

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' USE OF LIBRARY AND CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN SOUTH-WEST, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examined postgraduate students' use of library and challenges encountered in South-west, Nigeria universities. It has been observed that most postgraduate students hardly patronise the library regularly. However, the effectiveness of any library service depends on its maximum utilisation; otherwise, it is as good as wasted. Therefore, it has become necessary to empirically establish the purpose of using the library and its challenges as this necessitates a need for this study. Survey research method was adopted while questionnaire was used as data collection instrument. The population of the study consisted of all postgraduate students in universities in South-west, Nigeria. A sample of 2,942 postgraduate students was selected using the proportionate random sampling technique. The face and content validity were ensured. The reliability was ascertained using test re-test method and a reliability coefficient of 0.83 was obtained. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics-frequency counts and percentages. The study revealed that most postgraduate students in South-west Nigerian Universities use the library for reading their personal note (94%), preparing for test and examination (92%), updating their knowledge and skills (92%). The study also found the constraints to the use of library as absence of regular orientation for the postgraduate students (45%), irregular ICT training (41%) and inadequate desktop computers to access databases (40%). Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that library management should continuously provide lasting solutions to the identified constraints to the use of library.

Key words: Library usage, Challenges, Postgraduate students and South-west

Introduction

University is primarily established to equip both undergraduate and postgraduate students with necessary knowledge and skills to discharge required duties and employment functions which are essential for the development of the society. This obligation can easily be fulfilled by having a well-equipped university library to manage the intellectual product of the university. A library in any university system is seen as the bedrock upon which any university is built. As asserted by Ekere (2014), university library plays an important role in complimenting research through the provision of facilities and appropriate information resources in various formats (including print and non-print). In the same vein, the major aim of the library according to Oriogu, Chukwumeka and Oriogu-Ogbuiyi (2018) is to promote the tripartite objectives (teaching, learning and research) of education through the provision of adequate and relevant information resources (in both print and non-print format) and

services to the users. This is why Shehu, Urhefe and Aworo (2015) stated that university libraries stand to support teaching, learning and research in ways consistent with, and supportive of the institution's mission and goals.

The provision of relevant information sources and services for library users is generally seen as the reason for existence of the library and the purpose of a library is defeated if its users do not use the resources and services it provides. While Onifade, Ogbuyi and Omeluzor (2013) held the view that most postgraduate students (especially in Babcock University) do not use the library on a regular basis, the study Anunobi and Emezie (2020) revealed that postgraduate students in Federal University of Technology Owerri underutilised library resources (prints and subscribed databases). However, Ibrahim and Sakiyo (2015) established that lecturers and postgraduate students (in the North-East zone of Nigeria) frequently used the library more than undergraduate students.

On the other hand, Fasae (2011) revealed that postgraduate students use the library for consultation, borrowing and studying for examinations. In the same vein, according to Anthonia (2020), the postgraduate students of library and Information science in Borno State use the library electronic resources to do class assignments, to complement class notes, and for research/ project writing. Thus, every academic library should be well equipped to make provision for enticing quality services to justify its existence. This can be done by highlighting the challenges impeding the use of the library. Some of these challenges as revealed by Mohammed and Reuben (2015) are lack of enough qualified librarians(to provide, process and make available library information resources and services), inadequate infrastructural facilities, erratic power supply, inadequate funding of the libraries, lack of adequate information resources in their areas of research, outdated information materials, short period of material loan, inconvenience of the opening hours, inadequate number of books loaned out at a time and lack of adequate modern information technologies to acquire, process and access current information. Also, the study of Madu, Aboyade and Ajayi (2019) revealed the challenges hindering effective use of library services by the postgraduate students in three selected universities in Osun State as inadequate electronic resources, erratic power supply, insufficient ICT facilities as well as lack of awareness.

A recent study by Lawal and Kannan (2021) also established poor internet services (speed and other technical problems), erratic power supply, lack of information about new arrivals of both print and digital resources and lack of library space for conducive reading as some of the challenges encountered by the postgraduate students when using the library. Inference from the above challenges to the use of library shows some similarities among the findings and no matter how well equipped a library is, postgraduate students are likely to encounter some challenges when using such libraries. Therefore, proffering lasting solutions to these challenges will encourage greater patronage from this set of library users.

