

Information Seeking Behaviour of Members in the Academic Community of Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun (FUPRE) Nigeria

Lucky Oji Akpojotor PhD

Collection Development Librarian

Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun, Delta State, Nigeria

Email: akpojotor.lucky@fupre.edu.ng

Mobile Cell Phone Number: +2348038932786

Osaze Patrick Ijiekhuamhen CLN

Electronic Library Unit,

Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun, Delta State, Nigeria

Email: ijiekvamhen.osaze@fupre.edu.ng

Mobile Cell Phone Number Phone: +2347054478632

ABSTRACT

The study examined information seeking behaviour of members of the FUPRE academic community. Four research objectives, research questions, and one research hypothesis were raised to give the study a focus. A survey research method was adopted for the study; the population of the study comprises the staff (Teaching staff, non-teaching staff, junior staff, and health assistant staff) and students. The instrument used for eliciting data was a structured questionnaire. The data elicited using the questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics to answer the research questions while the Pearson's Product Moment correlation Coefficient was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that the members of the FUPRE academic community are moderately aware of the available information resources in the FUPRE academic community. The findings also indicate that the members of the FUPRE academic community use the available information resources in the library to a moderate extent. Regarding the information resources preference of members of the FUPRE academic community, it is glaring that books were most preferred, followed by academic software, and webpages/ internet sources, while newspapers were the least preferred information source by respondents. From the findings, it was revealed that the factors militating against the accessibility and use of information resources by members of the FUPRE academic community include unavailability of internet access, unconducive library environment, limited library resources, time constraints, and poor subscription to databases, among others. It was recommended from the findings that the university library management should improve their marketing drive to boost awareness of the available information resources and services in the library to increase the extent of patronage as well as use. In addition, internet access should be made available in the university library to boost access to internet sources, search engines and databases that could meet their diverse information needs.

Keywords: Information, Information seeking, Information Behaviour, Information Resources, Academic Community and FUPRE

Introduction

Information is linked to every human need, and having access to it can help people live healthier lives, become more efficient, make more money, take control of their

surroundings, and live longer, to name just a few. As a result, information has come to be seen as a basic human necessity. According to Umukoro et al. (2021), information is preprocessed data and facts with meanings that may be utilized to create wise decisions that will improve people's lives. Individuals

in all age groups and professions require information, regardless of gender. The importance of information is emphasized by Edewor et al. (2016), who stated that doctors need information to treat patients effectively, lawyers need information to handle cases, educators need information to prepare lesson plans, the elderly need information to stay healthy and find financial resources, and students need information to learn, develop themselves, and get ready for a future in their chosen career path.

“Information seeking behavior” is a research area in the field of Library and Information Science that examines how people behave from the moment they recognize there is a knowledge gap to the moment they fill it (Dervin, 2023). This behavior encompasses several concepts, including information needs, demand, sources, use, and obstacles people encounter when trying to find the information they need, among others. From a different angle, Ali and Jan (2020) described information seeking behavior as an information user's perception of a need and the actions taken to meet that need, such as locating multiple sources and requesting information to meet that need. Depending on the tactics used, this behavior could either be successful or unsuccessful. Students have been popularly referred to as active information seekers, as they require information for a wide variety of needs which include academic, relationship, entertainment, finance, transportation needs, latest technological trends, and novel areas in their field of study (Gabriela, 2023; Pandita & Kiran, 2023).

Knowledge of the information seeking behaviour of students would unveil a lot of information regarding their information needs, preferred sources, information demand choices, the uses they put the information they get, and the factors militating against their accessibility and use of information. This information on the information seeking behaviour of students would be valuable to librarians and university's library management as it would

enable them to deliver quality and personalized services and information resources that match the exact information needs and interests of their students which would improve their satisfaction rate. The present study is aimed at exploring the information seeking behaviour of undergraduate students in a Nigerian specialized university.

