and learning resources. They play a vital role in the development of any society by enhancing the cause of education and academic research. With the provision of wide variety of information sources, users of libraries are exposed to different information with their respective values. People in different professions use library resources to assist themselves in their work and personal interests. With this, one would expect to see a busy and adequately patronized library where knowledge is searched for. However, preliminary observation and statistics was revealed that library information resources available are under-utilized. They are not borrowed, consulted and utilized judiciously as expected from academics. With this concern, the researchers feel that it is only this research work that would unravel the mystery why academics have not been coming to make use of resources. This is what the research sets out to find and this is also the gap to be filled.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the availability and patronage of College of Education library information resources among academics in Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State. Specifically, the objectives of the study are to identify various library information resources available in the College library, ascertain how often do academics utilize the library, identify the factors responsible for low patronage and utilizing of library resources and find out the solutions to avert the occurrence of low patronage of academics in the library.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:
(i)   What are the library information resources available in the College library?
(ii)   How often do academics utilize the library resources available in the College library?
(iii)   What are the factors responsible for low patronage and utilizing of library resources?
(iv)   What are solutions to avert the occurrence of low patronage of academics in the library?

Methodology

This study was conducted in College of Education Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey type of research design. The target population was 212 academics from the five schools Viz. School of Education, School of School of Arts and Social Science, School of Sciences, School of Languages and School of Vocational and Technical Education for 2017/2018 academic session, College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti (Table 1). No sample was drawn since the population is small. The questionnaire (Patronage of Academics

in College Library Questionnaire) that contained 46 items was designed into three sections. The instrument was given to three experts for vetting before it was administered. Questionnaires were distributed by hand to 106 academics that attended College of Education Academic Staff (COEASU) congress held on December 09, 2019 but only 101 (95%) were properly filled and returned. The Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the reliability coefficient of the instrument. The value obtained were 0.81 for availability of information resources, 0.75 for frequency of library use, 0.71 for barriers to library resources patronage and utilize while 0.73 for solution to low patronage. The data collected from the respondents were subjected to both descriptive statistical mean (X) with standard deviation (SD) and statistical analysis of frequency counts and percentages. Any item with mean scores (X) of ≥ 2.50 was accepted while ≤ 2.49 was rejected.

Note: The scale point is 4, i.e. SA= Strongly Agree (4), A= Agree (3), D= Disagree (2) and SD= Strongly Agree (1).

Result

Table 1: Population of the Study

School	Male	Female	Total
School of Education	27	7	34
School of Arts and Social Sciences	51	13	64
School of Sciences	45	18	63
School of Languages	23	15	38
School of Vocational and Technical Education	11	02	13
Grand Total	157	55	212

Source: Document collected from the Academic Planning, College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti for 2017/2018 Academic Session.

Table 2: Frequency Distribution on Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	72	71.3
Female	29	28.7
School		
School of Education	24	23.8
School of Arts and Social Sciences	22	21.8
School of Sciences	30	29.7
School of Languages	10	9.9
School of Vocational and Technical Education	15	14.9
Academic Qualification		
HND/Bachelor Degree	15	14.9
PGD	6	5.9
Master Degree	51	50.5
PhD	29	28.7
Rank		
Chief Lecturer	10	9.9
Principal Lecturer	17	16.8
Senior Lecturer	21	20.8
Lecturer 1	23	22.8
Lecturer 2	16	15.8
Assistant Lecturer	10	9.9
Graduate Assistant Lecturer	4	4.0

Source: Field Work: December, 2019

Table 2 shows that the majority of respondents 72(71.3%) were male while female was 29(28.7%). Majority of the respondents 30(29.7%) were from the School of Sciences, 24(23.8%) from School of Education, 22(21.8%) from the School of Arts and Social Sciences, 15(14.9%) from the School of Vocational and Technical Education while 10(9.9%) were from the School of Languages. Majority of respondents 51(50.5%) were Masters' Degree holders, 29(28.7%) possessed PhD, 15(14.9%) possessed HND/Bachelors' Degree while 6(5.9%) were PGD holders. It was also indicated that the majority of academics 23(22.8%) were lecturer 1, 21(20.8%) were senior lecturers, 17(16.8%) were principal lecturers, 16(15.8%) were lecturer 2, 10(9.9%) were chief lecturers and assistant lecturer respectively while 4(4.0%) were graduate assistant lecturers.

Research Question 1: What are the library information resources available in the College library?

