

## **Provision and Use of Information Resources in Colleges of Health Sciences in Katsina State**

<sup>1</sup> **Aisha Safiyanu Darma**

and

<sup>2</sup> **Binta L. Farouk (Ph.D)**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Library and Information Science,  
Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina.

P.M.B.2218

E-mail: [aisha.safiyanu@umyu.edu.ng](mailto:aisha.safiyanu@umyu.edu.ng)

<sup>2</sup>Department of Library and Information Sciences,  
Bayero University, Kano

P.M.B. 3011

E-mail [bfladan@yahoo.com](mailto:bfladan@yahoo.com)

### **Abstract**

This study investigates the provision and use of information resources in College of Health Sciences Libraries in Katsina State, Nigeria. The study was guided by four research questions. Mixed research method approach was used to conduct the study. The population of the study consists of four colleges Librarians and one thousand nine hundred and eighty three (1983), students in four (4) selected colleges. The target populations are the four (4) College Librarians and three hundred and twenty two (322) students. Interview and Questionnaire were used as instruments for data collection. The findings of the study have revealed that different types of information resources are provided in the College of Health Sciences Libraries studied. The study further reveals that majority of the respondents utilized the information resources provided by the libraries. The respondents use the information resources for examination, lectures and medical research purposes. In addition, major challenges to effective provision of information resources to the users were identified as inadequate funds, lack of the ICT facilities, and inadequate number of staffs, inadequate power supply, and lack of library space, delay in procurement process and acquiring of information resources. Other challenges with the use of information resources by the students include poor internet connectivity, lack of computer systems. The study concludes that information resources are provided and utilized across the colleges libraries studied. The study has recommended among others, that there should be adequate funds, provision of the ICT facilities and there should be need for more qualified and trained library staff.

**Keywords:** Provision of Information Resources, Use, Academic library. Nigeria

## **Introduction**

Libraries world over are saddled with the responsibility of acquiring, processing, preserving, storing retrieving and disseminating of information to the users. Library has the collection of books and other informational materials made available to students for reading, studying and references (Akpan, Agam and Bassey, 2018). There are different types of libraries such as academic, public, special, school, private and national libraries. Colleges of Health Sciences Libraries are also seen as part of academic libraries attached to institutions of higher learning with the primary goals of providing information and good learning environment to students, staffs and workers of the college's community so as to achieve the educational goals.

According to Bitagi and Oziokwo (2015), information resources are all the library materials or facilities which the librarian relies upon to provide information services that meet with the information needs of nursing students. Library information resources are of various types and forms; which include both prints and non-print materials. Amidu and Akalo (2015) lists information resources in library as journals, maps, proceedings, abstract, textbooks, encyclopedia, dictionaries, gazettes, past examination question papers, government publication, technical reports, student projects and CD ROM. In spite of the relevance of information resources in the library of the Colleges, observations and discussion with the Nursing students in the Colleges under study by the researchers reveals that nursing students in the colleges do not visit the college libraries regularly to utilize the library information resources. Therefore, this research is set up to investigate on provision and use of information resources in Colleges of Health Sciences in Katsina State, Nigeria.

## **Statement of the Problem**

The paramount function of Colleges of Health Sciences Libraries is to support the teaching, learning and research needs of students and lecturers. This cannot be accomplished without the provision of information resources which is one of the fundamental human rights of every library user. However, despite the significance of information resources, it has been observed by the researchers that, students in the College of Health Sciences, Katsina do not make adequate use of the library resources and this situation has a negative impact on the quality of their academic activities. Could this be due to lack of information resources in the libraries? Therefore, it is on this premise that this study seeks to investigate on the provision and use the of information resources in colleges of health sciences in Katsina State, Nigeria.

### **Objectives of the Study**

To investigate the types of information resources provided in the Colleges of Health Sciences Libraries in Katsina State.

1. To determine the level of utilization of information resources by students in the selected Colleges of Health Science Libraries in Katsina State.
2. To identify the challenges associated with the provision of information resources in Colleges of Health Sciences Libraries.
3. To identify the challenges associated with the use of information resources in Colleges of Health Science.

### **Literature Perspective: Concept and Significance of Academic Libraries**

Academic library is a library attached to the higher institution of learning to support the teaching, learning and research activities of the parent institution by providing adequate information resources to the students, staff and workers of the university community to fulfill the objectives of the library. Rubin (2010) defined academic libraries as libraries situated or found in institutions of higher learning such as Universities, Polytechnics, and Colleges of Education. Saharan (2013) opined that the reason behind the existence of any university library is to acquire and organize recorded information in such a way that permits access by users.

