

Perspectives on Availability of, and Accessibility to the use of Non-Book Materials among Undergraduates in University of Ilorin, Nigeria

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Abstract

Library remains an important input for the success of implementation of academic programmes, however, this success can only manifest where the library is readily available and at the same time become accessible to the users. This study examines the perspectives of the 'stakeholder' on the availability, accessibility and usage of the library among the undergraduates of the University of Ilorin. The study population was limited to the library staff and the undergraduate students of the University. The study population comprised of 24 staff members of key sections (Circulation, Reference, Serials, Cataloging, Acquisition, Tech/Computer Service/ Digital, outreach service, and Archives) in the library and 40 students who were making use of service within the various department at the time of this study. Specific attention to the usage of non-book materials (CD-ROM, audio visual materials, microfilm, microfiches, database, and e-resources) of the library while availability and accessibility of the same were affirmed. Effects of library resources on effectiveness of learning and studying among others included developing and sustaining the habit of learning and reading and the necessity of making use of libraries for sustainable living. Challenges to availability, accessibility, and use of non- book library information resources include attitudinal, logistic problems, existence of credible alternative recommendations were made as a way of taking care of the challenges noted.

Keywords: Non-Books Materials, e-resources, Availability, Accessibility, Academic Programme

Introduction

The mandate of higher institution is for holistic transformation of man and to confer academics certificate on their products that are found worthy in character and learning, to enable them assume leadership roles in their immediate and extended society (Jackson and Teague, 2015, Adina-Petruța, 2012). This therefore affirmed the major goal of tertiary education, which has long been identified as the process that helps develop the whole man physically, mentally, morally and technologically (Adeniran, 2017, Pucciarelli and Kaplan, 2016). Higher institution therefore becomes the process through, which the graduate will have capabilities of functioning effectively in any environment where they find themselves for better productivity, self-fulfilling, and attainment of self-actualization (Aoun, 2017, Krussa, *et al.*, 2015, Adedoyin, 2011). Using University education as an example, scholars (Jegade, 2017, World Bank, 2017 and Ekundayo, 2008) noted that demand for tertiary education to the individual in particular and the society in general has experienced astronomical increase in the last twenty years with its attendant high percentage of unmet demand every year. The realization of the lofty objective of University education is tied to efficient library services among others.

The University Library being the academic heart of the University system has the basic purpose of providing students and academic staff members with materials, assistance and environment that facilitate teaching, learning and research. As stated by Ajegbomogun and Ajegbomogun (2015), Omeluzor, *et al.* (2013) as well as Iyanda and Salawu (2006), the Library is important for individuals' intellectual development and growth. Within the library, students use book and other type of information materials. In view of this, the resource of the library has to be available and students should have access to information in order to use the resources. The acquisition and organization of both printed and electronic

information resources for accessibility to the users are equally important services that libraries provide. This implies that the use of libraries is a significant factor for the advancement of the intellectual development of undergraduates. In this situation, undergraduates are inclined to access information through convenient sources for their academic and social endeavours. This justifies that student cannot acquire knowledge only through textbook or classroom lectures. Consequently, the library is of great help in the fulfillment of their wishes, ambitions and inclinations, as it provides ample opportunities for acquiring knowledge. Thus, the role of a library is very important for sustenance of healthy educational environment in order to enhance the students' learning. On equal note, Popoola and Haliso (2009) opined that University libraries set up their service to enhance the teaching and research mission of institutions, particularly of students.

Lending credence to this, Adeyoyin (2011) stated that information resources found within libraries are the inputs which are utilized in the library in order to provide good learning environment for students and teachers to achieve positive educational goals. The variety of library information resources is necessary for the school's educational programmes and to help improve the reading skills and habits of students (Todd, 2012, Åström, 2006). The importance of libraries in educational system was re-echoed by Popoola and Haliso (2009) with position that the responsibility of supporting learning and reaching within the University environment through the provision of information materials has always been that of the University library. In addition, library resources and services are expected to be sufficient in quality, depth, diversity, and currency to support the institution curriculum. As a result of this, the University library remains the most important resources centre of the parent institution (Ajegbomogun and Ajegbomogun, 2015, Omeluzor, *et al.*, 2013, Oyediran-Tidings, 2004). Not only this, adequate

library resources and services at the appropriate level for degrees offered need to be made available to support the intellectual, cultural and technical development of students enrolled in the Universities (Onye, 2016, Alonge, 2008, Bello, 2006, Iyanda and Salawu, 2006).