There are various categories of users in the university library. Among these are the postgraduate students (postgraduate diploma, master and master of philosophy/doctoral levels) which is the focus of the present study. The nature of postgraduate study demands that students must do a lot of research and independent studies. Therefore, the use of library resources and services is crucial to postgraduate students in order to achieve their academic objectives. Thus, this study focused on the

purpose of use and the challenges hindering the use of library by postgraduate students in South-west, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The role of the library in the provision of relevant information sources and services for the use of the users can never be de-emphasised. However, it has been revealed by Onifade, Ogbuiyi and Omeluzor, (2013) that most postgraduate students probably do not use the library regularly. This finding is in line with the view of Yusuf & Farouk (2017) whose study established that postgraduate students rarely use library resources including journal articles for their research. Also, past studies have revealed low utilisation of both printed and online databases by postgraduate students (Nkoyo & Nsanta, 2016; Abubakar & Cholom, 2017). This low patronage may be attributed to their busy schedule because most of them were gainfully employed and therefore, have to combine their jobs with their studies or inadequate provision of information sources and services useful for their information needs. This could also be as a result of lack of library orientation organised for postgraduate students or the negative attitudes of library staff. On the issue of negative attitudes of library staff, Saka and Mohammed (2016) emphasized the complaints of the PG students on the attitude and assistance rendered by library personnel which discourage them from using the library. What could actually be the problem of non-usage or irregular usage of the library resources and services by the postgraduate students?

While some authors (Fasae, 2011; Onifade, Ogbuiyi & Omeluzor, 2013; Oluwatobi, Ehioghae, Aluko-Arowolo and Onasote 2014) have established some of the reasons of using the library, others such as (Madu, Aboyade & Ajayi, 2019; Lawal & Kannan, 2021) revealed the challenges encountered in the use of the library, though most of these studies were carried out separately and with a lesser population. However, documented evidence on postgraduate students' use of library and its challenges seems to be limited. This indicates a need for this study. Hence, the study sought to identify the purpose of use of library resources and services and the challenges encountered in the use of library by postgraduate students in South-west Nigerian universities.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study was to assess the usage of library resources and services by postgraduate students in universities in South-west, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to:

1. establish the purposes for which the postgraduate students use the library services provided in South-west, Nigeria universities; and
2. identify the constraints encountered by the postgraduate students on the use of library in South-west, Nigeria universities.

Review of Related Literature

The postgraduate students which is the focus of the present study is noted by Song and Song (2017) as students who are formally engaged in pursuing a course of study in a university with the aim of obtaining a postgraduate diploma, master's degree and Master/Doctor of Philosophy (M.Phil./Ph.D.). Postgraduate students form a significant group of researchers in a university and they rely on information (print and electronic) resources for their research (writing seminar papers, term papers, assignment, and other research activities). According to Ismail, Abiodun, and Hassan (2011), research is the most crucial component of postgraduate studies as this enables this set of students to systematically investigate the problems of the society with the aim of proffering solutions and

contributing to knowledge. This implies that postgraduate students focus inwards into society to discover areas with problems, collect data on subject areas, interpret and subsequently make recommendations on how to solve the problems. Thus, postgraduate students need the library for various purposes (among which are reading, borrowing, consultation and to gather information resources for seminar/thesis writing) and its use depends on its provision, accessibility with limited challenges.

In the light of this, Igun and Adogbeji (2007), investigated the habits of postgraduate students in selected Nigerian universities and discovered that majority of the respondents used the library to update their knowledge. Also, Doraswamy (2010) conducted a study on information use patterns of postgraduate students at Siddhartha College of Arts and Sciences, India, focusing on the kinds of academic information needed by these students, such as what information resources they need, their methods for locating information, and their level of satisfaction of the library collection, services, and facilities. The study found that 65% of these students used the library daily. Most of them used the library mainly for reading, borrowing books and to have access to Internet or email. Therefore, librarians should always ensure the provision of enticing services for greater patronage.

