Full Length Research Paper

Resource sharing services in academic library services in Bauchi: the case of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University and Muhammadu Wabi Libraries, Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi

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Although libraries have a long tradition of resource sharing, in the past the results have not be meaningful as regards to having enough to share with others. The pervasive state of academic libraries generates a syndrome of insufficiency, and will continue for as long as the so-deemed libraries prefer to conveniently ignore resource sharing. The paper addresses problem and importance of resources sharing. Survey method using questionnaire for collection of data from the two selected academic libraries was adopted. Findings revealed that resource sharing is practice at a very low level coupled with failure of the selected libraries to embrace information communication technology.

Keywords: Resources sharing, Academic library, Questionnaire, Data, Information communication technology

INTRODUCTION

It is pertinent to note that no academic library by result has any hope of being self sufficient. It is neither possible nor feasible for the academic library irrespective of its size, to be self reliant in terms of collection. Dougherty and Hughes (1991) observed that libraries and library services were no longer individual academic libraries problems and that a collective approach is now absolutely essential. The only way evolved by academic libraries to improve their services to the library user, is by broadening the base of information availability through resources sharing. Sharing of library resources which is an aspect of inter library cooperation means that one library uses the resources of their libraries and vice-versa. As such, a group of libraries working together in cooperation for common purpose of material benefit can be termed as resource sharing system (Sangal 1984). The concept resource sharing among academic libraries in Nigeria has assumed unprecedented improvement not because the country is passing through period of austerity measures, but because of the present era of information explosion. Each library is looking for new and

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better ways to serve new and existing populations using technology. Times are changing, however, and the academic library is evolving along with the needs and expectations of its users. It's certain that effective resource sharing among academic libraries depends upon the strengths of individual libraries. A weak library cooperating with another weak library cannot promote effective resources sharing. We share our strength, not our weaknesses, driven by prevailing circumstances, sharing of resources is the only option left for academic libraries and librarians, studies have shown that this concept was limited to the acquisition and sharing of resources, inter-library loan but advent of information technology and networking technologies have changed the concept of resource sharing and have opened new vistas of resource sharing for effective functioning of the libraries. Resource sharing in Nigeria has a number of problems. They include; inadequacy of existing resources, lack of information about them, inadequate security of materials, uncooperative attitudes of the parents body, lack of policies, inflation and instable budgeting allocation and lack of union Catalogue.

Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is aimed at
- Identifying types of materials mostly shared.
- Determining users awareness of resource sharing arrangement among selected academic libraries
- Ascertaining beneficiaries of resource sharing services
- Challenges associated with resource sharing arrangements
- Proffer solution to the above problems.

Literature Review

The main assumption guiding resource sharing is that there is no library that can provide for all the needs of its clientele. For this reason, resource sharing is used to obtain materials not available in one library from another library. Although the concept of resource sharing has been traced back as far as the library collection development impulse toward cooperative collection development, in the sense of actual coordinated and collaborative activities, had emerged comparatively recently among libraries of all types in Nigeria. Academic libraries in Nigeria believed in principle that sharing is a sound practice. Ibrahim (2006) noted that the need for resource sharing stems from three underlying trends of modern society. The growth of all forms of literature, the increasing reliance on information to enable society function effectively, inflation in the cost of materials

coupled with the increasing availability of technology. Song (2000) was of the view that "no library can effectively satisfy its users from the resources within its walls" Song (2000) further emphasized that we are living in a time where the level of utilization of information resources has become the yardstick to determine a country's economic advancement and strength. In her contribution, Miambo (2002) asserted, "cooperative between libraries is a universal language spoken in different dialects". The mission of the cooperative. Gang (1980), Ekuoye (2002) and Ejedafiru (2003) agreed that there is no way a single library can satisfy het demands of its users. But when libraries cooperate and make their resources accessible to one and another, we see results. The justification for resources sharing is hinged on the fact that no library, however large, could be completely self-sufficient.

RESEARCH METHOD

Survey method using a questionnaire to collect data was designed and adopted. An open questionnaire was designed, which will allow controlled and free expressions. Moore (1983) asserted, which will allow the investigation to obtain fairly straight forward, uncomplicated information and wide range of answers. The population of the study comprise of two academic institutions which are ATBU and Muhammadu Wabi library Federal Polytechnic Bauchi. The sample of this study include patrons who were using the two academic libraries on various days. A total of 200 copies of questionnaire were administered, 170 were retrieved from the two institutions. The questionnaire was designed to elicit data on whether:
- They are aware of the process of resource sharing in their various libraries.
- They have benefited from resource sharing services, they have ever requested for materials the library does not have in stock
- Library made attempts of all kinds to help them in locating their information needs
- Whether they g of satisfactory services in such request and the types of information materials they normally request for.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study are presented below:
Out of 200 copies of questionnaire administered 170 were found useable and used for data analysis.
The status of the respondents are shown in the Table 1 below, Table 2 reveals the status of respondents in the

Table 1. No. of Administered and retrieved questionnaire.

ATBU	Admin	Retrieved	Percentage
	100	80	40
Moh'd Wabi	100	90	45
Total	200	170	85

Table 2. Status of the respondents

ATBU	-	Students – 55	32.35
	-	Staff – 25	14.71
	-	Non staff/	
		students -	
M. Wabi	-	student – 60	35.29
	-	staff - 27	15.88
	-	- 03	01.76
			52.93

Table 3. Users awareness of resource sharing arrangement source of awareness

	ATBU		Moh'd Wabi	
	Frequency	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Libraries/the library	20	11.76	12	07.06
Individual knowledge	25	14.70	20	11.76
Notice board	45	26.47	40	23.52
No awareness	8	04.70	10	05.88

two institutions libraries. This reveals that students 115 (67.64%) constituted the majority of users of the libraries. Students use the library to supplement notes given by lecturers. Complete class assignment and projects.

