

The Availability and Utilization of Information Resources by Students of Akawe Torkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies (ATCAPS)

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Abstract: *The purpose of this work was to ascertain the availability and utilization of information resources by students of Akawa Torkula College of advance and professional studies (ATCAPC) Makurdi Benue State. Five objectives and five research questions were set to guide the study. The design of the study was a descriptive survey while the population comprised of 92 students and 11 lecturers. There was no sample size as the entire population was used as sample. A structured questionnaire titled “Availability and Utilization of Information Resources Questionnaire (AUIRSQ). The data was analyzed through descriptive statistics. Means was used to answer the questions. Findings showed that staff and students of Akawa Torkula College of advance and professional studies (ATCAPC) Makurdi Benue State do not utilize the information resources because of inadequacy. It concluded that information resources and services were made available to staff and students that were studied. It was also discovered that students use information resources and services to enhance their reformation needs. The administration of Alfred Akawe Torkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurdi should make adequate provision for more information resources and services to be utilized by staff and students for their academic and research work. The study recommends that the administration of Alfred Akawe Torkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies should provide enough information resources for use by her students, Since information resources are useful to academic and research work by students., Students should be made to satisfy their information needs by use of information resources of Alfred Akawe Torkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies, The administration of Alfred Akawe Torkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies should ensure that the problems faced by the students of the College in using information resources are minimized and the suggested strategies that will help to overcome the challenges facing students in the use of information resources should be adopted.*

Key Words: *Availability, Utilization Information and Resources*

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I. Introduction

Information is one of the major resources in the development of human beings and the world entirely. Tamiyes and Ayiyepelu (2000) noted that information is the heart of the world development. Accurate, relevant and current information has been a significant precursor to technological innovations. Information is an essential need that enables an individual or organization to function, flourish and take decisions. Sheba (2001) maintained that information as an important tool in decision making. This therefore indicates that information provides clues to hidden facts and assists in providing necessary ideas in arriving at a wise and reasonable decision to vocational, educational and socio- personal problems, among others.

Bruce and Baker (2001), described information as an assemblage of data in a comprehensive form capable of communication. This means that information must be made up of data put together in a particular form that can be communicated or distributed.

Popoola (2001) defined it as news that comes to the receiver for the first time which enables the receiver to take action according to expectations. On the other hand, Ugah (2008) argued that information can be conceived as anything that adds to knowledge, ideas, skills and experiences positively or negatively that enables the receiver to take decisions or react to situations immediately or later. It could therefore, be deduced that at whatever time decision is taken, after receiving information, depends to a large extent on the body content of information. Thus, while information is expected to be self-explanatory, it should equally serve as a guide to the receiver as regards when to take decision and also determines the goals to be achieved and the right time to

achieve it. Information is therefore, necessary for the well-being and development of individuals and society at large in the attempt to achieve political, socio-economic, religious, industrial, scientific and technological advancement.

Information is of great importance to the society because it is essential in planning and decision making. Information is a critical resource that enables an individual or organization to function, flourish and take decisions. Mole (2003) maintained information is an important tool in decision making. This, therefore, indicates that information provides clues to the hidden facts and helps in providing necessary and reliable facts to a wise and reasonable decision for vocational, educational and socio-personal problems amongst other. Information is no doubt an integral part of man's daily activities and existence. Aina (2003) argued that information is a group of processed data and when utilized well can help individuals deduce an inference on value judgment in making decisions.

Olowu (2003) on their part viewed information as a critical economic resource which improves the knowledge of an individual to take rational decision. Oyediran-Tidings (2004) pointed out that information is categorized into three (3) stands. The first is the scientific and technical information (STI). This is within the domain of scientific and technological communities. The second stand is socio-cultural. In this context, he viewed information as knowledge which is transferable in the conduct of various activities. The final stand, information is perceived as a basic resource and an indispensable and irreplaceable link between a variety of activities, intellectual and material, in the service of society, institutions and individuals. With this stand information is perceived as fundamental as energy or matter which affects all human activities.

