

Attitudes of Students towards Available Library Facilities at the Federal College of Education, Pankshin

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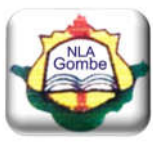
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Abstract

The focus of this study was on the attitudes of students towards the use of library facilities, with particular reference to the Library of the Federal College of Education Pankshin. The study's objectives were to investigate what library facilities are available for learning and research in Federal College of Education Pankshin and to examine the students' attitudes towards the use of these available library facilities. The survey research design was used for the study. The study's population consisted of all 1,417 registered student users of the library (both the NCE and degree programmes) A sample size of 312 was selected as determined by the Yaro Yamene formula. The respondents were picked using the purposive random sampling method. A structured questionnaire consisting of 16 questions was administered on a de facto basis on the respondents with a retrieval rate of 90%. Data analyses was done using a simple percentage, descriptive statistical method. The study revealed that good reading tables, chairs, computers, shelves, internet connectivity and books are partially/complete available, while newspapers, printers, photocopiers and air conditioners are partially/complete unavailable in the library. The study found that students in the institution had positive attitudes regarding the use of available library facilities. It was concluded that the institution should make available those facilities that are either unavailable or partially available and sustain the positive attitudes of the student users if the vision to enhance teaching and learning is to be achieved and some recommendations are therefore made to enhance the significance of the library in achievement of teaching, learning and research goals.

Keywords: Attitudes, availability, use of library, Library facilities, FCE Pankshin



Introduction

A well-stocked library is a reservoir of information, or a record of human experience, to which consumers can turn for facts or information (Powell, 2013; Yemma, & Isaac, 2010). Kotso (2010) states that libraries help researchers by collecting, maintaining, and making available a variety of information resources. A good library system can help its users grow in a variety of ways. Students use the library for several reasons. According to Chandrasekar and Murugathas (2012), most students visit the library to borrow books, complete assignments and do tutorials, use reference resources, study in a peaceful setting, and conduct literary searches. To achieve these, students of all levels need library-user instruction to maximise valuable learning time and use library resources effectively even without assistance. This helps teach the learner the value of information and library and good study skills (Prabha, 2011). Libraries collect, preserve, and transmit intellectual information.

Library facilities are those items that a library must purchase to effectively provide library services. The availability of these facilities can have a significant impact on knowledge exchange and service delivery. Knowing the strengths and weaknesses of their resources makes knowledge sharing and correlation among library facilities even more vital. In other words, providing updated printed materials, printers, internet/email, multimedia projectors, CDROMs, and air conditioners/fans would create a comfortable reading environment for all users. These tools are now empowering and enriching most academic libraries. Resources not only enhance library services, but also inspire librarians to do their job well. A well-organised library encourages users to seek and borrow physical resources thus, allowing users to explore and search catalogues, databases, and social media in real-time. Library services are vital in addressing academic and research needs (Yemma, & Isaac, 2010). Library facilities show the degree of user proximity to illustrate the relationship between facility characteristics and work performance. So, while the service delivery equipment is running at full speed, libraries may plan and proceed with maximal efficiency (Prabha, 2011).

Users' happiness with libraries' information resources, facilities, and services has recently become a key priority and part of librarians' work. Public libraries are crucial in meeting the information demands of the young and old, the visually impaired, and other groups. They must be proactive, energetic, and up-to-date on information dissemination. Some university librarians are dismissive of the use of technology in their work. Academic libraries exist to help students and teachers, says Mabawonku (2012).

A library's goal is to arrange knowledge for practical use by storing books, journals, and other publications. The academic library is the heart of an educational institution. A good library meets not just the patrons' teaching and study demands, but also the circumstances of research. According to Ray (1990), without a library, no effective teaching, learning, or research can take place. The catalogue is crucial to the library's existence as it stores and retrieves information.

