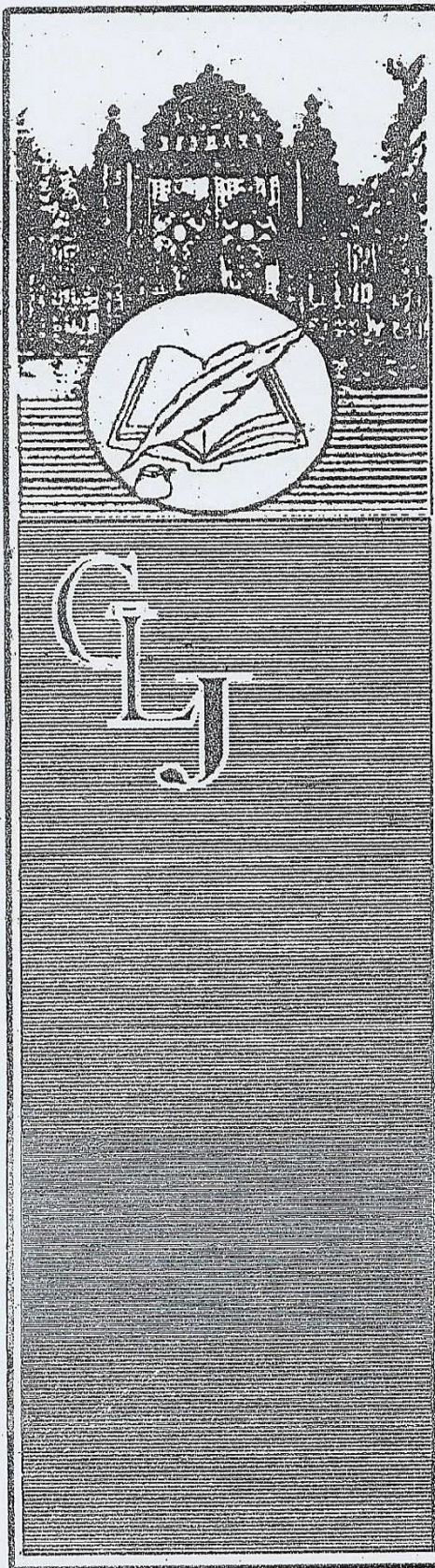


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GATEWAY LIBRARY JOURNAL
Journal of the Ogun State Chapter of the
Nigerian Library Association

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EDITORIAL

A lot has happened in the Ogun State library scene in the last three years, particularly in the area of establishment of new private and public-owned universities and its attendant effect on the number of practicing librarians in the state. From the look of things, Ogun State may soon turn out to be the leading state in Nigeria in terms of its number of university libraries and practicing academic librarians.

At the last count, we now have five additional universities in Ogun State, viz Crescent University, Abeokuta; Redeemer's University, Mowe; Crawford University, Igbesa, Bell's University, Otta all privately owned and the Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu-Ode which is first of its kind in Nigeria. Already in existence are the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye; the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta and Babcock University, Ilesan all of which have been on the ground for quite a while. The implication of this is that with the growth of the libraries of these universities, there is bound to be a corresponding increase in the number of librarians they employ and by extension the number of potential contributors to the Gateway Library Journal.

Owing to some production problems, two issues of volume 8 of the Gateway Library Journal had to be combined. It is hoped that this will be the last time that this will happen as every precaution humanly possible has been taken to avoid a future occurrence.

This issue of GLJ contained 12 interesting and well-researched articles ranging from strategic planning for IT to user studies as well as a thought provoking article on the roles of the librarian in grassroots information delivery.

Specifically, Fatoki in her lead article outlined the step-by-step approach to IT planning in academic libraries. Five other papers examined library use patterns in law, agriculture and other areas. Two other articles were on the Nigerian Library Association and the activities of its Cataloguing and Classification Section. The article by Adewuyi looked at collection management practices in some Nigerian university libraries while Marama's paper examined the roles of grassroots information professional in Nigeria. Finally, Igbafe and Sanni's paper looked at the causes of distractions in a Nigerian university library and made some suggestions on how to reduce, if not eliminate them.

We hope you will enjoy the articles.

THE USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES AT THE
OLABISI ONABANJO UNIVERSITY AGO-IWOYE, NIGERIA BY
LECTURERS IN THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

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ABSTRACT

The use of resources at the Olabisi Onabanjo University (O.O.U.) Library by Lecturers in the Faculty of Science and College of Agricultural Sciences (O.O.U.) was investigated. The results showed that serials was the most highly utilized (26.6%) followed by textbooks (11.3%) and reference sources (8.65). 17.2%, 25.5% and 25.9% do not use serials, textbooks and reference sources respectively. A negative but non-significant ($P>0.05$) correlation exists between use and adequacy of textbooks ($r=-0.05$) and positive but significant ($P<0.05$) correlation exists between use and adequacy of serials while there was a positive relationship between adequacy and use of these materials. Suggestions are made for improvement.

