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## **Study on Information Resources Utilization Among the Users' in Library Board in Katsina State**

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### ABSTRACT

This study is on the Information Resources Utilization among the Users' in Katsina State Library Board. Three research questions were formulated and survey research methods was adopted for the study. A total of 40 respondents made up the population of the study. Which comprise all the library users, questionnaire was also used as an instrument to collect data. Simple random sampling was use to select a sample size of the study population. This technique was used to give equal representation for all the library user. The study found out that The study identified that katsina State library board has poor state of information resources and the available resources in the libraries are grossly inadequate. Also the study found out that the majority of library users are not frequently utilizing the library materials, they only visit the library once a while. Lastly, the study recommended among other things that Government at all level and other donor agencies should provide adequate libraries materials that will promote users to access information services in the libraries. Public Libraries in the state should provide up to date library resources such internet facilities in the e-library section and provide more e- resources for library users that will enable the library to have large volume of current and updated information resources for effective service delivery.

**KEYWORDS:** Information resources, Utilization, Public Libraries

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### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Library information resources have a significant role to play in the development of teaching and learning. Libraries all over the world can not achieve their objectives with out paying much attention to the resources available to satisfy users' need. These materials are usually housed in a building and systematically arranged for easy retrieval. Libraries all over the world regardless of type, public, academic and special are considered to be store houses of knowledge of published and unpublished information resources that are basic to continued survival, development and progress of mankind. Example of published information resources include books, journals, magazines and newspapers, while the unpublished materials include project, thesis, conference papers, workshop papers and seminar papers. There is hardly any possible development of knowledge in the field of human endeavor today without library books and various types of information materials, which exist in the libraries as information resources. The concept of library information resources can be describe as any information in electronic, audio – visual or physical form, or any hardware or software that makes the possible storage and use information [4].

[4] give a clear picture by referring to Information Resources as those print and non-print materials that are selected specifically and organized for implementing the educational programme at the primary, secondary and tertiary level of education. These include text books, Journals, Theses and Dissertations, Conference Proceedings, Technical Reports and Trade Manuals, Newspapers and Magazines, Abstract/Indexes, Government Documents, Statistical Publications, Internet, Online Databases, CD-Rom, Databases, Workshop Reports, Encyclopedias, Directories/Handbook and Dictionaries. Others include instructional and learning resources such as charts and pictures.

The researcher argued that there is need to understand the problem and nature of information resources utilization in Katsina State Library Board. Because knowing and understanding the challenges facing the library will enable the researcher to come out with a practicable solution to that will help to promote the development of the library system in the state. Therefore, it is against this background researcher attempted to study Information Resources Utilization among the Users' in Katsina State Library Board.

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### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The public library is a social institution which is tied to the political and social realities of the communities where it is situated. Public Library as an institution is set up by the government through enabling law, funded and maintained to meet the educational, informational and recreational needs of its community [9]

Observation conducted by the researchers to Katsina State Library Board shows that, the library is facing a tremendous problems on resources utilization by library users. It was also observed by the researchers that public library patronage has reduced drastically as a result of poor information resources in the library. The poor stocking of information resources and poor quality of services make it difficult for librarians to achieve the purpose for establishing the library. This observation was earlier reported by [5]: [9]. Have reported that the Nigerian public libraries are yearning for improvement as their services suffered one form of neglect or the other due to lack of fund, inadequate infrastructure, information resources and qualified manpower. Therefore the study is to investigate Information Resources Utilization among the Users' in Katsina State Public Library Board.

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## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study will provide answers to the following research questions

1. What types of information resources are available in Katsina State Public Libraries?
2. To what extent the information resources are utilized by the library users?
3. What are the challenges associated with the use of information resources by the library users under the study?

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## LITERATURE REVIEW

The review was presented under the following headings:-

- 2.1 Concept of Information resources
- 2.2 Information resources utilization in public libraries
- 2.3 Challenges associated with users' satisfaction of information resource in public libraries

### *Concept of Information Resources*

Libraries and information centers should be designed to serve actual needs as well as anticipated to provide adequate Information resources to its users. Information resources today is regarded as vital asset that must be managed to achieve organizational goals there cannot be effective research without proper utilization of information in a library [5]. The non-book materials in the library include the projectors, microfilm reader, cassette, microfiche reader, audio cassette, radio, TV, CD ROMs, computer, etc are some of the information resources use to provide effective library services. There is the need for libraries to have relevant information resources that can solve the information needs of its users. The objective of the library is to maximize the exposure of the users to resources.

### *Information resources utilization in public libraries*

The library is there for every user to utilize information resources available and accessible to develop analytically in conjunction with classroom instructions in a self-passed capacity. The library should be treated as a laboratory of information necessary and capable of taking classroom instruction to higher levels if adequately utilized by students, researchers, and faculty members. Just as it is impossible for scientists to function without a laboratory, the public library is indispensable to teaching-learning process and researchers and the entire community in which the library is located. Students need information resources in the library that can be applied practically to their needs and enrich their knowledge.

[1] Notes that, Utilization in a public library information resources refers to the ability of library users to use the services in the library for gaining information, or for entertainment purposes. The achievement of the set objectives of a public library is closely related to the level of use of the services offered by the intended community.

[3] mentioned that the library should be organized to minimize the effort required by the users to access the needed information materials as soon as possible when the need arises. Libraries should be involved in the provision of audiovisual information resources for the use of their clientele because the resources play a vital role in the transmission of information and knowledge. Media technology is the best way through which knowledge could be impacted because it is a way of providing the users with total information environment. With the development of science and technology, the records of man achievements come in a wide variety of forms each client looks for and not the formal libraries that exist to provide source of information to those who use the information resources.

