

Evaluation of legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study evaluated the legal information services in law libraries in federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. The descriptive design was adopted in the study. It was guided by five objectives, from which five research questions and null hypotheses were developed. The population of the study was 3564 persons consisting of 133 lecturers, 3431 students and 20 librarians. The sample for the study was 713 persons comprising 133 lecturers, 560 students and 20 librarians. Structured questionnaire entitled: “Legal Information Services Evaluation Questionnaire (LISEQ)”. A total of 713 copies of the questionnaire were administered to respondents but 704 copies were retrieved, giving rate of 98.7%. The data collected were analysed using frequency counts, percentages, mean, standard deviation and real limit on numbers in order to answer research questions while Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The study revealed that legal information services available in the law libraries include general reference services (CAS), photocopying services, routing current periodicals etc. The study revealed legal information services that were effective to include photocopying services, routing of current periodicals etc., inadequate funding, scarcity/high cost of law books, gap in subscription of law reports etc., were problems discovered affecting law library services. It was concluded that the law library services understudied are moderately available which shows the need for improvement. It was recommended that adequate funding should be available to the law libraries to acquire books, law report, journals etc., recruitment of qualified law librarians for effective running of law libraries etc.

Keywords: Legal information, evaluation, law libraries, services, federal universities, Nigeria

Introduction

The importance of law libraries to legal education/profession is ever crucial. Law libraries are primarily tasked with providing legal information services to judicial officers, legal practitioners, law lecturers, and students in academic institutions and other law bodies. Hence the importance of law libraries could be said to be the precursor to the survival of the legal profession and education. Thus, the law library plays a unique and integral role in shaping the quality of the legal system at all levels by virtue of their unique collections and services.

The quality of services offered to users is related to the adequacy and currency of legal information sources held in the law libraries. The services rendered to users need an evaluation from time to time. But, so far no empirical studies to the best of the knowledge of the researcher have been undertaken to determine the effectiveness of legal information

services being offered to the users in the law libraries under study; hence the study.

Law libraries like any other special library are repositories of legal information sources which have grown over the years at an unprecedented pace, aimed at providing information services to the legal profession both at the study and practice level. Services of law libraries are meant to assist law students, lawyers, judges, and those who want to be abreast with the state of the law. Ukpanah and Afolabi (2011) writing on the importance of law libraries to lawyers, law students, and legal practitioners, noted that the vast information resources in whatever form in law libraries are of vital importance in tackling the challenges and problems of legal studies and law development, hence the increase in investment by universities and other tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria to the provision of information services.

The value of information so provided is usually based on the quality of available and accessible information sources which have to be current, adequate, and complete in order to satisfy the user's inquiry. It is against this background that Ukpanah and Afolabi (2011) maintained that library does not just make information available that such information must be relevant to meet the needs of the users if they must perceive that the information available in law libraries are adequate to meet their needs. The ultimate aim of an information provider such as a law library is to satisfy users' information needs by providing them with the right information at the right time and through the right means.

Thus, according to Ainoke (2016), is done through series of library activities and services which include routing of periodicals, current awareness services (CAS), noter-up services, compilation bibliographies, indexing and abstracting, selective dissemination of information services (SDI), reprographic services, etc. much of these services have not been maximally achieved due to challenges affecting law libraries under study.

In a research carried out by Udo in Ukpanah and Afolabi (2011) on the availability of textbooks in academic libraries throughout the country revealed that there were insufficient textbooks in academic libraries in Nigeria. This was in agreement with Jegede in Haruna (2006) who depicted that the discussion on the scarcity of books that goes unabated is a problem that has assumed many dimensions and its negative effect on studying; learning and professional practice is unfathomable. To a large extent affect information services delivery in academic law libraries.

Writing on the deplorable state of the law libraries, Bello in Haruna (2006), remarked that for a long time the stocks of these libraries had not been replenished due, essentially, to lack of funds. It is against this backdrop that Haruna (2006) opined that the economic recession in the country with its attendant problems of hyperinflation and foreign exchange rate, seems to have limited the ability of individual lawyers and law libraries to acquire needed information materials for utilization. The study further maintained that the consequences of this ugly

situation could be grave for the professionalism effectiveness of legal practitioners as it could hinder effective information transfer and in effect slow down the pace of work.

Contributing to the problems affecting law libraries, Enem (2014) recorded that dearth of information resources has affected effective legal practice and further compounded by lack of professionalism in running some law libraries, and due to the fact that non-professionals are often entrusted with the management of some law libraries, collections of such libraries are often lopsided. Greater percentage of law books/journals needed to promote teaching, learning, and research in our academic law libraries in Nigerian Universities as foreign prints are imported from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. These informational materials are in short supply due to their prohibitive prices, many law libraries cannot afford them. This has affected many libraries in the acquisition of legal materials.

The current trend in information provision in law libraries in the world today is through the application of information technologies for the provision and expansion of the scope of information available to clientele not minding their locations. Uzoigwe (2004) asserted that while libraries in developed nations have embraced information communication technology in providing library services to their clientele, it is disheartening to note that libraries in Nigeria are still at the crawling stage. The study revealed that this could be attributed to the dwindling funding of our libraries. In order to overcome these problems militating against smooth running of law libraries, it will be necessary to reach out for strategies that could be used to enhance the acquisition of legal information sources in our law libraries to enhance efficient services

Fakandu and Bayero (2014) documented that efforts should be made by the university authorities to consistently stock the law libraries with adequate, current, relevant, and up-to-date information resources. Arising from the above, Onwudinyo, Nwosu, and Ugwu (2014) posited that the law libraries should be adequately funded to enable them to purchase the recommended core and other relevant materials

if the vision and mission of establishing faculties of law libraries should be achieved.

