

Users Attitude towards the Use of Library Catalogue in Federal University of Kashere Library in Gombe State, Nigeria

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Abstract - *The study investigated the awareness and use of library catalogue for accessing information resources by users of Federal University of Kashere Library. Five research questions guided the study. Survey research design was used, registered users of the University Library between 2016-2019 numbering 920 formed the population of the study where a sample of 272 (30% sample) was used based on 95% confidence level and 5% confidence interval of Sample Size Calculator. The instrument used for data collection was questionnaire. Data generated was analyzed using simple percentage and descriptive statistics. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents were aware of library catalogue existence; they were more informed about card catalogue usage than OPAC for retrieving information resources. In effect, the respondents use card catalogue regularly compared to the OPAC. Majority of the respondents used the library for research work rather than for leisure and recreational purposes. Poor computer skills hindering navigation when searching OPAC and inability to locate materials on the shelves, indicated in the catalogue as being available were the challenges affecting the use of catalogue as an information retrieval tools. The study recommended that the library management should organize a periodic user education, orientation and sensitization programmes for the undergraduate users to create awareness and enable them gain the needed skills to use the library catalogue maximally when searching for information resources. Guidelines on how to use catalogue and library in general should be prepared and issued to registered users. Regular shelf reading should be done so as to establish right contact between library users and library materials.*

Keywords: Card catalogue, Information Resources, Library, OPAC, Use and Users

Background to the study

The university library goals and objectives are to provide adequate and relevant information resources both in print and online for university community to support teaching, learning and research (these for undergraduates students may refer to class work, assignments, research/project work, term papers, seminar presentation by providing relevant information and services provision for effective and efficient achievement of academic pursuit). University library provides well stocked information resources and trained personnel to organize available information materials and assist faculty members and student users in the retrieval and use of these resources.

Review of Related Literature

The library as a service oriented organization must provide the bibliographic resources and services channeled towards the fulfillment of its parent institution's goals and objectives. The library ensures that the resources acquired are well organized to allow easy access by the library users (Oghenekaro, 2018). The traditional goals and objectives of the library catalogue are to enable users to search a library's collection to find items pertaining to specific titles, authors, or subjects. Library catalogue is considered as an interface of information retrieval system which assists information searchers to access resources of libraries using several access points.

Library catalogue exist in different form. Like the card catalogues, sheaf catalogues, books, machine readable catalogues (MARC)s and online public access catalogues (OPAC)s. According to Ogbole and Morayo (2017) libraries were traditionally known to provide access to library information materials through card catalogues and book catalogue as the primary information locating tools. Following advancement in ICT and subsequent development of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), the traditional concept of access to library resources which many scholars identified to be prone to numerous challenges has changed. OPAC has brought a changing relationship between libraries and their users in the changing ICT environment. Library OPACs first emerged in the late 1970s and early 1980s and have gone through several cycles of change and development all geared towards improvement. The library OPAC as an automated catalogue system was developed as a tool to locate those information resources that had been acquired, organized and preserved by the library itself. In this environment, the user is both the primary searcher of the system and the user of the information resources. Aina (2004) stated that online public access catalogue (OPAC) is the most modern form of library catalogue, whereby bibliographic records of all the documents collection are stored in the computer memory or server. As a means of ensuring that information materials are available and accessible, libraries provide catalogues to display what is available in the library and where they can be obtained.

Ruzegea (2012) stated that awareness of OPAC and its interface features is 100% majority of respondents 66.7% stated that speed of navigation was fast, 76.7% reported that library OPAC has no multimedia Interface like video, rear players and audio features. Overall majority of respondents 80% satisfied with OPAC functionality. Again, Atanda and Uwulebo (2017) observed that awareness of the library catalogue is the ability of the students to have communication and consciousness of its essence, its retrieval technique as well as their relevance to the information user. Students' skills in search catalogue can be created through library tours, orientations, seminars, lectures, library staff, handbooks and use of library studies. Although, much awareness of the retrieval tools may be created in the libraries, it does not necessarily mean its accessibility, not to speak of its use. The major importance is that they help library users to locate and retrieve the information materials they need.

