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Serials Availability and Use in Nigeria Academic Libraries By The Postgraduate Students Of Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

In the face of the eminence position of serials usage amongst the resources acquired in the library most especially academic libraries despite their exceptional values as a reliable and dependent for researchers and the increasing cost of their acquisition, serials have not been satisfactorily utilized by the postgraduate students in tertiary institutions. This study, therefore, was undertaken to find out the availability and use of serials among postgraduate students in Osun State University and how this affects their academic performance. The population of the study consisted of 140 postgraduate students, with an ultimate high return rate. The findings of the study revealed that postgraduate students acknowledged the existence of serials. However, the study identified problems that are against the effective use of serials which need to be tackled to ensure that patrons are satisfied. Hence, the recommendations made consist of the provision of necessary infrastructural facilities that will make the library conducive for the users. Similarly, the management should organize information literacy skills seminar for the library users to help them to acquire skills on how to search for and locate the information resources needed in the library.

Keywords: Serials availability; Academic Library; Osun State University; Serials Collection; Postgraduate.

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Introduction

The library is not a book or a room containing books. It is neither a beautiful building nor a reading room. Instead, the library is a trinity of information sources, with conducive accommodation and library users. Essentially, Nutsukpui and Owusu-Ansah (2017) states that the library contained materials that are systematically organized, which can meet the information needs of both the present and prospective users. Academic libraries acquire, organize, store, retrieve and disseminate information contained in serials for researchers, educators, students and other interested persons in their various disciplines. To further mention the significance of the academic library in a tertiary institution, Badaru (2013) states that the academic library is the heartbeat of any academic institution. He went further to state that the health and effectiveness of any academic institution depends on the state of health of the library in that academic institution.

On this note, the success of every library's program could be easily measured in terms of its effort in acquiring and managing relevant serials. If the institution fails to provide immediate information needs to the library users, that means the academic library is considered to be inert and ineffective, which results in an apathetic and moribund academic institution. Automatically, this will lower the standard of excellence the academic library is expected to serve the patrons/postgraduate students (Badaru, 2013).

The significance of serials collections cannot be overemphasized in the library's operations particularly in academic environment and University libraries, because it provides the users with the most current and vital information that can support them in their academic quest. Generally, serials make interesting reading whether for leisure, educational or research purpose. Serials come in various kinds. These include newspapers, magazines, newsletters, accessions, journals, indexes, abstracts, reports, memos, proceedings and transactions

of societies. Important though they are, lack of adequate funds coupled with high subscription rates, and the digital transformation of the scholarly communication process have immensely affected the development of print serials collections in academic libraries globally (Calhoun, 2014 & Akinbode, 2011). Lawal (2000) maintains that serials collections are very essential to postgraduate students because it provides a collection of documents that reports current scientific and technological research findings, as well as social, historical and economic reports. Serials and postgraduate students are two autonomous entities that complement each other. Serials provide current information that fills new information gaps discovered by students and students consult serials for current information. As noted by Badaru (2013) the academic library, the internet and other institutions that provide serials come in as intermediaries between the source (serials) and the receiver (postgraduate students). Patrons, therefore, consult these intermediaries for access to serials. For the postgraduate students, the academic library and the internet are major intermediaries.

Aghauche (2007) urges that the availability of information resources in the academic library does not mean its accessibility and utilization. Therefore it is possible that an information source may be available in the library but cannot be accessed by the postgraduate students. This is pertinent to serials. Most postgraduate students, especially those who are novice in research work do not know how to access the needed serials; thereby neglecting their usage. Serials collection therefore either in print or online form, is worthy of unwavering attention in its use and overall management. Postgraduate students are under pressure most times to perform excellently well through research work or reports. Serials with its ability to meet up with immediate needs may as well be their last resort.

