

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2021

STUDENT RESIDENCE AS FACTOR AFFECTING USE OF LIBRARY BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF TWO FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES IN NORTH-CENTRAL, NIGERIA.

ABU AHMED ADAMU

Federal University of Technology Minna, Nigeria., abu.adamu@ku.ac.ke

Oyedum Uchey Georgina

Federal University of Technology Minna, Nigeria

Abdulhamid Murjanatu

Federal University of Technology minna, Nigeria

Raji Egigogo Rabiati

Isah, Yahya Abdullahi

Federal University of Technology Minna, Nigeria

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Information Literacy Commons](#)

ADAMU, ABU AHMED; Georgina, Oyedum Uchey; Murjanatu, Abdulhamid; Rabiati, Raji Egigogo; Abdullahi, Isah, Yahya; and Khadijat, Sadiku, "STUDENT RESIDENCE AS FACTOR AFFECTING USE OF LIBRARY BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF TWO FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES IN NORTH-CENTRAL, NIGERIA."

(2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 6781.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6781>

Authors

ABU AHMED ADAMU; Oyedum Uchey Georgina; Abdulhamid Murjanatu; Raji Egigogo Rabiati; Isah, Yahya Abdullahi; and Sadiku Khadijat

STUDENT RESIDENCE AS FACTOR AFFECTING USE OF LIBRARY BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF TWO FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES IN NORTH-CENTRAL, NIGERIA.

Abu Ahmed Adamu¹, G.U. Oyedum (PhD)², Abdulhamid Murjanatu³, R.E. Raji⁴

Isah, Yahya Abdullahi and Khadijat Sadiku

Department of Library and Information Technology, Federal University of Technology Minna^{2&3}, University Library, Federal University of Technology Minna^{1,2&3}

ahmed.abu@futminna.edu.ng¹, georgina@futminna.edu.ng², janah@futminna.edu.ng³,
rabiatrajiegigogo@yahoo.com⁴

Abstract

This study focused on student residence as factor affecting use of library by the undergraduate students of two Universities in North-Central Nigeria. It adopted a descriptive survey design and had a population of 11,732 undergraduate students from two selected federal universities in North-Central Nigeria. The study used proportionate stratified random sampling technique to sample 500 undergraduate students. Five hundred (500) copies of questionnaire were distributed and four hundred and twenty nine (429) returned; representing a return rate of 86%. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics of percentages as well as mean and standard deviation frequency. The decision rule for research questions one through three was based on whether the mean score value was lower than or above the criterion mean value of 2.50 benchmark. The findings of the study revealed that the use of library resources among undergraduate students is relatively low. The study also revealed that close proximity of libraries to student's hostels (36.3%) positively affects the undergraduate students' use of library resources though the effect is mild. Finally, the study recommended that University and Library Management in the universities studied should always consider the need for students' hostels to be located close to the university libraries. This would no doubt enhance the students' use of library. Also, university management should endeavour to provide Internet services in the entire campuses and hostels so as to improve the academic performance of the students.

Keywords: Library Resources, Library hours, Student Residence, Undergraduate students, Universities, Use of library

Introduction

Universities are important institutions that provide conducive learning environment for individuals. They are referred to as centres where individuals are trained to acquire basic research knowledge and skills in different fields of human endeavour. They are usually seen to have played an important role in the increase of social, economic, scientific, and technological

manpower development of any nation. It is well known that universities provide much needed skilled manpower through training that help to develop various sectors of the nation's economy.

One of the targeted aims and objectives of many universities is to impact learning, teaching, research knowledge and community services which are needed for nation building. To support this view, Eze and Uzoigwe (2013) stressed that one of the major objectives of universities is to promote scholarship, research and learning in various fields. In order to achieve the set up goals of the universities, there is need for universities to establish well equipped libraries.

Libraries are very necessary when discussing about development of the society. They contribute to social, educational, cultural and economic growth of mankind. Oyedum (2006) states that the library is a system comprising collection of recorded knowledge, retrieval devices, users and library personnel, all associated in such a way as to maximize the knowledge transfer process. Libraries are of different types: School Library, Public Library, National Library, Special Library and Academic Libraries.

