THE IMPACT OF LIBRARY INSTRUCTION COURSE (GNS118) ON STUDENT USE OF LIBRARY IN ADAMAWA STATE POLYTECHNIC, YOLA

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the impact of library instruction course (GNS118) on students' use of library resources in Adamawa State Polytechnic, yola. The data were collected through a structural questionnaire administered to one hundred (100) students. The response rate was 95%. Frequency and simple percentage were used to analyze the data collected. The result revealed that the course "Use of Library" (GNS118) has enhanced the student knowledge of library facilities and had enable most of the student to access the library resources properly and effectively. Also the result identified some problem faced by the respondents in a bid to use the library resources, which include library staff attitude, lack of enough opening hours, and lack of internet facilities. Based on the problems recommendation were made to encourage the use of library resources by the student of Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola.

Keywords: Library, Instruction, Students, Resource impact.

INTRODUCTION

To appreciate the value of libraries in promoting the reading and learning abilities of students as well as researchers, the libraries in higher institution in Nigeria like Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education etc. have introduced the library instructional course in general studies curriculum. This is because libraries are regarded as central element in academic achievement of individuals.

The establishment of library in any academic institution was done for the purpose of providing information resources to meet the demand of information requirement of its community (Staff and Students). It is in this regard that Aguolo and Aguolo (2002) explained that library is regarded as a social institution established for the purpose of conserving knowledge, preserving human culture heritage, providing information, undergirding and underpinning education and research in all areas of human endeavor. It is therefore expected that academic libraries in an

institution should support the teaching, learning and research activities of its patron or users. A great deal of this support as according to Adebayo (2007) falls on the librarian to advertise and impact skills on users especially fresh student to enable the find and use the information resources effectively.

Oduwale, Onifade and Akintola (2004) are of the view that libraries are essentially educational institutions by their nature, therefore are regarded as the heart of any institution of learning. In any academic community the libraries provide information resource to aid the curriculum, teaching, learning and research Students are often ignorant or unable to appreciate the value of the library and this statement seems to be in conflict with the objective of establishing the library by the tertiary institutions. In Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola, the instruction course titled "Use of Library" (GNS118) is use to teach the student on how to use the library information resources properly and effectively. It is also serves as promotion strategy because it publicizes the library and promote the use of the information resource. The aim is to help students develop awareness and appreciation of the potentialities of the library in support of their academic career. Kavulya (2004) makes us to understand that access to adequate library resources is essential to the attainment of superior academic skills.

It is really a challenge that a study has not focused ever on this area in Adamawa State Polytechnic since inception. It is therefore paramount and necessary to access the impact of the instruction course on the use of library information resource from the students' point of view in form of feedback that can allow for improvement when and where necessary. Even though there is this general believe by librarian that the library collections are used effectively by their patrons. This assumption is more pronounced in academic libraries which are set to support the teaching and research programs run by the institution of higher learning. Olofinsare (2008) in a research discovered at there were always a low patronage of library by student outside the examination and research period. It is essential for the students to use the library information resources effectively and efficiently in order to achieve their academic goals.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The main objectives of the instructional course known as "Use of Library" (GNS118) in Adamawa State Polytechnic yola is to expose students to the activities taking place in the library and to enable them access library information resources independently using the necessary skills. Despite the importance of this course there is no literature on the impact of the instructional course on the Use of Library Information Resource in relation to the students of Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola. It is apparent that the evaluation of the use of library is the component of the planning process that provides librarians with feedback so as to improve the total effectiveness of such library in response to the need and wants of their targeted users. Since they appear to be no

published study of any evaluation or feedback on the instructional course known as "Use of Library" (GNS118) from students who are recipient of the knowledge, it may be very difficult therefore to suggest solutions to problems that are never known and identified. Against this background therefore this study investigate the impact of the instruction course known as "Use of Library" (GNS118) on the student use of library information resources in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola.

OBJECTIVES

1. To find out whether the students attached importance to the instruction course known as "Use of Library'' (GNS 118).
2. To find out the effect of instruction course "Use of Library''(GNS 118) on students ability to use the Library Information Resources.
3. To assess the level of the Use of Library resources by the students.
4. To ascertain the problems if any that the student encountered in applying the knowledge acquired in GNS 118 towards accessing the Library Information resources.

RESEARCH QUESTION

1) What importance do the students attach to the Use of Library GNS 118 course?
2) What is the effect of the GNS 118 course on student ability in using the Library Information Resources?
3) What is the level of utilization of the library resources by the students?
4) What are the problems the students encountered in applying their knowledge of GNS 118 in using the library resources?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Library in an academic environment is undoubtedly to enhance the intellectual and academic output of students and staff. Different types of learning resources are acquired by the Polytechnic Library in order to meet users' needs and it is meant to assist users in their day-to-day academic work, It is expected that the users will use these resources maximally. It was however observed that the students of Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola rarely use the information resources provided. Edoka (2000) stressed that the entire human and material resources in the library are put in place at considerable expense for the overall purpose of providing effective services to the library users, on its part the library has the responsibility of ensuring that resources and services are used. He further states that the matter is so fundamental that one can define a library in terms of use. One of the major objectives of any library is to ensure that maximum use is made of its Information resources and services.

