

Appraisal on Extent of Availability of Documentary Sources of Information as Resources for Information Needs in Nigerian University Library

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ABSTRACT: Learning, teaching, and research can be effectively achieved when there is very great extent of availability of documentary sources of information resources in the library of unified community. The purpose of this study is to know the extent of availability of documentary sources of information resources in Kogi State University Library, Anyigba, Nigeria. Descriptive survey design was adopted. The instruments of data collection are questionnaire and personal observation. The questionnaire consists of four (4) tables which are based on research questions. Twenty-four (24) copies of questionnaire were administered to the library staff that works in the university library understudy in their various offices. Data were analyzed by use of Likert response rate of 2.50 as criterion mean where ≥ 2.50 is significant (considerable response) and < 2.50 is not significant (inconsiderable response). It was discovered that out of 22 categories of itemized documentary sources of information resources Very Great Extent has 0 (0%); Great Extent has 2 (18.2%); Low Extent has 18 (81.8%). Among the identified challenges are poor budget allocation to the library; insufficient funds; poor donation of documentary sources of information resources to the library; lack of gift on documentary sources of information resources to the library; university management not respond to library needs; absence of standard policy on acquisition of documentary sources of information resources. Recommendations were proffered to ensured very great extent of availability of documentary sources of information resources in University Libraries.

KEYWORDS: Primary sources, Secondary sources, Tertiary sources, Information resources, University library, Kogi state, Nigeria.

1 INTRODUCTION

Information can be referred to as super index way to development. No man can adequately survive without information. Information is holistic product needed by every man kind for survivor regardless of their strata and condition. It helps people to move from state of unknown to the stage of great clarity and understanding. However, it is worth to note that information must be package based on their nature into different resources upon which they are consulted as sources of information. "Reference [1] categorized the users of information based on lines of needs. They are professionals or disciplines lines, institutional lines, geographical lines and special challenge people".

The professional or discipline lines, includes those in law, agriculture, medicine, political sciences, engineering, etc. Institutional lines includes universities, polytechnics, colleges of education and their faculties and departments, secondary and primary schools, etc while, those along geographical lines are users in a community, town, local government area, state or even in a geographical zones etc, and the last categories is those of disadvantaged in the sense that their access to information centers or libraries is restricted. They include the different physical handicapped such as deaf, the cripple, the

blind, and dumb, as well as those in prisons, hospitals, orphanage homes, etc. Though their needs also cut across other lines early discussed. This implies everyone needs information in all ramifications of life.

Hence, for professionals in institutional line, precisely in the University to be properly feed with their information needs, there must be enough availability of documentary sources of information in their university library. It is worthy to note that, the main duty of the university library is to make adequate information resources available that are necessary to fulfill university's mission. That is; learning, teaching and research. While, its objectives are provision of materials for undergraduate instruction, term paper and projects as well as materials for supplementary reading; provision of materials in support of graduate research; provision of materials in support of faculties, external and collaborative research; provision of expensive standard works especially in the professional disciplines; provision of materials for personal self-development; external relationships and interlibrary cooperation and stimulation of interest in the printed word [2]. It is further noted that, information resources can be inadequate in the library when there is absence of standard policy on acquisition, theft and mutilation, and misappropriate use of library funds [2]. However, it is imperative to note that university libraries should be seen as an integral part of the university in supporting the curriculum of the institution of which it established; because it is information nerve center of its parent organization serving as instrument for scholarship and research. Therefore, it is essential to have very great extent of information resources to be made available therein.

