Research Article

Repositioning the Academic Library in Support of Nigerian University Educational Programme: A Case Study of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Olusegun OKE Library, Ogbomoso, OYO State

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Abstract

The repositioning of our academic libraries in Nigeria is desirable to make them perform expected role effectively in the information environment/society. An effective and efficient academic library is an essential component of any high profile of academic institution to serve the students, lecturers as well as other researchers. This study investigated the repositioning of academic libraries to support the university educational program me. This study adopted descriptive survey design. The population for the study consists of all academic library users (registered members) Four hundred (400) questionnaire were distributed from which three hundred and sixty four (364) were returned, which shows that 91% 0f the questionnaire were answered by the respondents. Data were analyzed using frequencies, percentages and mean. The analyzed data were summarized in a tabular form to facilitate the interpretation of the findings. The findings revealed that academic libraries will continue to play a key role in the repositioning and enhance educational development of a society. Based on the findings of the study, it recommends that Information Literacy Skills such as technical, computers and multi-media, communication, and marketing skills should be acquired by all users and staff of academic libraries. This will assist in repositioning and support educational programme in Nigerian Universities. Information literacy will allow the users to develop life-long learning and to become independent learners, motivated learners and critical thinkers.

Introduction

It obvious that academic library is the centre of the supportive resources to achieve the general goals of any tertiary institution of learning, especially university libraries in global era. The general goals include teaching, learning and research for academic excellent (National University Commission, 2018). In view of this, huge success will be achieved in the implementation of the university educational objectives if the academic libraries are repositioning to take its pride of place in the nation' educational system (Ahmed, 2009; Daniel, 2012). As hackneyed as it may be, its potentialities are hardly understood in Nigeria context.

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Repositioning the academic libraries have greatly enhanced in recent time by advent of Information and Communication Technologies (UNESCO, 2016). Emerging information and communication technology tools such as the Internet, electronic mails, Online professional blogs and list serves as well as other emerging social network platforms are increasingly utilized by the academic library users (lecturers, students, researchers, professional librarians and scholars) for information sharing and collaboration. ICT has become a key facilitator of information retrieval, accessibility and dissemination in academic environment (Joel & Ayinla, 2017).

In many Nigerian academic libraries, the initial apprehension and technophobia caused by environmental limitation (technology environments), limited ICT infrastructure, low ICT skills, etc, are gradually fading, and giving way to new wave of interest and utilization of ICT for performing many academic and professional functions. Abubakar (2011) noted by identified some challenges of ICT such as bandwidth and connectivity, which are currently being tackled by many academic libraries through the support of the enlarged institution ICT units. These developments portend enhanced ICT environment for users in the academic libraries when compared to the situations a decade ago.

However, in spite of these positive developments and current global trends, many users of Nigerian academic libraries yet to maximize the opportunities, brought about by supportive resources/ICT for enhanced educational objectives and goals both for improvement and development. They are still living and operating in the past. Therefore, repositioning of academic libraries is crucial to support the educational program0me in Nigerian universities. This study will examine the repositioning of academic libraries to support Nigerian University educational programme.

Conceptual Framework

The primary responsibility of the academic library is to aid the parent institution in carrying out its academic program. In view of this, the library is academic soul of any institution of higher learning, and it is indeed the true university of today. Library as an integral part of educational programme, and the heart of the university system. Aman (2010) succinctly capture the defining effect of the academic library thus; "currency of information became the key principle in the acquisition of library resources". Terna and Uganneya (2018) identified the information literacy skills for academic library staff to be possessed for national development, such as technical skills, computer and multi-media skills, research skills, communication skills and marketing skills. These skills will assist the staff of academic libraries to reposition the academic libraries in order to support educational

programme (Partridge & Munro, 2010).

Educational sector is an environment of research and innovative, and therefore in custody of current and valuable information. This information is an essential commodity that aid in repositioning academic libraries to support educational programme. Grassian and Kaplowitz (2013) asserted that, although there are some variations within the academic environment, all libraries share the same goal which is to educate their users for the information age. Furthermore, librarians through the information literacy instruction program (ILIP) equip its users to successfully meet their information needs for academic work/ studies and leisure, and provide them with long-life learning (Terna & Ugannaeya, 2018). The emphasis of ILIP in an academic libraries are on teaching the process of research (Naseer, 2017).

According to Elaturoti (2012), identified some factors for repositioning the library system such as ; need to review the enabling Laws ; provision of relevant and adequate multimedia resource connections in all public library ; new status for the public library; composition and membership of the library board; function and services directorate of public library system; improvement in infrastructural facilities; application of ICT to public library operations and management; and provision of user education and staff development and train.