INTRODUCTION

University libraries according to Elemide and Harvard-Williams (1986) form a distinct category in the general pattern of library services. The prime function of university libraries is to provide facilities for research for its clientele. The library is a crucial centre in the educational development of any community, particularly in any academic pursuit. Morgan and Smith (1997) stated that library resources are very valuable either for the information they contain or for their physical beauty. The materials stocked are meant to be a source of knowledge, pleasure and assistance for generations to come. Bazillion and Braun (1995) were of the opinion that it is imperative that the academic library and its resources be within the reach of the users in order for them to broaden their knowledge and make meaningful and effective contribution to the development of the nation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

1. Determination of the frequency of use of resources by academic staff in the Faculty of Science and College of Agricultural Sciences, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria.
2. Determination of the specific interests of these staff while using the Library;
and
3. Determination of the extent of use of library resources elsewhere.

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Olabisi Onabanjo University (formerly Ogun State University) is one of the first set of state universities to be established in Nigeria. It was established in 1983 and named Ogun State University. The name was changed in the year 2001 to Olabisi Onabanjo University in memory of the first civilian Governor of Ogun State and the first visitor to the university, late Chief Olabisi Onabanjo.

The Olabisi Onabanjo University Library comprises of a complex which is centrally administered from the Main Library at the mini campus in Ago-Iwoye. At the time of this study, (October, 2003), it has the following branches;

1. The main Library at the mini campus, Ago-Iwoye which serves the Faculties of Education, Sciences, Pre-degree Sciences and College of Agricultural Sciences.
2. The Law Library which serves the Law Faculty.
3. The Medical Library at Sagamu which serves the College of Health Sciences.
4. Library Annex at the main campus (i.e. the permanent site) which serves the Social and Management Sciences and Faculty of Arts.
5. Sopolu Library, Ikenne which used to be late Obafemi Awolowo's personal Library.

The target respondents in this research are academic staff in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Faculty of Science who are the custodians of science-based programmes which are on the mini campus where the main Library is located. In all, there are 132 academic staff in the Faculty of Science distributed across 7 departments and 58 in the College of Agricultural Sciences distributed across 8 departments.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The need for good libraries in higher institution of learning cannot be over - emphasized as the quality of education is enhanced by on the quality of library services available. It is, therefore, important that libraries serving academic communities must have the broadest possible collections of books and other essential materials. Books, according to Dipeolu (1995) constitute the essence of any library organization. As long as books and other forms of recorded communication continue to flow in unhindered, the life and well-being of a library is assured. Library materials are meant to be a source of knowledge and assistance for generations to come. According to Ifidon (1985), good library facilities are essential for sound scholarship.

Ajibero (1992) reported that academic library users, most especially faculty members, need a lot of information to support their work. In a research carried out by Alemna, Chifwepa and Rosenberg (2000), it was observed that 90% of academic staff considered journal literature in general to be of key importance to their work. Over 50% considered journals to be more important than other types of literature. In another study carried out by Whitlatch (1983) at the San Jose University, majority of the faculty, 62.2%, relied on their own purchased books and periodicals as their primary source of information for teaching and research while 29.1% relied on the library as their primary source. A similar study conducted in some Nigerian universities by Olanlokun (1983) shows that 59.9% of the faculty used the library once a week, 83.6% of the faculty also indicated that they use books while 95.6% indicated that they use journals.

RESEARCH METHOD

The survey method was used for this research. A pre-tested structured interview schedule was designed and used to elicit information from some would be respondents. Questions were modified based on suggestions by librarians and academic staff in the study area. A structured questionnaire was then developed by the researchers.

The target populations in this research are the academic staff of the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Faculty of Science, O.O.U. At the time of the study, there were about 162 academic staff in all; 104 in the Faculty of Science (Faculty of Science handbook, 2000) and 58 in the College of Agricultural Sciences (College of Agricultural

Sciences handbook, 2002). This number exclude associate lecturers. The number for the Faculty of Science also exclude those in the Department of Biochemistry (which is now based in Basic Medicine at the Remo Campus, Ikenne.) and Geography and Regional Planning (which is now based in the Faculty of Social Science on the permanent site of the University).