Similarly Nwokedi and Ogundare (2005) is of the view that no matter how rich a library collection may be, it is believed that if the users of such library are not able to gain access to the library information resources, the resources of such a library is considered a waste Qiu and Kiu (2008) stated that libraries will exert better functions by way of carrying out reader education, this will enable the library to raise that capacities of users to make use of the information resources and to improve the information consciousness of the library users. The Polytechnic education was essentially established to engage in researches suitable for the nations industry and to boost vocational and technical education that would enhance social-economic and industrial development of the society. Therefore the Polytechnic libraries are charged with the responsibility of providing a conducive atmosphere for self-education and self-development of individual students and the staff in general. Kavulya (2004) opines that access to adequate library resources is essential to the attainment of superior academic skills. It is expected therefore that the librarians should impact skill on students to enable them access the information resources effectively to attain their goal.

Olofinsawe (2008), reported that there was always a low patronage on Library by student outside the examination and research period. Oyinloye (2002) stressed that the "use of library" as a course is designed to teach Nigerian students how to maximize the use of resources acquired by the library. This is because according to Dadzie (2009), some fresh students entering college, Polytechnic and University have limited knowledge of fundamental research and information or how to use it in original work and give proper credit for the information used.

A survey of the effect of teaching library skill on the use of the library catalogue by students was undertaken by Adebayo and Sokari (2004), the result showed that the skills had little effect on catalogue use on the students in year one to three while pre-NCE students claimed being unaware of the facilities in the library. The instruction on Use of Library is a form of teaching and its overall effect is a thing that need to be tested from time to time and it is necessary to test the effect from students point of view in form of a feedback that can allow for improvement in the area where necessary to achieve the objective of the library.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive research design was adopted for the study. A self constructed questionnaire was used to elicit the data for this study. The population consisted of Diploma two students of Science and Laboratory Technology (SLT), Statistics and Computer science who has been exposed to the course in their first semester year one. A sample size of 100 Students was randomly selected participated in the study. The administration of the questionnaire was within the class of the various courses, through the class representatives and it lasted for a week. Ninety-Five copies of the questionnaire (95%) were returned and found useful. Descriptive

statistics was employed to analyze the data. The analysis includes the use of frequencies tables and percentages.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained from the data analyses in this study are as follows:

Table 1: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO COURSE OF STUDY

S/NO	COURSE OF STUDY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Computer science	44	46.32%
2	Science and laboratory technology	30	31.58%
3	Statistics	21	22.10%
	Total	95	100%

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents by their course of study. Majority of respondents were computer science with 46.32% followed by science and laboratory technology (SLT) with 31.58% while statistics was the least 22.10%. other course were not included because they do not offer the course GNS118 at all and the researcher wanted to find out whether the course "Use Of Library" (GNS118) has an impact on the students offering the course.

TABLE 2: THE IMPORTANCE AND IMPACT OF "USE OF LIBRARY" COURSE ON THE STUDENTS USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCE

S/No	Statement	Agreed	%	Disagreed	%
1	The course "use of library" (GNS118) is very important course that I value.	90	94.7%	5	5.3
2	The course "use of library" (GNS118) has enhanced my knowledge of the library facilities.	95	100%	0	0
3	The course "use of library" (GNS118) has enabled me to access the library resources properly and effectively.	63	66.3%	32	33.7
4	The course "use of library" (GNS118) has helped me to know how to borrow materials and make reference inquiries.	40	42.11	55	57.9
5	The course "use of library" (GNS118) has helped me to access information resources	—	—	95	100

	through electronic means.				

From the above table, the respondents scores for all the statements shows that majority 90(94.7%) agreed that the course GNS118 is very important to them and they value it, whereas only 5(5.3%) disagreed. Also,95(100%)of the respondents agreed that the course GNS118 has enhance their knowledge of the library facilities. 63(66.3%)respondents also agreed that the course GNS118 has enable them to access the library resources properly and effectively while

32(33.7%) which of cause cannot be neglected disagreed and it is important for them to access the library resources for their academic development. Another thing found out is the knowledge on how to borrow and how to make reference inquiries of which 55(57.9%) disagreed and 40(42.11%) agreed they have the knowledge, which implies there is need to teach them more on this area. Also about 95(100%) disagreed that the course GNS118 did not help them to access information resources through electronic means, this simply means the students were not taught on how to access information electronically.

Based on the above findings it is upheld that the course GNS118 has impacted knowledge for the use of the resources as the majority of the students even though it has failed in the area of accessing information electronically. It is one thing to have the knowledge and yet it is another to make use of it practically.