Users waste a lot of time browsing if they don't know how to use the catalogue. Special libraries must provide indexing and abstracting services to their patrons. Indexes and abstracts are essentially information resumé. Academic librarians must therefore work diligently to provide satisfactory information to end users. The International Federation of Library Associations sets basic requirements for library facilities.

Librarians can effectively disseminate knowledge when relevant facilities such as printed materials, printers, and copier facilities are adequately available. Providing and using ICT is a key aspect of student learning and research. Libraries in tertiary are advised to provide



appropriate CD-ROMs, scanners, and projectors. These library facilities might encourage librarians to share expertise, which leads to better job performance.

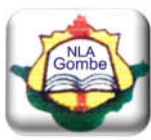
The willingness of students to use library services and information resources depends on their availability. Availability refers to the quality of being able to be used or obtained. It implies the fact that something can be bought, used or reached, or how much it can be. This inherently means the probability that an item will operate satisfactorily at a given time when used under stated conditions in an ideal support environment (www.en.m.wikipedia.org). To ensure user happiness, library personnel strive to provide high-quality resources that will improve and empower users academically. To justify availability, students must develop a good attitude towards using the institution's Library. Although some students misuse or abuse the privileges given to them to make free use of the available facilities in libraries, the library management and staff need to create strong and firm measures in cases when students are caught abusing any privilege given to them.

Library services are used by members of all professions and their importance has over the years grown in popularity. In the library, a computerised cataloguing system enables the use of bibliographic records created centrally; offers the library users additional services such as e-mail, online database/electronic journal access, co-nontechnology (better reading tables and chairs, adequate shelving, etc.), air conditioning, an Open Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and many more.

Academic libraries are being computerised due to the expansion of ICT. The Internet is revolutionising research and education, as well as the virtual library. Librarians must adapt to the increasing problems posed by technology in the generation, packaging, and use of information. Financial issues go beyond merely procuring gear and software, but also updating and maintaining them. Information retrieval and use will be easier and faster with the advent of the computer-based e-library.

Omehia and Boma (2008) investigate the relationship between student characteristics and library use. A library's value is determined by how well its resources are used. Online databases are the most commonly used library materials, followed by dictionaries, novels, and encyclopedias. Academic progress is based on research output, which is dependent on facilities, especially library resources.

Attitude is said to be a settled way of thinking or feeling about something or a feeling or opinion about something or someone, or a way of behaving that is caused by this (www.dictionary.cambridge.org). It is indeed a frame of mind hinged on three components: an affective component (feelings), a behavioural component (the effective of the attitude on behavior) and cognitive component (belief and knowledge) (www.jackwestin.com). To determine a person's attitude therefore, one must make an evaluation of these three components. Such an evaluation may produce favourable or unfavourable, positive or negative results. Westin says, the affective component of attitude relates to a person's feelings or emotions in their shaping of attitude to a person or object. If you feel more positive about someone or something, you are likely to address them in a positive manner. The cognitive component relates to our beliefs and knowledge about someone or a situation that shapes our attitude. For example, if you know dogs bite and this is dangerous you would adapt your attitude to dogs when you see them because of your knowledge of them. The behavioural component involves our actions towards a person or situation. For example, if we have a positive behavior at work and there is a positive environment, we are more likely to behave in a productive way. This can be applied to the library, its services vis-à-vis its users.



User attitudes towards certain facilities can be of great concern. While some users abuse certain facilities, others carelessly handle others under the guise of "it is our school fees", or "it is government proper?". Some may even engage in theft and mutilation of some of these information resources, mis-shelve books so that only they can benefit from them, and many other negative attitudes. Others, likewise, have favourable attitudes toward the usage of some of these resources, which they understand are intended to aid them in their studies.

Many obstacles prevent students from using library facilities. Book mis-shelving and dampness and microbial mutilation, for instance, are culpable as they prevent students from accessing vital information resources, resulting in a negative attitude towards libraries. To address some of these issues, library management and staff will need non-electronic physical security, electronic security, CCTV cameras, electromagnetic security, burglar alarm, radio frequency identification (RFID), biometric system, access control system, x-ray security machine, robot security system (RSS), etc. By and large, the need to address the teething challenges of availability of library resources and their use becomes imperative especially if the objective of enhanced academic performance of students in an academic institution is to be achieved.

