SIGNIFICANCE OF LIBRARY EDUCATION ON LIBRARY PATRONAGE AMONG EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT

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ABSTRACT

This paper discussed the role of library education on library patronage among Ekiti State university students. The study is based on personal experiment on student within the library, and their optimal usage of library materials both electronic and print materials. This paper as well reviews some documentation on library education and its impacts through, faculty library head reports on student head counts during library opening hour and the report on materials consulted by all students. It also embraces the report of introduction techniques and other services rendered by the school management in inculcating the “use of library and study skills” as a course of study for all new students to stress the importance of effectively and efficiently usage of available library materials for better academic performance. Educational performance evaluation report on student from four faculties within the university was also a secondary data used in this paper.

Keywords: Library education (LB), Library Patronage (LP), Information, Patron.
INTRODUCTION
The place of the library is an integral part of teaching, learning and research. This was as a result of wide range of information materials and services rendered in the library which are meant for optimal usage by student. Many information patrons/ students of all categories find it relatively hard to search for information especially if it’s contained in libraries. To have access to such information, the patron or user has to know the arrangements of available materials in the library, types of information resources and how to conduct library search. Therefore, the information user has to be instructed in the use of library through what is popularly known as user education or library education. Library user education involves a process of making the patron learn and be familiar to the effective and efficient use of the library available resources through the acquisition of necessary skills in the identification, location, retrieval and exploitation of information materials (Igbena, 1990). This provides instructions to users on how to obtain required information by making use of the total resources available in the library.

The major purpose of library education is helping the student understand the library environment, its organisation, and arrangements of the available catalogue in use and creating enabling environment that can make student effectively use the library to satisfy his/her information needs and for better academic performance. Library education within its power creates love for books and information among students; this includes introducing students to the general techniques of the library usage and services available, and the organisation, layout sections of the library. The importance of library education is to acclimatize the students with the library environment to be able to make effective use of the resources adequately and to their own satisfaction. More so, students orientation or education on library usage helps them to feel comfortable in the library and to trust the competence of the library staff as well as creating them the ability to patronise the library more frequently as the case maybe for their information needs instead of seeking and using diluted information sources either on the free web or elsewhere they can get such uncensored information. Therefore, its promotes student optimal usage of the library holdings, as well capacity to know the techniques to weigh, access and retrieve different sources of information for a useful accessibility and utilization of such reliable information.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to stress the importance of library education on patronage of student in the use of library materials as the machinery to resource and information exploitation for better academic performance. The secondary objective is on how student can cultivate good reading habit for self direct learning, intellectual development and self education. As well, the mode of library education put in place by Ekiti-State University in conjunction with the University librarians to inculcate the usefulness of the library and its available resources.

LIBRARY ORIENTATION

According to Collins Concise Dictionary “ orient” means to adjust or align oneself or something else according to surroundings or circumstances. Therefore, Library orientation, user education, use of library as a course of study in the university is thus the act of aligning or adjusting new students to the library and its holdings for useful utilization of the library. It’s a means of creating love for books and information among students; this includes introducing students to the general techniques of the library usage and services available, and the organisation, layout sections of the library. The importance of library education is to acclimatize the students with the library environment to be able to make effective use of the resources adequately and to their own satisfaction. More so, students orientation or education on library usage helps them to feel comfortable in the library and to trust the competence of the library staff as well as creating them the ability to patronise the library more frequently as the case maybe for their information needs instead of seeking and using diluted information sources either on the free web or elsewhere they can get such uncensored information. Therefore, its promotes student optimal usage of the library holdings, as well capacity to know the techniques to weigh, access and retrieve different sources of information for a useful accessibility and utilization of such reliable information.
FUNCTIONS OF THE LIBRARY

The University Library is established in order to provide services to the Students, the functions or services provided are derived from the objectives of the institution. The following services are therefore rendered to students.