Academic libraries are very necessary when establishing universities. They are usually seen as integral part of the university system, since they support the goals of their parent institutions. Oyewusi and Oyeboade, (2009) defined university library as the scholastic heart of the university framework and its essence is to provide students and faculty members with necessary material and enabling environment that support instructing, learning and research activities in the universities.

Utilisation of library and its resources are usually important variable in determining the effectiveness of services provided by libraries. A better understanding of library use and its resources would make libraries improve in acquiring of resources and service delivery to their

users. Therefore, it is necessary for university libraries to have adequate and available resources for its users. It is a well-known fact that availability of information resources can improve use of library and its resources. Onifade, Ogbuiyi & Omeluzor (2013) argued that university libraries must ensure that their resources are used to the fullest, for the benefit of students and faculty members.

Apart from adequate library resources and services, another factor that could affect the use of library resources is students' residential places. This refers to the buildings where students are accommodated within the university environment. Student's residential buildings are usually provided either by the institution or private organisations for the institution. One of the prerequisites of locating the student's residential area is its proximity to the library. This enables the students to have maximum usage of library resources to meet their information needs. Onyike and Uche (2010) revealed that when building student hostels, proximity to the library and other library facilities such as Internet services should be considered. It should be noted that, libraries that are close to hostels usually witness frequent use and access to print and electronic resources by students unlike the libraries located far away from the hostels.

For a university library to justify its existence there is need for its resources to be fully utilised. Results from several researches and personal observations have shown that there is a low usage of library and its resources by undergraduate students (Eze and Uzoigwe, 2013). This situation has become worrisome, because adequate use of library and its resources is essential for undergraduate students to achieve their academic pursuits

Statement of the Problem

University libraries usually support the objectives of universities by providing adequate library resources that enhance the intellectual performance of undergraduate students. University

management usually allocate adequate financial resources in order to equip the university library. Unfortunately several researches have revealed that there is low usage of library resources in university library.

Preliminary investigations by the researchers revealed that proximity of students' residential areas usually attract students to make use of library resources. Unfortunately, from the researchers' observations most federal university libraries in North-Central, Nigeria are underutilised despite the financial resources allocated to them. It is, therefore, necessary to investigate and find out the factors responsible for low use of library and its resources. Such knowledge is necessary in order to embark on appropriate measures to improve the student's level of library use and its resources. In the light of the foregoing, this study investigates students' residency as a factor affecting use of resources by undergraduate students of two selected universities in North Central Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to:

1. ascertain the frequency of library use by the undergraduate students of the two universities in North-Central, Nigeria.
2. Determine the purpose of undergraduate students visiting the library in the two studied universities
3. Find out the effect of students' residence on use of library and its resources by undergraduate students' in the universities.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What is the frequency of library use by the undergraduate students of the two universities in North Central Nigeria?
2. What is the purpose of undergraduate students visiting the library in the two studied universities?
3. What is the effect of students' residence on use of library and its resources by undergraduate students in the universities?

Literature Review

In recent years, university libraries across the globe have become more useful in the areas of providing enabling environment and provision of adequate resources for the benefit of the undergraduate students. However, these resources have not been fully utilised. Several researches conducted in the area of use of library and its resources could not provide profound solution for underutilization of library resources. These studies intend to identify students' residency as the major challenge for underutilisation. In view of this, Onifade, *et al.* (2013) revealed that university libraries must make sure that the resources within their libraries are well utilized as this is essential for better performance of undergraduate students. Similarly, Olorunfemi, Mostert and Ocholla, (2012) stressed that for law students to accomplish their educational objectives there is need for them to make effective use of the library resources relevant to their study. Effective utilisation of library resources is very important to undergraduate students especially the law students who need a lot of literature to satisfy their information needs.

Several studies on use of library resources have showed that use of library among the undergraduate students is low. This is attributed to the fact that most of the undergraduate students usually visit the library not to consult library resources but for pleasure or to see friends.

Owusu-Acheaw and Larson (2014) stated that many of the students are aware of the availability of library resources, but only few make effective use of library resources and even the few that make use of it are faced with difficulties in retrieving materials from the shelves. This shows that there is heavily decreasing level of utilization of library resources by students of Koforidua Polytechnic, Ghana since majority of the students occasionally make use of the library.