Users awareness of resource sharing arrangement

The above Table shows multiple responses of users awareness of resource sharing arrangement in two academic libraries.

Considering the necessity of library education, respondents were asked whether they have even informed of the availability of resource sharing arrangements in their libraries.90 (52.93%) of the respondents are aware of resource sharing facilities, that it should be part and parcel of any library services. However, 25 (14.70%) claimed that they know this from their individual knowledge of the library services. 20 (11.76%) claimed to have go then this awareness from the libraries/libraries. 8(04.70%) also claimed not aware of such phenomenon. The implication of there findings is that librarians have not done enough in the area of users

education.

The below Table shows number of times, respondents have benefited from resources sharing service.

As shown in Table 4 above, though greater percentage of the respondents claimed to be aware of resource sharing services, but have not benefited from the services. 145 (85.28%) of respondents have made use of inter-library loan services. While 55(55.35%) claimed not to have made use of such services.

The below Table shows number of times, respondents have benefited from resource sharing services.

Table 5 shows that greater percentage of the respondents in the two academic institutions use books only 44 (25.87%). And small percentage of the respondents from the two institutions use journals with 26 (15.29) while 120 (70.58%) claimed to be making use of books and journals. The implication is that most of the materials in the two institutions are most textbooks which are mainly for teaching. The periodicals titles which are supposed to be important factors in carrying out research are in short supply. This reveals that there academic libraries are not fully equipped for research. Academic libraries have an important role in making relevant

Table 4. Beneficiary of the services

No. of Times	ATBU		Moh'd Wabi	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Once	70	41.17	45	26.47
Twice or more	14	8.23	16	9.41
None	30	17.65	25	14.70
Total	114	67.05	86	50.58

Table 5. Types of materials mostly used by respondents

Books only	240	14.11	20	11.76
Books and Journals	70	41.17	50	29.41
Journals only	160	09.41	10	5.88
Others	04	2.35	06	3.52
Total	114	67.05	86	50.58

Table 6. Reasons for inability to use resource sharing facilities

Reasons	ATBU		Moh'd Wabi	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Poor communication	18	10.58	27	14.11
Non chalant attitude of Lab. staff	14	8.23	30	17.65
Lack of cooperation among academic library	48	28.23	40	23.53
Ignorance of resource sharing services	12	07.05	10	5.88
Poor postal system	22	12.94	10	5.88
Total	114	67.05	114	67.05

literature available to researcher. Since most of the knowledge required will be found in textbook and journals, it is important that libraries provide appropriate and timely information to researchers by ensuring that they have access to relevant literature hence journals which constitute the most important source of information to scientists must be readily made available to them. The information needs of scientist are often met through reading well established scientific journals and secondary bibliography series (French 1990).

Reasons for not using resources sharing facilities are shown in the Table above

Table 6: shows that are hundred and fourteen and one respondents in two institutions libraries noted that all the factors listed above are responsible for the failures of resource sharing. 24 (12.93) claimed to be ignorance and are not even aware of such facilities. The implication of these findings is that a proper education of the users should be put in place. However, 42 (24.69) and 44(25.88) cited lack of library automation and poor communication respectively.

The Table below present reasons given for the inability of libraries to satisfy user's information.

Library, that is basically caters for teaching and research, fails to live to expectation. It is expected to acquire as many publications as possible in the particular fields that are taught in the institutions curriculum. A total of 46 (27.06%) respondents indicated lack of information materials as reasons responsible for the inability of the libraries to satisfy information needs of users. Etim (2006) opined that the increase in the value and demand for libraries to offer more effective services to users.

However, 71(41.76%) of the respondents see poor financial background of the libraries as a reason for the inability of the libraries to satisfy the information needs of the users at all levels. On the whole, institutions libraries in many African countries have faced a difficult decade, with rapid erosion of funding for books and Journals, staffing difficulties and perhaps a lots of the perception of the library as the centre of academic life and scholarship

Table 7. Reasons for in ability to satisfy users information need.

Reasons	ATBU		Moh'd Wabi	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Poor financial support	41	24.12	30	17.65
Lack of information machines	24	14.12	22	12.94
Lack of qualified personnel	16	9.41	15	8.82
Poor facilities	33	19.41	47	27.64
Total	114	67.15	114	67.05

(Etim 2006). 80 (47.05%) of the respondents instituted that poor facilities in the libraries consistently hindered the services of the academic libraries.

CONCLUSION

Nigeria academic libraries must take advantage of the new opportunities offered by ICTs to establish sustainable resource sharing network. Nigeria Academic Libraries experienced under finding, which makes it difficult for them to subscribe to journals and to acquire others information materials. Librarians and information specialists in tertiary institutions must therefore learn to manage scarce resources while anything for minimum level of stocking, staffing and finding that is required for effective resource sharing for development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

If the nation is to participate actively in the international super highway, administrators in our institutions of highway learning must provide the needed leadership and facilities. They have to raise finds through NGOs private partners and develop and mechanism for sharing resources with other institutions libraries. Let each academic library in Nigeria share the common burden of being user-oriented institution and gradually build the foundation of international resource sharing cooperation with their insights and ideas, they can work out a cooperative structure because they are convince that information is poorer and that the few the information, the more powerful its positive impacts. More research and analysis is needed in this area with the view of coming up with policy measures that would be appropriate.

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