Statement of the Problem

The main purpose of the academic library is to support the objectives of a University, which are

in the areas of learning, teaching, and research, depository of the University publications, recreation, entertainment, general knowledge, and services. To postgraduate students, the academic library is essential for research. It's far beyond the traditional way of receiving lectures. The library provides all resources needed for carrying out effective learning and research activities; reports, dissertation and thesis which can be made available at the serials sections in the academic library. Researchers have revealed that with the advent of the internet, many researchers now seek a large proportion of their information from the internet (OPAC) because it reports the latest development in the field of the researcher. In spite of the huge amount of the financial resources dedicated to the section in most of the academic libraries in Nigeria, the serials section is still not promising. Nevertheless, the University management needs to subjugate the high cost of the subscription to serials both print and online, acquisition problems, and funds cuts by the University administration and poor mind-set of the library patrons. These above-mentioned difficulties backfire on the postgraduate students in Nigeria and this has brought about a negative effect on their academic performance and overall academic decadence on the society at large. The principal function of academic libraries, OPAC and other sources for current serials is to avail postgraduate students with current and up-to-date information needs. Howbeit, there revealed that University management is paying lips services to these important facts. It is in line with this that the study investigates the serials availability and use in Nigeria academic libraries, a case study of postgraduate students of Osun State University, Nigeria.

Aim of the Study

The general objective of this study is to find out the serials availability and use in Nigeria academic libraries, a case study of postgraduate students of Osun State University,

The specific objectives are:

- i. to identify the level of serials availability in Osun State University Library;
- ii. to ascertain the frequency of use of the serials by postgraduate students at Osun State University;
- iii. to examine the purpose of using serials resources and its impact on the academic performance of the postgraduate students; and
- iv. to investigate the constraint confronting the postgraduate students in the use of serials publications and proffer solutions to every identified problem.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Introduction

It is a basic fact that serials play a crucial function in research and educational activities, however, except it's been utilized satisfactorily. Hence, the academic library as a citadel for information retrieval has the main objectives of providing the academic community which includes the students, staff, researchers and the host community at large with current information in their chosen fields of studies.

The academic library can in this way, be viewed as the most important section to be reckoned with when it comes to having up-to-date and relevant information in an institution.

Academic Library

A library is defined as a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is organized by information professionals or other experts who provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and offer targeted services and programs with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audience and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole (George, 2010). The library is also defined by American Heritage Dictionary (2011) as a place in which reading materials, such as books, periodicals, and newspapers, and often other materials such as music and video recordings are kept for use or lending. Thus, an academic

library is a library that is attached to a higher education institution that serves two complementary purposes to support the school's curriculum and to support the research of the staff and postgraduate students (Thanuskodi, 2015).

Academic libraries are vital parts of a University or other institution of postsecondary education as stated by Angeline and Rani (2019) who work together with other members of their institutional communities to participate in, support, and achieve the educational mission of their institutions. i.e Parent institution. However, having the University as its parent institution means that the academic library should perform its function by teaching the core competencies of information literacy-the abilities involved in identifying an information need, accessing needed information, evaluating, managing, and applying information, and understanding the legal, social, and ethical aspects of information use.

Hence, it is pertinent to observe that the academic library is a fundamental part of the educational institution, particularly at the postsecondary education level. As captured by Adebika (2007) describes an academic library as the heart and aorta of any academic institution. The health, intellectual vitality and the effectiveness of any educational institution depend on the state of health and excellence of its library, which is its heartbeat. He stated further that without a good functioning library, an educational institution can be considered dead in terms of knowledge generation, acquisition, and dissemination. Unsurprisingly hence, that the library is a foremost requirement in the setting up of tertiary institutions worldwide. Academic and research libraries acquire, organize, store, retrieve and disseminate information contained in serials for researchers, educators, students and other interested persons in their various disciplines (Blackwell, 2014).

Serials

A serials section is a service division that stands on its own and as the name implies housed the serials collection of the academic library. The Anglo-American cataloguing Rules (AACR) of 1988 revised in Nisonger (1988) on its part defines serials as a publication in any medium issued in successive parts bearing numeric or chronological designations and intended to be continued indefinitely. In the words of Nutsukpui and Owusu-Ansah (2017), there are many kinds of serials. These include newspapers, magazines, newsletters, accessions, journals, indexes, abstracts, reports, proceedings, and transactions of societies and so on. Serials are a publication in any medium issued in successive parts bearing numerical or chronological designations and intended to be continued indefinitely. They mentioned further that serials are sources of current information and have several other contributions to make to education. Serials can be regarded as the backbone of any University library because they contain the most up-to-date information on research and knowledge.