### **Information Resources Provision in Academic libraries**

Information resources refer to any source that can be consulted and accessed to obtain information. It could be printed or non- printed such as books, journals, magazines, encyclopedias, government publication, audio and audio visuals, e-books and e-journals. According to Nwachukwu, Abdulsalam and Salami (2014) information resources are the equipment's and facilities, software and data, which are designed, built, operated and maintained to collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display and transmit information. Information resources could also be referred as materials containing verified accounts of existing knowledge. Bello (2015) states that information resources are the means through which, information or message is communicated to its pre-determined target.

### **Types of information resources**

A text book is a print material printed and often bound in one or more volumes. It may be written by one or more individual persons or corporate bodies. Dictionary refers to a reference material and it lists words or terms of general or particular subject, profession, usually providing certain basic information including meanings, spellings, origin, pronunciation, use and abbreviations among others. While Student long essay are research project refers to the systematic collection and

analysis of data related to the field. These are also print information resources. Ogbomo (2000) define serials as “a publication issued in successive parts, usually at regular intervals and as a rule, intended to be continued indefinitely”. Serials include journals, magazines, bulletins and newsletters, proceedings learned societies and associations. They may be published daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly. Other types of information resources are the government Publications which include all official documents published by all levels of government (local, state and federal).

The E-electronic books (e-books) are book publications that consist of texts, images made available and accessible in digital form. According to Johnson, Elevesen, Gelgand, Lammer, Sipe and Zilper (2012) electronic books are books that are provided in a digital format for checkout or use via an internet browser, a computer, or another electronic device like an e-book reader. Electronic Journals (e-journals) constitutes important category of e-resources provided by the university libraries that can be accessed via electronic form. Johnson, Evensen, Gelgand, Lammers, Sipe and Zilper (2012) note that e-journals provided in a digital format activate access via an internet browser, a computer or other electronic devices. Another type of e-resources provided by university libraries are the online Databases. Online databases are databases accessible from a local network or the internet and are effective way of providing access to electronic books and journals in university libraries. Online databases are a collection of electronic information sources (e-journals/e-books) by publishers from various fields and disciplines (Dongardive, 2015). Compact Disc-Read Only Memory (CD-ROM) database is a flat, plastic disc with digital information encoded on a spiral form. It enables for a digital storing of a large amount of information in a way that is easy to search and retrieve the information. According to Gakibayo, Odongo and Obura (2013) CD-ROM databases are of immense value over print if the system is networked, as patrons as their terminals could access information without coming to the library. Internet and internet resources enables users of a university to access and link to millions of information resources content in the global information environment. Nnadozie (2014) reiterates that the internet is in reality, an international network of computers which are physically separated. Audio visuals information resources are another type of electronic information resources provided by the university libraries. These are information resources that can be listened to view or read. They include audio tapes, cassettes and discs, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) as an electronic information resource is a library database where library users can have accessed to the resources of the library through online terminals in the library (Alabi and Inuwa, 2010). While e-magazines and e- newspapers, are periodicals that exists on the World Wide Web or internet, E-reference are another type of electronic information resource that include: Dictionaries, Almanac and Encyclopedia which

are available on the internet. Sklar (2003) lists similar five items that should be included on libraries' health sciences web sites: directories, such as hospitals or clinicians; medical dictionaries; medical e-books, medical-e-journals, abstracts, indexes, and table of contents services, such as PubMed or other versions of MEDLINE and the Uncover table of contents database; medical or health encyclopaedias; medical e-journals or full-text databases; health bibliographies and web bibliographies; medical news; and key primary documents.

### **Use of Information Resources in Academic Libraries**

Utilization of information resources refers to the extent to which the available Information resources are used by student nurses for the purpose of satisfying their information needs. It is therefore, necessary for nursing students to make maximum utilization of the available information resources to improve the quality of research and enhance academic performances. Use of information resources has been viewed differently by different researchers. According to Nwachukwu, Abdulsalam and Salami (2014), it is the extent to which users make use of the resources of a library to meet their information needs. Olajide and Otunla (2015) studied the use of information resources by student nurses, revealing that print materials are the major information resources used by nursing students who are active users of the library. The study further reveals that books, journals, encyclopaedias, dictionaries and directories are the most frequently used information resources by nurses to a very great extent. Aladeniyi and Temitope, (2018), measure the utilization of library information resources by undergraduate students of the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo State, Nigeria. The study reveals the various purpose of utilizing library information resources by the students of the University of Medical Science, Ondo.