Table 3: Availability of Library Information Resources

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	SDT	Decision
i	Journals	92	99	64	13	2.65	14.5	Accepted
ii.	Textbooks	120	114	44	9	2.84	16.6	Accepted
iii.	Newspapers	164	111	24	11	3.06	19.4	Accepted
iv.	Monographs	32	117	60	24	2.30	13.3	Rejected
v.	E-journals/books	40	96	70	24	2.28	12.2	Rejected
vi.	Atlases	36	132	62	17	2.45	14.6	Rejected
vii.	Globes	40	114	56	25	2.33	13.1	Rejected
viii.	Maps	48	120	50	24	2.40	13.6	Rejected
ix.	Encyclopedias	120	123	40	10	2.90	17.1	Accepted
x.	Dictionaries	108	120	44	12	2.81	16.2	Accepted
xi.	Novels	80	120	50	16	2.63	14.8	Accepted
xii.	Government Doc	44	126	58	19	2.45	14.2	Rejected
xiii.	Theses/Dissertations	92	120	46	15	2.70	15.3	Accepted
xiv.	Indexes	92	120	46	15	2.70	15.3	Accepted
xv.	Abstracts	68	114	58	17	2.55	14.1	Accepted

Source: Field Work: December, 2019

Table 3 indicates that journals (2.65), indexes and theses/dissertations (2.70), textbooks (2.84), newspaper (3.06), dictionaries (2.81), abstracts (2.55) encyclopedias (2.90) and novels (2.63) are accepted as library information resources available to access and utilize in the College library while monographs (2.30), e-journals/books (2.28), government document (2.45), atlases (2.45) maps (2.40) and globes (2.33) are rejected as information resources available in the College library to access and utilize.

Research Question 2: How often do academics patronize the library?

Table 4: Frequency of College library use

S/N	Item	Frequency	Percentage (%)
i.	Everyday	10	9.9
ii.	1-3 times a month	15	14.8
iii.	Occasionally	61	60.4
iv.	Not at all	15	14.9

Source: Field Work: December, 2019

Table 4 shows that 61(60.4%) respondents patronized the college library occasionally, 15(14.8%) patronized the library 1-3 times a month and not at all respectively while

10(9.9%) patronized library everyday. This implied that the level of patronizing college library is low base on response of the respondents.

Research Question 3: What are the factors responsible for low patronage and utilizing of library information resources?

Table 5: Barriers to use library Information resources available

S/N Item	SA	A	D	SD	X	SDT	Decision
i. Non availability of current information materials	96	117	50	13	2.73	15.5	Accepted
ii. Epileptic power supply	152	99	38	11	2.97	18.0	Accepted
iii. Lack of guidance in usage of library resources	72	84	78	16	2.48	13.1	Rejected
iv. Obsolete and outdated journals	80	111	60	14	2.62	14.5	Accepted
v. Poor reference services by the library staff	64	108	64	17	2.50	13.7	Accepted
vi. Poor attitude and unfriendliness of library staff	52	66	84	24	2.24	11.7	Rejected
vii. Non availability of internet connectivity	136	78	60	11	2.82	16.3	Accepted
viii. Poor awareness in terms of new acquisitions	128	114	44	9	2.92	17.2	Accepted
ix. Inadequate library information resources	84	123	52	13	2.69	15.3	Accepted
x. Inability to retrieve needed info online	116	111	50	10	2.84	16.3	Accepted
xi. Inability to locate materials on the shelves	60	111	72	13	2.53	14.1	Accepted
xii. Non availability of lecturers in book selection	88	102	62	14	2.6 3	14.4	Accepted
xiii. Short time allocated to the use of e-library	76	105	68	13	2.59	14.2	Accepted
xiv. Insufficient of loan duration of books	76	84	78	15	2.50	13.3	Accepted

Source: Field Work: December, 2019

Table 5 shows that epileptic power supply (2.97), non-availability of internet connectivity (2.82) non availability of current information materials (2.75), obsolete and out-dated journals (2.62), poor reference services by the library staff (2.50), poor library awareness in terms of new acquisitions and other services (2.92), inadequate library information resources (2.69), inability to retrieve the needed information on line and off line (2.84), inability to locate information materials on the shelves (2.53), non-availability of lecturers in book selection (2.63), short time allocated to the use of e-library (2.59) and insufficient of loan duration of books (2.50) are accepted as barriers to use library resources available while lack of guidance in the usage of library information resources (2.48), poor attitude and unfriendliness of library staff (2.24) are rejected as barriers to use library resources available.

Research Question 4: What are solutions to avert the occurrence of low patronage of academics in the library?

Table 6: Solutions to Avert the Occurrence of Low Patronage of College Library

S/N Item	SA	A	D	SD	X	SDT.	Decision
i. Increase the funds of library	204	78	30	9	3.18	21.5	Accepted
ii. Stock with current and relevant resources	236	93	22	0	3.48	24.9	Accepted
iii. Orderly of information resources on shelves	192	114	30	0	3.33	21.9	Accepted
iv. Availability of internet connectivity	256	72	26	0	3.50	26.1	Accepted
v. Regular awareness of newly acquired books	180	87	34	10	3.08	19.7	Accepted
vi. Involvement of lecturers in books selection	180	102	44	0	3.23	20.6	Accepted
vii. Stand-by generator in case light is interrupted	236	81	30	0	3.44	24.5	Accepted
viii. Proper reorientation on the use of library	172	117	20	9	3.15	20.3	Accepted
ix. Periodic sensitization of academic staff	188	114	32	0	3.31	21.6	Accepted
x. Library staff should be friendly and knowledgeable	192	111	32	0	3.32	21.8	Accepted
xi. Increase time allocated to use of e-library	192	108	34	0	3.31	21.7	Accepted

