

Exploration Study on Attitude and Readiness towards Resource Sharing among Academic Libraries in the Federal Universities in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the attitude and readiness towards resource sharing among academic libraries in the federal universities in Nigeria. The study had two objectives, two research questions and two hypotheses. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised of 3551 library staff from 40 federal universities in Nigeria. Cluster sampling technique was employed to select 480 library staff from 18 universities for the study. Random sampling was used to select respondent from each of the 18 institutions. The instruments used for data collection was 20 items five rating scale structured questionnaire. The instrument was subjected to evaluation, scrutiny and criticism by experts. The researchers conducted a pilot reliability testing in some selected academic libraries of Kaduna state University and Bauchi state Universities. Data collected were analyzed using the Cronbach's alpha. The result gave reliability coefficient of .92. Face to face delivery method was employed in the administration and collection of the instruments. The data collected from the academic libraries under study were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (v20). The package was used run mean for answering research questions. A minimum weighted mean score of 3.00 was used as the yardstick for agree. In the test of hypotheses, Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) was employed at significance level of 0.05. The results of the study revealed that the attitude and interest of federal universities in Nigeria is positive with regard to partnership and resource sharing. It was therefore concluded that resource sharing among academic libraries through consortium or engage into partnership activities have benefited library users to have access to information and education needed to satisfy the teaching, learning and research of the patron community. It was recommended among others that in order to have partnership for effective resources sharing activities in the academic libraries under study, there must be a need for the library staff under study to increase their commitment and willingness on their attitude to partnership activities with clear vision and mission towards partnership for effective resources sharing activities in the academic libraries of the federal universities in Nigeria.

Key words: Attitude, Readiness, Resource Sharing Libraries

INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries are integral part of the various academic institutions of higher

learning. Therefore, they grow simultaneously with their parent institutions. Their functions are to support learning,

teaching and other research activities of their respective institutions. Institutions of higher learning exist in different nomenclature such as universities, polytechnics, colleges of education and the likes. University education is the highest form of formal education and the university education in Nigeria is under the control of government. This is because universities are the prime movers of modern societies. However, they cannot achieve their role if the libraries attached to them fail to provide the vital resources and services for their academic pursuit. Those academic libraries must provide the resources and services needed to support the learning, teaching and research activities of those universities. To a large extent, the quality of a university education is measured by the services of its library (Aina, 2004).

Therefore, academic libraries in higher institutions and universities in particular are the center of the academic activities, which support all the institutions/university's academic and research activities such as teaching, learning and other forms of write up. In this regard, it becomes inevitable for the existence of the libraries in the institutions of higher learning and universities in particular. The basic function of any type of library is to match the needs of users with the information content of documents. Appropriate resources and services exist somewhere and it is needed to be located, retrieved and used by some users. All the various types of libraries perform this role, but libraries in the academic institutions have more challenging task in the course of discharging this function of rendering effective support and services to their users (Komolafe-Opadeji, 2011). Therefore, in this regard, academic libraries attached to

educational institutions such as universities, colleges of education, polytechnics and other related institutions become the essential components that make those institutions function. From the above, it is clear that the basic functions of these libraries are to provide resources and services on all issues that are related to the development of human life and to allow their users to have a free and fair access to their collections.

It is an established fact however, that no single university library can possibly acquire all, or even most, of the available resources and services needed to support its potential users. Arif, Sibai and Sulaiman (1998) have emphatically stated that no library, not even the richest and most advanced, can obtain the vast numbers of journals, books, reports, proceedings and papers that are being produced to satisfy the needs of its users. These challenges made it necessary for academic libraries to devise other means and ways so as to satisfy the needs of their users' community especially through the use of partnership for better and effective resources sharing activities; this would help them to embrace the activities of gift, exchange and sharing of resources and services for the benefit of the library users. This relationship would allow them to boost their resources and services in order to meet the demand of their users. Academic libraries, as the heart of all the tertiary institutions, are expected to maintain various types of partnership for effective resources sharing for better access to resources and services such as: books, journals and audio-visual collections as well as expected library support and services. The situation prompted the researchers to investigate the attitude and readiness of academic libraries in federal

universities in Nigeria towards resource sharing.