Statement of the Problem

The Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun (FUPRE) library boasts a wealth of information resources, including books, journals, e-books, e-journals, serial and reference collections, geographical tools, offline databases in all subject areas covered by the university, and subscribed databases which include, Onepetro, EBSCO, Research4life. While, the library open access databases are Prota, World Digital Library (WDL), Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ), Directory Open Access Books (DOAB), Core, Bielefeld Academic Search Engine (BASE), Public Library of Science (PLO), Journal of Biological Chemistry, and Bookboon, including Library Management Software (KOHA). More recently, an institutional repository software DSpace Version 7 was installed.

It is lamentable to note, that in spite of the availability of the aforementioned resources, FUPRE library is still profoundly faced with low patronage and underutilization of these resources by students and the academic community of FUPRE generally. From the researcher's observation, FUPRE library is only consulted by students during their examination period which is not a healthy reading habit. Convincingly, could it be that the students and the academic community of FUPRE are not aware of this pool of resources in the library or they prefer other sources of information than coming to consult the information resources in the library. Therefore, this low utilization of FUPRE library resources (print and non-print) stimulated the need for this study to improve the services and access to information

resources for students and the academic community of FUPRE.

Research Question

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study.

1. To what extent are members of the FUPRE academic community aware of information resources in the library?
2. To what extent do members of the FUPRE academic community use information sources available in the library?
3. What are the preferred sources of information by members of the FUPRE academic community?
4. What are the factors militating against the accessibility and use of information resources by members of the FUPRE academic community?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

1. There is no significant relationship between the extent of awareness and the use of information resources in the library by members of the FUPRE academic community.

Literature Review

Background of Fupre Library

Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun (FUPRE) Library is cited in a temporary building while the permanent building is 80 percent to completion. The university library is currently headed by Prof. I. M. Anyaegbu who is the University Librarian and the second substantive librarian of the University. The first was Prof. E. Adomi. The library has been headed in the past by two Acting University Librarians namely: Mr. M. Okoh and Dr. N. Edewor. However, Dr. G. Tinuoye was appointed to oversee the library. The library is primarily an information center established to cater for research, teaching, learning, and

recreational needs of individual students, staff, researchers, and the world academic community in science, petroleum, and allied sectors.

The university library has a growing collection of books, journals, e-resources, databases, institution repository DSpace version 7, and Koha library management software which cut across the following areas: oil and gas, science, engineering, information communication technology, and earth science. Also, the library has two branch libraries which are the College of Science and the College of Engineering and Technology library. In addition, each department in the university has departmental libraries. The rationale behind this is to take information resources to the doorstep of information seekers in the university.

Extent of Library Resources Awareness by Members of FUPRE Academic Community

The examination by Oriogu et al. (2018) on faculty awareness, perception, and use of information resources and services in a private university in Nigeria. The findings revealed that the respondents are fully aware of the availability of the information resources in the library. Raghotham and Velmurugan (2022) assessed the awareness and utilization of e-resources by faculty members in Vivekanandha Arts and Science College for Women, Salem. The findings of the study revealed that all the respondents indicated they were aware of the available electronic information resources in their college library. Anyaoku (2015) evaluated undergraduate student's awareness and use of medical library Resources using Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria as the case study. The findings of the study revealed that there is a high awareness of the availability of print-based information resources. However, about 60% of the respondents are not aware or sure of the existence of electronic information resources in the library.

The study of Yebowaah and Plockey (2017) revealed that there is a high level of awareness of the available electronic resources but utilization is very low. Achonna (2008) undertook a study on awareness, access, and usage of e-journal resources in the library, by the students of Yaba College of Technology, Yaba –Lagos Nigeria. The findings revealed that 108 (74.4 %) stated that they were aware of the existence of the resources; while 37 (25.6 %) indicated that they were not aware. Ahmad and Panda (2013) undertook a study on the awareness and use of electronic information resources by the faculty members of Indian institutes in Dubai's international academic city. The findings revealed that the majority of the faculty members are aware of and use electronic information resources. However, Ajibili and Emmanuel (2017) carried out a study on the extent of awareness of open access resources in libraries of private universities by postgraduate students in Nigeria. The findings of the study revealed that the general awareness of open-access resources amongst postgraduate students was low.