Stressing further on this, Eiriemiokhale and Ibeun (2017), Nwabueze and Urhiewhu, 2015, Faboyinde (2006), Fayose (2000), Hobohm (1999) and Kuhithau (1991) highlighted that attainment of the lofty objective for the establishment of library is anchored on the effectiveness, availability, accessibility and use of library and information resources. According to them, learners must have access to necessary information materials and resources for effective learning process. These resources might be in tangible (that is, printed resources) and intangible (that is, electronic resources) format. They asserted that the Librarian ought to be responsible for providing the right information to the right person at the right time. Regarding the accessibility of library resources, they stress further the need for more accessible information sources that require the least effort to access. It was further noted that user may encounter five possible inaccessibility problems: conceptual, linguistic, critical, bibliographic, and physical.

Accessibility of information sources is an important recurring theme in the literature (Oberiri, *et al.*, 2018, Adeyoyin, 2011, Iyoro, 2004, Olowu, 2004, Aguolu, 2002, Kuhithau, 1991). Scholars (Eiriemiokhale and Ibeun, 2017, Aya, 2009, Mara and Ogunrombi, 1996, Aiyepetu, 1992) have observed that resources made available in the library and even identified bibliographically as relevant to one's subject of interest may not be available to users. The common finding is that students utilized library resources and services to supplement their class note, assignments, for examination preparation, recreation through reading of newspapers. In spite of this manifestation of extensive studies of libraries and the

user specifically, the issues pertaining to availability of, accessibility to and use of non-book materials from the perspectives of the library staff and the students has not received required academic attention. This is where the present study wishes to differ. Non-book materials herein referred to are non-printed materials, which are products of advanced technology. Non-printed materials include audio-visual and database, CD-ROM, magnetic disk, micro form computer set, internet/e-mail etc. In this, study the University of Ilorin Library is being given focus in view of the academic stability being enjoyed by the University and the increase in number of students' enrolment courtesy of introduction of many academics programmes within the University. This study therefore focuses on the stakeholders' perspective of availability of accessibility to, and the use of non-books materials for academic purpose among Undergraduates in University of Ilorin, Nigeria. Among others, the study specifically examined varieties of library non-materials available for use in the University library. It examined patterns library usage by the undergraduate of the University, how the usage of library resources affected the effectiveness of the undergraduate in their learning as well as identification of challenges to availability, accessibility and use of library information resources.

Materials and Method

Study Population and Sample Size: These include the undergraduate students and the staff of the Main Library in University of Ilorin. A total of 64 participants, which included the staff and students of University of Ilorin. Their recognition as stakeholders was anchored on the fact that they have specific duties to offer for the smooth running and survival of the library for transmission of knowledge.

Method of Sourcing for Data: In-depth interview (IDI), which involved face oral interactions between the researcher and the respondents was adopted and

utilized for this study. Interview guide (which contains all the questions that were used to elicit necessary information that assisted the outcome of this study) was designed to facilitate this.

Procedure for Data Collection:

The selection of study population for requisite data cut across the sections found within the library. The sections which included Circulation, Reference, Serials, Cataloguing, Acquisitions, Tech/Computer Services/Digital, Outreach Services and Archives were purposively selected because of their centrality in the running of the library. From each of these sections, 3 staff members were randomly sampled while 5 students were involved through convenience sampling method based on their patronage of these sections of the library. The data were collected within three (3) months in year 2019.

Sampling Technique: Purposive sampling was used to select the study population from key sections in the University library. The selection included Circulation, Reference, Serials, Cataloging, Acquisitions, Tech/Computer Services/Digital, Outreach Services, and Archives. The staff members were selected from each of these sections of the library. The students who are patron of the library were equally selected within the sections they were found while utilising the library services. This was done for effective complement of data from the staff member with that of the students' population for robust information. The idea here is the while the staff members were assisting this study in line with their experiences on the jobs through the information being provided, the students making use of the services within the various department of this study will equally assist in providing balanced reports.

Data Analysis: Content analysis was employed for in-depth interviews and documented information from other source. This method of analysis involved direct extract of information provided during in-depth sessions. In addition to this, ethnographic summary was added so as to accommodate verbatim quotation in support of findings.

