



PERCEPTION OF LIBRARIANS ON THE IMPACT OF CATALOGUING AND CLASSIFICATION ON THE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN KWARA STATE

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ABSTRACT

Cataloguing and classification provide means of having easy access to, and retrieval of information. This study investigates perception of librarians on the impact of cataloguing and classification on the use of information resources of academic libraries in Kwara State. It adopts a descriptive survey, as it aims to accurately and systematically describe a population, situation or phenomenon under studying. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 53 librarians across 13 academic libraries in Kwara State. Questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents and data collected was analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS, 22nd edition). The result of the findings reveals that users consult library catalogue before accessing library and information resources and that cataloguing and classification as a tool for providing access to information resources promotes library usage, while the challenges associated with that inadequate knowledge of how information resources are arranged, improper shelving of information resources, lack of awareness of cataloguing and classification in the library among others. The study recommends, among others, that professional librarians should be deployed to the readers' service section to help in properly arranging library and information resources, and also ensure that the library move with latest trends to electronic cataloguing system in the library.

Keywords: Academic libraries, Cataloguing, Classification, Impact, Information resources, Kwara State, Librarians



Introduction

Academic libraries according to David-West and Wali (2020), are established in higher institutions of learning with the main purpose of supporting and complementing the institution's personnel's information needs, be it on academic, political, economic, socio-cultural, technological etc. The academic libraries primarily perform the tripartite functions of supporting teaching, learning, and research of the host Institution. The need to efficiently provide quick access to information resources that will be effective in serving an institution's personnel necessitates for academic libraries to engage in cataloguing and classification of their information resources.

Cataloguing and classification are different but interrelated activities performed in academic libraries to ensure adequate bibliographic descriptions of information resources. The difference between the two concepts is that cataloguing is a process of preparing a catalogue - which will contain the physical details of information resources – while classification is the art of arranging or organizing information materials based on their common characteristics, and assigning codes as notations to identify, locate and retrieve information resources (David-West & Angrey, 2018).

The interrelationship between cataloguing and classification is that they are both used as representation of information resources, with clear, adequate, and detailed descriptions that can be used as keys to access information resources in academic libraries. The essence of cataloguing and classification is not limited to the academic libraries' users alone; as it also helps librarians in many ways with the most notable one being that it saves the time of librarians in locating and recalling information resources in their libraries. It also shows the strength and weakness of the library collections. With the rate at which technologies are applied in transforming the services of academic libraries, the concern that needs to be still relevant in academic libraries. This, therefore, underscores the need to investigate the perceptions of librarians on the impact that cataloguing and classification can have on the use of information resources of academic libraries in Kwara State.

Statement of the Problem

Cataloguing and classification of information resources in the library are vital to the overall aspects of library operations that enhance adequate bibliographic and subject descriptions of information resources that are available. David-West and Angrey (2018) corroborated this point by submitting that cataloguing and classification skills are major tools in information dissemination because they are access and retrieval tools that allow library users to find information needed for their research works and personal development. However, observations have shown the growing concern on whether librarians actually perceive cataloguing and classification as relevant tools for quick and easy access to, and retrieval of information materials for usage. Based on the foregoing, this study therefore sets out to investigate librarians' perspectives of the impact of cataloguing and classification on the use of information resources of academic libraries in Kwara State.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to examine:

1. librarian's perceptions on users consulting library catalogues for accessing and retrieving information resources in academic libraries in Kwara State;
2. librarians' perception of cataloguing and classification as tools for providing access



to information resources for promoting the usage of academic libraries in Kwara;
and

3. the challenges associated with cataloguing and classification limiting the use of information resources in academic libraries in Kwara State.

Research Questions

This study sets out to provide answers to the following research questions:

1. What is the librarians' perception on users consulting library catalogues for accessing and retrieving information resources in academic libraries in Kwara State?
2. How do librarians perceive cataloguing and classification as tools for providing access to information resources promotes the usage of academic libraries in Kwara?
3. What are the challenges associated with cataloguing and classification, which are limiting the use of information resources in academic libraries in Kwara State?

Review of Related Literature

Cataloguing and classification are concepts in the library that are as old as when the organization of information resources was introduced to the library settings. They are like Siamese twins, because they are done together. Cataloguing describes a book, using some bibliographic details such as author, title, publisher, place of publication, ISBN, etc., to describe a book, while classification indicates subject contents which ultimately place the book in a subject class. Standard classification simply involves assigning a class number to a book that corresponds with its subject contents, following a chosen classification scheme (Nwalo, 2003). Cataloguing and classification are essential means of accessing library information materials, which in the end facilitate their usage. Cataloguing and classification are a gateway to information resources access and utilization and they are means of organizing library resources to ensure that access and retrieval of such information resources are made easy (Akidi & Omekwu, 2019). It is the core of the library profession. Cataloguing and classification require librarians who are intelligent, skillful, resourceful, dedicated, innovative, have initiative, and have a keen interest in the performance of routines (David-West & Wali, 2020).