Information resources are the equipment and facilities, software and data, which are designed, built, operated and maintained to collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display and transmit information. According to Idachaba (2004), information resources include such materials as books, periodicals and audio visual materials that are provided for use by the people. These materials are usually housed in a building systematically arranged for easy retrieval. Libraries all over the world regardless of type, public, are considered to be store houses of knowledge of published and unpublished information resources that are basic to survival, development and progress of mankind.

Library information resources are materials which convey, carry or contain information for use by the students (Ugwanyi, 2007). Peschers (2005) emphasized that information resources include illustrated books, comics, dictionaries, encyclopedias, serials, fiction and non-fiction. Glenor (2006) identified information resources to include almanacs, dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories and legal databases; she further stated the general collections as fiction and non-fiction, home grown newspapers and magazines. The library resource is of diverse formats.

Availability of library resources means ensuring their presence in the library for immediate use (Ugah, 2007). It also means making available resources in the library for use by students with visual impairment. Abubakar (2008) defined availability of library resources as ensuring their presence in the Nigerian college library for immediate use.

Availability is the condition of being available, especially of being accessible or obtainable. Availability of library resources means something that can be easily obtained or seen and use. Alokun (2008) affirms that availability of information is central to human development but insufficient knowledge may create problems resulting in abject poverty, ignorance, hunger, illiteracy and so on. Gama (2007) noted that for any library to flourish in any society the economy must be sufficiently vibrant and government must commit funds to its development. The author further asserts that to succeed in any aspect of human endeavour, availability and accessibility to the quick and up to date resources is very essential.

In the same line of the thought, Maram and Ogun Rowbi (2008) confirm that high unavailability of library resources in most universities libraries have a negative effect on the use of library facilities in the university. Okeh (2008) in a similar vein state that there is unavailability of library resources rate of 70% in most Nigerian libraries. Ajahi and Akinrumji (2009), Oyedirian and Tidmgs (2004) were of the same view that non-availability of library facilities in Nigeria university causes frustration and low use of libraries by students. Prout (2009) attribute the lack of availability of library facilities to the steady proliferation of the universities along with the increased number of students and college and diversification of courses and research programs without adequate library resources to meet the actual information needs.

Furthermore, Okeh (2008) states that it is essential that libraries resources should be made available and utilized by users so that learning can take place for the overall development of the country. According to Adeniji (2010) the gap in the availability of library resources relevant to the needs of users perhaps informed the UNESCO (2005) in its campaign for the establishment of National information system in all countries with a view to meeting the information needs within a given country. Availability of library resources in the college libraries may help to ease research work of students with visual impairment, enhance their academic performance and in turn help in the development of educational institutions (Ugah, 2008). The author further explained that resources may be available in the library and even identified bibliographically as relevant to ones

subject of interest but the users may not be able to lay hands on them, because of the non-availability of the library facilities. Prout (2009) in agreement states that facilities could be a motivating factor for users to change their perception in seeking information once such information is available and adequately satisfy their needs.

Contributing to the concept of availability, Popuola (2001) perceives availability of library resources as a sinequanon to effective library services. The author further asserts that the task of the library is that of collecting, sorting and organizing books and making them available to the users. This implies that the availability of books is clearly central to information provision in the college libraries, and it can be used as a measure of library performance. Aliyu (2006) informs that the availability of books require workable performance measure to back it up even if the ultimate benefit to the individual users and to the college community is difficult to assess.

Utilization of information resources is the extent to which the resources and services of the library are actually used for teaching, learning and research. The extent to which information resources are utilized in academic libraries is usually captured by the library statistics which is compiled on daily basis by the library staff. It therefore, becomes pertinent that in order to gauge the extent to which library resources are utilized, the library staff must be proactive in providing statistics of usage on daily basis. This will serve as encouragement or otherwise to the sponsors of the library (Ozioko, Nwabueze & Eze, 2014).

Utilization of library and information resources has been a concern from the time libraries changed from being cultural monuments to knowledge acquisition and information communication centres. In view of these developments librarians conceived the idea of educating the library user in finding and locating information they need on their day-today activities.

