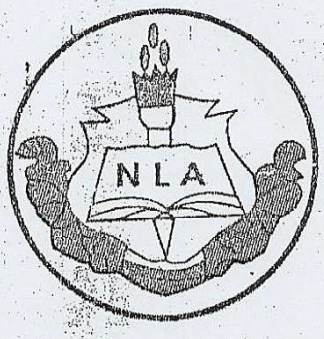
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The services provided by the agricultural College libraries are the dissemination of specialized information primarily devoted to a specialized user. In addition to the traditional library services of acquisition, processing storage, retrieval and dissemination of information, the agricultural college libraries are involve with the following roles.

Supporting teaching and research in their various areas of mandate to promote a conducive atmosphere for research and individualized learning: provide classroom; textbook; provide extension services like exhibition and display; organising seminars and conferences for current awareness purpose. Answering user's question through reference services.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES IN NIGER STATE

The third national development plan period (1975 /80) necessitated the establishment of agricultural college in the country, during this period was realized that inadequacy of trained manpower at various level of fisheries, wildlife and other agricultural related field was one of the major constrains hampering the development of these agricultural sectors for sustainable food production. Thus the Federal Government sought the assistance of the United Nations development project (UNDP) to review the status of the present and future development plans for inland fisheries in Nigeria.

Based on this assessment, a recommendation for the establishment of an inland training school was made. All states of the Federation were urgently required to train personnel to assist in the implementation of the various developments and extension programs.

Thus the management of the national institute for Freshwater fisheries research (formerly Kainji Lake Research Institute) was charged with the establishment of a School in New Bussa.

The Federal College of Freshwater Fisheries Technology was established in January 1978 to achieve the following objectives.

To train junior and intermediate fisheries personnel or inland fisheries management. This staff are needed to embark on various fisheries development programmes to facilitate considerable economic benefit to the country.

The College library was established in September 1981 as a branch of the National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries research with a collection

about 315 volumes of books, these books include books on core subject (Fisheries) subject textbooks, general reference books and a few periodicals.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Libraries especially in Colleges of Agriculture are established basically to support teaching and research and provide conducive atmosphere for learning.

However, most of these Agricultural Colleges are faced with the problem of low utilization by the students of the College for whom it is meant for to support their studies.

In this regard therefore, what is the perception of the students' of the role and image of the libraries in Agricultural Colleges; that informed the low utilization. This is the central focus of this study as it addresses a case study of Libraries in Agricultural Colleges in Niger State.

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

The study is expected to enable the librarians to rise up and live up to expectation in their profession especially to their varied users.

Student will be aware of the role library is expected to play and the services they are expected to render to them and the entire academic community. The result of this work will encourage the student to patronize the library more and enhance their academic performance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.

The main objectives of this study include

1. To determine the difference between the perception of the students in the three Colleges.
2. To determine how students perceive the library as a whole.
3. To determine if there is a relationship between resources available in the library and students perception.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope covers the three Agricultural Colleges in Niger State, viz, Federal College of Freshwater fisheries Technology, New Bussa, Federal of Wildlife Management, New Bussa and Niger State College of Agriculture, Mokwa all in Niger State.

These Colleges are the same in principle and objective. For effective management of the study only the examination classes NDII and HNDII of the three Schools were used.

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REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

Akhidime (1982) sees the library as the collector and storehouse for instructional and research materials. He went further to describe the library as a teacher by providing reference service and group instruction enabling both staff and students to employ library resources to the best advantage.

James (1983) has stressed that in using a library, the users are pursing their ends and relating the library to them "what they want from the library, do with the library, how the library can best provide for them, will depend on the individual, his purposes and the place of the library in his bank of resources for fulfilling them".

Guccione (1994) says that libraries are physical places of beauty and culture, from the beautiful marble and woodwork of the University library and the lovely murals of the Polytechnic Institute "Gheorghe Asachi" there to the clean and modern building of the Polytechnic, University in Timisoara, it is clear that libraries have been considered important repositories of the cultural heritage of ramaian.