Nutsukpui and Owusu-Ansah (2017) substantiates that the role of serials publications in scholarly communication has been well documented and serials will continue to make a unique impact on the academic society as it entails the current and vital information on different choice of studies. It is therefore expected of the academic library to make available up-to-date journal titles in all the disciplines offered by its parent institution and also, staff, students and researchers are expected to utilize the serials section of the Library most especially for them to access current information in their chosen fields of discipline. However serials publications appear at varying intervals depending on the duration of time before the new issue released. According to Badaru (2013), the major intervals for serials include semiweekly - a periodical that is published twice each week (or 104 issues per year), weekly - a periodical that is published every week (or 52 issues per year), semimonthly

- a periodical that is published twice each month (or 24 issues per year), monthly - a periodical that is published every month (or 12 issues per year), quarterly - a periodical that is published every quarter (or four issues per year), bimonthly - a periodical that is published twice a month or every two months (either 24 or 6 issues per year) and biweekly - a periodical that is published twice a week or every two weeks (either 104 or 26 issues per year).

A Short History of Serials

A short history of serials shows that the printing of fascicles; the production of large works in installments to reduce cost, by ancient publishers was one of the earliest marks for serials production, Wikipedia (2012). Badaru, (2013) cited Osborn 1980 that writings on the tombs of Egyptian kings from 2750 to 2625 B.C. may be the earliest serials publications in history. In his account, Osborn told of a decree by Julius Caesar ordered that the proceedings of the Roman Senate be printed. The development of inventions year by year promoted the production of serials publications. Major ones include the invention of movable tiles by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century; microform technology invented by John Benjamin Dancer in 1839 was also a major development.

In recent years, other inventions especially the computer and the internet is a push to the development of serials. Veaner (1985) as cited by Akinbode (2011), machine-driven typesetting development remarkably increased the development of serials publications. Serials publications represent a most important reference source not only because of their sizes but also because they present other numerous values, which the book medium fails to offer. Perhaps their greatest value lies in the fact that they provide the newest and most nearly up-to-date information as explained by Elaturoti, Fagbeja, Kolade, and Oniyide (1990). Serials constitute an important part of the library collection because the information contained in them is more current than those in published

books. Atanda, (2016) also emphasized that journals are the most current vehicles of new ideas, knowledge, and breakthrough in scientific development. The level of utilization of journals in universities differs despite the huge investments in journal subscriptions. Therefore, researchers will find serials a valuable asset to their research process and ultimately their findings not only because of the current information provided but also the distinctive importance of it.

Characteristics of Serials

Accordingly, serials are among the diverse information materials that are available in any library. It is needed especially by staff and postgraduate students to support accumulating current literature reviews and findings. Madu and Adeniran (2005) gave characteristics of serials which are: different publisher's name; the content of each issue is different; the publication interval varies. Some are bi-annual, monthly, quarterly, fortnightly, weekly, daily and annually; no planned end to the sequence; they are current and up-to-date; they are more expensive than books; some are been subscribed to depending on the interval it takes another issue to be published, unlike textbooks. This gives rise to the financial burden of serials subscription, because unlike textbooks which when bought can last a long period; serials have to be acquired at a shorter period, as short as daily.

Serials now appear in e-formats due to the advent of the internet and computers. Serials types such as journals, newspapers and so on can be accessed online either free or paid for, this further helps to reduce the burden of having to subscribe for certain serials as they can easily be stored and retrieved when needed. Serials are collections having a special place in the academic library of any University and are catalogued and classified separately from book materials in most libraries.

Impact of Information Communication Technology on Serials

Presently, as noted by Uriel (2016) the wave of innovations ushered in by the emergence of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in the scene of library services has added a new dimension to library information resources. The technology has added a digital touch to library services such that serials services of the library can be executed digitally using electronic means. According to Igbeka (2008), Adebisi (2009) and Uwaifo (2010) a major way ICT has influenced the use of library services and inevitably serials services is the use of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). OPAC is a computer form of library catalogue that can be used for the catalogue of serials. OPAC also allows patrons to view catalogues of other libraries that are in cooperation with the library.

According to Afolabi, Abidoye and Afolabi (2012) in their study of the impact of ICT on library services noted that OPAC is a great relief to postgraduate students/patrons in the sense that different patrons can access the same catalogue at the same time using different terminals which are impossible using the card catalogue. Also, OPAC allows for the use of additional access points for searching for publications such as ISSN numbers with a combination of author and title. Another influence is the access to electronic resources such as open access journals; according to Suber (2006), open access journals are available online to readers without financial, technical or legal barriers. Others are online newspapers, online magazines, etc. Interlibrary loan services are made easier as serials can be sent through e-mails and courier services within the shortest time. Afolabi, Abidoye and Afolabi (2012).