xii.Increase loan duration of books	156	111	50	0	3.14	19.2	Accepted

Source: Field Work: December, 2019

Table 6 indicates that increase the funds of library (3.18), stock with current and relevant resources (3.48), orderly of information resources on the shelves (3.33), availability of internet connectivity (3.50), regular awareness of newly acquired materials (3.08), involvement of lecturers in the book selection (3.23), stand-by generator to power in case the light is interrupted (3.44), proper reorientation of the academic staff about the use of library (3.15), periodic sensitization of academic staff (3.31), library staff should be friendly and knowledgeable (3.32), increase time allocate to the use of e-library (3.31) and increase loan duration of books (3.14) are accepted as solutions to avert the occurrence of low patronage of academics in the college library.

Discussion of Findings
The findings revealed that all the information resources available in the College of Education Ikere library are journals indexes, theses/dissertations, textbooks, newspapers, dictionaries, abstracts, encyclopedias and novels while monographs, e-journals/books, government documents, atlases, maps and globes are not available to use. The response of respondents indicated that the academics could not make use of e-materials, government documents and geographical materials in the College of Education Ikere library. This study is in supports of Onwukanjo and Joseph (2017) that journals and books are information resources available in Federal University of Technology Minna Library.

The findings also revealed that academics patronized the College library occasionally. This implied that the level of patronizing college library is low base on response of the respondents. The finding supports that of Ogbuiyi and Okpe (2017) that 40% and 32.5% respondents at Lead City University and Covenant University respectively made use of library occasionally. The findings support of Emerole and Ogugua (2017) that there was a relatively low patronage of library resources and services in the Federal University of Technology Owerri.

Meanwhile, the response of respondents accepted that epileptic power supply, non-availability of internet connectivity, non availability of current information materials, obsolete and out-dated journals, poor reference services by the library staff, poor library awareness in terms of new acquisitions and other services, inadequate library information resources, inability to retrieve the needed information on line and off line, inability to locate information materials on the shelves, non-availability of lecturers in book selection, short time allocated to the use of e-library and insufficient of loan duration of books are barriers to use library resources available. This indicated the reasons college library experienced low patronage of academics. The finding is in support of findings of Ofodile and Ifijeh (2013), Barfi, Afful-Arthur and Agyapong (2018) and Onwukanjo and Joseph (2017) that lack of awareness services, unavailability and accessibility of current information materials, epileptic power supply, non-availability of internet connectivity, and obsolete and out dated journals are barriers to library patronage. Oyesiku and Oduwole (2014) observed that because of economic recession especially in Africa, acquisition of relevant and current books and journals is a very difficult task for most university libraries and is a major factor affecting library patronage.

Furthermore, another findings indicated that the respondents accepted increase the funds of library, stock with current and relevant resources, orderly of information resources on the shelves, availability of internet connectivity, regular awareness of newly acquired materials, involvement of lecturers in the book selection, stand-by generator to power in case the light

is interrupted, proper reorientation of the academic staff about the use of library, periodic sensitization of academic staff, library staff should be friendly and knowledgeable, increase time allocate to the use of e-library and increase loan duration of books are solutions to avert the occurrence of low patronage of academics in the college library. However, the findings is agree with Filson and Agyekum (2014) who recommended that library collections should be adequately funded to maintain growth in existing areas and ensure that new areas are taken care off.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study has established that College of Education Library, Ikere Ekiti has information resources but which are under-utilized and patronized occasionally by academics. However, epileptic power supply, non-availability of internet connectivity, non availability of current information materials, obsolete and out-dated journals, poor reference services by the library staff, poor library awareness in terms of new acquisitions, inadequate library information resources, inability to retrieve the needed information on line and off line, inability to locate information materials on the shelves, non-availability of lecturers in book selection, short time allocated to the use of e-library and insufficient of loan duration of books are directly and indirectly lead to why the academics are not making use of the available information resources in College library.

The findings of this study suggest that the library should acquire current or new editions and relevant materials particularly books and journals. The findings also suggest that the academics should be regularly informed of newly acquired materials and equally be involved in the book selection policy of the college library. The findings suggest that the College Management should acquire an automatic generator for the library to be providing power in case of failure from the public supply to power sockets. The College management should also plan and develop strategies for effective and efficient use of Information and Communication Technology infrastructure for the utilization of library resources by academics to support academic study. College library should be properly funded so as to provide necessary information needed by the users. Staff of the library should be properly oriented on the importance of encouraging the library users to the extent that they would be encouraged to come again and again. Library should appraise available library resources and services with a view to strengthen and consolidate on the areas of strength.

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