Akpojotor (2016) undertook a study on awareness and usage of electronic information resources among postgraduate students of library and information science in Southern, Nigeria. The results obtained revealed that postgraduate students of library and information science are quite aware of and highly use electronic information resources. Conclusively, Temboge and Yaji (2018) carried out a study on awareness and use of the essential electronic agricultural library (TEEAL) Database among faculty members at Federal University, Kashere, and Federal College of Education (Technical), Gombe, Nigeria. The study reveals that the faculty members under study are using TEEAL resources satisfactorily. Awareness level was greater than usage.

Extent of Information Resources Usage by Members of the FUPRE Academic Community

The examination by Ebaye and Asim (2022) on the use of information services and resources among students in federal university libraries in South-South, Nigeria. The population of the study is 16620 students out of which 831 respondents were sampled using random sampling. A questionnaire was used to elicit data which were later analyzed using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Analysis. From the study findings, it was established that there is underutilization of the information resources in the federal university libraries in South-South, Nigeria. Eke and Njoku (2016) assessed lecturers' use of information resources and services in Imo state academic libraries. The findings revealed that the majority of the lecturers use the information resources to a low extent in the academic libraries in Imo State, Nigeria. In yet another study, Arowolo et al. (2022) assessed the utilization of information resources by undergraduates in two Ogun State public universities. The findings revealed that there is a high utilization of the available information resources in the two public universities in Ogun State.

Nwana et al. (2017) study indicates that the lecturers are using electronic information resources, CD-ROMs, and e-learning courseware, among others to a high extent. Akinbo and Omideyi (2023) examined the level of awareness and deployment of electronic information resources by undergraduate Pharmacy students at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The descriptive survey design was adopted with a population of 421 students out of which 212 were sampled randomly. A questionnaire was used to collect data which was later analyzed descriptively. The findings established that the information resources used to a high extent were majorly electronic encyclopedias/dictionaries and electronic books. Obodo et al (2022) examined library resource utilization by lecturers in a Nigerian university. The

findings revealed that the lecturers utilized books more than other information sources in their university libraries.

Similarly, Urhiewhu, Okeke and Nwafor (2015) undertook a study on the extent of digital information resources by undergraduates of selected higher institutions in Delta and Edo states, Nigeria. The findings of the study publicized that undergraduate students use digital information resources to a low extent. Urhiewhu et al. (2015) carried out a study on the extent of audio-visual resources utilization by librarians in Madonna University Library, Okija Campus. Findings demonstrate that 8(40%) of the respondents use audio visual to a high extent, very high extent 8(40%), and very low extent 4(20%). This indicates that College of Education library staff know how to use audio-visual materials to a large extent.

Preferred Sources of Information by Members of FUPRE Academic Community

The examination by Anhwere et al. (2018) on library resources used by lecturers at the University of Cape Coast. The findings revealed that the lecturers prefer print information resources to other forms of information formats. Similarly, as exhibited in the study of Cabfilan (2024) on the preferred information sources by students in terms of writing revealed that irrespective of the proliferation of electronic information resources, the students still prefer print media for their academic writing needs.

Also, Mabera and Sadiku (2021) examined the information needs and search behaviour of students of Veterinary medicine at a Nigerian university. The population of the students comprises 300 veterinary students of the Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto State. The questionnaire was used to elicit data which were later analyzed using descriptive statistics method. The findings revealed that lecture notes, textbooks, handouts/ course materials, friends, family members, and relations were classified as the

preferred information sources of the students examined. Erdil et al. (2021) examined the information requirements and sources of students of higher education destinations. The findings revealed that the student preferred the university website as their information choice, this is followed by scholarship and job opportunities were also their preferred information choice.