Kumar and Vohra (2011) investigated the use of Online Public Access Catalogue by the users at Guru Nanak Dev University Library, Amritsar (Punjab) and discovered that majority of the respondents 68.7% were not aware regarding OPAC, 12.5% stated the reason to be lack of assistance from library staff and slow speed. The purpose of using OPAC majority of the respondents 63.2% stated that they use OPAC to know the availability of required document. The study suggests that the users should be made familiar with the use and operation of the OPAC by providing special training.

Kumar (2017) revealed that 26.99% respondents use the OPAC fortnightly and 22.84% weekly. 61.59% use the OPAC to locate a document on shelves and 58.48% to know the particular book is available on the shelves or not, 37.71% to know the bibliographical details, 31.14%. 91% respondents used the title search approach and 83.04% used the author search approach, User also indicated that the information regarding the problem faced by the respondents while using the OPAC like 74.39% faced by the problem lack of proper guidance about OPAC followed by 67.47% lack of awareness, 36.33% satisfied with the OPAC and its services. If a user lacks skills to use a library catalogue, the user may not be able to make effective use of the library resources. The studies of Oghenekaro (2018) found that users exhibit patterns of library catalogue usage, that education, experience and sophistication of library users determine the pattern or level of library catalogue use.

Consequently, Amkpa and Iman (2011) emphasized that the success or failure of students to locate resources in the library depends on the skill acquired through the library instruction programme. This is important because, in spite of the benefits which students can derive from catalogue use, its use is still poor in Nigerian university libraries. Okorafor (2006) discovered that catalogue use in Latunde Odeku Medical Library was poor. The author attributed the reason for the poor usage to lack of user education programme. Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) observed that students use catalogue mostly for educational purposes and have really helped in conducting and disseminating information resources in the library. In essence, students use the catalogue to enable them conduct research in the library. While this is a welcome development, it is important to occasionally assess the effectiveness of the library catalogue especially from the users' point of view. It is on this note that this study investigates the use of library catalogue by undergraduate student in the university library.

Statement of the Problem

For any academic library to serve the purpose to which it is created as agent of information provider in educational environment. It must contain different types of materials, very rich in nature, comprehensive in coverage with adequate bibliographical tools describing the location of each item, which is significant to the whole concept of library and librarianship. However, it is observed sometimes that the bibliographic tools that supposed to lead or guides user to the location of a particular item in the library are either found in adequate, misleading, totally not provided or somehow incomplete. The consequences of this, a user may end off scanning from one shelf to another in search of a document, which is often a waste of time or failure to locate and retrieve the needed material. Therefore, the study investigates the access and use of library catalogue by students of Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State.

Research Objectives

The study is designed to achieve the following objectives

1. To find out the students awareness about library catalogue as access point to library collection.
2. To find out methods employ by students to consult library catalogue to search for information resources.
3. To ascertain the extent of use of the library catalogue by students to access information resources.
4. To identify the constraints associated with the use of library catalogue.

Research Questions

The study is designed to answer the following research questions

1. What is the student's awareness about library catalogue as access point to library collection?
2. What are the methods employ by students to consult library catalogue to search for information resources in FUK?
3. To what extent do students use library catalogue in FUK?
4. What are the constraints associated with use of library catalogue in FUK?

Methodology

The survey research method was adopted for the study, and questionnaire was the instruments use for collecting data. The total population of the study comprises is 920 undergraduate students that had registered with the University Library with effect from 4/1/2017 to 15/7/2019, covering 3 academic session. The stratification sampling technique was employed to sample the entire registered population of undergraduate library users from each level (100-500) in Federal University of Kashere respectively. Thus, 272 respondents were selected for the study based on 95% confidence level and 5% confidence interval of Sample Size Calculator. However, out of 272 questionnaires that were distributed, the same 272 were returned and 262 were found useful because 10 respondents indicated not aware of the subject. The completed and returned questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics, percentage and frequency distribution.