It is generally believed that the locating of students' residential areas in any tertiary institution is essential for their academic achievement. Thus, it is expected that when citing student's hostels, close proximity to basic facilities of students such as libraries or reading rooms should be put into consideration for effective utilisation of the facilities. Onyike and Uche (2010) mentioned that when building students' hostels, proximity to the library and other library facilities such as Internet services should be considered. Similarly, in stressing the need for hostels' proximity to library Aluko (2011) stated that the significance and advantages of evaluating the undergraduate lodging in University of Lagos is due to the cost of transportation. Thus, closeness to class territory is normally a noteworthy determinant of understudies dwelling in campus.

In another study Kwadzo, (2014) reported that around 74% of the understudies utilised library, a greater part of the respondents, 70.7% utilised the faculty library more than any other library. The main reason for using the library was because of its proximity to their hostels, as well as the need to use the Internet facilities available in the library. The inadequacy of the existing housing facilities has led to underutilisation of library resources. The aforementioned studies have discussed the dissatisfaction of undergraduate students on the existing university facilities such as the libraries and students' hostels; however, they did not discuss their effect on undergraduate student's access to library resources. This study intends to investigate the effect of students' residency on undergraduates' use of library resources.

Research Methodology

For the purpose of this study, descriptive survey research design was adopted. A total of 11,732 undergraduate students was the population for the study. The study used proportionate stratified random sampling technique to sample 500 undergraduate students from two Federal Universities in North-Central, Nigeria namely Federal University of Technology Minna which is a technological base university where undergraduate students were randomly selected from faculties of Engineering and Education while in University of Ilorin, students were also selected from faculties of arts and social sciences. Five hundred (500) copies of the questionnaire were distributed and four hundred and twenty nine (429) returned; representing a return rate of 86%. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics of percentages as well as mean and standard deviation frequency. The decision rule for research questions one through three was based on whether the mean score value was lower than or above the criterion mean value of 2.50 bench-mark on a 5 point scale.

Data Presentation

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of respondents

Profile	Frequency	Percentage (%)
University		
Unilorin	234	47
FUTM	195	39
TOTAL	429	86
Gender		
Male	295	69
Female	134	31
TOTAL	429	100
Faculties		
Arts	103	24
Social science	131	31
Engineering	131	31
Education	64	14
TOTAL	429	100

Table 1 shows the breakdown of the copies of the questionnaire returned. The Table shows that 234 (47%) copies of the questionnaire were returned from University of Ilorin and Federal

University of Technology Minna returned 195 (39%) copies of the questionnaire. The General response rate was 86% success. Table 1 also showed that 295 (69%) of the respondents were males, while 134 (31%) of them were females.

The Table equally revealed that 131(31%) of the respondents were the majority and they came from the Faculties of Arts and Engineering, 103(24%) of the respondents were from Social Sciences, while 64 (14%) of them were from Faculty of Education.

Table 2: Frequency of library use and its resources

S/No	Statements	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	\bar{x}	σ
1	I visit the library daily	99 (27.80%)	51 (11.80%)	59 (13.70%)	120 (46.70%)	2.21	1.29
2	I visit the library twice a week	96 (22.30%)	52 (11.80%)	120 (27.80%)	200 (46.40%)	2.01	1.18
3	I visit the library thrice a week	266 (61.70%)	53 (11.80%)	44 (10.20%)	54 (12.50%)	3.26	1.07
4	I visit the library once a month	51 (11.80%)	54 (11.80%)	50 (11.60%)	293 (68.00%)	1.63	1.05
5	I visit the library once a semester	83 (19.30%)	55 (11.80%)	63 (14.60%)	275 (63.80%)	1.76	1.17

Key: SA (4) = Strongly agree A (3) = Agree D (2) = Disagree SD (1) = strongly disagree, Mean = \bar{x} Standard deviation = σ

Table 2 revealed that out of the five items listed for students to indicate the extent they make use of the federal university libraries and their resources in North-Central Nigeria, only one of the items yielded high mean score of 3.26 which was above the 2.50 mark on the 4-point Likert scale with the statement; I visit the library thrice in a week. All the other four items produced low mean values below 2.50, these items include item 1: I visit the library daily (\bar{x} =2.21); item 2: I visit the library twice a week (\bar{x} =2.01); item 4: I visit the library once a month (\bar{x} = 1.63); item 5: I visit the library once a semester (\bar{x} =1.76).

