

## Use of Library Resources for Effective Academic Performance of Undergraduates in Nigerian Universities

Mesagan, Faith Olanike; & Ibrahim, Furfuri M. M.

Department of Library and Information Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka<sup>1</sup>  
Sokoto State University<sup>2</sup>

[famousfate@gmail.com](mailto:famousfate@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>, [immfurfuri@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:immfurfuri@yahoo.co.uk)<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

*Purpose-* The study was carried out to examine the use of library resources for effective academic performance of undergraduates in selected universities in South-East, Nigeria.

*Design/method/approach-* Descriptive survey was adopted for the study, specifically, four objectives guided the study. Purposive sampling was used to select 3 universities in South-East, Nigeria. Data collected using the instruments were analysed using mean and standard deviation (SD).

*Findings-* The findings of the study showed respondents agreement that library resources can be accessed through various means. It was also revealed that undergraduates are satisfied with using their lecture notes as such a major reason they do not adequately utilize library resources. The study recommends that university library should acquire relevant resources to meet the needs of undergraduates. University library staff should be more approachable and disposed to helping undergraduates meet their information needs.

*Implication-* The use of library resources is highly needed and required for effective academic performance and there is no gainsaying that this calls for urgent attention of library management to create awareness of the importance of library to students through library orientation to newly admitted students.

*Originality-/value-* This study encourages undergraduate students to make effective use of the wealth information resources available in the library for efficient academic performance.

**Keywords:** Use, Library Resources, Academic Performance

### Introduction

Libraries are primarily set up to acquire, organize, and make accessible to users, all kinds of information materials which users require. Libraries of today mostly in the pandemic and post pandemic era are in a situation where they face competition from other information providers. Libraries are therefore saddled with the responsibilities of providing the required information for library users regardless of age and race. Today's library is powerhouse where information is

stored, generated and transferred to fulfill the users need.

Resources applies to anything, person, or action to which one turns for aid in time of need. Library Resources is the term that applies to anything, personnel, material, functions or activities available in a library for satisfying the human need to acquire information. (Shrestha, 2012). Library resources are information materials one turns to for aid, such materials are the resources used by library users and students in general to satisfy their information need. A library will remain a mere building without relevant information materials acquired to meet the needs of users. As such, it is considered best

practice for every library to acquire materials with users in mind.

An undergraduate is a student in a university who has not received a bachelor's degree. In the university undergraduates are expected to pass through their programs of studies within specified years before they are awarded bachelor degrees. Academic performance plays an important role in an individual placement, be it in the academic institutions or job placement. Due to this, many people are concerned with the ways they can enhance their academic achievement. The emphasis on academic performance which is also prevalent worldwide has encouraged many studies about the conditions promoting it. In view of this, Kyoshaba, (2016) was of the opinion that the role of academic performance as one of the predictors of one's life success and also in the aspect of academic placement in schools to higher institutions as well as the level of employability in one's career is inevitable.

### Statement of the Problem

The library occupies a central role in the academic development of the undergraduate; the library is established to support teaching, learning and research as such it is a tool readily available for the undergraduate to freely make use of in order to boost his or her academic performance. In this period where the economy is biting hard, buying of books/accessing the wealth of information in soft copy for undergraduate learning has almost become a luxury. The library has resources that should take away the stress on the undergraduate. It is therefore wise for an undergraduate to make adequate use of the resources of the library. But the challenge here is, has the undergraduate make use of the resources of the library? Many undergraduates do not seem to have come to terms with the importance of making use of the library resources to improve their academic performance. There is much lamentation in so many quarters that undergraduates cannot independently handle assignments, so many depend on the few that can do the work to copy and reword the assignments. A look at their scripts shows there is something wrong which needs to be brought to light in order to see if it can be corrected. The question begging for answers in

so many quarters and even for the researcher is, why are the undergraduate not using the rich resources of the library? What could possibly be the problem? If this is not checked it is capable of affecting the whole educational process and the problem of half-baked graduates will continue. And library resources which are meant for use will be left underutilized by this greater percentage of users.

As such in order to help the educational process especially the undergraduate, there is need to investigate the extent of utilization of library resources for improved academic performance of undergraduates in selected universities in South East Nigeria.

### Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To determine methods of accessing libraries resources by the undergraduates.
2. To determine extent to which utilization of university libraries resources by undergraduates improved their academic performance.
3. To identify what problems undergraduates, face in utilization of university libraries resources for improving their academic performance.
4. To suggest possible strategies for improving the utilization of university libraries resources by undergraduates for improved academic performance.

### Literature Review

Libraries are primarily set up to acquire, organize, and make accessible to users, all kinds of information materials which users require. Serostanova (2014) noted that library has undergone significant metamorphosis in their service delivery in a bid to make their resources available to all users. A library's major focus or mission is the satisfaction of the needs of its users. University libraries are libraries that are attached to universities where

they exist. A university library is a library established and maintained by a university to meet the information needs of its students and faculty members. According to Onwubiko and Uzoigwe (2014), the main users of University libraries are students (undergraduates, post-graduate), lecturers, non-teaching staff, researchers and members of the host community. Furthermore, Ross (2012) was of the opinion that libraries are an integral and sustained part of the educational landscape of every institution. It therefore means that the academic life of an entire university revolves around the library. University libraries are central to fulfilling the objectives of the university. It is correct to assert that quality education may not be reliable without functional university libraries. University library according to Lawal, Nkereuwen & Edem (2010) is described as: The hand maid of scholarship; The pivot on which the life of the institution revolves, and The heart of the institution.

The libraries of these institutions serve a variety of users such as students, faculty, administrators and staff with diverse information needs. These libraries collect a variety of information sources and offer various services for supporting instructional, research and learning activities. Hence the importance of libraries in academic institutions is considerable and they are often viewed as a nucleus of academic activity. For the optimum use of this library its users should also have knowledge to access its resources to their full benefit making every search effective. But still the information searching strategies shows that the user's searching behavior as being subject specific and most users pick what they perceive as important word in an assigned topic and they use it to search for the needed information. The library must have a thorough knowledge of the users' needs. Without knowing the information needs of its users it is difficult to provide effective and efficient service to them. It is also impossible to collect the documents without knowing the information needs of its readers. Normally all libraries activities are designed to develop a system based on a string service to be provided to the users up to their most satisfaction. The information service is provided to meet the needs of users. Information services include

personal assistance provided to users in pursuit of information. The character and extent of such services will vary with kind of library or information centers, the type of users. The information services are to be developed not only to meet user needs and to improve present services but also to anticipate users' needs in the future. The effectiveness of any information service depends upon satisfaction of the needs of its users. The efficiency of an information service can be measured only by the degree to which its resources are utilized.

Libraries essentially aim at improving the quality of learning, by self-learning and self-education. Learning and getting educated are the dual and independent value of a library. Libraries have the built potential to provide users as seekers of information in many situations with sources of information and knowledge to give them inner satisfaction. Ajibero (2015) refers to the library as the heart of the university and no other single non-human factor is as closely related to the quality of university education. Quality education is impossible without a quality library. Also Mole and Mesagan (2017) refers to the university library as the most important organ in the university, to them the academic health, intellectual vitality and effectiveness of any university depend largely upon the state of the health and excellence of its library which is its life blood.

According to Ajayi (2013) any student without access to supplementary reading materials as provided for in a library will be seriously handicapped: his academic success will be based largely on his ability to memorize his lecture notes. On the other hand, however, any student with access to a good library can learn and be judged on his own skill in classifying a problem, collection of information relating to its solution and formulating conclusions. The mark of academic excellence and scholarship lies in the student's ability to find new fact for himself to supplement whatever he gets from the teacher.

According to Ogbuiyi and Okpe (2013) the university library is a place where academic information sources are acquired, organized, processed and stored and made available to meet the information needs of university

community. It states the role of the university library to the parent institution to include the following; Acquisition of resources to support learning and teaching process in the university; Provision of resources necessary for research and to meet the requirements of faculty; Open the door to a wide range of resources that lie beyond the borders of one's own field of specialization.

Cooperation with other university libraries with a view of developing a network of academic library resources which will be at the disposal of all students and teachers. This implies that Libraries acquire resources to meet the information needs of their users, without which they can't satisfy their needs. For libraries to keep users coming to the library resources are acquired not just to showcase their volumes but relevant materials are acquired in line with the needs of the users. Meeting users' needs is at the center of library service. According to Zhong and Alexander (2007) "the library assumes important responsibility to facilitate students' education, providing services, programs, and resources to assist students in being more effective and efficient in their academic career". University libraries acquire various resources in order to meet the varying needs of its users.