In the same vein, Fasae (2011) evaluated the use of library resources and services by postgraduate students of the Federal University of Technology Akure, comprising postgraduate diploma (PGD), master (M.Tech) and doctoral degree students. The study showed that the majority of the respondents used journals (print), textbook/monographs, theses and dissertations, Internet resources and reference materials and visits the library for consulting materials for research, borrowing library books and studying for examinations, respectively. This indicates that most library services rendered to postgraduate students exposed them to research materials. In addition, Khan and Alam (2016) investigated a study on the information seeking behaviour of users in the Energy Resource Institute (TERI), New Delhi. The result of the study showed that 32(76%) out of 42 respondents among postgraduates visited the library to borrow books, 4(10%) respondents visited the library to consult periodicals and 6(14%) to read the newspaper. Similarly, Nyantakyi (2016) revealed that majority of the students in Ghana Institute of Journalism and Ashesi University College used the library for preparing their assignments/project work (70%), reading their personal notes (63%), borrowing and reading library materials (52%), preparing for examinations (55%), for leisure (17%) while minority of the respondents purposely used the library for accessing the resource centre (13%) and holding group discussions or meetings (8%).

Lateef, Omotoso, and Fagbola (2016) investigated students' use and evaluation of college libraries in Crawford University and revealed that students used their libraries sparingly. They used the libraries less for references and other academic purposes but more for relaxation in between lectures and to discuss with mates and friends. However, the respondents rate the information resources, services, and facilities of the libraries as fair. The study concluded that the resources and services of the college libraries are poorly used and used less for academic purposes. Also, Khan, Khan, and Ahmad (2017) assessed the information seeking behaviour of library users of the University of Peshawar, Pakistan. The main findings showed that the respondents consulted academic, research, personal updating and entertaining sources for seeking relevant information. According to Anthonia (2020), the postgraduate students of library and Information science in Borno

State use the library electronic resources to complement class notes, do assignments and for research/project writing.

With regard to the use of an academic library, literature has clearly shown that postgraduate students used various library services to meet their academic and personal information needs. The literature further showed that the postgraduate students use the library for a variety of purposes including consulting course and research materials, reading and borrowing books, updating their knowledge and skills and so on.

However, some constraints were also identified in literature as factors inhibiting the use of the library by the postgraduate students. Among these was revealed in a study carried out by Fasae (2011) that less than half of the postgraduate students use the library regularly and these students were discouraged because of irregular power, unavailability of desired materials and absent of ICT facilities. In another study carried out by Onifade, Ogbuyi and Omeluzor (2013) on library resources and service utilisation by postgraduate students in Babcock University discovered that majority of the postgraduate students do not use the library regularly. This is because most of them are gainfully employed and therefore, have to combine their job with their study. This finding is in line with the view of Yusuf & Farouk (2017) whose study established that faculty members including postgraduate students of Bayero University rarely use library resources including journal articles for their research.

These studies show that most postgraduate students do not have time to come to the library. Thus, librarians should always acquire relevant and recent information materials and provide services that will always encourage these set of students to create time for the library. Similarly, Padma, Ramasamy, and Sakthi- Renugadevi (2013) surveyed the information needs and information seeking behaviour of postgraduate students of School of Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University, India. The findings of the study, among others, revealed that postgraduate students were discouraged from using the library because they were not able to get the needed information in time in the library; owing to lack of time due to abundant literature (30%), inadequate resources /library online resources (30%), lack of access to library (26%) and heavy workload load (14%).

Also, Ndubuisi and Udo (2013) surveyed motivation, challenges, and strategies in the use of electronic information resources by postgraduate library users in South-east Nigerian Federal Universities. A descriptive survey was adopted as the research design. The study revealed the challenges faced by the postgraduate students in using the electronic information resources as insufficient computers with Internet facilities, incessant power outage, slow Internet connectivity, lack of ICT skills, difficulty in finding relevant information and inadequate IT Infrastructure. The study recommended strategies to improve motivation to use electronic information resources by postgraduate students as increasing ICT infrastructure/facilities, having solid electrical backup and information literacy training for users. In the same vein, Saka and Mohammed (2016) analysed data from three University Libraries in North-central Nigeria and found the challenges involved in the use of OPAC in accessing library resources as lack of ICT skills, unawareness of library website addresses and the attitude of library staff with the mean scores of 3.5, 3.4 and 3.3 respectively. The study further affirmed that these challenges have an adverse effect on the level of information accessibility and use.