From the analysis, majority of the respondents have agreed that they use the library resources for the purpose of obtaining general information, for examination, for assignment and for research having 231 (98.7%), 224 (95.7%), 220 (95%) and 217 (92.7%) respectively. Ibrahim (2017) also studied provision and use of information resources and services in libraries for legislation in the Houses of Assembly of North-Central State, Nigeria and found that Hansards with 49(71%) are the information resources that are highly used in the libraries followed by periodicals 41(59%), followed by books and materials of local history with 31(45%), while electronic information resources and encyclopaedia with 11(16%) are the least information resources being utilized in the libraries. On utilization of information services, the study reveals that reference services with 32(46%) and reprographic services with 28(41%) and referral services with 21(30%) are the information services utilized in the libraries. The study also reveals that lending,

selective dissemination, electronic, user education, translation services each with 4(6%), as the least area of information services being utilized in the libraries.

### **Challenges Faced with the Provision of Information Resources and Services.**

There are several challenges facing the provision of information resources and services. However, reviewed by Omotosho and Okiki (2012), inadequate funding is indubitably the major challenge faced by the library staff in the provision of effective library resources to users. In the study of Ibrahim (2017) the non-provision of adequate fund, inadequate current information resources and services, and lack of the ICT facilities are the main challenges faced by all the libraries in provision of information resources and services. Nkechi, Victoria, and Chinyere, (2018) report in their study on the challenges of library and information services (LIS) delivery in the 21st Century. The Situation in three Academic Libraries in Imo State, include: poor funding, indifferent attitudes of library managers, absence of well-defined and uniform library policies and non-compliance with the demands of the ICT, arising from the above challenges identified by the respondents. It could be presumed that all the libraries share almost similar problems.

### **Methodology**

The study adopted cross-sectional survey research design. The study population comprises of the four Colleges of Health Sciences librarians and a total of 1,983 registered students in the Colleges of Health Sciences. All the Librarians are purposively selected and samples of 322 students were selected using Research Advisors Table (2006). Interview and Questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The qualitative data was analyzed through thematic analysis while the quantitative data was analyzed descriptively, using frequencies and percentages table. A total of 322 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and 297 (92.2%) copies were returned. The response rate of 92.2% was considered adequate for the study.

### **Data Analysis and Interpretation**

The data is analyzed and the results are presented in line with the study research questions

### **Research Question 1: Interview Results on the Types of Information Resources provided by Colleges of Health Sciences Libraries in Katsina State.**

The participants have reported different types of electronic information resources provided by their libraries. P<sub>1</sub> reveals that 'the type of information resources provided by our library are medical textbooks, medical journals, medical dictionaries, newspapers, magazines, projects, offline databases, health

encyclopaedias, medical e-journals, medical e-books, internet resource medline online database, online newspaper and audio visual resources”. P2 stated that “the types of information resources in our library are printed and non-printed materials, such as medical textbooks, medical journals, medical dictionaries, health bibliographies newspapers, magazines, projects, medical e-journals, medical e-books, internet resources, online medline database, and offline databases”. P3 mentioned that “we have printed materials such as medical textbooks, medical journals, medical dictionaries, newspapers, magazines, projects, offline, health encyclopaedias medical e-journals, medical e-books, medline database, and audio offline database”. Participants like P4 express that ‘the type of information resources provided by our library include medical textbooks, medical journals, medical dictionaries, newspapers, magazines, projects, medical, e-books, internet resources, medline database, online newspaper and offline database”.

**Research Question 2:** Do the students utilize the information resources provided by the colleges Libraries under study?

**Table 1: Use of Information Resource.**

Use	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	289	(97.3%)
No	8	(2.7%)
Total	297	100%

Table 2 shows that 289 (97.3%) of the respondents use the information resources while 8 (2.7%) of the respondents do not use it. This reveals that majority of the respondents use information resources.

**Purpose of using Information Resources**

The respondents are asked to indicate the purpose for which they used Information Resources

**Table 2: Purpose of use of information resources**

S/N	PURPOSE OF USE	Frequency/ Percentage (Yes)	Frequency/ Percentage (No)
1.	Lectures	247(83.2%)	50(16.8%)
2.	Clinical posting	228(76.8%)	69(23.2%)
3.	Medical Research	190(64.0%)	107(36.0%)
4.	Examination	278(93.6%)	19(6.4%)
5.	Assignment	193(65.0%)	104(35.0%)
6.	Objective Structure Clinical Examination (OSCE)	172(57.9%)	125(42.1%)
7.	Paper presentation	171(57.6%)	126(42.4%)

Table 2 reveals the various purpose of using of information resources by students of Colleges of Health Sciences Libraries in Katsina State. From the analysis majority of the respondents have agreed that they use the information resources for the purpose of examination, lectures, clinical posting, assignment, objective Structure clinical examination (OSCE) and paper presentations having 278 (93.6%), 247 (83.2%), 228 (76.8%), 193 (65.0%), 172 (57.9%) and 171(57.6%) respectively.