Sanusi et al. (2021) examined the information needs and preferred sources among Engineering lecturers of universities in North West, Nigeria. The findings revealed that the lecturers preferred print information sources to other information sources. However, Oyewole and Alegbeleye (2018) explored undergraduate preference between reference information resources and web search engines for research routines in two South-West, Nigeria universities. The universities used in the study are Redeemer University Ede and the University of Ibadan. The findings revealed that the students preferred Web search engines for their research needs to other reference sources at their disposal. Ogunwuyi (2022) examined media resources deployment by lecturers in the colleges of education, in South-West, Nigeria. The findings revealed that textbook was ranked as the preferred information source which is followed by radio, among others.

Factors militating against the Accessibility and Use of Information by Members of FUPRE Academic Community

Regarding the militating factors, Emmasiegbu and Anaehobi (2021) assessed the drawbacks of the use of electronic databases by academics in public universities in Anambra State, Nigeria. The findings revealed that lack of user orientation on the use of databases, slow internet connectivity, inaccessibility to the username and password of some databases, difficulty in accessing valuable information that matches their needs in the database, and non-subscription to essential databases, among others. Terlanga et al. (2019) examined the availability and accessibility of information

resources by the students in tertiary institutions using Gboko Polytechnics Gboko, Benue State Nigeria as the case study. The findings revealed that lack of awareness of the information materials in the library, lack of internet facilities, non-availability of the library catalogue, inadequate finance to acquire information resources, lack of knowledge of how to deploy information materials, and lack of qualified manpower in the library.

Eiriemiokhale and Ibeun (2017) scrutinized the awareness, accessibility, and availability of library resources by students of Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria. The descriptive survey method was adopted as the research design. The instrument used for eliciting data was a questionnaire which was analyzed descriptively. The findings revealed that the unfriendly nature of some library personnel, the unclassified nature of information materials, and the lack of in-depth orientation on how to use the catalogue and other online services were ranked as the major factors militating against their access

to library information materials. Ezejiolor et al (2023) surveyed the issues and the measures for enhancing the use of electronic information resources in the Federal university libraries in South East, Nigeria. The findings revealed that lack of awareness, erratic power supply, insufficient information communication technology facilities, and poor internet access were challenges militating against the use of electronic information resources in the federal university libraries studied.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research method. The population of this study is the entire academic community of Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, which includes staff (Teaching staff, non-teaching staff, junior staff, and health assistant staff) and students (undergraduate and postgraduate) as shown in Table 3.1

Table 3.1 Population and sample of the study

S/N	No. of Teaching Staff	No. of Non-Teaching Staff	No. of Junior Staff	No. of Health Assistant Officers	No. of students in the University
	213	477	83	25	8,000
Grand Total	8798				

Source: 2022/2023 Registry, Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun

Thus, the total sample size is -8798 respondents. Krejcie and Morgan sampling technique was used to select 367 respondents used for the study. The sampling method stipulates that for population between 8,000 to 8,999, a sample size of 367 can be used for the study (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970). The instrument used for data collection in the study is the questionnaire; the responses were collated, analyzed, tabulated, and used for the study. Descriptive survey design was used to analyze data elicited in the study. The criterion mean used for the study is 2.50. The hypothesis was analyzed using Pearson’s Product Moment correlation

Coefficient. 367 copies of the instrument were distributed to the respondents and the researchers were able to retrieve 360 (98%) copies which were used and analyzed in the study. Hence, there was a 98% response rate classified as high and agreed by scholars in the literature (Fincham, 2008; Fox, 2020).