Library resources are information resources one turns to for aid, such resources are the resources used by library users and students in general to satisfy their information need. According to Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009) these resources include not only traditional print on paper media like books, journals, newspapers, and maps, but also audio visual materials like records, audio cassettes, video cassettes and projectors. Libraries maintain collections that include not only printed materials but also reproductions, maps, photographs, microfiches, CD ROMs, computer software, online databases, internet, electronic books and e-journals and other media. Furthermore, Aina (2004) states that for a university library to perform its main functions, its collections must not only include books and journals but also other materials such as generalized and specialized collections, newspapers, magazines, manuscripts, museum objects, photographs, thesis and dissertations, audiovisual materials, microforms, compact

Disk-Read Only Memory (CD-ROM) and necessary equipment such as microfiches and microforms readers, computer and CD-ROM drives, which are needed in order to use some of the items in the collection.

It is generally accepted that the quality of library services depends to a large extent on the quantity and quality of its collections and the staff who provide the services (Ajibero, 2015). Thus, university libraries must provide adequate resources in order to satisfy the individual information needs of its patrons. Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009) states "that the university library acts as a medium of getting the latest scientific and technological information either in print or electronic form". University libraries according to Omobola and Oyeboade (2009) collect a variety of materials for preservation and use by the library patrons. Adeoye and Popoola (2011) highlighted the effectiveness, availability, accessibility and use of library and information resources in their study. They explained that, for effective learning process, learners must have access to necessary information materials and resources. Regarding the accessibility of library resources, authors added that the more accessible information sources that require the least effort to access.

To bring information resources to the door step of students and scholars together under conditions which encourage reading for pleasure, self-discovering, personal growth and sharpening of intellectual curiosity. University libraries demonstrate their commitment to improving student's academic performance by their participation in first-year student orientations or involving students in library policy and programming decisions. This reinforces the idea of the library as a place, by actively ensuring that the library is safe, and welcoming to all regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status and socio economic status. Most students finish their education without even visiting the libraries or using library resources. Though library is called an integral part of academic life it has not become fully an essential part of educational system and learning process. Especially on the student of undergraduate's level they generally start their

searches with an encyclopedia rather than card catalog.

Academic performance, which is measured by the examination results, is one of the major goals of a school. Hoyle (1986) argued that schools are established with the aim of imparting knowledge and skills to those who go through them and behind all this is the idea of enhancing good academic performance. Academic performance or achievement is the outcome of education, the extent to which a student, teacher or institution has achieved their educational goals. Academic performance is commonly measured by examinations or continuous assessment but there is no general agreement on how it is best tested or which aspects are most important, procedural knowledge such as skills or declarative knowledge such as facts (Annie, Howard & Mildred, 2016). Currently, social networking sites though has been recognized as an important resource for education today where students can boast their class notes and acquire more than what is available in the physical library, studies however show that students use such sites such as Facebook, webinar and other platforms for fun, to kill time, to meet existing friends or to make new ones (Ellison, Steinfield, and Lampe 2007). Although it has been put forward that students spends much time on participating in social networking activities, with many students blaming the various social networking sites for their steady decrease in grade point averages (Kimberly, Jeong and Lee, 2009), also shows that only few students are aware of the academic and professional networking opportunities the sites offered. According to Kuppuswamy and Shankar (2010), social network websites grab attention of the students and then diverts it towards non-educational and inappropriate actions including useless chatting. Whereas on the other hand, (Liccardi, Ounnas, Massey, Kinnunen, Midy, & Sakar. 2017) reviewed that the students are socially connected with each other for sharing their daily learning experiences and do conversation on several topics. Tinto (1997) argued that extracurricular activities and academic activities are not enough to satisfy some student those who are suffered by social networking isolation. This shows that social networks are beneficial for the students as it

contributes in their learning experiences as well as in their academic life.