An institution's Library is often one of the first facilities that start with the institution. Though a critical information provider needed for maximum benefit of users, not much is known about students' attitudes towards the facilities in such a facility. It therefore becomes imperative to take a closer look at the facilities and resources available in the library, their use and students' attitude towards them. This forms the crux of this study which investigates this issue, with particular reference to the Library of the Federal College of Education, Pankshin, Plateau State, Central Nigeria. An institution established by the federal government to provide middle level manpower for the Basic Education sector.

Objectives of the study

The purpose of this study is to assess the attitudes of students towards the use of facilities in Federal College of Education Pankshin library. Thus, the specific objectives of the study are:

1. To investigate what library facilities are available for learning and research in Federal College of Education Pankshin.
2. To examine the students' attitudes towards the use of the available library facilities.

Methodology

The institution started in 1974 as a Federal Advanced Teachers College, later renamed Federal College of Education (FCE) Pankshin in 1982. FCE Pankshin primarily runs the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) programme and the B. Ed programme under the affiliation of the University of Jos. Being a federal tertiary institution, it is one of those teacher education-based colleges owned by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

This study used the descriptive survey research design as its framework and a structured questionnaire for its data generation. The target population for the study consisted of the 1,417 registered student users of the Federal College of Education, Pankshin Library. Of this population, 312 were selected using the Yaro Yamane formula to represent the sample for the study. A structured questionnaire, developed by the researchers, was administered on a *de facto* basis to these 312 respondents who were selected using the purposive random sampling technique.

The instrument for data collection had three Sections: A, B and C with Section A centred on the demographic characteristics of the respondents (age, gender and programme of study), Section B set out to generate data on inventory of available library facilities (furniture,



equipment, print and non-print materials), and Section C, being a Likert scale to solicit responses on attitudes of students towards use of the facilities available in the library.

Data generated were tabulated and analysed using the simple percentage.

Results

Of the 312 copies of questionnaire distributed, 282 were retrieved giving a return rate of 90%. This formed the basis for the subsequent analysis. 73 respondents, representing 25.8%, were aged 18–22 years, 119 or 42.2%, were aged 24-29 years, while 90 or 32.0%, were aged 30 years and above. This indicates that the majority of the respondents were aged 24-29 years (see Table 1).

159 respondents, representing 56.3%, were males and 123 or 43.7%, were females. This indicates that the majority of the respondents were males (see Table 2). 106 respondents, representing 37.6% were for the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) and 176 respondents, representing 62.4%, were undergraduate students. This indicates that the majority of the respondents were undergraduate students (see Table 3).

On the library facilities available for learning and research, the result shows that good reading tables (76.6%), chairs (59.6%) and computers (93.6%) are relatively made available in the library, while books, shelves and internet connectivity are 100% made available. Other facilities like air conditioners (85.2%), photocopies machines (97.5%) and journals (88.3%) are relatively not available, while newspapers and printers are 100% not available in the library for usage (see Table 4).

In respect to students' attitudes toward the use of library facilities, it was discovered that an average of 123 respondents, constituting 43.6%, strongly agreed that students' attitudes toward the use of library facilities in the library are very good, while an average of 147 respondents, constituting 52.3%, agreed that their attitudes are good. An average of 5 respondents, representing 1.7%, strongly disagreed with the statement, while an average of 7 respondents, representing 2.4%, disagreed that students' attitudes toward the use of library facilities in the library are bad. This indicates that students' attitudes toward the use of library facilities in FCE Pankshin library are quite good since the majority of the respondents, 147, representing 52.3%, agreed with the statement (see Table 5).