2 BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW

To meet the information needs of seekers in the university environment, there must be a well equipped university library with documentary sources of information. This source of information can be consulted physically and directly when necessary by information seekers. It is very imperative to note that university library can acquire different kinds of information resources to enable them carried out their functions in meeting the information needs of their clientele. "Reference [3] noted that university library promote learning, teaching and research, and they also stocked different information resources to meet and satisfy the information needs of its users". Among these are reference materials, news papers and periodicals, journals, books, maps, manuscripts, newsletters, research and technical reports, government documents, theses and non-print materials. "Reference [4] itemized the following as example of documentary sources of information in university library- journals, news papers, magazines, research, monographs, reports, patents, standard, trade literature, dissertation/theses, unpublished sources, textbooks, indexes, bibliography, abstracts, reviews, treaties, reference books, translation, concordances, bibliography of bibliographies, directories and guides to literatures. With this one cannot but agreed that documentary sources of information are of different types and they are named based on their nature and arrangement of information therein. "Reference [5] noted that any university library that can made these sources of information available will able to provide the varieties of information needs to its clientele. On this regards, university library was noted as the most important organ in the institution that can make all information needs ready [6]. It's the academic health; intellectual vitality and effectiveness of any university depend largely upon the state of the health and excellence of its library [6]. That is; the extent of availability of information sources determined the information health state of the university and the information seekers. It is also noted that poor budget allocation to the library, poor donation, poor library funding can lead to insufficient availability of documentary sources of information resources in the library [6].

It is worthy to note that, every profession or discipline or subject areas have their literatures. The rate of information explosion in the world today has tremendous effects on each category of literatures. For instant, in sciences it is almost doubling itself between five to ten years. In social sciences, it is doubling at the rate of every eight to twelve years. Despite this everyone in academic institution depends on the literature in their fields for the satisfaction of their information needs. Therefore, the literature in their fields' forms sources of information in which documentary sources of information is one of the major categories. Hence, documentary sources of information can be categorized into primary, secondary and tertiary sources [4].

Primary sources of information are information or records of original research, new idea, invention, discoveries or developments in a field of knowledge. "Reference [7] noted that primary sources of information help information seekers to be well informed on new development in their subject areas; it keeps them update and also helps them avoid duplication of research work". With this one cannot but agreed that primary sources of information resources contain first hand and authentic information. Secondary sources of information are derivative literatures that are derived from primary literatures [8]. That is; they are formed from or they contain indirect or inexact account of information contained in the primary information resources. "Reference [8] emphasized on the importance of secondary source of information because authors of this source distort the primary literature with their point of view, interpretations, critique, analysis and prejudices -hereby resulted to great and strong opinion". Hence, there is no doubt that, secondary sources of information can help to have access to knowledge or information on a particular issues or needs. While, tertiary sources of information, contain

information collected from primary and secondary sources. The main function of tertiary sources of information is to aid the information searchers to use primary and secondary sources of information due to increase in literatures. "Reference [9] buttressed that tertiary source is becoming more important in this information age".

3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Having very great extent of availability of documentary sources of information in the university library it's a great asset. It will not just help it parent organization to achieve their goals and objectives; but will enable the information seekers in the university community to acquire their precise information needs to the fullest. More to these, good availability of documentary sources of information in university library will stimulate the achievement and promotion of learning, teaching and research. On a contrary, failure to have adequate documentary sources of information in the university library will affect the academic standard health of the university while, the information seekers in the university community we remain desolate, forlorn, wretch to have access to their information needs. Despite all these, it is of great concern that no study seems to have been carried out on it in university libraries. This justifies the present study and problem the study put in question form is: what is the state of availability of documentary sources of information for information needs in institutional environment of Kogi state University Library, Anyigba, Nigeria?

4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives will guide the study:

1. To know the extent of availability of primary sources of information resources in the university library understudy
2. To know the extent of availability of secondary sources of information resources in the university library understudy
3. To know the extent of availability of tertiary sources of information resources in the university library understudy
4. To identify the challenges associated with the availability of documentary sources of information in the resources university library understudy

5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The findings of the study will be of important to a number of people such as: librarians, library management, university management, lecturers and students of library and information science. To librarians, it will help them to know the different types or categories of documentary sources of information that need to be available in the university library. To library and university management, the findings of the study will help them to know the documentary sources of information resources that are not available in their university library but need to be provided and challenges associated with the availability. To lecturers and students of library and information science, the study will serve as a reference point.