The undergraduate constitute major users of the university library resources. According to Aina (2004) to the undergraduate students, the library is the learning center. It provides materials that are needed for learning for all the courses offered in the university, as well as potential courses that may be offered. The university library provides materials needed for effective learning and research. Serious problem before university libraries are either they are under used or less used than their capacity. It is merely because of ignorance of users about the potentials of their own library. This has created a challenging situation for the librarian to educate the library users and provide them necessary knowledge and skills in using the library resources properly and effectively. (Mishra and Phadke, 2014)

Developing information skills in students poses a challenge to librarians but if properly addressed through curricula then to meet specific course, assignments and projects student will develop that skill of using library resources. Libraries aim is to train and educate the mind, but this training is incomplete unless students know, how and where to find knowledge, and how to use the acquired knowledge in facing problem in future life. If the students become library savvy and learn the technique of finding facts and extracting the truth from falsehood in an unbiased manner with the aid of library resources than their education can safely be regarded as complete

An undergraduate who desires to be outstanding in academics must make use of the rich resources available in the library. In a study by Adeoye and Popoola (2011) who looked at various studies related to academic libraries and use of its resources concluded that “In a nutshell, it is generally believed that undergraduates in every university should effectively make use of the university library to satisfy their information needs; however, studies as indicated above have shown that university libraries in Nigeria are underutilized by undergraduates”. The university library is established to meet the needs of users; failure to use the library by an undergraduate will have consequences on the overall academic

performance of the student. Most university libraries have various services which are intended to bring the resources of the library closer to the user.

The library is an extension of the classroom therefore; students will need the resources of the library to expand their knowledge horizon so that they don't depend only on what they are taught in the classroom or what the lecturers are able to give them. Using the library by undergraduate students helps them to become independent learners'. It is common these days to find graduates who do not know how to use the resources of the library. Ajibero (2015) states that, students passed through our universities without knowing how to use the library and what services the library can offer them. The undergraduate students must realize the place of the library in their overall academic development. It is common in our universities to see students when they are given assignment end up with such complaint like 'no material in the library'. It is not always that these materials are not available in the library. Sometimes, it is just that the students do not know how to use the library. In every sense, the library has all it takes for an undergraduate to become independent, self - directed learner. According to Nwezeh and Shabi (2011) students' academic work suffers because of failure to use the library resources to its fullest potential. An undergraduate who has developed an attitude of using the library will easily scale through so many academic hurdles or challenges.

## Methodology

The study was carried out using the descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey design is appropriate for the study because it serve as a guide to examine the opinion of respondents on the subject under study. The area of study is the South East geopolitical zone of Nigeria which includes Michael Okpara University (MOU), Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Akwa (UNIZIK) and Univerity of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN). Purposive sampling was used to select 3 universities in South-East, Nigeria. The sample consists of 120 registered undergraduate users in the three (3) university libraries the universities were selected excluding 1st and 2nd year undergraduates users and concentrated on the 3rd year and 4th year students who must have some experiences in using the library. Specifically, four objectives guided the study. A questionnaire titled Utilization of University Library Resources for Improved Academic Performance of Undergraduates' Questionnaire (UULRIAPUQ) was designed and used for data collection. While the data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation (SD). Any item with a mean score of 2.5 and above was considered as positive or accepted while any from 2.49 and below (criterion mean) was considered as low.

## Presentation of Result

Below is the presentation of results which is done in line with the research questions that guided the research work as well as the summary of findings. Here the data collected from the questionnaire were analyzed as presented using mean and standard deviation.

**Table 1: Mean ratings of respondents on Methods of Accessing University Library Resources**

	Name of University						Overall		R	D
	MOU		UNIZIK		UNN		$\bar{x}$	SD		
	$\bar{x}$	SD	$\bar{x}$	SD	$\bar{x}$	SD				
1 Through the catalogue	3.35	.83	3.24	.99	3.06	1.01	3.23	.95	1 <sup>st</sup>	A
2 Through the library website	2.90	1.02	2.83	.97	3.32	.84	2.99	.97	2 <sup>nd</sup>	A
3 Browsing through the internet	2.88	.97	2.87	1.05	2.97	.90	2.90	.97	3 <sup>rd</sup>	A
4 Seeking assistance through the circulation desk	2.63	1.05	2.83	.95	2.85	1.02	2.77	1.00	4 <sup>th</sup>	A
5 Seeking assistance from library staff	2.55	1.04	2.70	1.30	2.56	.96	2.61	1.12	5 <sup>th</sup>	A
6 Using OPAC	2.62	.86	2.55	.88	2.54	.67	2.57	.78	6 <sup>th</sup>	A

Table 1 above shows the mean ratings of the respondents on methods of accessing university library resources. The results of the data analysis show that the respondents agreed that all the six listed factors are considered as methods of accessing university library resources, since their mean score is above (2.50) the criterion mean. Through the catalogue is ranked highest (Mean = 3.23) is ranked highest, while Using OPAC (Mean = 2.57) is ranked lowest on methods of accessing university library resources by undergraduates.

were utilized to a high extent ( $\bar{x}$ =2.61) in the university Libraries.

