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UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURE MAKURDI AND FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
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THE ROLE OF LIBRARIANS IN INFORMATION PROVISION IN THREE AGRICULTURE LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA (MOUA, FUAM, FUNAB)

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Abstract

The study examines information resources in Agriculture University Libraries in Nigeria; the respondents are University Librarians in Federal University Agriculture Makurdi, Michael Okpara University Agriculture Abia, and Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, sampled by the researcher. The main objective of the study is to identify the information resources, in Agriculture University Libraries in Nigeria with view to examine the types of information resources available, in Agriculture University Libraries under study. Questionnaires were administered to University Librarians. The researcher has been taken the entire population of University Librarians that is three (3) of them. The questionnaires were retrieved and analyzed from the different Agriculture University Libraries sampled representing (100%), Major findings testify that the current agricultural information resources available are insufficient in agriculture University libraries in Nigeria, current information resources particularly e-journals, e-books, information resources related to agricultural information such as databases, e-journals, e-books were the information needs identified are not much available. The study recommended, the improvement of the existing information resources, for the user's information needs, subscriptions of offline databases such as, AGORA, HINARI, AJOL, JSTORE and E-Granary to access agricultural information offline with millions of information resources on text books journals available and continue to be added in each seconds. These findings suggest the need to formalize and strengthen linkages between users and library staff, to improve access to agricultural information, and to formulate policy and regulatory frameworks that are gender responsive. There is a need for policies that facilitate inter- library loan between agriculture University libraries and research institute libraries, collaboration and information sharing

Introduction

In those days most libraries funds from their parent institutions and other donor agencies were favourable and when librarians sought funds for provision of resources, services and facilities, they received them without much difficulty or delay. With time, the scenario changed into a new phase as Agriculture University Libraries recorded an unprecedented increase in the costs of running capable of

coping with expansion of information and high demand from the clientele which lead to the rise in costs higher than the income generation and funding by the parent body. The bodies that fund today's Agriculture University Libraries are increasingly concerned with providing quality services while keeping costs down

Literature Review

Availability of information resources plays a major role in teaching, research, learning and community services. The third law of Library said that "every book its reader". For effective teaching, research and learning to take place information resources, services and facilities must be provided and post graduate and undergraduate students, non-academic and academics staff must have access to various types of information resources, services and facilities in Agriculture University Libraries in their areas of specialization. This will not only broaden their knowledge base but also prepare them ahead of the constraints they may face in the course of learning, research and imparting knowledge. A variety of activities that are performed by academics, non-academic staff, research scholars and students in the course of carrying out their professional duties is hinged on close interaction with the various information resources and facilities in their areas of specialization

Consequently, the study carried out by Vijaya kumar (2017) opines that majority of the respondents said that newspaper, project reports, subject books, CD-ROM database and reference books are available and thesis, general books and web resources are less available. His views were corroborated by Kwaghgba, (2015) Onye, (2016), Yaseen, (2016) Ajiji, (2017) Aladeniyi (2018), and Das (2015), while Abubakar, (2017) emphasized that e-databases for research by Agricultural Scientists in Federal University Libraries in Nigeria subscribed to such as AGORA and AFRICAL JOURNAL respectively. Others are CD-ROM, MEDLINE, PubMed, Biomed Central, African Journals Online, and HINARI, CAB Abstracts, BEAST CD, VET CD, TEEAL. These views were agreed upon by Rukwaro (2015) and Ekene, (2016) where they stated that libraries acquire information resources such as books, theses, journals, government publications, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, e-journals, e-books among others. But Akpe (2018) has different opinions where he stated that information resources are not available. This is an indication that the respondents' opinions are not too dissimilar from one another on their responses on the types of information needs in the Library.

