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## **FACULTY AWARENESS AND USE OF LIBRARY INFORMATION PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES.**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper discussed faculty awareness and use of library information products and services in South-West Nigeria universities. Systematic random sampling method was used to select 446 faculty members from a population of 4,459 in the universities. A questionnaire formed the major instrument for data gathering. The response rate achieved was 89.7 percent and the reliability coefficient of the questionnaire used was 0.72. The study found that there was a significant difference in faculty awareness of available library information products and services. In addition, they did not have sufficient knowledge of those library products and services pertinent to their teaching and research activities. The survey also revealed that the level of knowledge of faculty staff had positive relationship with the frequency of use, consultation with the librarians, faculty status and membership of library related committees. User education programmes coupled with planned public relations were recommended to improve faculty awareness of library information products and services.

**Key words :** Faculty awareness , Library information products and services , South-West Nigeria universities, Systematic random sampling method

### **INTRODUCTION**

In realization of the significant role played by education in the economic re-engineering of a nation, the present civilian administration in Nigeria has decided to give much attention to the restoration of the education sector. Since the Nigerian economy is labour-intensive with low human development index, only sound education and training can ameliorate the problem. To produce highly skilled manpower for the economy, universities are set up to teach, research and offer community services. University administrators note that to achieve these major objectives, the establishment of libraries is unavoidable. It is through this that the information needs of the academic community specifically students, lecturers, administrators and other staff can be satisfactorily met. The management of university libraries in turn are aware that collection and organization of printed and other forms of recorded knowledge would enable them satisfy the information needs of both present and future users. To this end, balanced collection development is aimed at facilitating the efficient and effective provision of information to the library clientele.

However, university libraries by their very nature are expected to acquire, process into retrievable form and make available the much needed information to the academic community and the public at large who may require them for their various teaching and research activities. The accomplishment of this function depends on the available stock of information products in the university libraries. Such information products include textbooks, journals, indexes and abstracts, monographs, these and dissertations, newspapers and magazines, government publications, research and technical reports,

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encyclopaedias, manuscripts, publications of international organizations, patents and standards as well as microforms.

Similarly, how well a university library is able render effective information services like lending, referral, microfilming, indexing and abstracting, current awareness, document delivery, photocopying, E-mail, facsimile, bindery, translation, consultancy, on-line database searching, user education, current contents listing, technical writing, selective dissemination of information and data processing has functional relation with the resources available at its disposal. Such library resources include the caliber of staff and their information handling skills, adequate finance, materials and availability of equipment for information acquisition, processing, storage and dissemination.

Nevertheless, information availability does not mean accessibility and utilization. University libraries can stimulate primary demands for their products and services through functional library promotion programmes. The most popular promotion programmes adopted in African university libraries are study tours, orientation and user education. The inadequacy of these library promotion programmes in many African universities has been noted by some authors Melun (1971); Ifidon (1988); Alemna (1990) and Zaki (1991). It is in the light of this that the researcher is interested in investigating faculty awareness and use of information products and services in South-West Nigerian universities.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aims at achieving the following objectives:

1. To find out if there is any significant difference in faculty members' awareness of library information products and services.
2. To ascertain whether faculty status, membership of library committees, frequency of use of information products and services and frequency of consultations with the library personnel are independent of faculty awareness of library information products and services
3. To determine sources used by faculty members to inform themselves about available information products and services in the library.
4. To find out the methods used by libraries in getting the faculty aware of the availability of information products and services.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Arif and Meadows (1994) reiterated that once users become aware of an information sources, they tend to use it. The implication of this is that information sources which users are not aware of would be underutilized. Therefore, what is fundamental to library information provision is to create users' awareness. Hewin (1990) emphasized the need to design information provision mechanisms to increase usage. Belkin (1982) was of the opinion that users have a gap in their knowledge and so seek for information to bridge the gap. French (1990) observed that proliferation of information sources has made information provision a cumbersome task. He therefore advocated for