Table 3 above shows the mean ratings of the respondents factors considered to be problems faced with using library Resources. The results of the data analysis show that the respondents agreed that all the thirteen listed factors are problems they face with using library resources with their mean ranges from 3.61, 3.28, 3.25, 3.23, 3.21, 2.94, 2.86 and 2.83 being means score above (2.50) the criterion mean.

**Table 2: Mean ratings of respondents on Extent of utilization of university Library resources**

S/N	Name of University	Overall						Rank	D		
		MOU		UNIZIK		UNN					
	RESOURCES	$\bar{x}$	SD	$\bar{x}$	SD	$\bar{x}$	SD	$\bar{x}$	SD		
1	Search engines and portals	2.97	.92	3.06	.75	3.01	.64	3.02	.78	3 <sup>rd</sup>	HE
2	Electronic journals	2.58	.90	2.65	.97	2.50	.90	2.58	.92	12 <sup>th</sup>	HE
3	Print Journals	2.70	1.04	2.50	.89	2.74	.79	2.63	.92	10 <sup>th</sup>	HE
4	E-Newspapers	2.85	.89	3.04	.89	2.94	.85	2.95	.88	6 <sup>th</sup>	HE
5	E-Reference Materials/Print reference material	2.70	1.07	2.78	.96	2.68	1.09	2.73	1.03	9 <sup>th</sup>	HE
6	Newspapers	2.55	1.06	2.59	.83	2.18	1.06	2.46	.99	14 <sup>th</sup>	HE
7	Electronic books	2.73	1.20	2.72	1.07	2.91	.62	2.78	1.01	8 <sup>th</sup>	HE
8	Listserv or e-mail alert	2.65	.77	2.54	.89	2.65	1.15	2.61	.93	11 <sup>th</sup>	HE
9	Theses /projects /dissertation	2.65	.92	2.46	1.15	2.38	1.18	2.50	1.08	13 <sup>th</sup>	HE
10	Audio-visual and multimedia collections	3.20	.76	3.37	.71	3.15	.86	3.25	.77	2 <sup>nd</sup>	HE
11	Online databases	2.90	.63	3.02	.75	3.09	.79	3.00	.72	4 <sup>th</sup>	HE
12	CD-ROM databases	2.78	.80	2.89	.74	2.76	.82	2.82	.78	7 <sup>th</sup>	HE
13	Online library catalogues (OPAC)	3.00	.68	2.96	.84	3.03	.87	2.99	.79	5 <sup>th</sup>	HE
14	Webinar platform	2.45	.96	2.11	1.14	2.53	.79	2.34	1.00	1 <sup>st</sup>	HE

Table 2 above shows the mean ratings of the respondents on the extent of utilization of university Library resources. Using the principles of real limit of numbers, the results reveal that webinar platform were utilized to a high extent ( $\bar{x}$ =3.34), Audio-visual and multimedia collections were utilized to a high extent ( $\bar{x}$ =3.25), Search engines and portals were utilized to a high extent ( $\bar{x}$ =3.02), online databases were utilized to a high extent ( $\bar{x}$ =3.00), Online library catalogues (OPAC) were utilized to a high extent ( $\bar{x}$ =2.99), E-newspapers were utilized to a high extent ( $\bar{x}$ =2.95), CD-ROM databases were utilized to a high extent ( $\bar{x}$ = 2.82), electronic books were utilized to a high extent ( $\bar{x}$ =2.78), and E-reference materials/print reference material

Also, the overall mean showed that Search engines and portals were very useful and comprehensive (mean = 3.61) is ranked highest, while theses /projects /dissertation (Mean = 2.58) is ranked lowest as problems faced with using library Resources

Table 4 shows the mean ratings of the respondents on strategies that can be used to solve the problems faced with using library Resources. Using the principle of real limit of numbers, the results of the data analysis disclose that item 1 (Provision of relevant search engines by the university libraries =3.54) is very appropriate; item 2-7 (Electronic journal materials should be provided and made available by the university libraries =3.15, Print journals in different field of study should be accessible to users in the library = 3.03, Provision to up-to-date electronic news by library administrators =3.00, E-reference resources should be made available by

university library administrators =2.85, Librarians should have a more conducive /pleasant atmosphere for webinar platform = 2.67) can be seen as appropriate strategies