Kalu (1986) sees the important of the library as information storage and inculcating a disciplined habit in the user, adding that time spent using the library and its resources is a time well spent. The information gained during such a time can transform and reform the individual.

According to Akhidime (1982) "the faculty or department knows that there is an academic Arm of Institution to which they have to relate in order to satisfy the informational needs 'this arm is the library'. He stated further that the library act as the collector and store house for instructional and research materials; it also act as a bibliographer to make library materials more useful to faculty members.

Ajibero (1992) says the College of Agriculture or College of Technology library is regarded as the library that lays all educational components together for better operation. The library that provides this scare commodity is regarded as the heart or life of the parent Institution. The College of Technology library thus has the primary objective of providing literature support for the entire academics, research and extension programme of the parent Institution.

Lyle (1967) opined that College of Technology libraries have the responsibility of encouraging the life-long habit or reading much and reading well; thus all the lofty objectives of the Institution can best be achieved when the library is effective in its roles and objectives.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The survey research method was adapted in this study. It was seen as the best method for the topic of the study, which is students' perception of the

role and image of Agricultural Colleges libraries in Niger State. Questionnaires were used as the main instrument for data collection.

The study was targeted to the final student ND and HND programme of the three Colleges studied. These groups were considered because they are assumed to have made maximum use of the library during their period of study in the College than the NDI and HNDI students who are fresher in the academic environment.

The Colleges of study were:

1. Federal College of Freshwater Fisheries Technology, New Bussa
2. Federal College of Wildlife Management, New Bussa
3. Niger State College of Agriculture, Mokwa.

INSTRUMENTATION

A questionnaire on the perception of libraries role and image (PLRI) was administered on the sample to gather information on their knowledge of the role the library is expected to play in their various academic environments, and the image the library and the librarian portray in such an environment.

The questionnaires bordered on questions relating to library services; the expected role of the library and the effectiveness of such role. The questions also included concepts on how to improve the library services to catch up with information technology (IT) and its application to library. Spaces were provided for the respondent to tick at the appropriate places. Mark 4,3,2,1, were provided thus:

4 = strongly agree (SA), 3 = agree (A), 2 = disagree (D), 1 = strongly disagree (SD).

Section A of this study carries the above questionnaire while section B was interview method. This section concern face to face interview with librarian the three Colleges on their collection development, which involve acquisition policy and library funding. Their responses were documented for the purposes of the study and for suggestion on how to improve the library both in material and services to check for the validity of the questionnaire; the researcher's supervisor and other experts scrutinize it before administration.

PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION

The Colleges involve in the study were visited by the researcher. A total number of sixty questionnaires were distributed but fifty two were returned. The distribution of the questionnaires was restricted to examination classes, student population in Agricultural Colleges is usually lower compared to that of University and Polytechnic hence the limited number of questionnaire administered.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS.

Scoring of data from section "A" of the questionnaires were ranged on 4 points of strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree.

The simple percentage was used in the data analysis to determine the general students' perception of the role and image of the libraries in the research Colleges.

The total perception of the sample from each School was collected as indicated in the table below. Analysis of variance (ANAOVA) was used to determine any significant difference between the perceptions of students in the three Colleges.

SIMPLE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT PERCEPTION OF THE ROLE AND IMAGE OF THE LIBRARY IN THREE COLLEGES.

	4	3	2	1	Total
FCFET	269	177	61	22	529
MOKWA	188	166	71	69	492
WILDLIFE	176	95	28	8	307
TOTAL	633	438	160	97	1328

The table above indicate that 47.67% strongly agree on the perceived role of the library in the Agricultural Colleges, 32.98% agree, 12.05% disagree, while 7.30% strongly disagree.