Main Findings of the Study

To what extent are members of FUPRE academic community aware of information resources in the library?
 Table 1: *Mean Ratings of Awareness of Information Resources of the Members of the FUPRE Community in the Library.*

S/N	EXTENT OF AWARENESS OF INFORMATION RESOURCES	N	Mean	SD	Remark
1	I am aware of the books available in the library.	360	2.87	.85	Moderate Extent
2.	I am aware of the journals available in the library.	360	2.58	.85	Moderate Extent
3	I am aware of the e-books/ e-journals in the library.	360	2.42	.93	Low Extent
4	I am aware of the reference sources available in the library.	360	2.54	.96	Moderate Extent
5	I am aware of the geographical tools available in the library.	360	2.47	.96	Low Extent
6	I am aware of the magazines in the library.	360	2.52	.93	Moderate Extent
7	I am aware of the software available in the library.	360	2.82	1.21	Moderate Extent
8	I am aware of the various databases available in the library.	360	2.65	.91	Moderate Extent
9	I am aware of the Newspapers in the library	360	2.76	1.24	Moderate Extent
10	I am aware of the various Encyclopedias in the library.	360	2.70	.92	Moderate Extent
11	I am aware of the various Internet Sources available in the library.	360	2.79	1.19	Moderate Extent
12	I am aware of the information resources in the institutional repository.	360	2.48	.95	Low Extent
	Overall Mean	360	2.63	.99	Moderate Extent

Research Question One- The overall mean (2.63) displayed in Table 1 shows that the respondents were moderately aware of the information resources in their library. Specifically, out of the 12 items of information resources, the respondents were aware of nine (9) to a moderate extent and

were aware of three (3) information resources of their library to a low extent. From the results, it was decided that, to a moderate extent, members of members of FUPRE academic community had awareness of the information resources in their library.

Research Question Two

To what extent do members of FUPRE academic community use information sources available in the library?

Table 2: Mean Ratings of information resources used by the members of the FUPRE academic community available in the library.

S/N	EXTENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES USE	N	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Books	360	3.09	.79	Moderate Extent
2.	Journals	360	2.50	.94	Moderate Extent
3.	E-books/ E-journals	360	2.89	1.19	Moderate Extent
4.	Reference Materials	360	2.53	.91	Moderate Extent
5.	Geographical Tools	360	2.81	1.25	Moderate Extent
6.	Magazines	360	2.44	.93	Low Extent
7.	Software	360	2.83	1.18	Moderate Extent
8.	Databases	360	2.75	1.25	Moderate Extent
9.	Newspaper	360	2.28	1.01	Low Extent
10.	Encyclopedias	360	2.54	.93	Moderate Extent
11.	List of information materials	360	2.58	.89	Moderate Extent
12.	Webpages/ Internet Sources	360	2.54	.98	Moderate Extent
13.	Institutional Repository Sources	360	2.89	1.23	Moderate Extent
	Overall Mean	360	2.67	1.04	Moderate Extent

Table 2 show displays mean ratings of the utilization of information resources by the FUPRE academic community. The overall mean rating of 2.67 indicates that the FUPRE academic community used information resources in their library to a

moderate extent. Of the 13 information resources, two (2) were used to a low extent. These included; magazines and newspapers. Others (11 information resources) were utilized to a moderate extent.

Research Question Three

What are the preferred sources of information by members of FUPRE academic community?

Table 3: Percentage Responses on Preferred Sources of Information by Members of FUPRE

S/N	PREFERRED SOURCES OF INFORMATION	Yes		No	
		N	%	N	%
1.	Books	326	90.6	34	9.4
2.	Journals	234	65.0	126	35.0
3.	E-books/ E-journals	260	72.2	100	27.8
4.	Reference Materials	232	64.4	128	35.6
5.	Geographical Tools	217	60.3	143	39.7
6.	Magazines	212	58.9	148	41.1
7.	Software	304	84.4	56	15.6
8.	Databases	229	63.6	131	36.4
9.	Newspaper	208	57.8	152	42.2
10.	Encyclopedias	250	69.4	110	30.6
11.	List of information materials	223	61.9	137	38.1
12.	Webpages/ Internet Sources	268	74.4	92	25.6
13.	Institutional Repository Sources	216	60.0	144	40.0
Sources		216	60.0	144	40.0

Table 3 presents the preferred sources of information by members of the FUPRE academic community. The percentage responses indicate that the most preferred source was books as shown by 90.6% of those that endorsed that option. This was followed by software which was

selected by 84.4 % of the respondents. The third most preferred source of information was webpages/internet as shown by 74.4% of the respondents that selected that option. On the other hand, the least preferred source of information was newspaper which was selected by 57.8%.