- Provision of materials and services specifically designed to meet the requirements of researchers in their various discipline.
- Provision of materials for teaching and learning, serving as depositary of academic publications.
- Selection and acquisition of materials pertaining to all subject and programs offered by the institution.
- Organisation of materials through cataloguing, classification and physical arrangement of the materials on the shelves.
- Lending of materials to students. (Loan services)
- Preparation of reading lists and compilation of bibliography and other library publications. (current awareness)
- Answering students quarries: reference librarian is designated with this task.
- Instruction in the use of library materials.
- Reader’s advisory services: The reader adviser in the library is preoccupied with the duty of helping students in the practical use of the various resources of information and bibliographies.
- Inter library loan services
- Exhibition and display
- Internet facilities and E-resources.

ANTI-LIBRARY USE BEHAVIOUR

Generally, anti-social behaviour is global phenomena; these acts are believed to be against the norms of the society. Different types of this behaviour are noted in the society ranging from aggression, vandalism, cruelty, theft and more. Likewise, there is much anti-library behaviour too which are observed and documented, these are act that lacks consideration of other library users and often cause damages to the library materials.

Lack of availability of essential books and high cost of those materials in the bookshop also promotes anti-library behaviours. This has led to stealing of books, hiding some materials with low copies on the shelf area for selfish interests and depriving other students to access such materials. Mutilation of useful materials and defacing of books is also a rampant behaviour among university users. These acts and many more are condemned by the rules and regulations of the university library.

LIBRARY RULES AND REGULATIONS

There are sets of rules and regulations in the library for the smooth running of the organisation within the University. These rules and regulations ranges from borrowing procedures to damage/loss of library materials. These rules in Ekiti-State University are therefore listed below:

- All students must observed total silence in the library and its environs at all time.
- All students are required to shown their library identification card to the security officer upon entrance to the library.
- Mobile phones should be put in silence mode while in the library.
- All bags, cases, folders etc. Must be left in the luggage area outside the library.
- All students are to show all items to the security officer before leaving the library.
- No student is allowed in the catalogue and classification section and the circulation area without the consent of the librarian.
- No seat reservation in the library.
- All borrowed materials must be duly returned on time and the loan period is only two weeks.
- Library materials are not meant to be transferred among students.
- Reference materials are only meant to be used within the library.
- Overdue materials incur charges.
All Students will be held responsible for any damage or loss of materials in their possessions and will be required to meet the cost of replacement and processing.

Any lost of book must be reported to the librarian.

CONCLUSION

User education is an essential means of ensuring effective library and information services delivery among students, whether it’s done through orientation, tour, bibliographic instruction and student awareness, its usefulness will be felt with and outside the library setting. This helps the students performance after they might have cultivated the interest of reading either for pleasure or research, because it efficacy is creating in the library patrons the right attitude to learning and use of information resources. Student library education can be implemented through lecture, demonstration and any other methods applicable or worthwhile.

It’s important here to note that a suitable method as applied to a particular library may not be suitable to other libraries.

The rules and regulations discussed earlier is to combat any form of disruptive activities to other library users and to entails the proper dissemination of information services to patrons irrespective of services needed. Its as a result of this that rules and regulations were set up within the library to assist the proper handling and use of information materials in the library among its users. More so, it enables students to get adjusted or aligned with the services being rendered by the library, its certain that library orientation or user education is very crucial to teaching, learning and research study among students, for optimal use of the library resources, which thereby leads to better performance and frequent patronage of the library.

Some methods of implementing library orientation or education have been established to key in new library user to the existing information products and services readily available in the library for self-education and better performance and frequent patronage of student to the library. It’s important to state that library education has effectively enhance the use of the library and its holding by Ekiti-State university student both regular and part-time students. The frequency which is being ascertain by the head count of student during the library opening hour prove this to be true and effective, as well as student academic performance evaluation recently. The influx of students into the main library as been noticed and this has created the decentralization of the library to meet the demand of the students, thereby creating faculties’ library across the university. The students are more equipped with techniques of information retrieval and authenticity of information evaluation for better academics performance. The general studies for all students as a course in the University have been fruitful in that it creates love for books among different students and it’s already a culture to visit the library regularly by almost all of them.

REFERENCES

4. Faculty of Arts Library heads reports on head count and materials consulted during May15 2017 to July 28 2019.