Furthermore, Ejeh (2016) assessed the reference services of Benue State University library. The study revealed the constraints to effective reference services as lack of fund, inadequate reference

resources, shortage of staff, lack of indigenous materials, poor communication, and absorption in administrative work. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that parent institution and government should provide funds to procure more reference resources and regular training should be organised for staff to be more approachable and friendly in discharging their duties. Similarly, Mozeh and Ubwa (2017) in their study on challenges of utilizing academia library resources revealed lack of orientation, poor state of library, poor reading environment, and inadequate function of ICT among others as some of the constraints to the use of library.

Inference from the constraints to use of library by postgraduate students highlighted above, shows various challenges encountered while using the library. This is supported by Busayo and Ajegbomogun (2014) who pointed out that the problems faced by the academic libraries in Nigeria vary and suggested a unique solution to address peculiar problems in the tertiary institutions. Therefore, it is essential for academic libraries and information centres to consider these constraints and proffer lasting solutions for greater library patronage of this set of students.

Methodology

This study adopted a survey research method which involves questionnaire and sampling in order to reach out to a sizeable number of postgraduate students. The target population for this study comprised all postgraduate students in South-west, Nigeria. However, the first 14 universities offering postgraduate programmes in South-west, Nigeria were selected though, 13 (five federal, four state and four private universities) out of these 14 universities were finally used for the study. This is because Ladoke Akintola University of Technology was on an indefinite strike as of the time the data were taken. The total population of the postgraduate students in the selected universities was 29,425 as presented in Table 1. However, this number was too large to be used as a sample for the study. Thus, this study adopted the proportionate random sampling technique as shown in Table 1. The sampling fraction used for selecting the sample was 10%. Hence, a total of 2,942 postgraduate students out of 29,425 were selected.

The study adopted quantitative method whereby questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection in order to reach out to a sizeable number of respondents. The self-constructed and structured questionnaire designed was administered by the researcher and four trained research assistants in all the selected universities. Descriptive statistics-frequency counts and percentages were used to analyse the purpose of use and constraints in the use of library.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 presented figures on population, number of questionnaires distributed, number returned and number used.

Table 1

Return Rate of the Questionnaire Administered

S/N	Name of University	Population	Proportional Sample	Number Returned	Number Used
1	Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Ogun State	1577	158	124	108
2	Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State	3024	302	261	244
3	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State	5632	563	349	282
4	University of Ibadan, Oyo State	5108	511	392	322
5	University of Lagos Akoka, Lagos State	5710	571	407	324
6	Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko Ondo State	492	49	43	38
7	Ekiti State University, Ekiti State	325	33	27	25
8	Lagos State University Ojo, Lagos State	3010	301	245	222
9	Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State	2322	232	212	204
10	Babcock University, Ilisan Remo, Ogun State	754	75	72	70
11	Bowen University Iwo, Osun State	304	30	26	25
12	Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State	1,080	108	98	94
13	Redeemers' University, Ede, Osun State	87	9	8	8
	Total	29,425	2,942	2,264	1,966

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2017

Two thousand, nine hundred and forty-two copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the postgraduate students in selected universities offering postgraduate programmes in Southwest, Nigeria. Two thousand two hundred and sixty-four copies were returned while One thousand, nine hundred and sixty-six copies of this questionnaire were completed and found usable yielding a response rate of 66.81%.

Objective 1: To establish the purposes the postgraduate students in South-west, Nigeria use the library services. In response to objective 1, a range of responses was elicited which was presented in Table 2 and Figure 1.