Owolabi, Okore, Ibrahim, and Owunize (2011) states that 77.5% of Nigerian scientists rated serials as "important" or "very important" sources of getting current information in conducting researches. On the other hand, Azubigu and Madu (2001) cited by Omotayo (2010) observed that library users at Imo State University resorted to the use of the internet to search for information because the University

library lacks funds to subscribe to scholarly and research journals. Owolabi, Aderibigbe, Okorie, and Ibrahim (2012) carried out a study that examines the availability and use of serials collections by postgraduate students in Nigerian universities. The findings revealed that all serials units used for the study have journals, newspapers, magazines, CD-ROM databases, and online journals and the major reason for using the serials is basically for research purposes.

Olanlokun and Salisu (1985) maintained that postgraduate students need the serials collections because it provides the latest information on various subjects and not only that it also serves as an immediate avenue for the provision of up to date bibliographic data on given specialized area of knowledge. Ogbon Yomi (2008) pen down on the significant of serials collections to postgraduate students, those serials collections are one of the major media through which research findings are published for the use of other researchers in their studies. He went further to say that journals help in communicating research findings to immediate and the outside world. Owolabi, et. al (2012) states that the National University Commission (NUC) in allocating library vote gave 60% of the library allocation to serials collections while 40% was given to purchase books. Salaam (2000) gave reasons why University libraries spent more on serials collections than books because serials provide up-to-date information and at the same time it has a low subscription cost.

Tedd, Ellis and Urquhart (2006) report that journals with a practical bias appeared to be more patronized by students of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth in their dissertations than more research-oriented journals with high impact factors. Bhat and Mudhol (2014) found that the majority (80%) of faculty members of an engineering college in India make use of print periodicals in their teaching and for obtaining new knowledge in their field of expertise. Other users, however, use non-academic print serials

for dual purposes of recreation and gaining new knowledge (Onuoha, Ikonne & Madukoma, 2013). It is, therefore, important for serials librarians to consider the diverse uses of serials and make provision for diverse user interests in their collection development. While the use of serials by academics and researchers in developed countries is well-recognized, their use and acceptance by universities in developing countries are still mixed (Ahmed, 2011).

Ogunniyi, Efosa, and Sheji (2013) ascertain that the majority of the NCE students in Adeyemi College of Education in Ondo State use serials resources for research and assignment purposes. Ajala (2007) opines that serials are of little use than monographs to both undergraduate and postgraduate. A study by Hammed and Osunrinade (2010) revealed that only 48 (9.8%) of the students who responded used journal regularly, 227 (46.5%) used journal occasionally while 213 (43.7%) never used journal. Okeke, Oghentga, and Nwabu (2013) reported that students in most of the tertiary institutions in Nigeria do not make proper use of serials publications.

Challenges Facing Serials

The problem of managing serials sections in an academic library depends on the availability and accessibility of journal resources. A certain problem has been identified as an impediment to the use of serials publications by postgraduate students in academic institutions. Adio (2005) and Salaam (2000) highlights various problems facing the serials in Nigerian University libraries which include funds, human resources, acquisition problem and poor attitude of the users. Based on the findings of the study by Nwachukwu, Lucky, and Salami (2014), it was expressed that information resources are available in the library but users cannot access them because they cannot use the catalogue and they cannot locate information resources on the shelves quickly.

Ndanwu, (2016) discusses problems associated with the management of serials publications

which are: Non-availability of current journals, Insufficient staff, Shortage of shelves, Trolley and kick Step, Lack of current serials publications, Irregular/Epileptic power supply, Increase in varieties of newspapers, Access to electronic serials, non – availability of resources for recording and storing serials, and Lack of serials automation. Anunobi, Nwakuwo, and Ezejiolor (2010).also noted that there are problems of accessibility of the collection to the user, dissemination of information, circulation, and awareness. Inman (1983) concludes that poor access to major international publications have serious implications for the research efforts of scientists in third world countries. Examining barriers to the accessibility of the journal, Nwagha (1983) identifies a lack of coordination as one of the major barriers. She was of the opinion that administrative policies often stand between available scientific and technical information and its potential users.