Discussion

It revealed that, though some library facilities such as air conditioning, photocopiers, printers, and newspapers are not made available to the users, good reading tables, chairs, computers, books, the internet, and shelves are made available to the library users since a majority of the respondents, 143, representing 50.7%, agreed that the facilities are available. This finding agrees with Okonoko et al. (2018), Ternenge and Agipu (2019), and Alokluk (2020) that students who visited the library prioritised reading personal study notes, textbooks, reference materials, theses and dissertations, computers, novels, using the internet and library materials within the building.

A majority of the respondents (147), representing 52.3%, agreed that students develop positive attitudes toward the use of library facilities in FCE Pankshin. Some of the positive attitudes developed by the students include: adherence to rules and regulations for using the library; books are taken out of the library only when borrowed; computers are only utilised when assigned; books are not mutilated; and borrowed materials are returned in good condition and



on time. This finding agrees with Alokluk (2020), who concluded that the students' attitude towards the use of library facilities was positive.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The availability of library facilities in a tertiary institution is an important requirement for enhanced teaching and learning to take place. This study investigated available library facilities at the Federal College of Education Pankshin Library. It had registered student users as its target population. Its findings revealed that the library had good reading tables, chairs, computers, books, shelves and internet connectivity are partially/completely available for students' use while air conditioners, printers, journals and newspapers were either partially available or completely non-available. The attitudes of the students' users to the available library facilities were generally positive. The implication for policy is that the institution should make available those facilities that are either unavailable or partially available and sustained the positive attitudes of the student users if the vision to enhance teaching and learning is to be achieved.

The following recommendations are therefore made:

1. Library facilities such as journals and newspapers should be provided timely to library users to help them get primary information that can help them in their daily studies.
2. Functional printers and copiers should be made available to the library.
3. Air conditioners should be installed in the library to make the learning environment more conducive for the users.
4. The positive attitudes of the student users of the library should be sustained by the College authority.

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APPENDICES

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Age Range (n=282)

	Age Range	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-22	73	25.8	25.8
	24-29	119	42.2	68.0
	30 and above	90	32.0	100.0
	Total	282	100.0	

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Gender (n=282)

	Gender	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	159	56.3	56.3
	Female	123	43.7	100.0
	Total	282	100.0	

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Programme of Study (n=282)

	Programme	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	NCE	106	37.6	37.4
	DEGREE	176	62.4	100.0
	Total	282	100.0	



Table 4: Library Facilities Available for Learning and Research in Federal College of Education Pankshin Library (n = 282)

S/No.	Library Facilities	A		NA		N
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	
1	Good reading tables	216	76.6	66	23.4	282
2	Chairs	168	59.6	114	40.4	
3	Air conditions	40	14.2	242	85.2	
4	Computers	264	93.6	18	6.4	
5	Photocopiers	7	2.5	275	97.5	
6	Printers	0	0	282	100.0	
7	Books	282	100.0	0	0	
8	Journals	33	11.7	219	88.3	
9	Newspapers	0	0	282	100.0	
10	Shelves	282	100.0	0	0	
11	Internet	282	100.0	0	0	
Total		1574	558.2	1498	541.2	
Average/valid percent		143	50.7%	136	49.2%	

Table 5: Students attitudes toward the use of library facilities in Federal College of Education Pankshin

S/No	Items	SA		A		SD		D		n
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	
1	Rules and regulations of using the library are adhered to.	112	39.7	163	57.8	0	0	7	2.5	282
2	Borrowed materials are returned in good condition and on time.	97	34.4	169	59.9	15	5.3	0	0	
3	Computers are only utilized when assigned.	117	41.5	165	58.5	0	0	0	0	
4	Books are not mutilated.	139	49.3	108	38.3	9	3.2	26	9.3	
5	Books are taken out of the library only when borrowed.	150	53.2	132	46.8	0	0	0	0	
Total		615	218.1	737	261.3	24	8.5	33	11.8	
Average/valid percent		123	43.6%	147	52.3%	5	1.7%	7	2.4%	

SA= Strongly Agree, A = Agree, SD = Strongly Disagree, Disagree