Table 2

Purpose of using Library Services

I use the library to:	SA	A	N	D	SD
read my lecture notes	955 (49%)	884 (45%)	48 (2%)	53 (3%)	26 (1%)
read my personal textbooks	825 (42%)	731 (37%)	81 (4%)	229 (12%)	100 (5%)
read library materials	1008 (51%)	706 (36%)	94 (5%)	47 (2%)	111 (6%)
consult course materials	913 (46%)	592 (30%)	173 (9%)	156 (8%)	132 (7%)
consult research materials	911 (46%)	785 (40%)	96 (5%)	56 (3%)	118 (6%)
borrow library books	694 (35%)	590 (30%)	222 (11%)	250 (13%)	207 (11%)
update my knowledge and skills	994 (51%)	813 (41%)	74 (4%)	68 (3%)	17 (1%)
prepare for test and examination	1016 (52%)	790 (40%)	93 (5%)	42 (2%)	25 (1%)
read for personal development	1033 (53%)	708 (36%)	138 (7%)	43 (2%)	44 (2%)
use the Internet	530 (27%)	795 (40%)	214 (11%)	201 (10%)	226 (11%)
relax and meet friends	73 (4%)	120 (6%)	339 (17%)	522 (27%)	912 (46%)
leisure/entertainment	55 (3%)	111 (6%)	164 (8%)	584 (30%)	1052 (54%)
Photocopy documents	393 (20%)	533 (27%)	288 (15%)	351 (18%)	401 (20%)