The 98 staff sampled for this study were drawn from the 162 academic staff in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Faculty of Science, O.O.U. Ago-Iwoye. Stratified quota sampling technique was used. Each department represented a stratum and 60% of the academic staff in each department was enumerated. The questionnaire was personally administered by the researcher at random through personal visits to respondents' offices. Sampling was done for 4 weeks between October and November, 2003. Of the 98 lecturers sampled, 87 (88.77%) completed and returned the questionnaire. The data obtained from the questionnaire were subjected to descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents by use of library resources. Electronic library resources are not provided by the library at all. Serials were the most highly utilized (26.6%) followed by textbooks (11.3%) and reference sources (8.6%). 17.2%, 25.8% and 25.9% do not use serials, textbooks and reference materials at all. Most respondents who use textbooks use them in connection with class preparation while the use of serials were mostly in connection with research.

TABLE 1:
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY RATE OF USE
OF LIBRARY RESOURCES.

| RE-SOURCES | FREQUENCY | | | PERCENTAGE | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| | Highly Utilized | Utilized | Not Utilized | Highly Utilized | Utilized | Not Utilized |
| Textbooks | 7 | 39 | 16 | 11.3 | 62.9 | 25.8 |
| Reference Materials | 5 | 38 | 15 | 8.6 | 65.5 | 25.9 |
| Serials | 17 | 36 | 11 | 26.0 | 56.3 | 17.2 |
| Electronic | 0 | 0 | 43 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |

Table II and III present the respondents' use of reference and serial

materials respectively. Among reference sources, the order of use was; handbooks and manuals (54.4%), encyclopedia (54.2%), indexes and abstracts (44.2%), directories (42.9%), yearbooks (35.0), glossaries (27.0%), bibliographies (21.0%), geographical sources (21.0%) and almanacs (11.8%).

**TABLE II:
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY RATE OF USE
OF REFERENCE MATERIALS**

| MATERIALS | FREQUENCY | | | PERCENTAGE | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| | Highly Utilized | Utilized | Not Utilized | Highly Utilized | Utilized | Not Utilized |
| Bibliographies | 1 | 7 | 30 | 2.6 | 18.4 | 78.9 |
| Dictionaries | 1 | 16 | 21 | 2.6 | 42.1 | 55.3 |
| Glossaries | 1 | 9 | 27 | 2.7 | 24.3 | 73.0 |
| Encyclopedia | 2 | 24 | 22 | 4.2 | 50.0 | 45.8 |
| Geographical Sources | 0 | 5 | 30 | 0.0 | 14.3 | 85.7 |
| Year Book | 0 | 14 | 26 | 0.0 | 35.0 | 65.0 |
| Directories | 1 | 17 | 24 | 2.4 | 40.5 | 57.1 |
| Indexes and Abstracts | 0 | 19 | 24 | 0.0 | 44.2 | 55.8 |
| Almanacs | 0 | 4 | 30 | 0.0 | 11.8 | 88.2 |
| Handbooks and Manuals | 2 | 21 | 19 | 4.1 | 50.0 | 45.2 |

Among serials (Table III), newspapers are the most highly utilized (24%) because the library subscribes to some Nigerian dailies everyday. This points to the crucial role of availability on utilization. Overall, the order of the rate of use was; journals (71.9%) newspapers (70%) and magazines (66.7%). The high rate of journal use is expected since most of the respondents are pursuing higher degrees and will be involved in research for their thesis.

**TABLE III:
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT BY RATE OF
USE OF SERIAL MATERIALS**

| MATERIALS | FREQUENCY | | | PERCENTAGE | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| | Highly Utilized | Utilized | Not Utilized | Highly Utilized | Utilized | Not Utilized |
| Journals | 7 | 34 | 16 | 12.3 | 59.6 | 28.1 |
| Magazines | 5 | 23 | 14 | 11.9 | 54.8 | 33.3 |
| Newspapers | 12 | 23 | 15 | 24.0 | 46.0 | 30.0 |

These findings agree with those of Alemna, *et al* (2000) who found that 90% of academic staff considered journals to be of key importance to their work while over 50% considered journals to be more important than other types of literature.

Table IV clearly showed that majority (86.2%) used the library in connection with research. This further explains the high rate of use of journals. 69% of the respondents used the library in connection with class preparation. This could explain the reason why textbooks are rated second (11.3%) among the most highly utilized library resources. Results of this study showed that the lecturers seldom read for pleasure (31%) while 56.9% read for general knowledge.

TABLE IV:
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY REASONS
FOR USING O.O.U. LIBRARY

| REASON | FREQUENCY | PERCENTAGE |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| Class Preparation | 40 | 69.0 |
| Research | 50 | 86.2 |
| Recreation | 18 | 31.0 |
| General Knowledge | 33 | 56.9 |

Table V shows the distribution of respondents based on their rating of the services of O.O.U. Library. The library was not rated excellent or very good by any of the respondents. Majority (59.2%) of the 71 respondents that rated the library said the services are fair, 22.5% rated the library as poor. This rating confirms the pitiable state of the nation's university libraries as reported by different researchers (Ehikhamenor, 1985; Omotayo, 1997; Mohammed, 1997; Ojoade and Ochai, 2000). The deplorable situation of Nigerian university libraries has largely been blamed on poor funding. (Akinfolarin, 1992; Mohammed, 1997).