6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is limited to Kogi State University Library, Anyigba, Nigeria to determine the extent of availability of documentary sources of information resources for information needs. Hence, the study has its central focus among the staff that works in university library. It is worthy to note that Kogi State University Library was named after Dr. Aliu Obaje. It is located in Kogi State University campus, Anyigba. The University is a State owned in North Central of Nigeria. It was officially opened on April 2000. It is central operational library system, the building complex has a total floor space of 10,000 square meter with capacity to hold stock of not less than 500,000 volumes of information resources with 2,552 capacity for readers. The sections in the library are administration, acquisition, technical, serial/ news papers, reserve circulation, enquiries /complaint, visual resources/ electronic, and documentation [10].

7 IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

University library is the most important organ in the institution [6]. It's of such, because; the information needs of the seekers in the university environment can be available there in. However, failure to make all the needed documentary information resources available to very great extent in the university library their role as facilitator (to learning, teaching and research) and information center to meet the information needs of information seekers as reflected in [3] and [5] will be

eroded. Thereby affect the standard of the university and render the information seekers desolate to obtain their information needs.

8 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey design was employed in this study. The instruments of data collection are questionnaire and personal interview. Twenty-four (24) copies of questionnaire were administered and collected from library staff that works in Kogi State University Library. The questionnaire consists of four (4) tables. Table 1 contains primary sources of information resources; Table 2, consists secondary sources of information resources; Table 3 contains tertiary sources of information resources; and Table 4 consist challenges likely to associate with availability of documentary sources of information resources. Data were analysis using Lekert mean response rate used to determine the extent of availability in Table 1-3 as well as challenges (Table 4). Hence, the acceptable mean is 2.50 and above; where ≥ 2.50 is significant (considerable response) and < 2.50 is not significant (inconsiderable response). Specifically, for each items in table 1- 4 real limit of numbers was used to determine the decision level as follows: Very Great Extent, Strongly Agree: 3.50 and above; Great Extent, Agree: 2.50 – 3.49; Low Extent, Disagree: 1.50 – 2.49; No Extent, Strongly Disagree: 0.00- 1.49. In the same vein, data generated from interview with library staff were used to buttress the discussion of the findings.

9 DATA ANALYSIS

9.1 AVAILABILITY OF PRIMARY SOURCES OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY UNDERSTUDY

Table 1. Availability of Primary Sources of Information in the University Library Understudy

Primary sources of information resources	VGE	GE	LE	NE	X	Rk	Dec
Newspapers	6	18	-	-	3.25	1 st	GE
Journals	6	15	3	-	3.00	2 nd	GE
Magazines	-	21	3	-	2.75	3 rd	GE
Dissertation/ Theses	-	8	16	-	2.33	4 th	LE
Reports	-	3	18	3	2.00	5 th	LE
Standards	-	4	15	5	1.96	6 th	LE
Trade Literature	-	3	16	5	1.92	7 th	LE
Research monographs	-	-	18	6	1.78	8 th	LE
Patents	-	-	15	9	1.63	9 th	LE
Unpublished sources e.g laboratory notebook, memoranda, diaries, records of interview, lecture notes	-	-	5	19	1.21	10 th	LE

Source: Field Survey

Key: VGE- Very Great Extent; GE- Great Extent; LE- Low Extent; NE- No Extent, X- Mean; Rk- Rank; Dec- Decision