From the above analysis, it is however, noted that majority of the respondents use the information resources for the purpose of examination and lectures.

**Research Question 3:** To identify the challenges associated with the provision of information resources in the libraries under study

P1, P2, P3, P4 indicate inadequate numbers of staff and lack of information and communication technology, P1, P3, P4 reveals that lack of funds is the major challenges facing the library and the school in general, P1, P2, P3 mentions lack of library space. P1, P2, indicates inadequate power supply and P2 mention delay in procurement process and acquiring of information resources.

On the Challenges associated with the provision of information resources in the libraries under study. Participants of the study mention that inadequate numbers of staff, lack of funds is the major challenges facing the library and the school in general, lack of library space inadequate power supply and delay in the procurement process and acquiring of information resources.

**Research Question 4:** To identify the challenges associated with the Use of information resources in the libraries under study

**Table 3: Challenges associated with the use of information resources**

S/N	Challenges	Frequency/ Percentage (Yes)	Frequency/ Percentage (No)
1.	Non unconcerned attitude from the library staff	156(52.5%)	141(47.5%)
2.	Poor organization of Information Resources on the shelves	91(30.6)%	206(69.4%)
3.	Lack of library guide to direct users to appropriate sections of the library	118(39.7%)	179(60.3%)



4.	Lack of online Library resources	172(57.9%)	125(42.1%)
5.	Lack of user Orientation	126(42.4%)	171(57.6%)
6.	Unreliable source power supply	131(44.1%)	166(55.9%)
7.	Out dated information Resources	141(47.5%)	156(52.5%)
8.	Shortage of Operational hours	160(53.9%)	137(46.1%)
9.	Lack of computer systems	173(58.2%)	124(41.8%)
10.	Poor Internet connectivity	187(63.0%)	110(37.0%)
11.	Other( Please Specify)	---- ----	--- ---- ---

Table 3 reveals that the highest number of respondents 187 (63.0%), 173 (58.2%), 172 (57.9%), 160 (53.9%), 156 (52.5%) have strongly agreed that, poor internet connectivity lack of computer systems, shortage of operational hours, unconcerned attitude from the library staffs are the major problems found by colleges of health sciences libraries in Katsina State. This is followed by 141 (47.5%), 131 (44.1%), 126 (42.4%), 118 (39.7%), 91 (30.6%), who indicate that outdated information resources, unreliable sources of power supply, lack of library guide to direct users to appropriate sections of the library, lack of user orientation and poor organization of information resources on the shelves. This implies that there are quite a number of challenges with the use of information resources and services.

### Discussion of Findings

The study reveals that information resources are provided in the colleges of Health Sciences Libraries which include medical textbooks, medical journals, medical dictionaries, reference materials, projects, offline database, health encyclopaedia, medical e-books, online medical bibliography, magazines, midline-database and medical e-journal are the most information resources provided. This is in line with the findings of the study by Amiduand Akolo (2018) that information resources are provided in the library which include journals, maps, proceedings, abstract, textbooks, encyclopaedia, dictionaries, projects and C- Rom. On the Use of information in Colleges of Health Sciences in Katsina state, it shows that the respondents use the information resources provided. The finding of the study also point out that majority of the respondents use information resources for the purpose of examination, lectures, clinical posting, assignment, medical research, objective structure clinical examination (OSCE) and paper presentation This findings corroborate the findings of Aladeniyi and Owokole (2018) that reveals that majority

of the respondents use library information resources for the purpose of obtaining general information, for examination for assignment and for research.

On challenges associated with provision of information resources and services, the findings indicate that non provision of adequate fund, lack of the ICT facilities, and inadequate number of staffs, inadequate power supply, lack of library space, delay in procurement process and acquiring of information resources, arising from the above challenges identified by the participants, it could be presumed that all the libraries share almost similar problems. This finding agrees with the findings of Ibrahim (2017) that that non-provision of adequate fund, inadequate of current information resources and services, and lack of the ICT facilities are the main challenges faced by all the libraries in the provision of information resources in libraries for legislation in house of assembly of North- Central state.