The problems of rising costs of information resources, inadequate allocations for collection development, expensive foreign document delivery services, and the ability of information technology are seen as important reasons for developing partnership, interlibrary loan or resources sharing in Nigerian universities. By this, libraries engage on library co-operation, Inter-library loan, "library collaboration and library consortium. The importance of partnership activities among libraries include increasing availability of resources and services, avoiding duplication in the process of subscription of resources and services, extend greater accessibility to resources and services, reduce cost of subscription of resources and services, promote utilization of resources and services and also bring different types of libraries together for effective resources sharing activities. As such, partnership activities could be seen as important component that could be used in developing library resources and services which enhance users' greater accessibilities to those resources and services. As a result of this, it is worthwhile to investigate the attitude and readiness of academic libraries towards partnership in Nigeria Specifically, the study with to: - (1) determine relationship between attitude and resource sharing among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria; and (2) ascertain the relationship between readiness and resource sharing among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria?

Research Questions

In line with the specific objectives, the following research questions were raised.

1. What is the relationship between attitude and resource sharing among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria?
2. What is the relationship between readiness and resource sharing among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation at α 0.05.

1. There is no significant relationship between attitude and resource sharing among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria.
2. There is no significant relationship between readiness and resource sharing among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey design was used in conducting this study. The design involved collecting and analyzing collected data. The choice of the design was based on the opinion of Kerlinger (2005) recommended the use of survey design when research work involves the use of questionnaire seeking the opinions of respondents.

The population of the study comprised of 40 academic libraries as the secondary population, while the primary population was 3551 library staff in the federal universities in Nigeria. Cluster sampling technique was adopted to select the sample for the study. The population of the federal universities in Nigeria were cluster into six (6), each cluster has the number of federal universities from which the sample federal universities were drawn from. The researchers used eighteen

(18) federal universities with sample size of 480 library staff from the selected institutions using proportional technique. Random sampling was used to select respondent from each of the 18 institutions.

The instruments used for the study was 20 items structured questionnaire. All the items were measured using the five point rating scales of "Strongly Agree" (S.A) 5, "Agree" (A) 4, "Undecided (U) 3, "Disagree" (D) 2, and "Strongly Disagree" (S.D) 1 as a rating scale and one ranking order. The instrument was subjected to evaluation, scrutiny and criticism by experts in the field of Education, Statistics, Library and Information Science of Bayero University, Kano and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. All observations and corrections made were duly effected. The final copies of their corrected items were reproduced for answering research questions and testing of hypotheses by the target respondents in the academic libraries under study.

The researcher conducted a pilot reliability testing in some selected academic libraries of Kaduna state University and Bauchi state Universities. Following the pilot test, data collected were subjected to statistical analysis using the Cronbach's alpha. The result gave reliability coefficient of .92 which is greater than 0.70, Craig and Charles (2008) opined that when an alpha

value is greater than .70 the result is considered acceptable. Hence the values of the reliability co-efficient of all the items are high enough for study.

Face to face delivery method was employed in the administration and collection of the instruments. This method was preferred because it afforded the researcher and his assistants' higher percentage return of properly completed questionnaires from the respondents. In each of the eighteen (18) institutions, enough time were given to the respondents in the academic libraries under study to complete the questionnaires. The data collected from the academic libraries under study were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (v20) was used to run mean deviation for answering research questions. A minimum weighted mean score of 3.00 was used as the yardstick for agree. In the test of hypotheses, Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) was employed at at significance level of 0.05.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

The results of research questions are presented in Table 1 and 2.

Research Question One: What is the relationship between attitude and resource sharing among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria?

Table 1: Analysis on relationship between attitude and resource sharing among the federal universities in Nigeria

Responses	Total		Mean		Std. Dev.	Remark	Decision
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree			
13379	9672	3392	3.61	1.39	0.90	3.61>3.00	Agree

Analysis of data used to determine the attitude of academic libraries towards

resource sharing among the federal universities in Nigeria revealed cumulative

score of 13379. Respondents who argued that universities librarians have positive attitude towards resource sharing scored 9672 with mean score of 3.61. Those with divergent opinion scored 3391 (1.39) with standard deviation value of 0.90. From the analysis, the calculated mean score for agree was found to be greater than the benchmark ($3.61 > 3.00$), hence it is concluded that there is positive

attitude towards resource sharing among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria.