Utilization of information resources is making use of the available resources by the students through adequate access where the library ensures that the resources are acquired and processed as well as making them readily available and utilized at the right time through the right medium through which students would be able to make use of such resources (Egwuny, 2012).

II. Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to investigate the availability and utilization of information resources by students of AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies (ATCAPS). The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the types of information resources available for students of AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies (ATCAPS) Makurdi;
2. To find out the purpose students of the College utilize information resources
3. To determine the level of satisfaction the students derived in the use of the information resources;
4. To identify the problems faced by the students of the College in using information resources;
5. To suggest strategies that could be adopted to overcome the challenges.

III. Research Questions

The following questions are raised to guide the study:

1. What are the types of information resources available for students of AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies (ATCAPS) Makurdi?
2. What is the purpose of using information resources?
3. What is the level of satisfaction the students derived in the use of the information resources?
4. Are there problems faced by the students of the College in using information resources?
5. What are strategies that could be adopted to overcome the challenges?

IV. Methodology

Area of Study

The research covers AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurdi, Benue state. It is one of the higher institutions in Benue state graduating students in Ordinary Diploma and National Diploma.

Design of the Study

This study employed a survey research design. This design is suitable because the researcher collected and described the characteristics or facts about the population under study. The survey design also offers research subjects the opportunity to express their opinions based on their experiences.

Population of the Study

The target population of this study is 103 comprised all 11 lecturers and 92 final year students of AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurdi. The reason for using lecturers is because they have in-depth knowledge about use of information resources. Final year students are used in the study because they are conversant with use of information resources.

Sample and Sampling Technique

There was no sampling for the study. The entire population of 103 made up of 11 lecturers and 92 final year students was used for the study as sample because the population size could be handled effectively by the researcher.

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument for the study was a structured questionnaire titled “Availability and Utilization of Information Resources Questionnaire (AUIRSQ). The instrument was developed by the researcher. The questionnaire was divided five sections based on the research objectives. The questionnaire had restricted response options of highly available (HA), averagely available (AV), slightly available (SA) and not available (NA) as well as strongly agree (SA), agree (A) disagree (D) and strongly disagree (SD). These have corresponding values of 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively.

Validation of the Instrument

The questionnaire was validated by two experts from the Department of library and information science, Benue State University Makurdi. Both content and face validation of the instrument was done.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics. Mean was used to answer the research questions. The bench mark for this was 2.50 (4+3+2+1=10/4=2.50). The decision rule was: any item with a mean value of 2.50 or above was regarded as required while any item with a mean value of less than 2.50 was regarded as not required. Inferential statistics (t-test) was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The decision rule was: any cluster of the related items with a value of 0.05 and above was regarded as significant while any cluster of related items that obtained a value below 0.05 was considered not significant.

V. Results And Discussion

Research Question 1

What are the types of information resources available for students of AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies (ATCAPS) Makurdi?

Data for answering research question 1 is presented in Table 1:

Table 1: Views of the types of information resources available for students

S/N	I t e m	S t a t e m e n t	1	2	SD ₁	SD ₂	Remarks
1	B o o k s		2.18	2.36	0.98	1.04	
2	J o u r n a l s		2.27	2.01	1.00	1.05	
3	E - b o o k s		2.00	2.45	0.89	1.14	
4	E - j o u r n a l s		1.63	2.10	0.92	1.03	
5	C D - R O M d a t a b a s e s		1.54	1.84	1.03	1.02	
6	I n t e r n e t		1.74	1.81	1.03	1.15	
7	R e f e r e n c e s s o u r c e s		1.90	1.78	1.13	1.16	
8	E l e c t r o n i c d a t a b a s e s		2.00	2.00	1.26	1.03	
9	Search engines (e. g., google, yahoo, mamma etc)		1.63	1.80	1.02	0.98	
10	W e b s i t e s		1.64	1.57	1.03	1.12	
11	O n l i n e P u b l i c A c c e s s c a t a l o g u e		2.40	2.31	1.12	1.19	
G r a n d M e a n							

₁= Mean of Lecturers, ₂= mean of Students, SD₁= standard deviation of Lecturers and SD₂= standard deviation for of Students.