Importantly, library services improves knowledge and skills for positive productivity as a tool for repositioning academic libraries to support educational programme (Boyi, 2013). The repositioning the academic libraries will allow education to have greater share in the molding and building potential user and better society (Kivunja, 2015). Organizing a library to aid education calls for atmosphere of friendliness and useful collection. Academic libraries will play a key role in the repositioning and enhance educational development of a society.

Therefore, this study investigated the repositioning of academic libraries to support the university educational programmes

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to:

1. Identify the information needs of users for educational programme
2. Determine the types of resources consulted in seeking information
3. Ascertain the adequacy of available resources to support educational programme in academic libraries
4. Ascertain the platforms used to access information by

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users of academic libraries

5. Determine the frequency of use of the library resources consulted in the library.
6. Determine constraints encountered in the utilization of the resources'
7. Determine strategies to be adopted to overcome the constraints

Research Questions

The following questing questions are designed to guide the course of this study to the recognized needs.

1. What are the information needs of users to support their educational programme?
2. What types of resources consulted in seeking for information by users?
3. What adequacy of available resources to support educational programme in academic libraries?
4. What platforms used to access information by users of academic libraries?
5. To what extent do users utilize the library resources?
6. What constraints do users encounter in the utilization of the resources?
7. What strategies could be adopted to overcoming these constraints?

Research Methodology

This study adopted descriptive survey design. The population for the study consists of all academic library users (registered members). These users are from the five faculties in the Ladoke Akintola university of Technology include; Faculty of Agriculture, Pure and Applied Science, Basic Medical Science, Management Science and Engineering. The library user's population are 3,500. A sample size of 400 were purposively used for the study. Questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. Four hundreds (400) questionnaire were distributed from which three hundred and sixty four (364) were returned, which shows that 91% 0f the questionnaire were answered by the respondents. Data were analyzed using frequecies, percentages and mean. The analyzed data were summarized in a tabular form to facilitate the interpretation of the findings.

Data Analysis, Discussion and Findings

Distribution of respondent according to the number of questionnaires distributed and returned.

The table given below depicts the percentage of the students thus: male students were 166 (51.8%) while only 154 (48.2%) of the respondent were females. On the other hand, male staff were 32(72.7%) while female staff were 12(27.3%).

Table 1.Student and staff Gender

Respondent	Frequency/ % Student	Frequency/ % Staff
MALE	166 (51.8%)	32(72.7%)
FEMALE	154(48.2%)	12(27.3%)
TOTAL	320(100%)	44(100%)

Table 2.Information needs of users

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Education	246	41.3
Current affairs	88	14.8
General information	198	33.2
Others	64	10.7
Total	596	100

The above table shows that the respondents tick more than one option which makes the frequency to be higher than the normal frequency. Information needs of the respondents on education i.e. 41.3% and current affairs (14.8%) being the respondents that use information for current affairs. (32.2%) of the respondent require general information while only (10.7%) of the respondent require other information for their purposes.

Table 3.Resources consulted in the library

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Textbooks	182	33.21
Newspapers/Journal	86	15.69
Reference Source	116	21.17
Audio-Visuals	4	0.73
Internet	160	29.20
Others	-	-
Total	548	100

The table above reveals that the respondents tick more than one option which make the frequency to be higher than the normal frequency. i.e. Textbooks 182(32.21%), e-resources 160(29.20%), Newspaper/Journals 86(15.69%), reference materials 116(21.17%), audiovisuals 4(0.73%) and the internet 160(29.20%). In the whole the use of textbook appeared the most consulted library resources and the least consulted is audio visual materials.

The table given below depicts table reveals that 50(13.74%) of the respondents visit the library very often while 138(37.91%) of the respondents visit the library only often. 58(15.93%) of the respondents do not often visit the library and 118(32.42%) never visit the library. The table reveals that the available materials are very adequate 16(65.04%)

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while some of the respondent are of the view that the information materials are only adequate 86(34.96%).

The table given below depicts that larger percentage of the respondents 200(81.30%) are satisfied with the available information resources i.e. very relevant, while other respondents revealed that the available materials are only relevant 46(18.70%).

Table 4.Adequacy of Available Information Resources

Variables	Frequency/%
Very adequate	160(65.04%)
Adequate	86(34.96%)
Not adequate	-
Not at all	-
Total	246(100%)

Frequency of using the library

Variable	Frequency/ %
Very often	50(13.74%)
Often	138(37.91%)
Not often	58(15.93%)
Not at all	118(32.42%)
Total	364(100%)

Relevance of Information Resources

Variables	Frequency/%
Very relevant	200(81.30%)
Relevant	46(18.00%)
Not relevant	-
Total	246(100%)

Table 5.Means of locating information in the library

Variable	Frequecy/%
Through Catalogue Cards	-
Seeking Assistance From Library Staff	36(91%)
Going Through The Shelf	300(87.9%)
Opac	28(7.6%)
Others	-
Total	364(100%)

The above analysis reveals that larger percentage of the respondent 300(87.9%) browse through the shelve in retrieving information materials while 36(9.9%) of the respondents seek assistance from the library staff, also 28(7.6%) of the respondents use Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). This quite amazing in this technology

drown age. None of the respondent uses catalogue cabinet.