Findings

Library Resources for the Undergraduate Use

The available library resources for the use of undergraduate students according to the participants included books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blu-ray Dices, e-books audio-books, and databases. They further revealed the existing four (4) classifications of collections within the library namely, (1) General references books; (2) Theses, Dissertations, and periodicals; (3) Reserve Books, and (4) Circulation books. A female staff member in the Reference section of the Library shed light on what General Reference books section entails. According to her:

...the section contains encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, etc. She asserted that materials within the section were for room use only. However, general reference books may be issued for class room use upon the request of faculty member, but this shall be returned return within the day (Female IDI/Library Staff Member/References Section/University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

On the activities of Theses, Dissertations, and Periodicals section, another participant who works in the Cataloguing section of the Library revealed that the materials within this section are equally for room use only. However, faculty and officials of the University may borrow a periodical, other than the latest issues for

a period of not more than one than not (1) week. In the case of Reserve Books, it was stressed that reserve books are required reading materials for courses offered during the semester. A staff member working within reserve section noted that:

...these materials herein shall be lent for room use only and recall two hours after issue. It may also be borrowed for overnight use upon request and be returned not later than 9:00 A.M. the working day (Male IDI/Library Staff Member/Reserve section/University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Books in the circulation section according to one of the IDI participants are:

...books that can be taken home. They are usually loaned for two weeks. Special Collection Special Audiovisual collection (rare books, personal papers and Archives' Sections, Audiovisual materials, microforms, diskettes, and the likes) shall be for room use only (Female Library Staff Members/University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Library Use Patterns by the Undergraduates of the University

The participants in this study revealed the utilisation behaviour of the students and the researchers' that patronise the library. To some of these participants, the researchers who doubled as staff of the University usually come for non-book materials based on either booking or arrangement with the library staff. Often times, these materials are usually in the form of CD, and software for plagiarism checking, passwords for access to foreign journals which the University has subscribed to and others to facilitate their works. In this category, it was revealed that the pattern of such patronage cannot be given specific picture. At times, inquiry may be through telephone conversation with the people concerned in the library. For the students, the participants in the study were categorical about the

pattern of their patronage of the library most especially for the usage of library and that of non-book materials. According to the information provided, the patronage from the students was not steady and not regular. Rather it could be summarized as being 'seasonal'. In the words of a female participant:

Most of the students don't take library patronage serious except occasions demand. There are seasons that you can see students trooping to the library in larger numbers. For example, during their first year in the University when they have to do certain assignment on the general study course of 'use of library'. After this period, it is always difficult to see the students. Other issue that can bring them is when they have to register for the usage of library and for them to collect library 'pass' and the cards that will enable them to borrow books (Female IDI/Library Staff member/Serial Section/University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Another participant was very specific in her revelation of library usage by the students. According to her:

...the number of students that have adopted the culture of library usage only increases from Tuesday down to Thursday; outside these days, one can easily count the number of these students that do come. Through our interactions with the students in this category, it was noted that majority of them are those that are well-disciplined and very virtuous. They often come from humble background and some of them have their parents/guardians living in far away. So, coming to the library is to ensure they keep themselves busy and away from distractions that will affect the basis of their admission into this University (Male IDI/Library staff member/Circulation section/University of Ilorin, Nigeria)

Another submission from a female staff member from Archive section revealed that:

...examination period is constantly a period that the presence of the students in the library is always high. During this period, those that do not have course materials to read will come over to do photocopy of relevant pages of available books. Some come for group discussion while others are always there for 'being sake'. The proportion of the latter is always smaller compared with those that were serious (Female IDI/Library staff member/Archives section/University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

It was equally revealed that:

The usage of Africana sections of the library usually appreciates during second semester. This is the period when most of the serious ones among the students usually come for materials to assist in their in final year project writing. Here a student may resume for information sourcing as early as the library is opening and not leave the place until 4pm. We are not surprise or disturbed about this, rather we usually come to their assistance so as to encourage further patronage and to serve as encouragement for those that have not been coming (Male IDI/Library staff member/Archives section).