Research Question Two: Ascertain the relationship between readiness and resource sharing among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria?

Table 2: Analysis of relationship between readiness and resource sharing among the federal universities in Nigeria

Total			Mean		Std.	Remark	Dec
Responses	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Dev		
13561	9736	3516	3.59	1.41	0.90	$3.59 > 3.00$	Agree

The analysis of data used to answer research question two revealed the total score of 13561. The opinions of respondents on readiness of resource sharing scored 9736 (3.59). Those that disagree scored 3516 (1.41) with standard deviation value 0.90. From the analysis, the calculated value was greater than the benchmark for agree ($3.59 > 3.00$), hence it was concluded that federal universities were ready for resource sharing through the use of

variety of Information and communication technology facilities for partnership and resources sharing activities in Nigeria

Test of Hypotheses

Null Hypothesis One: There is no significant relationship between attitude towards resource and resource sharing activities among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria

Table 4: test of relationship between attitudes of academic libraries towards resource sharing among the federal universities in Nigeria.

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev	N	r-cal	r-crit	p-value
Attitude towards resource sharing	3.11	.611	433	.344 **	.195	.001
Resource sharing activities	3.59	0.90				

The PPMC analysis used to determine null hypothesis one revealed the mean score of 3.11 with standard deviation of .611 for resource sharing activities. Types of ICT facilities in libraries used for resources sharing had mean score of 3.59 with standard deviation of 0.90. The calculated value was greater than the table value ($.344 > .195$), this

was also obtained in the probability value less than 0.05. The analysis therefore indicated that there was significant relationship between attitude towards resource and resource and resource sharing activities among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria. The hypothesis was not retained.

Null Hypothesis Two: There is no significant relationship between readiness

towards resource and resource sharing activities among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria

Table 4: test of relationship between readiness of academic libraries towards resource sharing among the federal universities in Nigeria.

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev	N	r-cal	r-crit	p-value
Readiness towards resource sharing	3.59	.508				
Resource sharing activities	3.61	0.90	224	.307**	.195	.000

The result of data used to test null hypothesis two revealed the mean scores of 3.59 and 3.61 for readiness and resource sharing activities with standard deviation of .508 and 0.90 respectively. The r-cal value of .307 was greater than the critical value of .195. The probability value of .000 obtained shows that there was significant relationship between readiness towards resource sharing and resource sharing activities among academic libraries in federal universities in Nigeria. The null hypothesis was therefore not retained.

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The study found that the academic libraries under study are forming or joining partnership for effective resources sharing activities. This was meant for the academic libraries to come together for exchange and sharing of resources and services for the benefit of their library users. The finding agreed with the study of Nwalo (2008) that participation in exchange and sharing activities in libraries brings about efficient services through programs in co-operative acquisition, cooperative cataloguing, sharing of human resources, access to electronic database, harmonization of Information and Communication Technology application in library management and electronic content

licensing. Similarly, Nwalo (2008) in his discussion also mentioned that “area of resource sharing desired by the libraries include exchange of personnel, inter-library lending, and joint financing of mutually beneficial projects especially pertaining to accessibility to electronic resources which are practiced in different libraries and information centers. This is similar with the findings of Asamoah-Hassan (2002) who reports that these activities are based on the good will of one library to another. She identified some of the problems hindering efficient resource sharing among university libraries in Ghana as the unreliable communication system, unavailability of materials requested, manual searching of catalogues, informal network and lack of union lists and catalogues. Based on the outcome of this work Asamoah -Hassan recommends the formation of a library consortium in Ghana. This, she believes, would enable the libraries to enjoy, to the maximum, the benefits of resources sharing. Resource sharing is, therefore, considered as one of the pillars of modern librarianship with the main objective of maximizing the available materials and services and minimizing expenses. It is the key to the future progress of university libraries as a whole in Ghana.