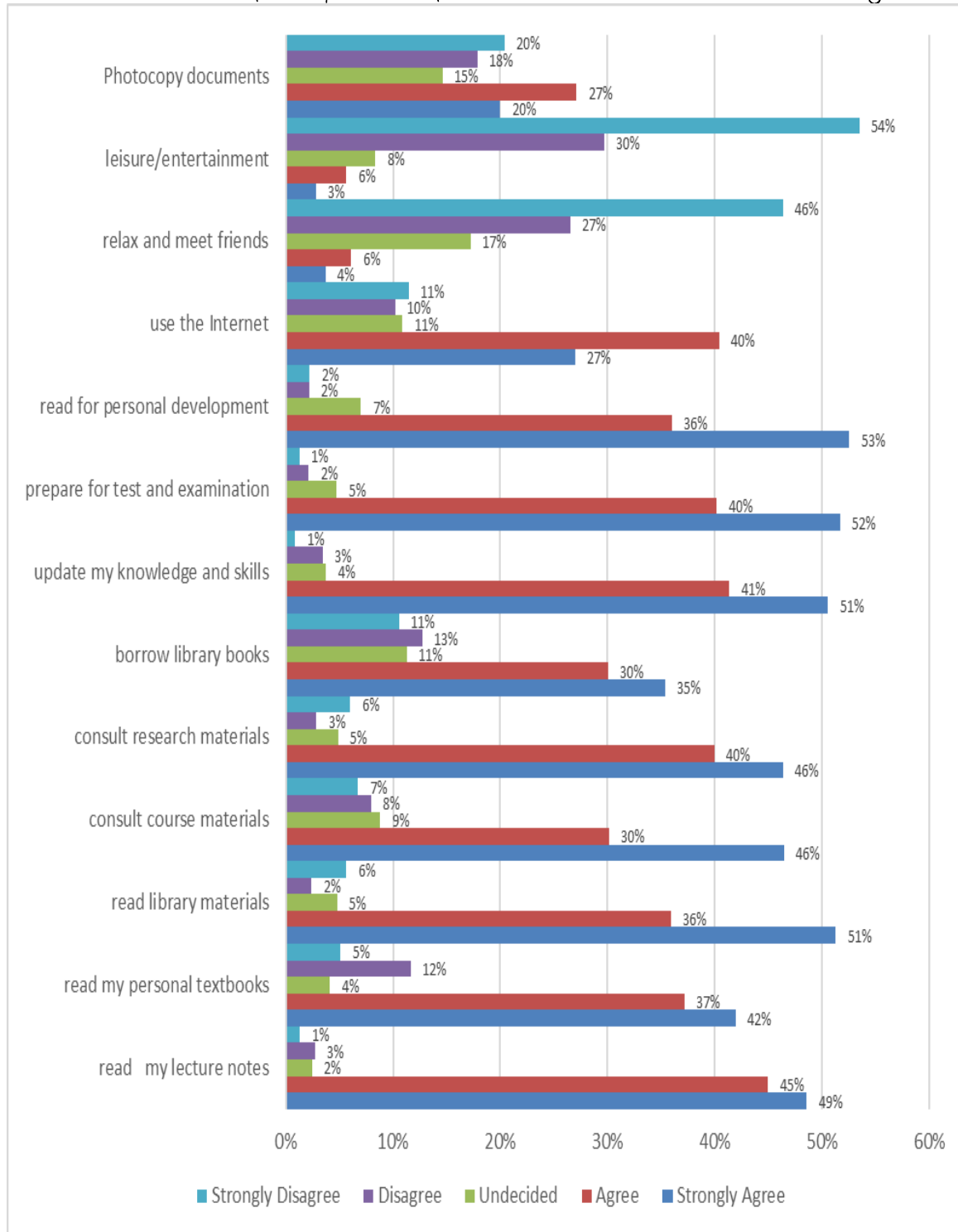


Figure 1. Purpose of using Library Services

Figure 1 presented the response given by the respondents on purpose of library usage and the itemized purposes were drawn from previous literature. (94%) of the respondents agreed that they use the library for reading their lecture notes. Other major reasons for using the library were to prepare for test and examination (92%), to update their knowledge and skills (92%), for personal development (89%), to read personal textbooks (79%). Expectedly, more significant part of respondents disagreed that they used the library for leisure/entertainment (84%) and relaxation and

meeting friends (73%). However, about two-thirds of the respondents used the library because of the free Internet services (67%) and to borrow library books (65%). Also, 86% of respondents consulted materials in the library for their research while almost half of them (47%) used the library for photocopying services. Overall, the results revealed different reasons for which the postgraduate students used the services provided in these libraries.

Objective 2: To identify the constraints in the use of library services by the postgraduate students in South-west, Nigeria. In response to objective 2, a range of responses was sought to identify the constraints to the use of library by the postgraduate students. The itemised constraints were gotten from previous studies and deliberately grouped by the researchers for organization. This was presented in Table 3 in which SA, A, U, D, SD imply Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Undecided, Disagreed, and Strongly Disagreed respectively.

Table 3

Constraints to Use of Library Services by Respondents

Constraints	SA	A	U	D	SD
Facilities					
	126	168	115	848	709
poor lightning system in the library	(6%)	(9%)	(6%)	(43%)	(36%)
	127	139	102	851	747
uncomfortable furniture	(6%)	(7%)	(5%)	(43%)	(38%)
	85	139	125	928	689
library environment is not conducive	(4%)	(7%)	(6%)	(47%)	(35%)
	123	176	191	825	651
lack of cross ventilation	(6%)	(9%)	(10%)	(42%)	(33%)
	260	315	169	687	535
inadequate number of air conditions	(13%)	(16%)	(9%)	(35%)	(27%)
inadequate desktop computers to access databases	310	472	255	616	313
	(16%)	(24%)	(13%)	(31%)	(16%)
Circulation					
	116	205	339	801	505
difficult registration process	(6%)	(10%)	(17%)	(41%)	(26%)
number of library books for borrowing is inadequate	256	432	265	617	396
	(13%)	(22%)	(13%)	(31%)	(20%)
	223	244	455	694	350
borrowing time for library books is inadequate	(11%)	(12%)	(23%)	(35%)	(18%)
	206	326	241	682	511
library's operation hours are inadequate	(10%)	(17%)	(12%)	(35%)	(26%)
	455	283	191	735	302
library's inability to provide free Internet access	(23%)	(14%)	(10%)	(37%)	(15%)
	253	170	319	697	527
negative attitudes of the library staff	(13%)	(9%)	(16%)	(35%)	(27%)
library's inability to offer seat reservation to	181	227	424	758	376

postgraduate students	(9%)	(12%)	(22%)	(39%)	(19%)
	364	331	272	606	393
outdated information materials	(19%)	(17%)	(14%)	(31%)	(20%)
Reprographic					
library's inability to provide photocopying services in the library	165 (8%)	242 (12%)	306 (16%)	645 (33%)	608 (31%)
E-Services					
Library's inability to provide access to relevant databases	264 (13%)	393 (20%)	415 (21%)	595 (30%)	299 (15%)
library's inability to organize ICT training for postgraduate students	462 (23%)	350 (18%)	282 (14%)	505 (26%)	367 (19%)
library's inability to provide free Internet access	455 (23%)	283 (14%)	191 (10%)	735 (37%)	302 (15%)
Inter-Library Loan					
library's inability to assist me to get needed materials from elsewhere	284 (14%)	403 (20%)	266 (14%)	674 (34%)	339 (17%)
SDI					
library's inability to keep me abreast of the latest in my research area	400 (20%)	368 (19%)	386 (20%)	500 (25%)	312 (16%)
Orientation					
absence of regular orientation for postgraduate students by the library	351 (18%)	521 (27%)	363 (18%)	550 (28%)	181 (9%)