The undergraduates engage in the in-depth interview lent credence to this through revelation of importance of the library in relation to the resources therein and what they are being use for. According to them:

...the library is always handy to support assignments, project work, term paper, seminar presentations and means for sourcing relevant

information. In the words of one of them, library is very important in day-to-day activities of every students especially in the Universities. For instance, we are expected to do periodic assignments and term papers, without library there is no way such could be done. Apart from using the library for reading, I rely on library most of the time support assignment given to me by my Lecturers (Student IDI/Male/300 Level, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Complementing the existing information, another submission revealed thus:

Without library, there is no other ways by which final year projects work could be done. In this process, the previous projects work submitted by the outgone students are always available for necessary consultation so that we can be rightly guided on what to do. It is an excellent outlet for preparation whenever we have seminar presentation. Not only this, spaces are always available within the library for conduct of group discussions (Student IDI/400 level Female Student of Faculty of Physical Sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Varieties of Non-book Materials Available in the University Library

Non-book materials available in the University Library as revealed by the participants in this study include, CD-ROM, Audio-Visual materials, microfilm, microfiches, database, and e-resources. Response given on the functions of non-books materials mentioned according to the staff members of the Library showed their versatility of these materials and what they stand for. According to one of them:

CD-ROM: stands for compact disc read only memory. It functions as CD that stores computed data and graphics, text and audio. They are popular for software and other multimedia applications. CD-ROMS commonly store up to 700MB of information (Female IDI/Library Staff member/Acquisition Section/University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

This was complemented by a male staff member from Archives section of the Library thus:

Audiovisual (AV) means possessing both a sound and a visual component, such as slide-tape presentation, films, television programmes, church services and live theater production. Audiovisual services providers frequently offer web streaming, video conferencing and live broadcast services. Computer-based audiovisual equipment is often used for education purposes within many schools. Web streaming, equipment is often used in education, with many schools and Universities installing projection equipment and using interactive whiteboard technology (Male IDI/Library Staff member/Archives Section/ University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

A female participant from e-Library section of the Library observed thus:

....talking about microfilm and microfiches, they are products of phenomenon known as microform materials. Microform materials are thus the scaled-down reproductions of documents. They are commonly available in two different formats: microfilm and microfiche. In the process, microfilm is a 16mm or 35mm film while microfiche is a flat sheet of images. Microforms are typically either films or paper, made for the purposes of transmission, storage, reading and printing. Microform images are commonly reduced to

about one twenty-fifth of the original document size. For special purposes, greater optical reductions may be used (Female IDI/Library Staff member/e-Library Unity/University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

In the words of one of them who works in the Serials section:

...databases are electronic system, which is a systemically organized or structured repository of indexed information (usually a group of linked data files) that allows easy retrieval, updating and analyzing. A database (DB), in the most general sense, is an organized collection of data. More specifically, a database is an electronic system that allows data to be easily accessed, manipulated and updated. In other words, a database is used by an organization as a method of storing, managing and retrieving information. Modern database is managed using a database management system (Male IDI/Library Staff member/Serials Section/University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Availability of and Accessibility to the use of Library and Non-book Materials

Both the students and the staff of the library affirmed the availability of library and non-book materials. It was revealed that these materials are always available. In the words of a participant who is a staff member of the Library from Reference section:

We, the librarians are equally researchers. We sleep with books; we know a lot about it and our progression on the job depends solely on availability of these materials. We don't relent in making these materials available for the users because we are equally parts of the users. It is also part of our responsibilities to make the environment

within the library conducive for the users. (Female IDI/Library Staff member/Reference section, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Another participant from Cataloguing section noted that:

Part of the methods being adopted for research activities was observation method. As a result of this, it has become part of their professional tools for the understanding of the users of the library materials and to document what they have seen over time. From this, a fact that became obvious and cannot be denied is that the non-book material as well as the book materials are always available for the users. The readiness to serve has assisted where needed and equally served as facilitator for accessibility to these materials (Male IDI/Library Staff member/Cataloguing section, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

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One of the students using the library noted that:

...the library in the University can conveniently compete with any of its kinds in other Universities in this country. She recollected a cousin of her from other University in southwest part of Nigeria who was on visitation to the University and accompanied her to the Library affirmed this. She also noted that she has been to University of Lagos Library and can vouch for the adequacy of the materials within University of Ilorin Library. In term of availability, the materials were acknowledged as always there for the use of the students, staffs and other researchers and that Library staff members are always helpful thereby encouraging our patronage and accessibility to the materials required by everybody (Student IDI/Female/300 Level, Faculty of Social Science, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

In the words of another student from the Faculty of Management Sciences:
...‘the library is always available even during the weekend, however, the library and supports from the ever-ready members of staff therein may not be available to those who refused to register with the library. For those who have duly registered, availability and accessibility are usually guaranteed’ (Student IDI/Male/ 400 level, faculty of Management sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).’

