

## **The Determinant of Library Resources Use by Lecturers of College of Agriculture, Lafia – Nasarawa State Nigeria**

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**Abstract:-** The study investigated the availability and use of information resources and services by the lecturers of College of Agriculture Lafia in order to enhance their teaching and research activities. The lukewarm attitude of some lecturers toward utilization of library resources and services is the problem of the study. A case study was adopted for the study. The study was carried out in College of Agriculture Lafia library, Nasarawa State with sixty five lecturers as the population of the study. Instrument for data collection was structured questionnaire. The instrument is divided into two parts: A and B. Part A sought information on demographic data of the respondents while part B answered the three research questions raised for the study. The instrument was face validated by a lecturer from agricultural extension department of the college. The questionnaire were distributed and collected with a 100% response and return rate. The method of data analysis was descriptive statistics expressed in frequency counts and percentage. The findings revealed that the lecturers were moderately satisfied with the levels of available library resources except for audio visual materials. Also, the respondents agreed that lack of current information resources, guidance and improper shelving of materials hindered the effective utilization of information resources and services by the lecturers and most of the lecturers used the library resources and services on weekly basis. Based on the findings and conclusion drawn from the study, it is hereby recommended that the library should be well funded and there is the need for sustained maintenance of e- library to promote research among lecturers.

**Key words:** *College library, library resources, library services, lecturers.*

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

College of agriculture, Lafia, Nasarawa State, like any other Colleges of Agriculture in Nigeria and the world over is a training institution with students and staff that are engaged in training of both middle and high level man power for the agricultural sector. In any training institution of this magnitude, library plays a central role in supporting teaching, learning and researches in the institution. This study therefore assessed the extent of availability and use of the college library resources and services by the academic staff of the institution in supporting their teaching and researches in order to impart knowledge to the students. The College came into being in 1988 in the then Plateau State. It was upgraded from School of Agriculture, Lafia to College of Agriculture status in order to train middle man power in the sector to meet the agricultural needs of the state and the country in general. Since the establishment of the college, it has been training Higher National Diploma, National Diploma and Certificates in Agriculture and related fields. The academic staff has been engaged in one research or the other in agricultural fields. The college has library materials to support the teaching, learning and research needs of staff and students as well as providing community services to the surrounding communities. Libraries are established in institutions of learning for the purposes of providing, organizing, and making available both print and non – print information resources for students, academic and visiting members of the community to aid teaching, learning and research. It is observed that there has not been any study in recent time to assess the extent of availability and use of information resources and services by lecturers in college of Agriculture, Lafia..

### **II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Libraries in higher Institutions are established in order to support teaching, learning and researches of staff and students of such institutions. It is observed that most academic staff of higher institutions sometimes developed lukewarm attitude towards the utilization of library resources and information services in preparing their lecture notes in order to support their teaching activities for enhanced learning. This study therefore, seeks to investigate the factors that discouraged the lecturers from using library resources and information services of the college library with a view to proffering some empirical solutions to the identified problems.

### III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The followings are the objectives of the study:

1. To determine the frequency of use of the library resources and information services by the lecturers in college of Agriculture Lafia.
2. To determine the extent to which library resources and information services are available to lecturers in college of Agriculture library.
3. To find out the factors that hindered the effective use of information resources and services by lecturers in college of Agriculture library.
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### IV. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions guided the study.

1. How frequent do lecturers use the library resources and information services of the college?
2. To what extent are library resources and services available for lecturers use in the college library?
3. What are the factors that hindered the effective use of information resources and services by lecturers in college of Agriculture library?

### V. REVIEWED OF RELATED LITERATURE

Amkpa (2000) in Awojobi (2004) saw library use study as an aspect of users' studies as a vital aid for effective planning and management in academic libraries. He also noted that the need for good libraries in higher institutions of learning cannot be over emphasized as the quality of any educational institution depends on the quality of its library collections, not the library as a magnificent building but the use made of its resources. He viewed that the academic library is an inexhaustible store house of knowledge where one can go at will, unrestricted to help himself as variously as possible and as such, exposing himself to the whole field of knowledge and practical life of the past, present and prognostications for future. Also, Awojobi (2004) stressed the importance of academic library and its services as "The advancement of an academic staff unlike other staff depends largely if not almost entirely on his research output which depends critically on the availability of suitable facilities including adequate library resources and services". Simisaye (2012) in Lohar and Kumbar (2002) observed that, studied of the use of the library faculties and information resources revealed that a majority of respondents consulted library textbooks or reference books, newspapers, and popular magazines, while a comprehensive study by Rajgopal (1998) found out that 80% of users surveyed use the library more than once a week, with three quarters not satisfied with management of reading materials on the shelves, and 83% not satisfied with the collection. Aina (2004) observed that users require different services; hence librarians are expected to provide a variety of services to them. Even within one type of library, users will demand different services. The services demanded are not static, as users' needs are dynamic, requiring different services at different times. In line with this notion, Simisaye (2012) in Kadiri (2000) also submitted that there is need for academic libraries to reappraise service delivery capacity. In view of this, librarians must recognize that their primary product is the users' experience. The need to develop new service models can help meet users' changing expectations in ways that add real value and reserve their role in the educational process become imperative. That is, librarians should learn how to maintain high patronage from their clientele by producing high quality services that meet their users' expectations. Expectations are yardstick upon which service providers' programs are judged. Faculty members have their expectations of the service they should receive from the academic libraries, especially with the continuous technological transformation in information environment (Ijirigbo, 2007).