On facilities, Table 2 showed that minority of respondents agreed that the constraints to use of library were poor lightning 20%, uncomfortable furniture (13%) and unconducive environment 11%). However, some (40%) of the respondents agreed that there were inadequate desktop computers to access databases. Also concerning circulation services, minority (16%) of respondents agreed that they encountered difficult registration process. About two-thirds of the respondents agreed that the borrowing time for books (35%) and the number of books (33%) that can be borrowed at a time were inadequate. Half (51%) of the respondents also disagreed that information materials provided were outdated. Only 20% of respondents established that the constraint to using the library was inadequate photocopying services. Less than half of respondents agreed that some of the constraints of using the library were irregular ICT training for postgraduate students (41%) and inability to provide free Internet access (37%). Also, minority of the respondents attributed the constraints to using the library to the absence of the provision of selective dissemination of information (39%) and inter-library loan (34%). Overall, the results showed that almost half of the respondents (45%) agreed that absence of regular orientation for the postgraduate students by the library was the major problem hampering them from using the library.

Discussion of the Findings

The findings on the purpose of use of the library services among postgraduate students revealed that majority of them used the library for the main purpose of reading their lecture notes. This may be attributed to the conducive environment of the library and to avoid distractions. Also, other significant reasons for using the library services were to read either personal or library

information materials for personal development, prepare for tests and examinations and update their knowledge and skills. Expectedly, majority of the respondents disagreed with the purpose of using the library for leisure/entertainment, relaxation and meeting friends. However, two-thirds of the respondents used the library for the free Internet services and also to borrow library books. Majority of the respondents consulted the library for their research.

Interestingly, about half of the respondents used the library for photocopying services. This finding is consistent with the findings of Igun and Adogbeji (2007), who investigated the habits of postgraduate students in selected Nigerian universities and discovered that majority of the respondents used the library to update their knowledge and skills. This consistency might be because postgraduate students are seen as matured students who focused more on their research pursuit. The outcome of the current study corroborated the findings of Doraswamy (2010), which reported that postgraduate students of Siddhartha College of Arts and Sciences, India, used the library mainly for reading, borrowing books and Internet or email. A possible explanation for this might be that postgraduate students are aware of the importance of the library and deliberately engage in these to broaden their knowledge in their quest in obtaining higher degrees.

Similarly, the result of the present study supported Fasae (2011) whose study revealed consulting library materials for research, borrowing library books and studying for examinations as the reasons why postgraduate students use the library. This similarity may be because the two studies targeted the same set of the student (postgraduate students) from the same zone, though the study of Fasae (2011) was with a lesser population. Another possible explanation for this may be attributed to the widely believe in this part of the world that most students always read to pass and libraries are always filled with users mostly shortly before and during examinations. The finding of this study also aligned with the outcome of Khan and Alam (2016) which showed that, the majority of the postgraduate students mainly used the library to borrow books. This may be so since most standard libraries have more information resources that are current and relevant than an individual.

Also, the results of the present study are consistent with the outcome of the study of Nyantakyi (2016), which revealed the reasons why library users used the library, among which include preparing their assignments/project, reading their notes, borrowing and reading library materials and preparing for examinations. Also, the outcome of the current study is related to the result of Jabeen et al. (2017), which assessed the usefulness of digital library (DL) resources and the value of multidisciplinary databases in university libraries of Nanjing, China. The findings revealed that most of the postgraduate students used DL resources for research purposes in order to fulfil their thesis/dissertation and coursework requirement. This result may be explained with the fact that most postgraduate programmes centred on a lot of research and independent studies which may be achieved by maximising the use of the available information sources and services in the library. On the other hand, the findings of this study contradicted the study of Lateef, Omotoso, and Fagbola (2016), which found that students of Crawford University used their library sparingly; they used the libraries less for references and other academic purposes but more for relaxation in between lectures and to discuss with mates and friends. The variance in the result of these two studies can be ascribed to the difference in the ownership status of the institution and targeted population because

postgraduate students are always seen as the serious-minded group who focused more on their academic and research pursuit rather than socialising among themselves.