Table 6.Constraint to Information Retrieval

Variables	Frequency/%
Inadequate related information resource	42(11.5%)
Inability to use OPAC	66(18.1%)
Negative attitude of library staffs	28(7.4%)
Lack of bibliographic searching skill	74(20.3%)
Lack of ICT skill	82(22.5%)
Lack of library resources organization knowledge	30(8.2%)
Wrong Misplacement of library materials on shelf	28(7.4%)
Lack of shelf guides	8(2.1%)
Lack of spine label on book	6(1.6%)
Total	364(100%)

The table above shows that the respondents tick more than one option which makes the frequency to be higher than the normal frequency, constraint been faced by the respondents which are: lack of ICT skills 82(%22.5), lack the skills for bibliographic searching and 74(20.3%), inability to use OPAC 66(18.1%), Inadequate related information resources 42(11.5%), Lack of Library resources organization knowledge 30(8.2%), Wrong Misplacement of library materials on shelf 28(7.4%), Negative attitude of library staffs 28(7.4%), Lack of shelf guides 8(2.1%), Lack of spine label on the book 6(1.6%).

Table 7.User Suggestion on Improving the Library Retrieval System

Variables	Frequency/ %
Full automation of the library	178(48.9%)
Acquiring more materials in the library	112(30.7%)
Provision of online retrieval system	74(20.3%)
Total	364(100%)

The above table reveals thus; full automation of library 178(48.9%), acquiring more materials in the library 112(30.7%), provision of online retrieval system 74(20.3%).

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

The outcome of the research revealed that not all students of the institution often visit the library; i.e. they are not registered students. It also revealed that the most daily information needs of the respondent are; educational information, consequently followed by general information. It was revealed that few of the library users uses current

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affairs and other information resources.

The result of the research finding based on information resources available and consulted by the library users are; textbooks, reference materials and e- resources to mention but some. The Frequency at which these materials are used reveal that most of the library users often used the library and the materials therein as 37.91% respondents obtained.

Looking at the relevant of available information resources in Federal Polytechnic Ede library to users needs, the finding revealed that 81.30% respondents took to very relevant. This confirm that the library has more relevant materials for use of the users.

This also showed that the library has enough or adequate materials to cater for the information needs of the library users and the available materials are relevant to the users' fields of study.

Despite the availability of adequate information materials, the research reveal that there are several constraints to information retrieval in the library which includes 32.70%; inability of users in using catalogue cards, wrong misplacement of library materials as 24.1% on the shelves by selfish users as of the spine label on some the library resources as 6.4% while on the lowest is lack of library resources organization knowledge is 5.6% not to talk of lack of shelf guide with 0.7%.

In view of the analysis and data collected as summarized above, it is concluded that, users are in needs of various kinds of information to survive and they could easily locate what they needs at any time, but to the other side of their needs, the users indicates that the library should provide online resource for them, to make up for information resources which cannot be found in the library physically. This revealed the need for library to fully shift from the traditional to modern ways of disseminating information in this information technology age, such as; online public access catalogue to make it easy for the library users to locate information resources wherever they are arranged in the library.

Finally, it is obvious that there are constraints so numerous to information retrieval as revealed from the findings despite the availability of resources which includes; inability of users in using catalogue cards, wrong misplacement of library materials on the shelves by selfish users as of the spine label on some the library resources, lack of library resources organization knowledge, lack of shelf guides.

Recommendation

In view of the above findings, the researcher recommends

that; Information literacy skills such as technical, computers and multi-media, communication, and marketing skills are recommended for all academic libraries' users and staff. This will assist in repositioning and support educational programme in Nigerian Universities. Information literacy will allow the users to develop life-long learning and also to become independent learners, motivated learners and critical thinkers.

Library users should be well educated on the use of various access points to locating information resources and on how retrieval of information materials could be done.

There should be provision in the library for internet facilities which will enhance the use of online resources like Online Public Access Catalogue.

The library should employ more professional staff and retrain the existing ones to be able to meet its service goals and objectives. The library staff should be encouraged to improve upon their attitude in assisting the library users.

Lastly, the library is encouraged to keep acquiring more relevant information materials for the needs of their users adequately

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