Source: Field survey, 2018

Result in Table 1 shows that all 11 items had their Lecturers mean values ranging from 1.54 to 2.40 while the mean values of Lecturers range from 1.50 to 2.00 and were less than the bench mark of 2.50. This shows that the respondents agreed that the 11 information resources available for students are not available which is an indication that the respondents were not too far from one another in their responses on the types of information resources available for students at Alfred AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurdi.

Research Question 2

What are the purpose students of the College utilize information resources?

Data for answering research question 2 is presented in Table 2:

Table 2: Views of respondents onthe purpose students of the College utilize information resources

S/N	I t e m	S t a t e m e n t	1	2	SD ₁	SD ₂	Remarks
1	To	prepare for examination	3.00	2.58	1.09	0.19	Agree
2	Browsing	the web	2.85	2.78	0.23	0.16	Agree
3	To	up-date knowledge	2.94	2.59	0.21	0.12	Agree
4	For	in depth research work	3.09	2.89	1.22	0.14	Agree
5	Up-dating	lecture notes	3.00	2.77	1.09	0.14	Agree
6	For	communication	2.81	2.61	0.07	0.16	Agree
G r a n d M e a n							

₁= Mean of Lecturers, ₂= mean of Students, SD₁= standard deviation of Lecturers and SD₂= standard deviation for of Students

Source: Field survey, 2018

Result in Table 2 shows that all 6 items had their Lecturers’ mean values ranging from 2.81 to 3.09 while the mean values of students range from 2.58 to 2.89 and were above the bench mark of 2.50. This shows that the respondents agreed that the 6items were purpose students of the College utilize information resources at Alfred AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurdi.

Research Question 3

What is the level of satisfaction the students derived in the use of the information resources?

Data for answering research question 3 is presented in Table 3:

Table 3: Views of respondents onthe level of satisfaction the students derived in the use of the information resources

S/N	I t e m	S t a t e m e n t	1	2	SD ₁	SD ₂	Remarks
1	B	ook s	1.18	2.36	0.98	1.04	Very low
2	J	ournal s	2.27	2.01	1.00	1.05	Very low
3	E	book s	2.00	2.15	0.89	1.14	Very low
4	E	journal s	2.33	2.10	0.92	1.03	Very low
5	C D - R O M	data b a s e s	1.54	1.84	1.03	1.02	Very low
6	I	nter net	1.14	1.81	1.03	1.15	Very low
7	R e f e r e n c e s	s o u r c e s	1.90	1.78	1.13	1.16	Very low
8	E l e c t r o n i c	d a t a b a s e s	2.00	2.00	1.26	1.03	Very low
9	Search engines (e. g., google, yahoo, mamma etc)		1.63	1.80	1.02	0.98	Very low
10	W e b	s i t e s	1.64	1.57	1.03	1.12	Very low
11	O n l i n e P u b l i c A c c e s s	c a t a l o g u e	1.54	1.61	1.12	1.19	Very low
G r a n d M e a n							

₁= Mean of Lecturers, ₂= mean of Students, SD₁= standard deviation of Lecturers and SD₂= standard deviation for of Students.

Source: Field survey, 2018

Result in Table 4 shows that all 11 items had their Lecturers’ mean values ranging from 1.18to 2.33while the mean values of students range from 1.0to 2.36 and were less than the bench mark of 2.50. This shows that the respondents agreed that the 11 items were level of satisfaction the students derived in the use of the information resources at Alfred AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurdi.

Research Question 4

What are the problems faced by the students of the College in using information resources?