Table 3: Purpose of visiting the library

S/NO	Statement	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	\bar{x}	σ
1	To access E-resources	247(57.3%)	117(27.1%)	26(6.0%)	39(9.6%)	3.33	0.94
2	To read and study	312(72.4%)	56(13.1%)	30(7.1%)	31(7.4%)	3.51	0.90
3	To borrow books for Assignment	205(47.6%)	111(25.7%)	89(20.8%)	24(5.9%)	3.15	0.94
4	To prepare for Examination	321(74.5%)	65(15.1%)	24(5.6%)	19(4.8%)	3.60	0.79
5	To consult journal for my research work	298 69.1%	120(27.8%)	7(1.8%)	4(1.3%)	3.66	0.56
6	For pleasure	40(9.3%)	29(6.7%)	330(76.6%)	30(7.4%)	2.18	0.69

Key: SA (4) = Strongly agree A (3) =Agree D (2) = Disagree SD (1) = strongly disagree. Mean= \bar{x} standard deviation= σ

Table 3, Shows that the respondents were provided with six items to indicate their purpose of visiting federal university libraries in North-Central Nigeria. Out of the six items, five of them produced high mean scores. These five items include the following statements: Item 1 to access E-resources (\bar{x} =3.33); item2: To read and study (\bar{x} =3.51); item 3: To borrow books for assignment (\bar{x} =3.15); item 4: To prepare for examination (\bar{x} =3.60); item5: To consult journals for research work. Only one item which stated that they visit the library for pleasure (\bar{x} =2.18) produced low mean value below 2.50 benchmark.

Table 4: The extent that students' residency affects use of library resources

S/NO	Statements	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	\bar{x}	σ
1	Close proximity of library to hostel encourage my use of library for my assignment	157 36.3%	170 39.4%	66 15.7%	36 8.6%	3.01	0.9
2	The availability of library WIFI in the hostel assist my research	112 25.9%	170 39.7%	47 10.9%	100 23.5%	2.68	0.98
3	The closeness of off-campus accommodation to library improve my academic performance	120 30.7%	27 6.8%	156 36.6%	112 25.9%	2.21	1.01
4	I can access library E-resources from off-campus for my research	96 22.4%	50 11.6%	203 47.5%	80 18.5%	2.42	1.02

Key: SA (4) = Strongly agree A (3) = Agree D (2) = Disagree SD (1) = strongly disagree Mean = \bar{x} standard deviation = σ

Result of Table 4 reported that out of the four items provided for students to identify the extent students' residency affect their use of federal university libraries and its resources in North-Central Nigeria; two of the items had high mean scores which were above the 2.50 bench mark. These items include item 1: close proximity of library to hostel encourages my use of library for my assignment (\bar{x} 3.01), item 2: the availability of library WIFI in the hostel assists my research (\bar{x} =2.68). The other two items, the closeness of off-campus accommodation to library improves

our academic performance ($\bar{x}=2.21$), and we can access library E- resources from off-campus for our research ($\bar{x}=2.42$) produced low mean scores below the 2.50 bench mark.

Discussion of the Findings

Table 2 revealed that the use of library by the undergraduate students in North-Central, Nigeria is low. Probably the reason behind this could be because we are in ICT age and Internet facilities are available to everybody including the students. This finding is similar to that of Oyedum, Abduldayan., & Chuks-ibe (2014) disclosed that there is low patronage of library resources in Nigerian Federal Universities as well as Onwudinjo, Ogbonna and Nwadiogwa (2015) who revealed that the use of library by law students is relatively low.

Table 3 showed that the purpose of visiting the library is to read and study, prepare for examinations, consult journals, access e-resources and borrow books for assignments. However, few students visited the library for pleasure. This implies that undergraduate students in North-Central, Nigeria use the library for their academic activities. This is not surprising because most of the students that use the library are final year students who were writing their project. This is in line with the findings of Dongardive (2015) that revealed that the majority of the respondents used e-resources in preparing lecture notes, while other respondents use e- resources for the purpose of ongoing research and thesis/research work.