Research Question Four

What are the factors militating against the accessibility and use of information resources?

Table 4: Mean Ratings of the Factors Militating against the Accessibility and Use of Information

S/N	Factors mitigating against the accessibility and use of information resources	N	Mean	SD	Remark
1.	Limited Library Resources	360	2.61	.83	Agree
2.	Poor information search skills	360	2.06	1.13	Disagree
3.	Time constraints	360	2.54	.87	Agree
4.	Technophobia/ Anxiety	360	2.11	.90	Disagree
5.	Limited awareness of library resources	360	2.17	1.24	Disagree
6.	Opening and closing times not suitable for my schedule	360	2.48	.97	Disagree
7.	Proximity to the library	360	2.24	.81	Disagree
8.	Limited library space	360	2.46	.97	Disagree
9.	Unavailability of internet access	360	2.63	.96	Agree
10.	Poor subscription to databases	360	2.52	.90	Agree
11.	Unconducive library environment	360	2.61	.92	Agree
12.	Erratic power supply	360	2.99	.87	Agree
13.	Attitude of Librarians in the Library.	360	2.34	.97	Disagree

Table 4 shows that six out of the 13 possible problems militating against access and use of information resources, six (6) were identified by the respondents. These included; limited library resources (Mean = 2.61), time constraints (Mean = 2.54), unavailability of internet access (Mean =

2.63), poor subscription to databases (Mean = 2.52), unconducive library environment (Mean = 2.61), and erratic power supply (Mean = 2.99).

Research Hypothesis

Hypothesis One

There is no significant relationship between information resource awareness and the use of information resources in the library by members of the FUPRE academic community.

Table 5

Pearson’s correlation between Information Resource Awareness Scores and Information Resource Scores of Members of FUPRE Academic Community (N=360)

Variables	1	2	p-value	Remark
1. Information Resources Awareness Scores	1	.901	.000	Significant
2. Information Resources Use Scores	.901	1		

Table 5 shows that Pearson’s correlation between information resources awareness and information resources use yielded a correlation coefficient (r) coefficient(r) = .901. This indicates a very strong positive relationship between the two variables. The p-value < 0.05 shows that there was a significant positive relationship between information resource awareness and information resource use among the FUPRE Academic Community. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study were arranged according to the research questions that guided the study.

Extent of Library Resources Awareness by Members of FUPRE Academic Community

From the results, it concluded that, to a moderate extent, members of members of FUPRE academic community had awareness of the information resources in their library. This finding disagrees with the study of Oriogu et al. (2018) which indicates that the lecturers are largely aware of the availability

of the information resources available in the private university library. Also, the study disagreed with the findings of Ajibili and Emmanuel (2017) which indicated that there is low awareness of the open-access resources in the private university libraries examined. The fact that the study participants are moderately aware of the available information resources makes it different from other prior studies that reported a high level of awareness of information resources. Specifically, the findings of Ahmad and Panda (2013); Yebowaah and Plockey (2017); and Temboge and Yaji (2017) all indicated that there is a high level of awareness of information resources among scholars in institutions of higher learning. This finding implies that efforts should be made to boost the awareness level of available information resources in the FUPRE academic community.