Analysis and Discussion of the Findings

1.1 The Gender of the Respondents

This section presents questionnaire collected on the basis of gender of the research respondents. The gender breakdown is presented on Table 1.

Table 1: The Gender of the Respondents (N=272)

Level	Male	%	Female	%	Total
100	38	68	18	32	56
200	32	64	18	36	50
300	38	73	14	27	52
400	42	72	16	28	58
500	38	68	18	32	56
Total	188	69	84	31	272

Key: %= Percentage.

The question on the demographic information of the respondents was on gender presented in Table 1. It shows that majority of the respondents 188(69%) were male, followed by females 84(31%). This shows that majority of library users in the Federal University of Kashere Library were male. This implies that the male ranked highest in utilizing the library catalogue more than the female. This finding is in agreement with Clifford & Zaccus (2015) whose study on "users attitude towards the use of library catalogue in two selected University Libraries in South West Nigeria" revealed that number of the male respondents is higher than female respondents.

1.2. User Awareness of Library Catalogue

Librarians in discharging their responsibilities should inform library users by communicating the availability of new technology and the way it operates to them.

Table 2: Awareness of Library Catalogue (N=272)

Level	YES	%	NO	%	Total
100	50	92.6	4	7.4	54
200	44	88	6	12	50
300	54	100	0	0	54
400	56	100	0	0	56
500	58	100	0	0	58
Total	262	96.3	10	3.7	272

Key: %= Percentage.

Table 2 revealed that majority of the respondents 262(96.3%) were aware of the existence of the library catalogue in the university library. This finding is a good development for the library because it shows that the methods they used for creating awareness of library yielded good results. Awareness of access points to library collections are the most important factors influencing the success of the retrieval and utilization of library resources. The awareness of respondents would depend on the way the library informs their users about the use and functions of library catalogue revealing the available resources and its location in the library. This findings correspond with that of Oghenekaro (2018) on the “use of library catalogue in Nigerian University Libraries: A focus on Redeemer’s University Library”, that majority of respondents 225 (89.6%) were aware of the existence of catalogue in the library.

Table 3: Types of Catalogue Users were aware of. (N=262)

Level	Card Catalogue		OPAC		Book Catalogue		Total
	A	%	B	%	C	%	
100	26	52	10	20	14	28	50
200	30	68	6	14	8	18	44
300	48	89	0	0	6	11	54
400	24	43	2	4	30	54	56
500	50	86	8	14	0	0	58
Total	178	68	26	10	58	22	262

Key: F=Frequency, %= Percentage.

Table shows that majority of the respondents 178 (68%) were aware of the card catalogues as a access point / retrieval tool for searching for information resources in the library. With 64% response rate it is obvious that the respondents are aware of the existence of the card catalogues as a retrieval tool for searching for information materials. 26(10%) of the respondents were aware of the existence of OPAC as a retrieval tools in the library. This indicates that majority of the respondents were not aware of online public access catalogue in the library and they only use manual catalogue for information retrieval. This development is not healthy for university library in the 21st century, where information resources should accessed from different locations within and outside the university using modern ICT facilities like OPAC.

Sources of User Awareness of Library Catalogue

In order to find out how respondents became aware of the library catalogue in the university library, options were provided in the questionnaire on the sources of library catalogue and they were asked to indicate the sources of their awareness. Their responses were presented in the Table 4 below.

Table 4: Sources of Awareness (N=262)

Level	University website		library staff		Notice board		Library Orientation		User education Programmes (GST)		Total
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
100	8	16	12	24	2	4	12	24	16	32	50
200	8	18	2	5	0	0	8	18	26	59	44
300	6	11	10	19	0	0	8	15	30	56	54
400	2	4	36	64	0	0	2	4	16	29	56
500	12	21	46	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	58
Total	46	18	106	40	2	1	30	11	88	34	262

Key: F=Frequency, %= Percentage.