**Table 3: Mean ratings of respondents on problems faced with using library Resources**

								Overall		R	D
		MOU		UNIZIK		UNN		X̄	SD		
		X̄	SD	X̄	SD	X̄	SD				
1	Search engines and portals	3.64	.54	3.64	.53	3.52	.62	3.61	.56	1 <sup>st</sup>	A
2	Electronic journals/books	3.29	.96	3.30	.90	3.24	.87	3.28	.90	2 <sup>nd</sup>	A
3	Print Journals	3.28	.99	3.26	.95	3.21	1.05	3.25	.98	3 <sup>rd</sup>	A
4	E-Newspapers/Print newspapers	3.30	1.09	3.30	1.07	3.03	1.26	3.23	1.13	4 <sup>th</sup>	A
5	E-Reference Materials/Print Reference Materials	3.13	.94	3.17	.90	3.36	.78	3.21	.88	5 <sup>th</sup>	A
6	Listserv or e-mail alert	2.92	1.04	2.89	1.03	2.76	1.06	2.86	1.03	8 <sup>th</sup>	A
7	Theses /projects /dissertation	2.89	1.06	2.86	1.03	2.73	1.10	2.83	1.05	9 <sup>th</sup>	A
8	Audio-visual and multimedia collections	3.30	1.09	3.30	1.07	3.03	1.26	3.23	1.13	4 <sup>th</sup>	A
9	Online databases	3.13	.94	3.17	.90	3.36	.78	3.21	.88	5 <sup>th</sup>	A
10	CD-ROM databases	3.00	.94	3.05	.92	3.03	1.00	3.03	.94	6 <sup>th</sup>	A
11	Online library catalogues (OPAC)	3.00	.85	2.95	.84	2.84	.88	2.94	.85	7 <sup>th</sup>	A
12	Webinar platform	2.92	1.04	2.89	1.03	2.76	1.06	2.86	1.03	8 <sup>th</sup>	A

**Table 4: Mean ratings of respondents on strategies can be used to solve the problems face with using library Resources**

s/n	Services							Overall		R	D
		MOU		UNIZIK		UNN		X̄	SD		
		X̄	SD	X̄	SD	X̄	SD				
1	Provision of relevant search engines by the university libraries	3.58	.60	3.50	.73	3.56	.88	3.54	.73	1 <sup>st</sup>	VA
2	Electronic journal materials should be provided and made available by the university libraries	3.18	.82	3.20	.81	3.06	.90	3.15	.84	2 <sup>nd</sup>	A
3	Print journals in different field of study should be accessible to users in the library	3.05	.83	3.07	.81	2.94	.86	3.03	.82	3 <sup>rd</sup>	A
4	Provision to up-to-date electronic news by library administrators	3.03	.93	3.05	.90	2.91	1.07	3.00	.95	4 <sup>th</sup>	A
5	E-reference resources should be made available by university library administrators	2.80	.91	2.78	.92	3.00	1.00	2.85	.94	5 <sup>th</sup>	A
6	Librarians should have a more conducive /pleasant atmosphere for webinar platform	2.87	.81	2.84	.83	2.77	1.02	2.83	.88	6 <sup>th</sup>	A
7	Library tours , arts , exhibition, guild etc should be provided for users	3.03	.93	3.05	.90	2.91	1.07	3.00	.95	4 <sup>th</sup>	A
8	Adequate current awareness services to users on OPAC use	2.78	1.10	2.74	1.10	2.85	1.23	2.78	1.13	7 <sup>th</sup>	A
10	Willingness of staff to assist and provide users with alert there is need issues of resources via school mails/portal	2.70	.894	2.75	.79	2.53	.79	2.67	.84	8 <sup>th</sup>	A

2.83, Library tours , arts , exhibition, guild etc should be provided for users =3.00 and Adequate current awareness services to users on OPAC use 2.67 and Willingness of staff to

that can be used to solve the problems faced with using library Resources since their mean score fall within 3.41-2.50. Also, the overall mean showed Provision of relevant search engines by the university libraries (mean = 3.54) is ranked highest, while Willingness of

staff to assist and provide users with alert there is need issues of resources via school mails/portal (Mean = 2.67) is ranked lowest strategies that can be used to solve the problems faced with using library Resources.