TABLE V:
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED
ON THEIR RATING OF O.O.U. LIBRARY

| RATINGS | FREQUENCY | PERCENTAGE |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Excellent | 0 | - |
| Very Good | 0 | - |
| Good | 16 | 22.5 |
| Fair | 42 | 59.2 |
| Poor | 13 | 18.3 |

From the result in Table VI, a negative but non-significant ($P > 0.05$) correlation exists between use and adequacy of textbooks ($r = -0.055$) as 74.2% and 74.1% of the respondents (Table 3) use textbooks and reference sources respectively. The result of this correlation test shows that an inverse relationship exists between the use and adequacy of these resources. It then implies that their being used must not be mistaken for being adequate. However, from the result, a positive and significant ($P < 0.05$) correlation exists between use and adequacy of serials. This however, does not suggest that there is no room for improvement. Since the library does not provide electronic resources, there is no correlation between use and adequacy.

TABLE VI:
CORRELATION TEST BETWEEN USE
AND ADEQUACY OF LIBRARY RESOURCES

| RESOURCES | CORRELATION CO-EFFICIENT | DECISION |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Textbooks | -0.055 | Not Significant |
| Reference Sources | -0.252 | Not Significant |
| Serials | 0.594 | Significant |
| Electronic Sources | 0.0 | No Correlation |

Level of Significance = 0.05

The results of students' t-test of the differences in the attitude of academic staff in the Faculty of Science and College of Agricultural Sciences O.O.U. to library use is presented in Table VII. From this result, there are no significant ($P > 0.05$) differences between Science and Agricultural Sciences staff in the frequency of use of O.O.U. Library and use of other libraries elsewhere. However, staff in the Faculty of Science significantly ($P < 0.05$) made greater use of textbooks and reference sources at the O.O.U. Library. They also rated O.O.U. Library better than staff in the College of Agricultural Sciences. This rating may be because they make greater use of the library even for serials where there is no significant ($P > 0.05$) difference. Judging from the information available that more lecturers in the College of Agricultural Sciences make use of International Institute of Tropical Agriculture Library, this could have been a factor in their rating of O.O.U. Library.

TABLE VII:
ATTITUDE OF ACADEMIC STAFF IN THE FACULTY OF
SCIENCE AND COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
TO LIBRARY USE

| VARIABLES | SCIENCES | AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Frequency of use of O.O.U. Library | 1.73 ^a ± 0.57 | 1.80 ^a ± 0.72 |
| Use of textbooks in O.O.U. Library | 2.03 ^a ± 0.39 | 1.67 ^b ± 0.23 |
| Use of serials in O.O.U. Library | 2.19 ^a ± 0.45 | 1.96 ^a ± 0.29 |
| Use of reference sources in O.O.U. Library | 1.89 ^a ± 0.49 | 1.46 ^b ± 0.26 |
| Rating of O.O.U. Library | 2.16 ^a ± 0.68 | 1.88 ^b ± 0.52 |
| Use of other Libraries | 3.0 ^a ± 0.73 | 3.0 ^a ± 1.33 ^a |

± = Standard deviation

ab = Mean on the same row bearing different superscript are significantly ($P < 0.05$) different.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The crisis facing Nigerian university libraries and the book industry has been adequately reported by many authors (Ojoade and Ochai 2000; Mohammed 1997; Omotayo 1997; Adesina 1990; Ehikhamenor 1989; Unomah 1988; Obokoh 1986). The O.O.U. Library was also caught in the web of this crisis. The results of this research showed that the low patronage of the O.O.U. Library and libraries elsewhere by staff could be blamed majorly on paucity of current and relevant resources in the library in relation to science-based disciplines. However, this low level of patronage leaves much to be desired. It raises questions about scholarship and reading culture and it confirms the submission of Bankole (1993) that 'scholarship is fast becoming extinct in Nigeria and also the questionable reading culture of Nigerians as speculated by Higo (1989).

For the library to meet the expectations of staff in the light of the current wave of development in Information Communication Technology (ICT), the following suggestions are hereby made. These suggestions are based on observations from the study and the recommendations of the respondents;

1. the Library should endeavor to buy and subscribe to current journals, particularly foreign ones in the field of science. This

- will enable our scientists to keep abreast of modern trends in the disciplines;
2. the Library should as a matter of urgency acquire electronic library resources;
 3. the Library should endeavor to compile the specific needs of staff in relation to their disciplines or areas of specialization periodically. This will enable the Library to provide timely selective dissemination of information; and
 4. the University should strive to satisfy the National University Commission's (NUC) minimum standards for university Librarian.

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