The major challenge encountered by students in using information resources are poor internet connectivity, lack of computer systems, shortage of operational hours, unconcerned attitude from the library staffs, lack of online services. The findings are in agreement with Ternenge (2019) that lack of time to use the information resources in the library, lack of awareness on existence of specific information resources, lack of current nursing textbooks and journals, difficult in finding relevant information resources, lack of internet access, not allowed to borrow books in the library, the environment is not conducive for learning and research, lack of computers, as well as lack of adequate skills on how to use the library.

## **Conclusion**

This study has investigated the provision and of information resources and services in colleges of health sciences in Katsina State. The study tends to find out the information resources provided in Colleges of Health Sciences libraries in Katsina State, the level of utilization of information resources by the students and the challenges associated with the provision of the information resources. The study shows that information resources are provided across the colleges libraries studied, and has no doubt contributed meaningfully to the smooth running of the academic work and research activities.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are provided.

1. The government and the management should make adequate funds, available in the libraries so as to enable the libraries acquire necessary information resources and to that would enable the libraries to meet the information needs of the users.

2. The management of the Colleges of Health Sciences Libraries in Katsina State should provide computers and internet connectivity in the libraries to enable the users to use the e-resources in the libraries.
3. There is the need for the college management to address the challenges of non-provision of adequate fund, inadequate number of staffs, inadequate power supply, lack of the ICT facilities, lack of library space, delay in procurement process, and lack of modern information Outdated information resources.

## Reference

- Akpan, B. B., Agam, B. M., & Bassey, S. A. (2018). The Future of E-books in Our Contemporary World. *Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science*, 7(3), 246-249. [www.jalis](http://www.jalis)
- Aladeniyi, F. R., & Arikawi, S. A. (2017). A survey on the use of library information resources by students of Ondo State School of Nursing Akure. Ondo State School of Nursing Akure, Ondo State Nigeria. *International Journal of Innovation Research and Development*, 6 (9), 270-276.
- Aladeniyi, R. F & Owokele, S. T. (2018). Utilization of library information resources by undergraduate students of university of medical science Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria. *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*, 8(4), 92-99. [www.aijcnnet.com](http://www.aijcnnet.com)
- Bello, S. O. (2015). Marketing of Information Resources in Nigeria: Strategies and Challenges. *Information and Knowledge Management*, 5(9), 58-63. [www.iiste.org](http://www.iiste.org)
- Bitagi, A. & Ozioko, R. (2015). Factors militating against utilization of information resources for research institutes in Nigeria. *Journal of Balkan Libraries Union*, 3(2), 14-20.
- Dongardive, P. (2018). Use of Electronic Information Resources at College of Dry land Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mekelle Univeristy, Ethiopia. *International Journal of Library Information Science*, 7(3), 55-68. DOI: [10.5897/IJLIS2015.0542](https://doi.org/10.5897/IJLIS2015.0542)
- Gakibayo, A., Odongo, J. R. & Obura, C.O. (2013). Electronic information resources utilization by student in Mbarara University library. *Library Philosophy and Practice e-journal*, paper 869 <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3071&context=libphilp> Rc
- Gaviboy, A., Ikoja- Odongo, J. R. & Obura, C. O. (2013). Electronic information resources utilization by students in Mbarara University. *Library philosophy and practice e-journal paper 869*, <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/869/>

- Hammed, A.B. (2010): Use of library: Essential manual for beginners, Ibadan: New edition. AKACOM publication Ltd.
- Ibrahim, A. A. (2017). Provision and use of information Resources & Services in Libraries in houses of assembly of North-central State, Nigeria.
- Nwachukwu, V. N., Abdulsalam, J. L., & Salami, F .S. (2014). Availability, accessibility and use of information resources and services among information seekers of Lafia Public Library in Nasarawa State. *Information and Knowledge Management Journal*, 4(10), 1-11. [www.ustu.org](http://www.ustu.org)
- Ogbomo, E. F. (2010). Availability and use of sequel collections by students in federal Polytechnic Auchi and Delta state Polytechnic Otefe-Oghara. Project Reserve.com, [admin@project.com](mailto:admin@project.com)
- Oladije, A. A. & Otunla, A. O. (2015). Use of information Resources by student Nurse. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>.
- Omosho, A. M. & Okike, O. C. (2012). Challenges of Public libraries patrons in the use of information services for attainment of health millennium development goals. *Library Philosophy and Practice e-journal*, <http://llunlib.uni.edu>
- Ternenge, S. T. (2019) Effective Utilization of Information Resources for Research in Nursing by Students Nurses in Benue State School of Nursing and Midwifery, Makurdi. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>