According to Aina (2004) in Ishola and Zaccus (2015), organizing objects in one's environment, especially those that are used frequently, is common in any human setting. This makes it easier to retrieve the item whenever it is needed; this is the organizing principle. He emphasized the need to organize titles, books, equipment, etc. because it would be challenging to locate a specific object when needed if there had not been any prior organization of the objects. A library catalogue, according to Olanlokun and Salisu (2006), may also be viewed as a communication tool that is delivered in a specific, predetermined order to let a patron know precisely what materials the library has available. Classification is the system of arranging information resources in the library, regardless of their appreciable size (Obiozor-Ekeze, 2015). Classification can be described as the methodology adopted by librarians for bringing together information materials that are of the same subject. The main reason for classifying information materials in libraries is to create access to information materials because the more accessible information sources are, the more likely they are used (Olajide & Yusuf, Madukoma, as cited in Obiozor-Ekeze, 2015).



Cataloguing and classification according to Muhamad, Baffa and Garba (2018), are tools that enhances the easy accessibility and retrieval of library and information resources, the ensure that users of the library especially academic library are not mislead and are provided with their various needs as quick as possible. They further stress that these tools ensure the increase in usage of the library as it ensure that the fourth law of library science is fulfilled "save the time of the library user". The cataloguing and classification provide a basis for the library to communicate to users their available resources and help to easily locate and retrieve them on the shelf (Muhammad, 2014).

Chauhan (2004) opined that a library catalog is arguably the most crucial resource for finding materials in a library. Unfortunately, until recently, its utility was constrained by the way it was physically presented, which was typically a sizable card catalogue or a collection of printed volumes. He emphasized that the development of computers, with their capacity to analyze vast amounts of data and output in a variety of forms, has finally enabled the consumer to access the library from anywhere in the world through the use of online public access catalogs (OPAC). Husain and Asari (2006) argue that the days of sifting through many card catalogue drawers and attempting to conduct cross-references on a subject through several subject-headings put on index cards are long gone. He emphasized how information technology had altered every aspect of the library's environment, including its resources, methods, and services.

Nwalo (2013) compares the lack of digitization of Nigerian libraries to the mindset of a needy parent who is unable to feed her kids but bans them from accepting food from a kind neighbor's home. Information seeking behavior of users in this environment of ubiquitous access merits consideration. Many consumers will acquire and use information without considering the source or the material's legitimacy since they are eager to learn something (Nwalo, 2011). According to Atinmo (2007), before the advent of the internet, the cataloguer ordered the library collection through description and subject cataloguing of materials using standard tools that had been created over a long period of time. These instruments included the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD), Sears List of Subject Headings, and Library of Congress List of Subjects (LCSH), as well as the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2).

Youngok (2006) and Adebayo (2013) asserted that the trend worldwide has demonstrated that information provision and delivery has transitioned from the traditional models to electronic and web-based formats. Traditional collections are being replaced by hybrid ones, if not entirely new ones. This structural transition is not without its difficulties because electronic and digital libraries have their own peculiar traits even though they serve the same functions as traditional libraries in terms of organizing, storing, and disseminating information resources. The volume of information shared online daily, according to Zaid (2008), "presents an unprecedented challenge to the profession in terms of the conventional responsibility to organize, give access to, and preserve knowledge.

Methodology

This study was conducted by using the descriptive survey method; as it is considered suitable for this research situation as this, where the population is heterogeneous and the researchers have to pick a portion of the population that will provide data to represent the research results (Kolawole & Ijebor, 2018). The study population was 53 librarians from 13 academic libraries in Kwara State. Purposive



sampling technique was used because the technique enables the researchers to deliberately select a sample from one or more predefined groups based on how the researchers assessed the samples to be the ones to provide answers that are appropriate for meeting the objectives of the study (Ram, 2018). Questionnaire was the data collection instrument and was administered to the librarians both physically and online (in cases where the respondents are not closed to the researchers). The data collected was analyzed using quantitative analysis, which involves the use of a variety of statistical procedures, including basic descriptive statistics using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) to generate and interpret the variables. To ensure consistency, the primary data was first edited to correct any errors before being coded and analyzed. Mathematical statistical methods, such as simple frequency, percentage, and mean, standard deviation was used in making meaning of the data gathered. Package for Social Science (SPSSv.20) to generate and interpret the variables. Mathematical statistical methods, such as simple frequency, percentage, and mean, standard deviation was used in making meaning of the data gathered.