Table 3: level of the use of library resources by the students

S/N	How Often	Frequency	Percentages
1.	Daily	25	26.3%
2.	Weekly	52	54.7%
3.	Monthly	7	7.4%
4.	Occasionally	11	11.6%

Table 3 indicates the level of use of library resources by the respondents. Majority of the 52 (54.7%) made use of the library resources weekly while 25 (26.3%) of the respondent made use of the library resources daily. The result also shows that 11 (11.6%) respondents use the library resources occasionally and only 7 (7.4%) of the respondents use the library resources monthly. This result revealed that even though most of the respondents use the resources but not daily.

Table 4: Problems Faced In the Use of Library Resources.

s/no	Statement	Agreed	%	Disagree	%
1	Unavailability of desired materials	50	52.6	45	47.4
2	Inadequate opening hours	87	91.6	8	8.4
3	Lack of internet facilities	90	94.7	5	5.2
4	Unfriendly attitude of library staff	87	91.6	8	8.4
5	Materials are poorly arrange	48	50.5	47	49.5

In the last table five statements of the problems were formulated for the respondents to agree or disagree. The result shows that 50 (52.6%) agreed that unavailability of desired materials is a problem while 45 (47.4%) disagreed. Furthermore 87 (91.6%) agreed that inadequate opening hours is the problem whereas 8 (9.4%) disagreed. It is noteworthy that 90 (94.7%) of the respondent agreed that the problem is lack of internet facilities whereas 5 (5.2%) disagreed. Also it is observed that 87 (91.6%) respondents agreed that the problem is unfriendly attitude of the library staff against 8 (8.4%) that disagreed. Furthermore 48 (50.5%) of the respondents agreed that the problem is because the materials are poorly arrange while 47 (49.5%) disagreed. From the result one can therefore deduce that there is a problem faced by the majority of the respondents in using the library resources.

DISCUSSION

In any academic community the Libraries provides resources to aid the curriculum, teaching, learning and research and these resources must be made easy to access. It is in line with that, Popoola and Zaid 2007) reiterated that information availability does not mean accessibility but rather good user education programme must be harnessed to help library users in locating, retrieving, having access to and using resources in the library. Most of the respondent 90 (94.7%) agreed that the course Use of Library is very important to them, this collaborated with what Popoola and Zaid (2007) stressed that, the Use of Library course is regarded as important by both the administration and the individual Library User for its contribution towards equipping the students with desired knowledge of how to access information from the Library.

In the same vein all the student 95 (100%) agreed that it has enhanced their knowledge of Library facilities and about 63 (66.3%) of the respondents agreed that it has help them to access the library resource properly and effectively. This result is similar to Ottong and Ntui (2010) who pointed out that, the essence of GNS programme is to enable students acquire the skills to use the Library and become competent for lifelong education. The result agrees with Aliyu (2011) who found out that three quarter of this research respondents believed that GNS201 course has assisted them to acquire the knowledge on how to use the Library effectively.

The respondents 95 (100%) disagree with the facts that the course "Use of Library" GNS118 help them to access information electronically. The absence of which may have adverse effects on students not to have access to up-to-date research publications in electronic formats. The course content should have cover ICT and the library should be connected to internet to facilitate the Use of Library resource in electronic format. As mentioned earlier many problem were faced by the respondents in their bit to access the Library resource such problems are unfriendly attitude of the Library Staff 87 (91.6%), inadequate opening hours 87 (91.6%) and the lack of internet facilities 90(94.7%) which rank the highest. This result is contrary to Aliyu (2011) who in a research discovered that poor shelving of books on shelves was one of the problems by the respondents.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings of this study one can safely conclude that the respondents appreciate the importance of the course "Use of Library" (GNS118) to their academic pursuit and have acknowledge that the course has enhance their knowledge of Library facilities. The course has also helped the students to access the library materials properly and effectively. However there are problems encountered by most of the respondents towards the use of the Library resource. One of such problems identified by 90 (94.7%) of the respondents is lack of internet facilities which cause the student not to have access to electronic information. This means that Adamawa State Polytechnic Library need to urgently connect to the internet, the absence of which may have adverse effect on the students in which the students will not have access to electronic format of information.

It is obvious from the findings that the students would use the Library resources effectively, efficiently and may even use the library daily if the following recommendations are adopted

1. From the result it is clear that the Library Staff required training on how to relate cordially with the users. This will create a conducive atmosphere and encourage students to exploit the library resources freely.
2. The opening hours of the Library to the users should be extended for the realization of the objective of the library.
3. The Library should be computerized, this will allow electronic classification cataloguing, lending and referencing which will go a long way to save users time in searching of information.
4. The E-Library Service must be upgraded to meet the required standard so as to link with other academic libraries with reputable standard for the service of the users.
5. A well-qualified lecturer with different methods of imparting knowledge and literate in ICT should be used to teach GNS118 course so that at the end, the students would

develop interest in the library and acquire skills needed to access library resources both in physical and electronic formats more effectively.

6. Finally the course content of GNS118 should be review to reflect the current changes in the aspect of electronic and modern trends in information literacy. Also there is need for the Library to make students to understand that GNS118 course is as important as their core course and the Polytechnic authority to make it mandatory for all other departments to offer the course to achieve the purpose of establishing the library.

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