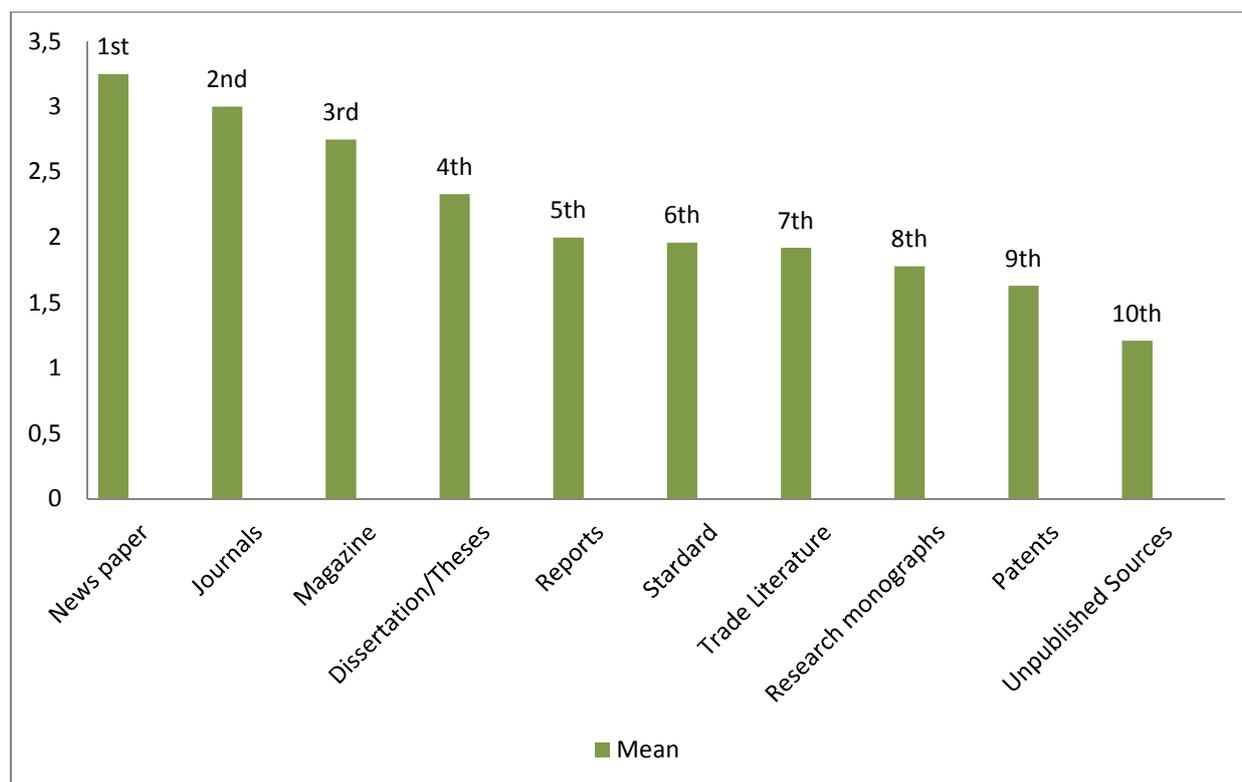


Fig. 1: Bar Chart Showing the Mean Ranking of Availability of Primary Sources of Information resources in the University Library Understudy

From table 1 “New papers” has mean weight of 3.25; “Journals” has mean weight of 3.00; “Magazine” has mean weight of 2.75. These are above 2.50 as the criterion mean, hence they’re considered agreed. “Dissertation/ these” has mean weight of 2.33; “Report” has mean weight of 2.00; “Standard” has mean weight of 1.96; “Trade literature” has mean weight of 1.92; “Research Monograph” has mean weight of 1.75; “patent” has mean weight of 1.63; and “Unpublished sources” has mean weight of 1.21. These are less than 2.50 as the criterion mean. Therefore, they are considered disagreed on availability.

9.2 AVAILABILITY OF SECONDARY SOURCES OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY UNDERSTUDY

Table 2. Availability of Secondary Sources of Information Resources in the University Library Understudy

Secondary Sources of Information Resources	VGE	GE	LE	NE	X	RK	Dec
Textbooks	5	17	2	-	3.13	1 st	GE
Reference books	3	15	6	-	2.63	2 nd	LE
Bibliography	-	3	21	-	2.13	3 rd	LE
Treatises	3	3	11	6	2.13	3 rd	LE
Indexes	-	3	19	2	2.08	4 th	LE
Reviews	-	2	22	-	2.08	4 th	LE
Abstracts	-	1	23	-	2.04	5 th	LE
Translation	-	2	17	5	1.87	6 th	LE
Concordances	-	3	9	12	1.63	7 th	LE