Methodology

This study adopted a survey research design. Therefore, the target population of the study consists of all the postgraduate students across the six campuses at Osun State University according to the 2018/2019 academic report. A total of (Postgraduate Diploma -28, Masters - 78 and Ph.D. – 43) was selected at random from each of the six campuses through the simple random sampling technique, resulting in a total of 140 postgraduate formed the sample size for the study.

Data for this study was collected through the use of questionnaires. The questionnaires were used for all postgraduates in the 6 campuses. The questionnaire: Serials Availability and Use in Academic Library (SAUALQ). The questionnaire was divided into five sections, that is, Section A to E. Section A deals with the bio-data of the respondents while section B-E contained items to achieve the stated objectives. The instrument was validated using face and content validity by giving four copies of the questionnaire to three research experts in the Department of Library and Information Science,

University of Ilorin, with the reliability co-efficient of 0.76 using the test-retest technique. 140 copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents in their faculty, and they were asked to fill and return immediately. Out of the 140 copies of the questionnaire administered, 125 copies were returned and found valid for the

analysis which gives an 89% return rate. The data collected for the study four research questions were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages.

4. Bio-data of the Respondents

Table 1: Bio-data of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	49	39.2
Female	76	60.8
Total	125	100.0
Age		
15-25	2	1.6
25-35	16	12.8
35-45	43	34.4
45-above	64	51.2
Total	125	100.0
Level of Study		
PGD	28	22.4
Masters	78	62.4
PhD	43	34.4
Total	125	100.0

The results in Table 1 showed the bio-data of the respondents at Osun State University. The result showed that out of 125 respondents, 49 (39.2%) were male while 76 (60.8%) were female. This showed that the majority of the respondents were female. On the age distribution of the respondents, the results revealed that the majority of the respondents fall between the ages of 45-above represented by 64 (51.2%). This is followed by the respondents that fall between the ages of 35-45 representing 43 (34.4%) while 16 (12.8%) fall between the ages of 25-35.

On the level of study of the respondents, the study revealed that 78(62.4%) respondents were at the Master's level while 43 (34.4%) respondents were at the Ph.D. level. Next to this are the respondents that were in the PGD level represented by 28 (22.4%). This showed that the majority of the respondents were at the Master's level.

Research Question 1: What are the levels of serials availability to postgraduate students at Osun State University?

Table 2: Serials Availability to Postgraduate at Osun State University

S/N	Reference Resources	Available	Not Available
1	Newspapers	124 (99.2%)	1 (0.8%)
2	Newsletters	69 (55.2%)	56 (44.8%)
3	Indexes and Abstracts	57 (45.6%)	68 (54.4%)
4	Bibliographies	82 (65.6%)	43 (34.4%)
5	Almanac	95 (76%)	30 (24%)
6	Manuals	42 (33.6%)	83 (66.4%)
7	Geographical sources	66 (52.8%)	59 (47.2%)
8	Professional Journal	121 (96.8%)	4 (3.2%)
9	Biographical sources	82 (65.6%)	43 (34.4%)
10	Reports	99 (79.2%)	26 (20.8%)
11	Yearbooks	95 (76%)	30 (24%)
12	Gazettes	85 (68%)	40 (32%)

Results in Table 2 identify serials availability to postgraduate students at Osun State University. The results confirmed that professional journal 121 (96.8%); newspapers 124 (99.2%); bibliographies 82 (65.6%); reports 99 (79.2%); gazettes 85 (68.0%); an almanac and yearbook 95 (76%) are the major references resources

that are available in the serials section while newsletters; geographical sources; manuals; indexes and abstracts are less available.

Research Question 2: What is the frequency of use of serials by postgraduate students at Osun State University?

Table 2: Frequency of Use of Serials by Postgraduate Students at Osun State University

Frequency of use	Frequency	Percent
Daily	56	44.8
Weekly	43	34.4
Monthly	26	20.8
Total	125	100.0

The results in Table 3 revealed the frequency of use of serials by postgraduate students at Osun State University. The results confirmed that the majority of the respondents use the serials section daily 56 (44.8%) while 43 (34.4%)

respondents use it weekly and 26 (20.8%) uses it monthly.

Research Question 3: What are the purposes of using resources by postgraduate students at Osun State University?