Table 5 reveals that 106(40%) got their awareness through library staff, followed by those that knew it through the user education programme (GST) 88(16%). The finding of the study reveals that the creation of awareness on use of catalogue through library orientation, university website and notice board is significantly low. This implies that majority of respondents became aware of information retrieval tools through library staff and user education programmes these are more formal sources of awareness about library catalogue function and use. The result proves that the management of the university library provides awareness opportunity to users for retrieval and utilization of information resources, except that they need to put more emphasis during library orientation to add to existing ones. Again, university website could be used to provide access to library resources especially e-resources, therefore library management need to make it as one of the major access points and retrieval of information resources.

1.3 Use Patterns of Library Catalogue

The study sought to find out the catalogue use patterns of respondents, the options were given for the users to choose which is applicable to them.

Table 5: Use Patterns of Library Catalogue (N=262)

Level	Regularly		Occasionally		Never		Total
	F	%	F	%	F	%	
100	20	40	28	56	2	4	50
200	14	32	20	45	10	23	44
300	24	44	20	37	10	19	54
400	42	75	12	21	2	4	56
500	58	100	0	0	0	0	58
Total	158	60	80	31	24	9	262

Key: F=Frequency, %= Percentage.

Table 5 indicated that majority of the respondents 158(60%) used the library catalogue regularly when searching for materials in the library. 24 (9%) of the respondents never used

the catalogue but they were aware of its existence in the library as indicated on table 2 above. This shows that these few users preferred browsing the shelves to search for information resources. The finding of this study however revealed that the rate at which the respondents used the library catalogue regularly was very high. This finding is contrary to that of Oghenekaro (2018) whose study found low usage of the library catalogue attributed the low frequency of use to lack of user education programmes.

Table 6: How Users Retrieve Information Resources

Level	Through Card Catalogue		Through OPAC		Staff Assistance		Browsing the Shelf		Ask Friends		Ask Colleagues		Total
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
100	10	20	0	0	6	12	28	56	6	12	0	0	50
200	10	23	6	14	10	23	16	36	2	5	0	0	44
300	10	19	6	11	14	26	12	22	6	11	6	11	54
400	14	25	0	0	36	64	6	11	0	0	0	0	56
500	2	3	0	0	54	93	2	3	0	0	0	0	58
Total	46	18	12	5	120	46	64	24	14	5	6	2	262

The finding indicated poor use of OPAC 12(5%) at the university library. This finding is in agreement with Fabunmi & Asubiojo (2013) whose study on OPAC use by students of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife found out that though many students were aware of the OPAC, few actually made use of it. The study found that majority of the respondents were aware of library catalogue in the library including OPAC. The finding in this case was surprising considering that majority of the respondents had indicated that they do not use the OPAC. The reason for this could be attributed to the fact that users did not have the ICT skills to manipulate the OPAC and they solicit the help of library assistants or even friends to retrieve information materials in the library. Lack of skills could discourage users from using the catalogue.

Table 7: The Purpose of Using Library Catalogue

Level	To Access Research Information		To Access Information for Making Note		To Access Information for Assignment		To Access Information for Leisure and Recreational Purposes		Total
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
100	20	40	8	16	20	40	2	4	50
200	22	50	4	9	18	41	0	0	44
300	30	56	4	7	16	30	4	7	54
400	24	43	18	32	12	21	2	4	56
500	0	0	6	10	52	90	0	0	58
Total	96	37	40	15	118	45	8	3	262

Table 7 revealed that 118(45%) of the respondents use catalogue to access information for assignment, followed by those that use it to retrieve information for research 96(37%). It could be concluded that majority of the respondents used the library for research work rather than for leisure and recreational purposes. This agrees with the findings of Oghenekaro (2018) that 94 (37.5%) of the respondents used it for research purpose, 66 (26.3) used it for enquiry, while others used it for bibliographic record supply, document delivery and others.