It was also revealed that the library operates throughout the week. According to one of the participants:

It is only on public holidays that the services within the library are not always available. From this, one can easily appreciate the fact that the library is available and accessible both in terms of resources and service provision (Student IDI/Female/200 Level Student from the Faculty of Physical Sciences).

A Library staff member in the Reserve section provided information from another perspective of accessibility and inaccessibility thus:

...talking about accessibility, some undergraduates may not ‘access’ the library and its services as a result of various factors. This may include, multiple lecture schedules across the departments, availability of alternative means of accessing information such as e-library, and the situation were the students are not ready to abide by the rules and regulation guiding the conducts within the library (Female IDI/Library Staff member/Reserve section/University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Effects of Library Resources on effective Learning

Information on the effects of library resources on effectiveness of users was sourced from the students who are the major beneficiaries of these library materials. Series of responses were given to highlight this effect. In the words of one of them:

...the usage of non-book materials within the University of Ilorin Library has assisted me in developing and sustaining the habit of learning and reading, and the necessity of making use of libraries for sustainable living (Students IDI/Female/ 400 Level, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Another female participant revealed thus:

...the library resource has provided her with the necessary experiences in using information for understanding her course of study. As she appreciated this, she was equally able to know that the importance of library goes beyond the keeping of books, but a phenomenon whose effects easily determines what one will be in future (Student IDI/Female/500 level, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Further submission from one of the students revealed that:

....‘in the course of my use of non-book and book materials, I have experienced intellectual transformation, which is bearing on my level knowledge, enjoyment, of what am seeing and reading as well as my prowess in imagination capabilities of life events’ (Student IDI/male/400 level, faculty of arts , university of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Another male student noted that:

...the library and the resources therein especially the electronic version, have assisted her smooth access to updated version of regional, national, local, and global resources; these opportunities have exposed him to experiences, diverse ideas, and opinions that are already shaping him for future challenges (Student IDI/Male/300 Level, Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

It was equally noted that:

...access to the library resources in the University was unique experience for students that wanted to learn. The experience which was asserted as assisting her improvement in her academic endeavour since she admission into the University (Student IDI/Female/400 Level, Faculty of Social Science, University of Ilorin, Nigeria)

Further insight on this was provided by a male student who revealed that:

....he has never been disappointed in the course of his class work because of availability and accessibility to the resources within the library. The use of library tremendously helped him to supplement all assignments and class notes as well as assisting him positively in preparing me for examination (Student IDI/Male/400 Level, Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Challenges to Availability and Accessibility of Library Information Resources

Attitudinal, logistic problems, existence of 'credible and absence or inadequacy of profession supports during usage of library services form parts of the noted

challenges to accessibility in spite of available of these resources. Insight on attitudinal as a form of challenge was provided by a female 400 level student from the Faculty of Agriculture. According to her:

...most students have misplacement of priorities, hence the devotion of much time to play, chatting with friend on social media (such as face book, WhatsApp, twitter, etc). Many of them have poor attitude to academic and library usage. On the other hand, there are 'profession writers' whose trade in stock is to write assignment, term papers prevented the lazy stock among the students from patronizing the library (Student IDI/Female/400Level, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Erratic power supply which compel University library to run on generator was another challenge noted by a 200-level student from the Faculty of Arts. According to him

...the cost implication of fuel generator at times force the library to ration the use of generator thereby preventing regular usage of non-book material (Student IDI/Male/200 Level, Faculty, of Arts, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

It was equally noted that:

...the use of library for non-book materials would have been more fun, if not for internet network fluctuation which always affects internet connectivity. Many students have adopted cybercafé as alternative avenue for accessing non-book materials thereby leading to reduction in students' traffic to the library (Student IDI/Male/300 Level, Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Another student corroborated this with submission that:

Many students perceived the visitation to the library as not necessary since what they usually perceived as 'better alternative' exists (Student IDI/Male/400 Level, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Further revelation showed that:

Access to affordable laptop computers with Internet facilities and availability of Android phones that are portable and could perform as excellent as other forms of computer were the alternatives to visitation to the Library (Student IDI/Female/400 Level, Faculty of Social Science, University of Ilorin, Nigeria)

Lastly, common challenges affecting availability and accessibility of library non-book materials was hinged on:

...the problem of locating the most appropriate information resources, expending too much time necessary to retrieve the needed information and too much time necessary to explore information resources. This could be emphatically attributed to inadequacy of professionals (Student IDI/Male/300 Level, Faculty of Management Sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria).