Table 1: Demographic Distribution of Respondents

	Institutions' Libraries	F	%
Name of Institution	University of Ilorin, Ilorin	11	20.8%
	Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin	6	11.3%
	Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin	9	17.0%
	Federal Polytechnic, Offa	8	15.1%
	College of Education, Ilorin	6	11.3%
	Summit University, Offa	2	3.8%
	College of Education, Ilemona	1	1.9%
	Lens Polytechnic, Offa	1	1.9%
	CAILS, Ilorin	4	7.5%
	Landmark University, Omu-Aran	1	1.9%
	Kwara State College of Education, Oro	4	7.5%
	Total	53	100.0%
Gender	Male	27	50.9%
	Female	26	49.1%
	Total	53	100.0%
Age range	21-30 years	10	18.9%
	31-40 years	21	39.6%
	41-50 years	16	30.2%
	51 years and above	6	11.3%
	Total	53	100.0%
Academic Qualifications	'O' Level	0	0.0%
	ND	4	7.5%
	HND	8	15.1%
	B.Sc.	27	50.9%
	M.Sc.	13	24.5%
	Ph.D.	1	1.9%
	Total	53	100.0%
Work Experience	1-5 years	15	28.3%
	6-10 years	21	39.6%
	11-15 years	4	7.5%
	16-20 years	6	11.3%
	21-25 years	2	3.8%
	Above 26 years	5	9.4%
	Total	53	100.0%

Table 1 above shows that majority of the respondents are staff of University of Ilorin Library with 11(20.8%). Majority of the respondents are male with 27(50.9%), 21 (39.6%) of the respondents are between the age range of 31-40 years, and 13(24.5%) of the respondents are M.Sc. holder, while 21(39.6%) of the respondents have the work experience of 6 to 10 years.



Table 2: Users Consulting Library Catalogue before using Information Materials

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	42	79.2%
No	11	20.8%
Total	53	100.00%

Table 2 above shows that majority of the respondents with 42(79.2%) attests that user consult the library’s catalogue before using the information materials, while 11 (20.8%) rebut that user consult the library’s catalogue before using the information materials.

Table 3: Cataloguing and Classification as Access Tool for Promoting library usage

Items	SA		A		D		SD		MEAN	STD. DEV.
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Make searching for information easier	41	77.4%	12	22.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3.77	.423
Guiding users to the relevant information resources in the library	32	60.4%	21	39.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3.60	.494
Helping in finding and retrieving useful information in the library	35	66.0%	18	34.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3.66	.478
Saving time in finding information resources	30	56.6%	23	43.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3.57	.500
Exposing users to other relevant information resources close to their search	26	49.1%	25	47.2%	2	3.8%	0	0.0%	3.45	.574
Brooding the knowledge of users	19	35.8%	26	49.1%	8	15.1%	0	0.0%	3.21	.689

Table 3 shows the result on how cataloguing and classification as a tool for providing access to information resources promotes library usage in academic libraries in Kwara State, as follows: “Make searching for information easier” (mean=3.77) was ranked highest by their mean score rating followed by “helping in finding and retrieving useful information in the library” (mean=3.66), “Guiding users to the relevant information resources in the library” (mean=3.60), “saving time in finding information resources” (mean=3.57), “exposing the users to other relevant information resources close to their search” (mean=3.45) respectively, while “brooding the knowledge of users” (mean=3.21) was ranked lowest, respectively.

Table 4: Challenges with Cataloguing and Classification Limiting Library Usage

Table 4 reveals the finding on the challenges associated with cataloguing and classification limiting the use of the library and information resources in academic libraries in Kwara State. “Inadequate knowledge of how the library information resources is arranged” (mean=3.32) was ranked highest by their mean score rating



followed by “improper shelving of information materials” (mean=2.83), “lack of awareness of cataloguing and classification in the library” (mean=2.79), “unavailability of electronic cataloguing system in the library” (mean=2.58), “unavailability of library catalogue be it card or online” (mean=2.51), “improper filing/arrangement of catalogue card” (mean=2.49) respectively, while “inadequate coverage of the subject treated by information resources in the library” (mean=2.43) was ranked lowest.