Source: Field Survey

Key: VGE- Very Great Extent; GE- Great Extent; LE- Low Extent; NE- No Extent; X- Mean; Rk- Rank; Dec- Decision

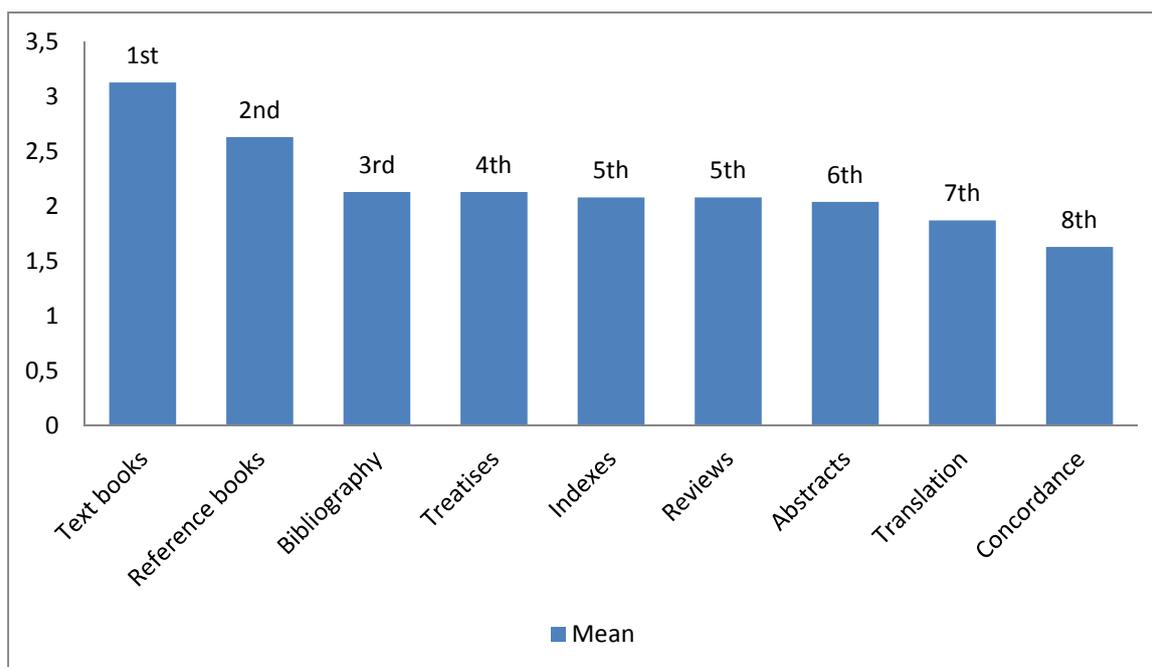


Fig. 2: Bar Chart Showing the Mean Ranking of Availability of Secondary Sources of Information Resources in the University Library Understudy

From table 2 “Text books” has mean weight of 3.13; “Reference books” has mean weight of 2.63. These are considered agreed on availability; because their mean weights are above 2.50 as the criterion mean. “Bibliography and Treaties” has equal mean weight of 2.13; “Review and Indexes” has equal mean weights of 2.08; “Abstracts” has mean weight of 2.04; “Translation” has mean weight of 1.88; and “Concordance” has mean weight of 1.63. These are less than 2.50 as the criterion mean. Hence, they are considered disagreed on availability.