1.4 Challenges Associated with the Use of Library Catalogue

The respondents were given multiple options to indicate as many as applicable the challenges associated with the use of library catalogue in the university libraries. The results are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Challenges Associated with the Use of Library Catalogue

Variables	100 Level		200 Level		300 Level		400 Level		500 Level		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1. Inability to locate materials on the shelves, indicated in the catalogue as being available	16	32	12	27	16	30	14	26	0	0	58	22
2. Queue when accessing card catalogue	4	8	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	6	2
3. Power outage causing frustration when accessing OPAC	2	4	4	9	6	11	0	0	0	0	12	5
4. Time wasting when using card catalogue	6	12	4	9	6	11	2	4	0	0	18	7
5. Cost of access to OPAC, outside school	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Poor understanding of meaning of information on library catalogue	4	8	0	0	10	19	4	7	2	3	20	8
7. Lack of adequate time to search for information	12	24	10	23	6	11	4	7	2	3	34	13
8. Poor computer skills hindering navigation when searching OPAC	4	8	6	14	6	11	26	48	54	90	96	37
9. Difficulty in getting information from card catalogue because of poor retrieval skills	2	4	8	18	4	7	2	4	2	3	18	7
Total	50	100	44	100	54	100	54	100	60	100	262	100

Table 8 focused on the challenges associated with catalogue use for information retrieval. Higher number of the respondents indicated poor computer skills hindering navigation when searching OPAC 96(37%) and inability to locate materials on the shelves, indicated in the catalogue as being available 58(22%) were the challenges affecting the use of catalogue as an information retrieval tools. This indicates that good of the respondents had difficulties using the library catalogue because the respondents lack sound ICT skills that could enable them use the OPAC. ICT skill is needed by the respondents to be able to browse the library OPAC. Again, the later challenge could be attributed to lack proper shelf reading by the library staff, which made users not to locate material indicated available in the library by the catalogue and not visible on its shelf.

This finding corroborates with that of Ogbole & Morayo (2017) which revealed that (41.1%) of the respondents rarely use OPAC. The difficult interface of OPAC poses a big challenge to undergraduates who are the target users of OPAC in any academic library. Users then turn away from the library to use external tools that they feel is more convenient and easy to use such as online search engines when they have information needs. Again with that of Ogunniyi & Efosa (2010) whose study concluded that the problem of catalogue use is associated with lack of knowledge on how to use the library catalogue. The finding was completely different from that of Onuoha, Umahi, & Bamidele, (2013) where respondents faced problems associated mostly with orientation and unstable power supply in UNAAB and also at RUN where the challenge was mostly associated with computer supply and lack of orientation for students.

Conclusion

The study revealed that majority of the university library users were male. It is disturbing to discover from the study, that most of the respondents were aware of the card catalogues as access and retrieval tool for searching for information resources in the library. Higher number of them got their awareness through library staff and above average used the library catalogue regularly. Unfortunately, most of the respondents were yet to be conscious of the existence of the OPAC, do not understand its operations and rarely use the service despite the huge investment of library resources in the production. Therefore, proper orientation and awareness campaign should be done to address this ugly situation. It could be concluded that majority of the respondents used the library for research work rather than for leisure and recreational purposes. Another source of frustration was reasonable number of the respondents indicated poor computer skills hindering navigation when searching OPAC and inability to locate materials on the shelves, indicated in the catalogue as being available were the challenges affecting the use of catalogue as an information retrieval tools.

Recommendations

Considering the important roles library catalogue plays in effective and efficiency use of library information resources, the research recommends the following to improve the use of library catalogue for information access and retrieval:

1. The library management should organize a periodic user education programmes for the undergraduate users. This will enable them gain the needed skills to use the library catalogue maximally when searching for information resources.
2. Librarians should organize orientation and sensitization programmes that will create awareness, and encourage the university community to effectively use OPAC to ensure proper use of library information resources. Because most challenges associated with the use of the OPAC often have to do with lack of ICT skills on how to make use of it.
3. Guidelines on how to use catalogue and library in general should be prepared and issued to registered users.
4. Regular shelf reading should be done so as to establish right contact between library users and library materials and avoid misplacement or wrong shelving of information resources.

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