Statement of the Problem

Diagnose problems in the areas of provision of information resources, monitor progress towards specification, compare past, current and desired level of the future and identifies areas where improvement is, what the libraries have or do not, what they do, how well they do it and what they need to accomplish with evidence that the expectations of the parent body are being met. In this aspect, one of the ways for Agriculture University Libraries in Nigeria to make their contributions to the Universities and the clientele is by examining the information resources and to identify the gap in the provision of information resources,

Research Objectives

1. To examine the types of Information Resources, Services and Facilities those are available in Agriculture University Libraries in terms of identifying:

Hypothesis

H₀₁. There is no correlation between information resources provision and the areas of specialization of users in the agriculture university libraries under study

To test this hypothesis, Spearman's Rank Order Correlation statistic was used. The data was analysed using SPSS, and the result is presented in the table below:

Table 37 Relationship between availability of information resources, services and facilities and utilisation in research productivity of students and academic staff in Agriculture University Libraries under study

Availability of IRS&F	Utilisation of IRS&F in Research Productivity
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Availability of	Pearson Correlation	1	.807**
IRS&F	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	769	769
Utilisation of	Pearson Correlation	.807**	1
IRS&F in	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
Research	N	769	769
Productivity			

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

From the table 37 above, the relationship between availability of information resources, services and facilities and utilisation in research productivity of students and academic staff in Agriculture University Libraries under study is $r = .807$, $N = 769$, and $P = .000$. Thus since the p-value (.000) is less than the alpha value (.05), the null hypothesis has been rejected and the alternate hypothesis has been adopted in the analysis. So, the researcher has concluded that there is a correlation between availability of information resources, services and facilities and utilisation in research productivity of students and academic staff in Agriculture University Libraries studied. It is, therefore, concluded that, the type of information resources and facilities available and used in Agriculture University Libraries in Nigerian studied have significant difference Therefore there is a need for Agriculture University Libraries to provide more information resources and improvement of consortium in Agriculture University Libraries in the country.

Population of the study

Since the study is a mini project to understand the extent of provision of the information resources in MOUA, FUAM, FUNAB, the sample of 3 University of Agriculture Librarians are justifiable.

Data Analysis

Information resources and Furniture available in Agriculture University Libraries

Information resources and furniture available in the Library is a major variable in this study. The inclusion of this variable in this study is very crucial. It helps the researcher to identify the Information resources and furniture available in the library provided by each respondent's library in the university under study. To determine the available Information resources and furniture in the library under study the respondents were asked to indicate the Information resources and furniture in the library. Their responses are presented in table 29 below.

Information resources and furniture available in the Library

Information resources/furniture																								
Print resources										E-Resources								Furniture						
Unive rsity	Jour nals	Boo ks	Con fan dTe ch	Gov t pub li	The sis /pro ject s	Ma ga zin es	Ne ws pap ers	Atl as, Ma psa nd Po ste rs	Ma nus crip ts	E- Da tab ase s	E- Boo ks	E- Jour nals	E- The sis	E- Ne wsp aper san dE- Zin es	C D R O M	Mi cro fil ms an d Mi cro fic he	Ra dio	T V	Ta ble s	Ch air s	F an s	Co mp ute rs	Pr in te rs	Ph oto copie rs
FUA M	530 0	4300 0	200 00	104 18	300 00	20 00	432 00	20 0	300 0	7 00	300 00	230 00	120 0	17 00	80 00	NI L	2	1 5	60 0	12 00	1 3	20 0	1 0	10
MOU A	300 00	2400 0	500	120 0	160 0	45 80	500 0	17	120 00	57	345 1	235 0	120	250	30 00	NI L	2	6	65 0	13 00	1 2	80 0	1 2	5

FUA	485	2555	127		174	12	180		273			154			86	N			67	13	6	13		
A	42	0	1	348	21	00	0	70	81	67	237	71	672	79	1	IL	4	2	1	42	5	2	6	4