Data for answering research question 4 is presented in Table 4:

Table 4: Views of respondents on the problems faced by the students of the College in using information resources

S/N	I t e m	S t a t e m e n t	1	2	SD ₁	SD ₂	Remarks
1	E p i l e p t i c	p o w e r s u p p l y	2.90	2.95	1.04	0.98	A g r e e
2	Insufficient	availability of resources	2.90	2.76	0.83	0.05	A g r e e
3	T i m e	c o n s t r a i n t	3.18	2.82	1.98	1.00	A g r e e
4	S p a c e	c o n s t r a i n t	2.81	2.84	0.98	0.98	A g r e e
5	Uncooperative	attitude of library staff	3.00	3.67	1.89	1.04	A g r e e
6	Cost of utilization	of the resources	3.02	2.69	1.98	1.02	A g r e e
7	O b s o l e t e	e q u i p m e n t	3.09	3.19	1.94	1.10	A g r e e
8	Inadequate	training of library staff	3.10	2.55	0.94	0.13	A g r e e
9	Lack regular	cooling environment	2.72	3.06	1.90	1.04	A g r e e
G r a n d		M e a n					

₁= Mean of Lecturers, ₂= mean of Students, SD₁= standard deviation of Lecturers and SD₂= standard deviation for of Students.

Source: Field survey, 2018

Result in Table 4 shows that all 9 items had their Lecturers’ mean values ranging from 2.72 to 3.18 while the mean values of students range from 2.55 to 3.67 and were above the bench mark of 2.50. This shows that the respondents agreed that the 9 items were problems faced by the students of the College in using information resources at Alfred AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurdi.

Table 5: Views of respondents on the strategies that could be adopted to overcome the challenges

S/N	I t e m	S t a t e m e n t	1	2	SD ₁	SD ₂	Remarks
1	Provision of steady	power supply	2.90	2.95	1.04	0.98	A g r e e
2	Provision of adequate	information resources	2.90	2.76	0.83	0.05	A g r e e
3	Crate adequate of time	for use of information resources	3.18	2.82	1.98	1.00	A g r e e
4	Create enough space	for supply of information resources	2.81	2.84	0.98	0.98	A g r e e
5	Adequate training	of library staff	3.00	3.67	1.89	1.04	A g r e e
6	Lower cost of utilization	of the resources	3.02	2.69	1.98	1.02	A g r e e
G r a n d		M e a n					

₁= Mean of Lecturers, ₂= mean of Students, SD₁= standard deviation of Lecturers and SD₂= standard deviation for of Students.

Source: Field survey, 2018

Result in Table 3 shows that all 6 items had their Lecturers’ mean values ranging from 2.72 to 3.18 while the mean values of students range from 2.55 to 3.67 and were above the bench mark of 2.50. This shows that the respondents agreed that the 6 items were the strategies that could be adopted to overcome the challenges utilizing information resources at Alfred AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurdi.

VI. Discussion of Findings

Research question one was on the types of information resources available for students of AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies (ATCAPS) Makurdi. Findings revealed that the types of information resources available for students are glossary inadequate.

Research question two was on the purpose students of the College utilize information resources. Finding revealed that students use information resources to prepare for examination, browsing the web, up-date knowledge, depth research work, up-dating lecture notes and for communication.

Research question three was on the level of satisfaction the students derived in the use of the information resources. Findings revealed that the levels at which students are satisfied with utilization of information resources is very low.

Research question four was on the problems faced by the students of the College in using information resources. Findings revealed that they are many problems faced by the students of the College in using information resources at Alfred AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurdi.

Research question five was on the strategies that could be adopted to overcome the challenges. Findings revealed that they are the strategies that could be adopted to overcome the challenges utilizing information resources at Alfred AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurdi.

VII. Conclusion

Arising from the findings of the study, it could be concluded that information resources and services were made available to staff and students that were studied. It was also discovered that students use information resources and services to enhance their reformation needs. The administration of Alfred Akawe Torkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies Makurd should make adequate provision for more information resources and services to be utilized by staff and students for their academic and research work.

VIII. Recommendations

Based on the study, the following recommendations are made:

- i. The administration of Alfred AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies should provide enough information resources for use by her students
- ii. Since information resources are useful to academic and research work by students.
- iii. Students should be made to satisfy their information needs by use of information resources of Alfred AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies
- iv. The administration of Alfred AkaweTorkula College of Advanced and Professional Studies should ensure that the problems faced by the students of the College in using information resources are minimized.
- v. The suggested strategies that will help to overcome the challenges facing students in the use of information resources should be adopted.

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