The study also found that significant relationship exists between partnership for effective resources sharing activities and types of ICT facilities in academic libraries of the federal universities in Nigeria. The library staff that answered the research instrument that with the advent of modern information and communication technology facilities and their application of some in the library operation, the activities of resources sharing were enhanced significantly. The finding of the study is similar to that of a study by Rotich & Munge (2007) who report that university libraries began using computers to enhance their service delivery, they observed that the use of computers and related technologies spread over the years promote accessing, managing and sharing of resources and libraries. They added that consequently, university libraries have been under pressure to embrace Information and Communication Technologies for service delivery and resources sharing for information resources not available in libraries. Shorley (2008) also found that the new information environment has seen the collection development practices slowly changing from “just-in-case” to “just-in-time” thus making access to information resources outside the home library more critical than ever before. Nwalo (2008) reported that consortium supports resources sharing activities and provides services to users through programs in cooperative acquisition, access to electronic resource, and access to physical collection, enhanced inter-library loan, and document delivery. He also opined that advances in Information and Communication Technology facilities have facilitated resources sharing activities through computer networks, explaining further, he notes that more and more information resource and services are being

made available by publishers electronically because of advances in ICT facilities.

Bailey-Hainer, et.al, (2014) assert that resources sharing has become a dynamic and increasingly strategic area of service that reflects a constantly changing information landscape and commitment that libraries are making to empower their communities to discover and access information efficiently and effectively with the power of Information and Communication Technology facilities. Chin and Khasiah (2014) who reported that there is worldwide access to sharable information and resources should be encouraged through formal or informal networking. This supported the submission of Kinner and Rigda (2009) and Anasi, Akpan and Adedokun (2012). It was also discovered that the internet is the major way in which academic staff share their knowledge with the outside world. With the emergence of laptop compatible modem, academic staff can access and share information with the whole world. Also Brown (2013) has found that “the library networking for mutual sharing of resource has advanced from its earlier inter-library loan agreements to electronic networks. This has made possible the electronic information access among interconnected nodes. The sharing of information and collection development is inter-connected. Spiraling inflation of prices of journals and books and fast spread of electronic information have forced the librarians to recognize the importance of access to resources and services than collection building. The obvious popularity of non-mediated electronic services, whether distributed on CD-ROM or wide-area networks, means that our traditional concept of the library as a collection of materials that are purchased, stored locally and owned, will need to change

radically. CD-ROM is one of the key elements in the new paradigm that emphasizes libraries' primary concern as being with information access, retrieval and management, whether that information is stored locally or remotely and whether it be purchased in advance paid for at the point of use or leased.

So also Onwuchekwa (2014) that electronic platform has already been taken advantage of by some Universities who were found in this study to have formed alliance with an aim to collaborating in resource sharing amongst themselves; an agreement to share digital resources through giving free access to virtual libraries to consortium members. For example "it has been subject of discussion in institute of advanced legal studies...6 University libraries –Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Lagos, University of Jos, University of Ibadan and the other 2 universities are planning a consortium on resource sharing... with respect to law libraries, I don't know if anything has been set in motion..." This finding has overtaken the earlier finding in Adam and Usman (2013) in which it was found that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities have not been embraced. Though his research was focused on northern Universities, however it has reiterated the findings of Ejedafiru (2010) in which it was found that digitalization is the backbone of resource sharing. The finding above has also shown that Information and Communication Technology facilities are the backbone of library co-operation, resources sharing and partnership activities in libraries.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study show that the attitude and interest of federal universities in

Nigeria is positive with regard to partnership and resource sharing. It therefore means that library users among the federal universities have access to local and foreign materials which will enrich their research and academic work. Based on this, it was concluded that the resource sharing among academic libraries through consortium or engage into partnership activities have benefited library users to have access to information and education needed to satisfy the teaching, learning and research of the patron community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the outcome of the study the following recommendations were made:-

1. In order to have partnership for effective resources sharing activities in the academic libraries under study, there must be a need for the library staff under study to increase their commitment and willingness on their attitude to partnership activities with clear vision and mission towards partnership for effective resources sharing activities in the academic libraries of the federal universities in Nigeria.
2. Academic libraries of the federal universities in Nigeria should develop facilities like centralized cataloguing, developing protocol for transferring information resources and services from one library to another; enable the consortium among library members exchange and sharing of resources and services to take a formal shape between and among the members.

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