9.3 AVAILABILITY OF TERTIARY SOURCES OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY UNDERSTUDY

Table 3. Availability of Tertiary Sources of Information Resources in the University Library Understudy

Tertiary Sources of Information Resources	VGE	GE	LE	NE	X	RK	Dec
Directories	-	6	18	-	2.25	1 st	LE
Bibliography of bibliographies	-	3	18	3	2.00	2 nd	LE
Guides to Literatures	-	-	21	3	1.88	3 rd	LE

Source: Field Survey

Key: VGE- Very Great Extent; GE- Great Extent; LE- Low Extent; NE- No Extent; X- Mean; Rk- Rank; Dec- Decision

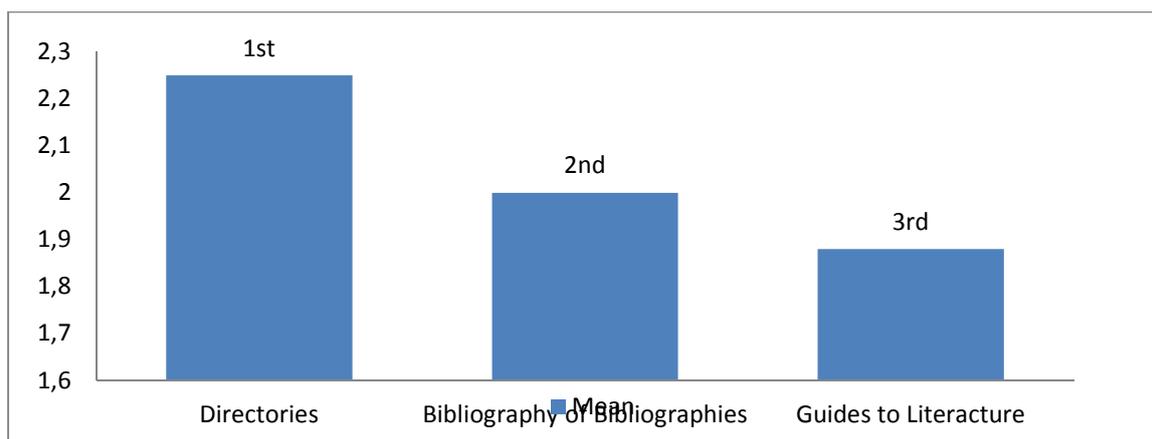


Fig. 3: Bar Chart Showing the Mean Ranking of Availability of Tertiary Sources of Information in the University Library Understudy

From table 3 “Directories” has mean weight of 2.25; “Bibliography of Bibliographies” has mean weight of 2.00; while, “Guides to literature” has mean weight of 1.88. All are less than 2.50 as the criterion mean. Therefore they are considered disagreed on availability.

9.4 CHALLENGES WITH AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTARY SOURCES OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY UNDERSTUDY

Table 4. Challenges of Availability of Documentary Sources of Information in the University Library Understudy

Challenges	SA	A	D	SD	X	Rk	Dec
Poor budget allocation to the library	21	-	3	-	3.75	1 st	SA
Inadequate funds	6	18	-	-	3.25	2 nd	A
Poor donation of documentary sources of information resources to the library	3	18	3	-	3.00	3rd	A
Lack of gift of documentary sources of information resources to the library	6	14	-	4	2.91	4th	A
University management not respond to library needs	4	13	3	3	2.78	5th	A
Absence of standard policy on acquisition of documentary sources of information resources	3	12	9	1	2.75	6th	A
Theft and mutilation of documentary sources of information resources	-	17	5	2	2.63	7 th	A
Misappropriate use of library funds	-	16	5	3	2.54	8 th	A
Information seekers do not request for documentary sources of information resources	-	3	21	-	2.13	9th	D

Source: Field Survey

Key: SA- Strongly Agree; A- Agree; D- Disagree; SD- Strongly Disagree; X- Mean; Rk- Rank; Dec- Decision

From table 4, “Poor budget allocation to the library” has mean weight of 3.75; “Insufficient funds” has mean weight of 3.25; “Poor donation of documentary sources of information resources to the library has mean weight of 3.00; “Lack of gift of documentary sources of information resources to the library” has mean weight of 2.91; “University management not respond to library needs” has mean weight of 2.78; “Absence of standard policy on acquisition of documentary sources of information resources” has mean weight of 2.75; “Theft and mutilation of documentary sources of information resources” has mean weight of 2.63; “Misappropriate use of library funds” has mean weight of 2.54. All the items has above 2.50 as the criterion mean. Hence, they are considered agreed as the challenges except, “Information seekers do not request for documentary sources of information resources” which has mean weight of 2.13. This is less than 2.50 as the criterion mean, so, is not considered challenge.