## Discussion

Findings of the study are discussed in line with the research questions that guided the study under the following sub-headings; methods of accessing resources, extent of utilization of university library resources, problems undergraduates face with using library resources and strategies that can be used to solve the problems undergraduates face in using library resources.

As regards the methods used in accessing university library resources. The data analyzed showed that the respondents from the universities studied agreed that all the methods listed were different ways they could access university library resources. The result indicates that using catalogue ranked highest as means of library resources, while using OPAC ranked lowest this could imply that undergraduates had problems with it, this is because from the researcher's observation OPAC was not easily accessible to users as the service was very poor in almost all the university library studied.

The results agree with Siyao, et al (2017) who stated that universality in sub-Saharan Africa lack behind bind in use of application software in Library. This assumption explained why students in Nigeria universities are not keen in learning the use of digital resources in library.

### Extent of utilization of university library resources

From the result of the data on research question three, derived from the respondents all the resources of the library which include reference materials, serials, fictions and grey literatures were utilized to a large extent. The finding is in line with those by Poopola (2009) and Abiolu (2010) which revealed that print materials such as research reports, periodicals, text books, newspapers were the most heavily used resources in their respective studies. Ukpebor (2011) also found in a their study on resource utilization that lecturers at the

University of Agriculture, Makurdi use text books and journals more than other information sources. More importantly, the study did not find any significant difference in the utilization of the resources by the lecturers and students in the area of study indicating that they both engaged in creating transmitting and applying knowledge – their key functions.

Print resources were surprisingly found to be utilized by students in universities to a high extent even as attention is gradually shifting from print to digital resources. The implication is that print resources are better provided in university libraries in North Central Nigeria than electronic resources. Secondly, paucity of funds which poses a big challenge to Nigerian libraries inhibits the procurement of digital and electronic resources in substantial quantity, yet quantity has a relationship with utilization. Users can only utilize what is provided for them.

### Problems undergraduates face with using library resources

From the result of the study derived from the respondents' response on the problem they encounter in utilizing university library resources. The respondents agreed that all the problems listed are challenges they face in utilizing university library resources, but one major that ranked the highest is that class notes were comprehensive enough as such they do not have need to use library resources. This implies that undergraduates are yet to see the need to use library resources to support their class notes or what their lecturers give to them by way of lecture notes in the class room. This further supports the view of Unomah in Ajibero (2015) who found that majority of students did not use library resources for these reasons: Not being familiar with the card catalogue and different part of the library, Pressure of work, no need to use library resources since they had enough relevant textbooks, Lecture notes were rich enough, the library did not stock enough relevant materials, not aware of reserve book room and inter-library loan.

This implies a lot need to be done to correct this erroneous notion amongst undergraduates to see the need to use university library resources to support and boost their academic

performance. More orientations and awareness must be created on the need for undergraduates to appreciate the rich resources of the library in improving their academic performance.

***Strategies that can be used to solve the problems undergraduates face in using library resources.***

The findings on this discussion showed that undergraduates agreed that all solutions suggested were relevant to solving the problems. But what ranked the highest was the provision of relevant information resources by university libraries. This supports the view of Osundia in Ujah (2008) that the problem of Nigerian student is not the question of wanting to use the college library, but whether or not the university library can provide for their needs and whether there is access to what is provided. It is very important to observe that libraries must make efforts to provide relevant information resources to meet the needs of the undergraduate users. And provision must be matched with accessibility to the resources provided.

**Conclusion**

The study examined utilization of library resources for improved academic performance of undergraduates in selected universities in south east, Nigeria.

From the analysis and discussions of findings, the following conclusions was made: undergraduates use various methods available to them to access university library resources, undergraduates utilize most of the resources of the library available to them, undergraduates have problems in using university library resources, but worthy of mention is the thinking that class notes were comprehensive enough so no need to use the library and undergraduates require provision of relevant information resources to meet their needs.

**Recommendations**

The following recommendations are made in the light of the findings and the discussions that followed:

- More efforts should be put into the teaching of use of library.
- Library tours and orientations of new students should be given more serious attentions.
- University library staff should be more approachable and disposed always to helping undergraduates meet their information needs.
- University libraries should be very comfortable for studying, reading or learning.

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