Table 4 revealed that students' residency is one of the key factors that encourage students' use of library resources. Previous studies have showed that there is a relationship between students' residency and use of library resources for effective use of university library. Proximity of students' resident to library would attract students to use library resources which in turn improves their academic performance. The findings of this study also showed that proximity of library to hostels and availability of library WIFI in the hostels encourage use of library and

assist students in their assignments and researches. This shows that students' use of library is influenced by the proximity of their library to the hostels. The above finding agrees with the study of Kwadzo (2014) who observed that the main reason for using the library by the students was because of its proximity to their hostels, as well as the need to use the Internet facilities available in the library.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, one could conclude that student's residence is an important variable for effective use of library resources by the undergraduate students in the two universities studied in North-Central, Nigeria. It is therefore essential to create awareness of the use of libraries in North-Central Nigeria as well as stress the need for students' hostels to be located close to the library buildings. Once these issues are adequately addressed, it is expected that the use of library resources among undergraduate students in North-Central, Nigeria will tremendously improve.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are hereby provided:

1. University and library management in the universities studied should always consider the need for students' hostels to be located close to the university libraries. This would no doubt enhance the students' use of library.
2. University management should endeavor to provide Internet in the entire campuses and hostels so as to improve the academic performance of students.
3. Library management should create awareness on the importance of library to undergraduate students' academic achievement.

REFERENCES

- Aluko, O.E. (2011). The Assessment of housing situation among students in the university of Lagos. *African Research Review*, 2(3), 104-118. Retrieved from <http://www.ajol.info/index.php/afrrrev/55434..>
- Dongardive, P. (2015). Use of electronic information resources at collage of Dry land Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mekelle University Ethiopia. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 2(2), 55-68. Retrieved from <http://www.academicjournals.org/useofelectronicinformationresource.pdf>.
- Eze, J. U. & Uzoigwe, C.U. (2013). The Place of Academic Libraries in Nigerian University Education: Contribution to the Education for all initiative. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 432-438. Retrieved from http://www.academicjournal.org/place_of_academic_libraries.pdf.
- Kwadzo, G. (2014). Access to library resources by sandwich diploma students in the University of Ghana. *International Journal of Academic Library and Information Science*, 2(1), 36-45. Retrieved from <http://www.academicjournals.org/accesstolibraryresources.pdf>.
- Olorunfemi, D., Mostert, B. & Ocholla, D. (2012). Information seeking behaviour of law students in developing country. *Library philosophy and practice (e-journal)*, 5(1), 23-28. Retrieved from <http://www.digitalcommons.unl/InformationSeekingBehaviour/viewcontent/co>.
- Onifade, F. N., Ogbuiyi, S.U & Omeluzor, S.U. (2013). Library resources & services utilization By post-graduate in Nigeria private universities. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 3(2), 289-294. Retrieved from <http://www.academicjournals>.
- Onwudinjo, O. T., Ogbonna, U.A. & Nwadiowa, O.J. (2015). Utilization of law library collections for improving academic performance by undergraduate law students of Nnamdi Azikiwe university, Awka . *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 7(2), 1-12. Retrieved from <http://www.digitalcommons.unl/utilisationoflawlibrarycollections/viewcontent/co>.
- Onyike, J. A. & Uche, O.N. (2010). An assessment of the management of the students hostels of tertiary institutions in Owerri, Imo State. *Tropical Bult Environment Journal*, 3(2), 12-20. Retrieved from http://www.thejournal.com/Onyike_Vol_3_No.2/

- Owusu-Acheaw, M. & Larson, A.G. (2014). Effective use of library resources: A case study of business students of koforidua polytechnic, Ghana. *Information and Knowledge Management*, 2(2), 221-228. Retrieved from <http://www.iiste.org/journals/index/useoflibraryresources/18626>.
- Oyedum, G.U. (2006). Assessment of physical facilities and readers satisfaction: a case study of Federal University of Technology, Minna Library. *Borno Library Archival and information science journal*, 67-75.
- Oyedum, G.U., Abduldayan, F.J., & Chuks-ibe, P.O (2014) Use of library resources by Undergraduate students in the Nigerian Federal universities. *Information Trends: A journal of Nigerian Library Association, Kaduna state chapter*
- Oyewusi, F. O. & Oyeboade, S. A. (2009). An emperical study of accessibilty & use of library resources By undergraduate in a Nigeria state university of technology. *Library Philosophy and practice (e-Journal)*, 3(2), 227-238. Retrieved from <http://www.digitalcommons.unl/accessibilityanduseoflibraryresources/viewcontent/co>.