Sources data field 2020

In order to identify the type of information resources and furniture available in the Agriculture University Libraries studied, lists of possible library information resources and furniture were provided to the respondents to tick as many as possible. Table 29 below shows the type of information resources and furniture available as indicated by the respondents in Agriculture University Libraries in Nigeria. The study indicate that journals, text books, thesis /dissertations/projects, news papers, conf proceedings &technical reports, e-books, and e- thesis /dissertations/projects, dominate the available information resources in Agriculture University Libraries, followed by tables, fans, CDROM and computers as the most available furniture and equipment available in the library. The study indicates that none of the libraries has Microfilms and Microfiche. These findings aligned with that of Vijayakumar, (2017) who notes that newspapers, project reports, subject books, CD-ROM databases; reference books are mainly available in Libraries. Therefore, the Agriculture University Libraries studied have all types of information resources in both print and non-print forms to assist their users in meeting the University Library goals and objectives of supporting teaching, learning and research. The commonly available furniture in the libraries that are being used in Agriculture University libraries studied to ease and promote quick and timely access to and utilization of information resources are table, chairs and computers, while radio and television are not many in stark contrast to the number of users. This implies that such technological facilities are not fully used or they are very few in the libraries. The finding of the study stresses the fact that almost all the libraries in the study had computers, printers, Xerox, and fans for easy access to the resources needed and conducive learning environment

Findings

The finding of the study revealed that journals, text books, thesis /dissertations/projects, news papers, conf proceedings & technical reports, e-books, and e- thesis /dissertations/projects, dominate the available information resources in Agriculture University Libraries, followed by tables, fans, CDROM and computers as the most available furniture and equipment available in the library. The study indicates that none of the libraries has Microfilms and Microfiche.

These findings aligned with that of Vijayakumar, (2017) who notes that newspapers, project reports, subject books, CD-ROM databases; reference books are mainly available in Libraries.

Therefore, the Agriculture University Libraries studied have all types of information resources in both print and non-print forms to assist their users in meeting the University Library goals and objectives of supporting teaching, learning and research.

The commonly available furniture in the libraries that are being used in Agriculture University libraries studied to ease and promote quick and timely access to and utilization of information resources are table, chairs and computers, while radio and television are not many in stark contrast to the number of users

The provision of information resources and facilities in Agriculture University libraries context will ensure effective services and utilization of the library resources. Other benefits include justifying the library investment on its resources and the overall attainment of the library aims and objectives. The law said “Every Reader His or Her Book” library professionals must ensure that the library has an access policy that is appropriate ensure that adequate access to the collection was created to serve such as interlibrary loan, cooperative acquisitions, and consortia to which the library may used of easy access to the resources. Librarians must know their readers well if they are to provide them with the materials they need for their research and wish to read

Recommendations

Despite the challenges, the situation is not helpless because the government, donors University management is willing to give a helping hand. The following paragraphs summarize recommendations towards better accessing and utilizing of agricultural information in the university libraries. The researcher suggests the following areas that could help the university

management, planners and policy makers for further improvement of the information resources and facilities and also provide services so as to benefit the Agriculture University libraries, academic community and the research community

1. It is recommended that the library resources should be available in an organized fashion and it should be tailored to suit the demands of the Library users by regular shelving and shelf reading at least every two hours; better cataloguing, classification and stacking of the Library resources so that locating the information resources becomes hassle free through well-designed user education/orientation programmes to educate their users about the library resources, services and facilities. These programmes help the library users to explore the available information resources, services and facilities in the library services to maximum extent.
2. It is recommended that the library should create an institutional repository to enlighten the services available in the digital Library, and at the same time displays the new arrival edition in the library
3. Formulate sound “collection development policy,” particularly, for online information resources. The preferred information resources such as subject journals, reference books, back volumes of journals, theses/dissertation, and research reports, bibliographies and reviews need to be updated regularly. The electronic resources such as CD-ROMs, online journals/e-journals, online full-text databases and e-books need to be enhanced and the periodic review of their collection should be designed to measure the effectiveness of the information resources and infrastructural facilities

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