Discussion of Findings

This study has affirmed the universality of Library as an important input for educational attainment and the necessity of the availability of the resources therein for the realisation of objectives behind every academic endeavour (Ajiboye and Tella, 2007, Ukpanah, 2006). It was equally revealed that information resources within the University library serve as the beacon of school

hope for students and faculty involved in teaching-learning and research. Both the print and non-print resources were noted as highly relevant even in the face of all-conquering electronic and digital information resources. It further confirmed the observation of Onye (2016) that libraries are transforming in line with contemporary realities in order to meet up with the needs of their clients and the mission behind their emergence with introduction of computer hard and software, online database, internet facilities, e-books, and e-journals being added to complement the traditional resources (prints and non-prints). Aside this, the research outcome of this study complemented the submissions of earlier scholars (Lawal-Solarin, 2012; Frumkin and Reese, 2011, Popoola and Haliso, 2009, Nnadozie and Nnadozie, 2008) that utilization of information depends on the information resources available in the library and as well as their accessibility to the student. In line with the earlier observations by Onye (2016), Nwachukwu, Abdulsalami and Salami (2014), Aguolu and Aguolu (2002), the objectives behind the establishment of the library become a reality when the resources therein are put into optimal usage by the students and faculty members. It is on this note that it became imperative for the University of Ilorin Library to operate throughout the week. All these formed parts of what Akinade and Ogunyade (2002) and Onohwakpor (2007) referred to as making valuable information accessible to students in order to enhance their academic success and future development. Consequence upon this, it is necessary that the stakeholders in the operation and management of academic libraries need to ensure that the vision and mission of such are achieved for sustainable development.

Conclusion

It is evident from the outcome of this study that the libraries have not derailed in their efforts at responding to information needs of the users particularly the students. Library service within University of Ilorin is still performing its tasks by

serving as the medium through which the teaching staff can direct the students for effective uses of resources more easily. The data from the staff members of University equally pointed at the adequacy of the Library in terms of meeting the needs of the users. University of Ilorin library continues to provide and facilitate access to various non-book materials, specifically the electronic resources. However, this study also revealed that most students do not use the library due to the noted challenges. These challenges included misplacement of priorities among the students, poor attitude to academic and library usage, existence of 'profession writers' to whom some students contract their assignments and terms papers instead of going to the library to carry them out on their own; erratic power supply, which affected effective use of electric powered resources; the portability and affordability of the ICT facilities (laptop computers with internet facilities and android phones) equally discouraged the usage of Library based non-book materials; the problem of locating the most appropriate information resource; fluctuation of network within the library, which affects internet connectivity and subsequently discouraged regular patronage and usage. Too much time required to retrieve the needed information due to inadequacy of professionals who can guide such is another challenge. The implication of these challenges if not checked will include deteriorating pattern of usage, poor research outcome, unsustainable use of knowledge gained while the percolating effects of this will lead to poor productivity and problems for sustainable development.

Recommendations

In view of the need for the library to take urgent and concrete steps to check the noted challenges, the following recommendations were generated from the participants. These include:

- (1) An alternative power supply should be provided to check the constant power failure currently being experienced in three universities libraries; this could be solar power source of electricity.
- (2) The library management should embark on more enlightenment campaign to sensitize staff members and other users on the need to be proactive in the usage of the library resources most especially the non-book materials in their collections.
- (3) Every section of the Library should be manned by trained professionals in the field
- (4) Adequate funding should be provided for the Universities libraries and greater percentage of which should be channeled towards updating the services and resources in order to meet up with unfolding realities within the globe.
- (5) Training, organizing and sending staff for seminars and workshops on regular basis for flexibility of their services in line with the dictates of this digital era.

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