However, the present study revealed the constraints in the use of library services by postgraduate students as poor lightening, uncomfortable furniture, unconducive environment, inadequate desktop computers to access databases, circulation services which include, difficult registration process, inadequate borrowing time and number of books that can be borrowed at a time, outdated information materials, inadequate photocopying services, inadequate ICT training for postgraduate students, inability to provide free Internet access. Also, less than half of the postgraduate students agreed that selective dissemination of information, current awareness services inter-library loan were the constraints of using the library. The findings of the current study are consistent with that of Fasae (2011) whose study found irregular power, unavailability of desired materials and absence of ICT facilities as the factors militating against the use of the library by postgraduate students. A possible explanation for this might be that these libraries relied solely on the public power supply which is mostly irregular without having an alternative source(s) of power supply. Another possible explanation for this is that there may be limited fund to acquire current and relevant information sources with suitable facilities which may have adverse effects on library patronage.

Another study carried out by Onifade, Ogbuyi and Omeluzor (2013) reported that majority of the postgraduate students do not use the library regularly. This is because most of them were gainfully employed and therefore, have to combine their jobs with their studies. The findings of another opposing study by Padma, Ramasamy, and Sakthi- Renugadevi (2013) among others, revealed that the postgraduate students of School of Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University, India had constraints using the library because they were not able to get the needed information on time in the library, owing to lack of time due to abundant literature, inadequate library resources, lack of access to library and heavy workload load. Also, the results of this current study differ from the outcome of a study by Ndubuisi and Udo (2013) who conducted an empirical study on motivation, challenges, and strategies in the use of electronic information resources by postgraduate library users in South-east, Nigerian Federal Universities. The study revealed the challenges faced by the postgraduate students in using the library's electronic information resources as insufficient computers with Internet facilities, incessant power outage, slow Internet connectivity, lack of ICT skills, difficulty in finding relevant information and inadequate IT Infrastructure. These constraints could be ascribed to inadequate funding of the library to provide suitable technological facilities and human resources.

Furthermore, the outcome of the present study contradicted the findings of Egeh (2016), which revealed the constraints to effective use of reference services as lack of fund, inadequate reference resources, shortage of staff, lack of indigenous materials, poor communication, and absorption in administrative work. This contrast may be because the two studies were carried out in different geo-political zones. Furthermore, it was established in the present study that majority of the postgraduate students disagreed with the negative attitudes of library staff as one of the constraints to the use of the library. This finding also contradicted the studies of Onuoha, Ikonne, and Madukoma (2013) and Saka and Mohammed (2016) who discovered the attitude of library staff as an inhibiting factor that discouraged the library users and had an adverse effect on

information accessibility and usage. The variance may be attributed to the fact that library staff are now equipping themselves with necessary skills that will make them more relevant concerning their relationship with library user, ability to perform service dependably and accurately and willingness to help and respond to users' information needs. Another possible explanation is recency and the use of more samples in the present study.

Conclusion

The study focused on the purpose of use and the challenges hindering the use of library by postgraduate students in universities in South-west, Nigeria. Based on the result of the present study, postgraduate students in South-west, Nigeria can be said to be using various library services to meet both their academic and personal information needs. However, the study concluded that some of these postgraduate students were constrained from using the library because of irregular orientation, lack of ICT training, inadequate desktop computers to access databases, outdated information materials, library's inability to provide selective dissemination of information and lack of free Internet access among others.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of this study .

1. Library management should create different learning zones that suit the needs of different categories of users since postgraduate students have varied purposes for using the libraries.
2. Library management should continuously provide lasting solutions to the identified constraints to the use of library. Some of the expected solution is the organisation of regular orientation/ICT training, provision of adequate desktop computers to access databases, free internet access and provision of selective dissemination of information for the postgraduate students.

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