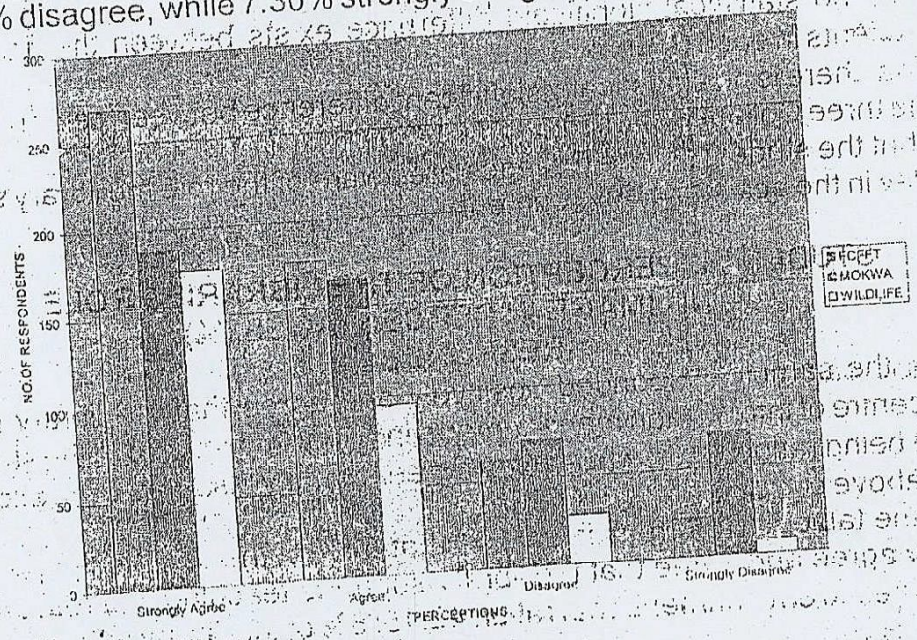


Figure 1: The number of students perception of the role and image of libraries in the three Agriculture College Agricultural Colleges in Niger State.

Strongly	633
Agree	438
Disagree	160
Strongly Disagree	97

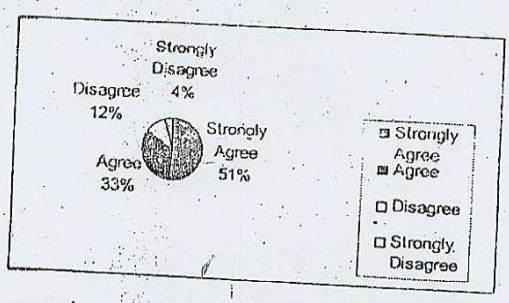


Figure 1: The number of students perception of the role and image of libraries in the three Agriculture College Agricultural Colleges in Niger State.

DATA ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND SUMMARY

The research work studied students' perception of the role and image of libraries at the Agricultural College level in order to determine the important role in the library plays in such an Institution and also collects the misperception of such roles.

1. That no statistical significant difference exists between the final year students in each School.
2. That there is no statistically significant difference between perceptions in the three Colleges studied.
3. That the students in the Colleges are aware of the role the library should play in the academic environment.

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE LIBRARIES ROLE AND IMAGE IN PERCENTAGES (%).

RESPONSES

42% of the sample responded positively and agree that the library is the nerve centre of information management and dissemination with the strongly agreed being ration 20:22 while 10 disagree/strongly disagree with ration 7.3 on the above concept.

In the table also there is indication that 57% of the sampled population strongly agree and agree that the library supports teaching and research in any academic environment, with ration 42:15, 6% of the library as supporting

teaching and research with 6:0.

52% of the sample also strongly agreed and agreed that the librarian is the head of the library that ensures the effectiveness of the role with a ratio 39:13 while 4% disagree to this concept with the ratio 4:0.

On concept 19-22, which focuses on questions, relating to information technology, it is indicative that subjects have strong perception of the role of information technology for information dissemination and greatly support their introduction in Agricultural College libraries services. For instance 51% are of the opinion that catalogue cabinet be phased out and replaced with computer for information storage and retrieval with ratio 43:8 only 2% disagree to this concept with ratio 1:1. However, 46% strongly agree/agree that modern information technology should compliment traditional library service, with ratio 29:17, while 4% disagree and other not decided.