	SA		A		D		SD		Mean	STD. DEV.
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Inadequate knowledge of how the library information resources is arranged	26	49.1%	19	35.8%	7	13.2%	1	1.9%	3.32	.779
Lack of awareness of cataloguing and classification in the library	9	17.0%	28	52.8%	12	22.6%	4	7.5%	2.79	.817
Unavailability of electronic cataloguing system in the library	5	9.4%	28	52.8%	13	24.5%	7	13.2%	2.58	.842
Inadequate coverage of the subjects treated by the information resources in the library	6	11.3%	20	37.7%	18	34.0%	9	17.0%	2.43	.910
Improper filing/arrangement of catalogue card	10	18.9%	14	26.4%	21	39.6%	8	15.1%	2.49	.973
Unavailability of library catalogue be it card or online	10	18.9%	16	30.2%	18	34.0%	9	17.0%	2.51	.993
Improper shelving of information materials	15	28.3%	21	39.6%	10	18.9%	7	13.2%	2.83	.995

Discussion of the Findings

The results of the demographic distribution of respondents revealed a greater respondent from University of Ilorin, Library, and a greater number of male respondents. The findings show that a greater number of the respondents are of the age range between 31-40 years. The respondents availed themselves of this opportunity and advance their careers academically, through various professional programs as can be seen in the number M.Sc. holders. The findings show that greater number of the respondents are emerging librarians with (6-10 years) work experience.

On if users consult library catalogue before accessing library and information resources, the findings revealed that academic library users consult the catalogue before using library and information resources. The findings differ from that of Chauhan (2004), which emphasized that the development of computers, with their capacity to analyze vast amounts of data and output in a variety of forms, has finally enabled the



consumer to access the library from anywhere in the world through the use of OPAC.

Also, findings revealed cataloguing and classification as a tool for providing access to information resources promotes library usage and that it helps to make searching easier, helps in finding and retrieving useful information in the library, guides users to the relevant information resources in the library, and saves time in locating information resources, among others. This finding agreed with that of Muhamad, Baffa and Garba (2018), that states that cataloguing and classification are tools that enhance the easy accessibility and retrieval of library and information resources, ensuring that users of the library, especially academic libraries, are not misled and are provided with their various needs as quick as possible.

The findings on the challenges associated with the cataloguing and classification limiting the use of the library and information resources showed that inadequate knowledge of how information resources are arranged, improper shelving of information resources, lack of awareness of cataloguing and classification in the library, and unavailability of e-cataloguing system in the library, among others, were the challenges associated with the cataloguing and classification limiting the use of the library and information resources. The findings disagreed with that of Zaid (2008), which state that the volume of information shared online daily, "presents an unprecedented challenge to the profession in terms of the conventional responsibility to organize, give access to, and preserve knowledge. The findings also disagreed with those of Youngok (2006) and Adebayo (2013), who stated that the trend worldwide, has demonstrated that information provision and delivery has transitioned from the traditional models to electronic and web-based formats.

Conclusion

The organization of library resources is crucial for information retrieval and search in libraries. Users save time, and service delivery is very seamless as a result. A librarian will direct users to the appropriate information after hearing about their needs. Despite the demanding nature of the task, librarians must engage in technical services. Only through sacrifice will we be able to advance society.

Recommendations

The study hereby recommends the following;

1. There should be constant user education to sensitize library patrons on the important of consulting the library catalogue be it manual catalogue cabinet or the Online Public Access Catalogue before accessing the library and information resources to ensure that the are not misled.
2. Library staff should be trained and re-trained on how best to improve on making patrons literature search and retrieval easy by providing relevant bibliographical details in the course of describing the content of an information resources.
3. Professional librarians should be deployed to the readers' service section to help in properly arranging library and information resources, and also ensure that the library move with latest trends to electronic cataloguing system in the library.



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Dr. Florence O. Ajani is the Deputy University Librarian at the Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria. She is a chartered librarian with profound interest in Knowledge Organisation, Globalisation in Libraries, Reference Services and Academic Librarianship. She is a member of Nigerian Library Association (NLA) and Nigerian School Library Association (NSLA). She holds a B.Sc. degree in Computer Science from University of Ilorin (1997), MLIS (2005) and Ph.D. degree in School Media from the University of Ibadan (2018). For more than a decade, Dr. Ajani has been expanding the frontiers of Librarianship through teaching and research, which have culminated in publications in conference proceedings, seminar papers and journal articles locally and internationally.



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Abdulakeem Sodeeq Sulyman is a budding Library and Information Science scholar and public intellectual with deep interest in advancing the coast of scholarship and intellectual emancipation. He currently studies Library and Information Science at the Institute of Professional and Continuous Education, Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria. He is a prolific writer with three books to his credit, serves as Ad-hoc Reviewer of reputable journals and has published more than ten journal articles on Librarianship.