### *Challenges associated with users' utilization of information resource in Public Libraries*

[7] In his study posits that using the catalogue card is a problem to them, locating various information resources was also a problem respondents expressed that getting the librarian on duty to put them through to getting the resources is another problem. This shows that librarian must wake up in their slumber and embrace the duty they are paid for.

[6] Indicated that certain factors were problematic for them creates a bleak picture in terms of the accessibility of public library information resources in general. The biggest problem inhibiting access to the services was identified as the material available not being what the users required and the lack of borrowing facilities is also another problem. Other challenges include lack of available materials, and the available one are mostly deemed unusable.

## RESEARCH METHOD ADOPTED FOR THE STUDY

A survey design was adopted for this study. This is because it was convenient to use in the study of large and small population without sacrificing efficiency, time, cost and accuracy. [9] (2005) states that survey method is a systematic method for gathering information from a sample of individuals for the purposes of describing the attributes of the larger population. The population of this study comprises all library users. Therefore, this study used questionnaire as a primary instrument of data collection. Where by 40 copies of questionnaire was distributed to the respondent. However, out of that number only thirty two 32 (86.5%) questionnaires were returned and found usable for the study.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

As mentioned in earlier, this study used questionnaire for collecting data. Forty (40) questionnaires were administered. At the end, 32 questionnaires were returned, representing 86.5% response rate. The high response rate was attributed to the fact that the respondents were given up to two weeks within to complete and return the questionnaires to the researcher. Table below shows the response rate of the respondents.

**Research question 1.** What types of information resources are available in Katsina State Public Libraries? Respondents are to tick as many types of information resources as possible?

**Table 1. Types of information resources available in Katsina State Public Library Board**

Information resources	Frequency	Percentage
Books	32	86.5
Journals	12	32.2
Films & audios	8	21.6
Directories	8	21.6
Newspapers	35	94.6
Magazines	32	86.5
Braille	23	62.2
E-Books	-	-
Dictionaries	12	32.2
Others	-	-

Table 1 Shows that at Katsina Library Board when respondents were ask to indicate the types of information resources available in the library a very high number of them indicated News Papers representing 35 (94.6%) followed by Books and Journals with 32 (86.5%) each, Braille 23 (62.2%), Dictionary and Journals 12 (32.2%), Films and Audios 8 (21.6%) E-books 0 (0.0%) are not found in the library. It might be so perhaps the E-books may not have been available in the library. So therefore, the library needs to have E-books for users' for effective information resource utilization.

**Table 2. Library users' responses on the types of information resources they mostly use in their libraries**

Information resources	Frequency	Percentage
Books	23	62.2
Journals	5	13.5
Films & audios	-	-
Directories	-	-
Newspapers	29	78.4
Magazines	12	32.4
Braille	5	13.5
E-Books	-	-
Dictionaries	4	10.8
Others	-	-

Table 3. Discovered that at Katsina Library Board when user were ask on the types of information resources they mostly use majority of the respondents shows that News papers 29 (78.4%) followed by Books representing 23 (62.2%); magazines 12 (32.4%); Braille and Journals 5 (13.5%) each; and Dictionaries 4 (10.8) then Directories, E-Books and others 0 (0%).

Therefore a serious attention need to put in place to address lack of Films & Audios, E-books to in the library resources.

**Table 3. Library users' response on the challenges associated with the use of information resources by the library users under the study**

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of current materials in the library	32	86.5
Lack of awareness	11	29.7
Lack of literacy skills	3	8.1
Non – chalet attitude of library staff	5	13.5
Library building not conducive	23	62.2
Library location is too far from my area	16	43.2
All of the above	23	62.2

Table 4.2.12 indicated that at library board katsina, challenges associated with the use of information resources by the library users under the study were found lack of current materials in the library 32 (86.5%), lack of awareness 11 (29.7%), lack of literacy skills 3 (8.1%), non – chalet attitude of library staff 5 (13.5%), library building not conducive 23 (62.2%), library location is too far from my area 16 (43.2%) while all of the above 23 (62.2%).

### Summary of findings

1. The study identified that public in katsina State public library board has poor state of information resources and the available resources in the libraries are grossly inadequate.
2. Also the study found out that the majority of library users are not frequently utilizing the library materials, they only visit the library once a while.
3. Library users' are not adequately satisfy with the provision of information resources and services in the libraries as most of those information resources in the libraries are obsolete and outdated, in which they don't satisfy users want.
4. Some of the challenges facing the libraries include, lack of current and sufficient information resources, poor funding, lack of constant power supply and shortage of staff.

### Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study, it could be concluded that public libraries in katsina state were poorly manage with insufficient information resources and services both print and electronic form. However, despite the importance of public libraries in the development of society the libraries does not meet with the goals and objectives in which the libraries are establish for the provision of effective provision of information to the users.

### Recommendations

From the findings of this study, it is therefore recommended that

1. Public libraries should be stocked with up-to-date information resources to encourage users to consult relevant books on shelves and outdated/obsolete resources should be weeded regularly.
2. Government at all level and other donor agencies should provide adequate libraries materials that will promote users to utilize information resources in the libraries.
3. There should be new library services to attract more users for library patronage.
4. Public Libraries in the state should provide up to date library resources such internet facilities in the e-library section and provide more e-resources for users that will go in long way by satisfaction users want.
5. Provision of adequate power supply and other alternative sources of generating power in the libraries for lightening and utilization E-Library Services to Users'.
6. Adequate fund should be provided by government for the smooth running of the libraries.

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