The subject are also of the strongly opinion that the use of library as a GNS course should be taught by librarians in all the Agricultural Colleges. 51% of the population agree/strongly agree to this with ratio 39:15, 1% disagree to this and other subjects either disagree or undecided.

On concept '0' which discusses the effectiveness of the loan of the system in Agricultural College libraries, it is perceived that the loan system is faulty; the subject agreement to this concept is 23% with a ratio of 16:17 with those who disagree that loan system is effective are 29%.

34% of the subject also agreed that orientation organized for fresh students in the use of the library is beneficial to library usage. 18% however, disagree with this with a ratio of 13:5.

The subjects perception of theft and mutilation of library material is satisfactory as 47% concern the act with ration 30:17 while only 3% are in support with ratio 2:1.

A careful study of the table with the score indicates that the subject is quite aware of the expected role of the library in an academic Institution like the Agricultural College.

Table 4.1 shows summary of data and analysis of variance.

	FCFFT	Mokwa	Wildlife
Strongly agreed	269	188	176
Agreed	177	166	95
Disagreed	61	75	28
Strongly disagreed	22	67	8

Table 4.2 shows the analysis of variance between FCFFT and Mokwa

Analysis of variance

Anova: FCFFT and Mokwa.

SUMMARY

Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
FCFFT	4	529	132.25	12644.91667
Mokwa	4	496	124.00	3836.666667

ANOVA

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-Value	F-Crit
Between Groups	136.125	1	136.125	0.016518437	0.9019345	0.987374
Within Groups	49444.75	6	8240.792			
Total	49580.8757					

The 4.3 shows the analysis of variance between Mokwa and Wildlife.

Anova: Mokwa and Wildlife.

Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
Mokwa	4	496	124	3836.66667
Wildlife	4	307	76.75	5762.25

ANOVA

Source of Variance	df	MS	F	P-Value	F-Crit
Between Groups	4465.125	1	4465.125	0.9303339361	0.3720245.9873
Within Groups	28796.75	6	4799.458		
Total	33261.8757				

Table 4.4 Shows the analysis of variance between FCFFT and Wildlife

Anova: FCFFT and Wildlife.

SUMMARY

Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
Mokwa	4	496	124	3836.66667
Wildlife	4	307	76.75	5762.25

ANOVA

Source of Variance	SS	df	MS	F	P-Value	F crit
Between Groups	6160.5	1	6160.5	0.6693358855	0.4445445	0.9873
Within Groups	55221.5	6	9203.583			
Total	61382	7				

ANOVA INTERPRETATION

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test the role and image of the library in the Agricultural Colleges in Niger State. The result in FCFFT and Mokwa show that there is no significant different between them p.0,05 (p=0.90), also the same test was used for Mokwa and Wildlife, FCFFT and Wildlife. There result indicate that all was significantly different p.0.05 (p=0.37 and p=0.44) respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS.

The finding indicates that students generally have a positive perception of the role and image of the library in the College environment. The expected function and role of the library listed in the questionnaire were well perceived by the students. This contradicts Ikegbune (1977), which says although library services have been developed to facilitate the retrieval process of organized information as an integral part of search for intellectual growth, and Colleges and University students often fail to capture and utilize the great potential of libraries; although he further stressed that students lack appropriate orientation and skill for effective use of the library system.

The subject also perceives the role the librarian as the head of the library positively but Powell (1993) laid emphasis on the need for librarians to project their libraries for proper development. This indicates that as the head of the library the librarian must ensure that the expected role of the library is properly carried out.

The students also have a positive perception that the library encourages individualized learning. This is in line with Madu (2000) argument that the libraries are particularly useful for independent study as it is a place where one learns to find out and use the resources.

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