10 DISCUSSIONS OF THE FINDINGS

Documentary sources of information resources which comprise primary, secondary and tertiary are essentials tools in university library for effective learning, teaching and research. The findings from the study revealed that, the university library understudy didn't have very great extent of documentary sources of information resources. Instead four (4) categories of information resources has great extent while, the rest 18 categories of information resources are of low extent. Despite the importance [2], [7], [9] among others allotted to primary, secondary and tertiary information resources respectively. The bane that lead to not have very great extent of information resources are in agreement with [6] which are poor budget allocation to the library; poor donation; poor library funding can lead to insufficient availability of documentary sources of information resources to the library. Also in agreement with [2] which are absence of standard policy on acquisition; theft and mutilation; and misuse of library funds. Above all the recommendations proffered will help to solve the challenges if adherent to, while, enable university library to have very great extent of availability of documentary sources of information resources.

11 SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

From analysis of data based on research questions the following results were gathered.

1. On primary sources of information resources: It was discovered that, the university library understudy has Great Extent (GE) of new papers, journals, and magazine. Others information resources are available on Low Extent (LE) such as dissertation/theses, reports, standard, research monograph, and patent. While, unpublished sources is available on No Extent (NE).
2. On secondary sources of information resources: It is only text books that are available in Great Extent (GE). Others are available in Low Extent (LE) such as reference books, bibliography, treaties, indexes, reviews, reports, translation, and concordances.
3. On tertiary sources of information resources: all the itemized information resources are available on Low Extent (LE). These are directories, bibliography of bibliographies, and guides to literatures.
4. The research revealed the bane to availability of documentary sources of information resources as poor budget allocation to the library, insufficient funds, poor donation of documentary sources of information resources to the library, lack of gift of documentary sources of information resources to the library, university management not respond to library needs, absence of standard policy on acquisition of documentary sources of information resources, theft and mutilation of documentary sources of information resources, and misappropriate use of library funds.

12 CONCLUSION

Documentary sources of information resources are highly needed in university libraries. These categories of information resources cut across all the discipline made or offer in the university. Their information content can be access manually or physically without the use electronic devices. The very great extent of its availability will enhance high level of learning, teaching and research in the university. However, the information gathered from data analyses, it was discovered that, on primary sources of information resources only news paper; journals and magazine were available on Great Extent (GE). On secondary sources of information resources only text books appear on Great Extent (GE), while no Great Extent on tertiary sources of information resources.

It is clearly understand that, there are no documentary sources of information resources that are available on Very Great Extent but they are more in Low Extent. Findings also reveal that, there are a lot of challenges associated with not having very great extent of documentary information resources in the university library. Hence, recommendations are proffered.

13 RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure, availability of documentary sources of information resources to a very great extent the following recommendations are proffered:

1. There should be good budget allocation to the library. This will help the library management to purchase documentary sources of information needed at the time of need.
2. There should be critical monitoring of library funds. Budgeting and auditing should be practice. These will help to avoid mismanagement of funds.
3. Both local and foreign Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) that can donate documentary sources of information resources to the library should be contacted.
4. Government, philanthropists, and other library friends both within and outside the Kogi State should be contacted. These will enhance high donation of documentary sources of information resources to the library.
5. There should be good security measure in the library. Such as at the exit, good lighting, installation of electronic security camera, burglarized the windows. These will help to check and control theft and mutilations in the library.
6. The university management should be re-orientating on the importance of university library in support of learning, teaching and research. This will help to ensure good budgetary to the library.
7. The university community should be re-orientating on the importance of university library in providing information needs.
8. There should be good standard policy on acquisition of information resources in the university library.

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