The Extent of Use of Available Information Sources in the FUPRE University Library

The findings revealed that FUPRE academic community used information resources in their library to a moderate

extent. This finding indicates that the usage level of information resources by members of FUPRE academic community is in the middle, not much and not little. Moderate use indicates that steps should be taken to enhance the use of the available information resources in the library. This finding disagrees with most prior studies, notably; the findings of Ebaye and Asim (2022) revealed that information resources are underutilized by the students in the federal university libraries in South-South, Nigeria. Also, the finding disagrees with the study of Nwana et al. (2017) which indicates that the lecturers are using electronic information resources, CD-ROMs, and e-learning courseware, among others to a high extent. This finding implies that steps should be taken to improve the extent of use of the available information resources in FUPRE library by members of the academic community.

Preferred Sources of Information by Members of FUPRE Academic Community

The findings revealed that books were the most preferred information source by the respondents, this is followed closely by software and webpages/ internet sources, while newspapers were the least preferred information source by respondents. This finding agrees with other prior studies particularly that of Ogunwuyi (2022) which indicated that the lecturers in the colleges of education, in South-West, Nigeria preferred textbooks for meeting their various teaching and academic needs. However, the findings disagreed with the study of Oyewole and Alegbeleye (2018) which indicates that scholars and students in two South-West, Nigeria universities preferred web search engines for research routines over any other information resources available to them. This finding implies that FUPRE library should lay more emphasis on the acquisition of books, relevant academic software and make internet access available for members of the academic community to access internet webpages and search engines to enhance

their use of relevant information sources that could meet their needs.

Factors militating Against the Accessibility and Use of Information by Members of FUPRE Academic Community

The findings revealed that the factors militating against the accessibility and use of information resources by members of FUPRE academic community include; unavailability of internet access, unconducive library environment, limited library resources, time constraints, and poor subscription to databases, among others. The findings agree with that of Terlanga et al. (2019) which indicate that lack of awareness of the information materials in the library, and lack of internet facilities were the major factors militating against the access and use of information resources in Gboko Polytechnics, Gboko, Benue State Nigeria. This finding implies that internet access should be provided in the library to enhance the use of internet sources and search engines, the library environment should be made conducive to boost users' comfort and patronage, relevant information sources should be made available to enhance users' patronage level, the subscription should be done for relevant databases to enhance user's satisfaction.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study is very valuable as it has revealed the information seeking behaviour of the members of FUPRE academic community. It is glaring that the members of FUPRE academic community have diverse information needs that prompt them to engage in information seeking using different sources. Awareness is a major prerequisite for the use of information sources as users need to be aware of what is available before they consume these sources for meeting their information needs. From this study, it is evident that the user community of FUPRE library is moderately aware of the available information resources that could meet their information needs. Also, the moderate awareness of available

information resources has translated to less use by members of FUPRE academic community.

The scholars within FUPRE academic community have their preferences and preferred information resources they consult whenever they have information needs. It is glaring from the study that books are the top choice, followed by academic software, webpages, internet sources, electronic books and journals, and encyclopedias, among others. Irrespective of the awareness and availability of these information resources, scholars face challenges that can militate against their accessibility and use of these information resources. The notable challenges include the unavailability of internet access, an unconducive library environment, limited library resources, time constraints, and poor subscription to databases, among others.

To improve the information seeking strategies of members the following are recommended:

1. The university library management should improve its marketing drive to boost awareness of the available information resources and services in the library to increase the extent of patronage and use.
2. Current awareness services should be increased in the library to make users aware of databases, newspapers, reference materials, magazines, and institutional repositories.
3. The FUPRE Library management and acquisition librarian should ensure they balance the collection and acquire more information resources to enable users to meet their information needs.
4. Internet access should be made available in the university library to boost access to internet sources, search engines, and databases that could meet their diverse information needs.
5. The library environment should be made conducive for users to visit, study, and learn new concepts and the areas of attention should include a constant power supply in the library, adequate lighting system, availability of air conditioners and fans in perfect working condition.
6. The university library management should ensure they are subscribed to databases that support the curriculum of the courses offered in FUPRE to boost users' access to information that could meet their information needs.
7. The scholars of the FUPRE academic community should be encouraged to create time to engage in information seeking activities to meet their various information needs.

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