### VI. METHODOLOGY

A case study research design was adopted. The population of the study consists of sixty – five (65) academic staff of the College. The instrument for data collection is the structured questionnaire, titled: The determinant of library use by lecturers of College of Agriculture Lafia questionnaire (DLULCOALQ). The data generated for the study was analyzed using frequency count and percentage.

**Section A Table 1: Educational Qualification of the Academic Staff**

<b>Qualifications</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Ph.D	8	12.3%
Masters	32	49.2%
First degree	25	38.5%
HND	0	0%
Total	65	100%

Table 1 above revealed that there are eight (8) Ph.D holders, representing 12.3% of the academic staff, thirty two (32) masters degree holders, representing 49.2% of the academic staff and twenty five (25) first degree holders, representing 38.5% of the academic staff, while there is no HND holder in the academic staff list.

**Gender Distribution of Academic**  
**Table 2: Percentage of male and female academic staff**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	64	98.5%
Female	1	1.5%
Total	65	100%

Table 2 above shows that there is sixty four male academic staff, representing 98.5% and only one female academic staff, representing 1.5%.

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Library Registration Status**

Registration Status	Frequency	Percentage
Registered	45	69.2%
Not registered	6	9.2%
Did not state anything	14	21.5%
Total	65	100 %

Table 3 above shows that 45 academic staff representing 69.2% registered with the library, six, representing 9.2% did not register with the way, while 14 representing 21.5% of the academic staff did not state any reason at all.

**Section B:** Research Question 1: How frequent do lecturers use the library resources and services in the college library? Relevant data obtained using items generated from the users' questionnaire were used in analyzing the research question.

**Table 4: Frequency of use of library resources and services of College of Agriculture library Lafia, by Lecturers.**

Periods	Frequency	Percentage
Weekly	32	49.2%
Forth nightly	8	12.3%
A semester	15	23.1%
Occasionally	6	9.2%
Not at all	3	4.6%
As the need arises	1	1.5%
Total	65	100%

The analysis in table 4 above showed that 32 respondents representing 49.2% use the library resources and services weekly, eight respondents representing 12.3% use the library resources and services forth nightly, 15 respondents representing 23.1% use the library resources and services every semester, six respondents, representing 9.2% use the library resources and services occasionally, while one (3) respondent, representing 4.6% did not use the library resources and services at all and one (1) respondent, representing 1.5% use the library resources and services as the need arises.

Research question 2; To what extent are the library resources and services available for lecturers use in the college library?

**Table 5: Extent of availability of information resources and services in the Library**

Type of information resources	Frequency	Percentage
Books	36	54.5%
Audio – Visual Materials	9	13.6%
Journal Publications	18	27.3%
Total	65	100%

The analysis in table 6 above indicated that 36 respondents representing 54.5% stated that books were available to aid the effectiveness use of the library resources/services, 9 respondents representing 13.6% indicated that

Audio Visual materials were available to aid the effectiveness use of library resources and services, while 18 respondents representing 27.3% said journal publications were available to aid the effectiveness use of the library resources and services. The above analysis showed that the lecturers were satisfied with the levels of availability of books in the library for their teachings and researches, but were not too satisfied with the level of availability of Audio- Visual materials in the library for their work. Also, the lecturers were little bit satisfied with the levels of availability of journal publications in the library for their work.

Research question 3: What are the factors that hinder the effective use of information resources and services by lecturers in the college library?

**Table 6: Factors that hindered effective use of library resources**

<b>Problems</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Lack of current information resources	28	43.1%
Improper shelving of information materials	28	43.1%
Lack of guidance from library staff	4	6.2%
	5	7.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100%</b>

The analysis in table 5 above indicated that 28 respondents, representing 43.1% agreed that lack of current information resources hindered the effectiveness use of library resources and services. Also, 28 respondents, representing 43.1% agreed that improper shelving of information materials in the library hindered the effectiveness use of library resources and services, while 4 respondents, representing 6.2% agreed that lack of guidance from library staff hindered the effectiveness use of the library resources and services and 5 respondents, representing 7.6% did not state anything at all.

The above shows that the management should intensify effort in order to stock the library with current materials as well as be more serious with their services by leaving up to their expectations in maintaining as well as guiding their users whenever the need arises for upmost utilization of library resources and services.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

The findings of the study revealed that books were to some extent moderately available, Audio Visual materials were fairly available to enhance the teaching and research needs of the lecturers, while journal publications were to a moderate extent available to aid the teaching and researches of the lecturers. Also, the findings showed that lack of current information resources, improper shelving of information materials and lack of guidance from library staff hindered the effective use of the library resources and services by the lecturers. Also, the library is not being put into heavy use by the college lecturers.

## **VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The followings are the recommendations of the study:

1. The college of management and Nasarawa State Government should endeavour to fund the library to enable the library management stock the library with current learning facilities like books, Audio Visual materials as well as acquisition of current and additional journal publications in order to enhance the effectiveness utilization of the library resources and services.
2. In addition to library collections, the college management should also reactivate the e – library for easy access of current e – materials on the net by lecturers and students.
3. They should be proper shelving of information materials on the shelves by library staff.
4. Library users should be properly guided by the library staff while using the library services when the need arises.
5. Academic staff should endeavour patronize the services of the library more frequently in order to maximize their potentials for higher productivity.

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