Table 4: Purpose of Using Serials Resources by Postgraduate Students at Osun State University

S/N	Items	SA	SD
1	For research purpose	123 (98.4%)	2 (1.6%)
2	For examination purpose	110 (88%)	15 (12%)
3	For knowledge update	120 (96%)	5 (4%)
4	For relaxation	53 (42.4%)	72 (57.6%)
5	To complement lecture notes	59 (47.2%)	59 (47.2%)
6	To do assignments	4 (3.2%)	121 (96.8%)

Results in Table 4 showed the purposes of using serials resources by postgraduate students at Osun State University. The study confirmed that the majority of the respondents used serials resources for research purposes 123(98.4%); while 120 (96%) respondents use it for knowledge updates. Also, 110 (88%) respondents use these resources for

examination purposes; and 104 (83.2%) respondents use these resources to do their assignment.

Research Question 4: What are constraints to the effective utilization of serials resources by postgraduate students at Osun State University?

Table 5: Constraint to the Effective Utilization of Serials Resources by Postgraduate Students at Osun State University

S/N	Items	SA	SD
1	Inadequate searching skills to locate resources	97 (77.6%)	28 (22.4%)
2	Epileptic power supply	68 (54.4%)	57 (45.6%)
3	Poor infrastructural facilities	2 (1.6%)	123 (98.4%)
4	Outdated information resources	5 (4%)	120 (96%)
5	Poor arrangement of the resources on the shelves	21 (16.8%)	104 (83.2%)
6	Scarcity of the resources	68 (54.4%)	57 (45.6%)
7	Poor conducive environment	140 (39.0%)	219 (61.0%)

The results in Table 5 revealed the constraints to the effective utilization of serials resources postgraduate students at Osun State University. The results showed that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that inadequate skills to locate resources 97 (77.6%); epileptic power supply 68(54.4%); poor conducive environment 140 (39.0%); and outdated

information resources 68(54.4%) are the major constraints to the effective utilization of serials resources.

Discussion of Findings

The purpose of this study is to examine the use of serials resources by postgraduate students at Osun State University. The study found that Newspapers, Bibliographies, Professional

Journal, Reports, Yearbooks, Almanac are the major serials resources that are available in the serials section of Osun State University Library. This finding is in agreement with the work of Owolabi, et. al (2012) who reported that serials resources were highly available in the Nigerian universities library. These information resources are important in the library because they support teaching, learning and research activities. Most importantly, these resources are one of the factors that justify the existence of the library. In the same vein, the study assessed the frequency of use of serials resources. The study revealed that the majority of the respondents use these resources daily. The reason why the majority of the respondents claimed that they use serials resources daily may be subjected to the contribution of these resources to their academics. Conversely, this finding contradicts the findings of Okeke, Oghentga, and Nwabu (2013) who reported that students in most of the tertiary institutions in Nigeria do not make proper use of serials resources.

Based on the purpose for which the postgraduate students at Osun State University use serials resources, the study found that the majority of the students claimed that they use these resources for a research purpose; knowledge update; examination purpose; and to do the assignment. This finding corroborates the work of Ogunniyi, Efosa, and Sheji (2013) who reported similar findings among the NCE students in Adeyemi College of Education in Ondo State that majority of the students use serials resources for research and assignment purpose. These findings showed that these resources are more important to postgraduate students so as to perform effectively in their studies. However, despite the fact that they are highly using serials resources daily for their academic pursuit, the study found that there are some constraints to the effective utilization of these resources by postgraduate students. These constraints include inadequate skills to locate resources; scarcity of the resources; epileptic power supply; and outdated information

resources. These challenges must be addressed by the management so as to maximize the effective utilization of these resources by the students and other communities of users.

Conclusion

Serials are important resources in the library that justify the existence of the academic library. Based on this, the study concludes that the availability of serials resources in the academic library will lead students to make use of these resources effectively which will, in turn, make a meaningful impact on their academic pursuit.

Recommendations

The University library can make its collections more useful if the lapses identified from the study can be addressed through the following recommendations which are made based on the findings from the study.

1. More funds should be given to the library for the acquisition of adequate, recent and relevant serials resources to the library.
2. Library management should provide necessary infrastructural facilities that will make the library conducive for the users.
3. Library management should organize information literacy skills seminars for the library users so as to help them to acquire skills on how to search for and locate the information resources needed in the library.
4. The library should purchase a solar inverter or standby generating set that will solve the issue of epileptic power supply.

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