Stressing on what to be done to improve services in law libraries, Enem (2004) depicted that recruitment of more experienced, qualified, and dedicated staff is necessary for efficiency and productivity. It is against this background that Haruna (2006) argued that a library may have books and other information materials or even the infrastructures, but if the expertise is not there to unravel the intricacies that ever do often occur in a search for legal information then the claim to usefulness and dispensation of justice will be bizarre and false. The study further recommended that more librarians with a background in law and librarianship should be employed for quality services. In a bid to offer efficient services to students and their lecturers, Olorunfemi (2015) opined that information communication technology should be provided in all the faculties of law in the country for them to have access to the latest information in the legal profession which will assist students in conducting effective legal research.

Libraries are known to be inadequately funded, staffed, and yet are expected to meet the users' needs in this era of globalization and information explosions, (Nwalo and Ogunniyi, 2012). Ejedafiru (2010) is of the opinion that "since no library can effectively satisfy its users from the resources within its walls, that we are living in a time where a library's worth is increasingly being measured by the services it offers in terms of helping clients to access universal information rather than its respective collections". The study further revealed that the only option for libraries not being able to provide all the needed resources by users is through library networking.

Library networking is a situation where two or more libraries are engaged in an exchange of information through common communication channels usually for purpose of accomplishing shared objectives (Okeagu & Okeagu, 2008). It is as a result of this that Olorunfemi (2015) advised the Council of Legal Education to introduce resource sharing among law libraries and mandate library cooperation among university law libraries by networking all the law libraries to promote legal research among law students and academic lawyers for

effective legal research. The study recommended that if this proposal is adopted, it will go a long way in repositioning faculties of law libraries for the effective service delivery. Library networking or cooperation is necessary as no library can acquire all it needs.

The huge amount of money that universities have been committing to the provision of legal information sources means there is the need for studies that would evaluate legal information services in the law libraries of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria, to determine whether the services being offered are meeting the information and training needs of the law students and their lecturers.

It is on this note that Ogunsola and Omoike (2011) documented that law libraries should evaluate their performances periodically in the light of users' needs in order to take necessary corrective measures and ensure that the needs of the users' groups are met adequately by the services rendered. There is no doubt that through evaluation, the weakness of library services are identified and then strengthens.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the legal information services in law libraries in federal universities in the South-South, Nigeria. The specific objective are to:

1. investigate the types of services that the law libraries offer to the clientele in federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.
2. determine the effectiveness of legal information services offered in the law libraries in the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.
3. examine the extent to which legal information services of the law libraries are meeting the training needs of the users in federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.
4. identify challenges associated with the provision of legal information services in law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.
5. suggest strategies to enhance legal information services in law libraries of

federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.

Research questions

The following research questions are answered in the study:

1. What are the services offered in the law libraries of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria?
2. What is the effectiveness of legal information services rendered in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria?
3. To what extent are the legal information services meeting the training needs of the law student of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria?
4. What are the challenges associated with provision of legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.
5. What are the strategies that could be put in place to enhance legal information services in law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are tested at 0.05 level of significance:

1. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the services offered in the law libraries of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean response of law lecturers, librarians and student on the effectiveness of legal information services offered in the law libraries of federal Universities in South-South, Nigeria.
3. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the extent of legal information services meeting the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.

4. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the challenges on the legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.
5. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the strategies that could be put in place to enhance legal information services in law libraries in federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.

Literature review

One of the paramount objectives of law libraries is the degree to which its various services and facilities are used by its potential user group. This measure of course is a good indicator of how well law libraries understood users' needs in relation to the provision of required information.

The effectiveness and the efficiency of services provided in law libraries are mainly determined by library users, Aforo (2012). This was reaffirmed by Behling and Cudd in Aforo that the library user is regarded as the most logical source to determine whether the library is playing its role satisfactorily or not. This was also corroborated by Perera (2005) that satisfying users' needs is essential to the management of the library. To a large extent, law library provides an avenue through which law sources (legal texts, indexes of law reports, case law and old files or similar cases in the past precedent) are accessed to validate the present and for adoption of a new legal position or to reverse the previous court decisions Akpoghome and Idiegbeyan-Ose (2011). Since readers satisfaction is the ultimate goal of any library, law library services such as routing of current periodicals, indexing and abstracting services, noter-up services, compilation of bibliographies, and reading lists, current awareness services, selective dissemination of information, inter-library loan services, general reference services, reprographic services, loose leaf services etc if properly and effectively organized will help as to ease the work of the library users as well as the librarians.

This type of service ranges from giving factual answers to direct questions, locating specific facts or searching for literature. The level of general/ reference services provided in law libraries are usually high and personalized. Automation in libraries has greatly enhanced the location of materials as well as directing users to available information sources. The ability to ascertain the availability or non-availability of materials is also enhanced. With the use of computers, one can at a glance give adequate and quick information on what is available at a given time. This at a large extent helps to save the library users from endless search for legal information sources. Marek in Aname (2011) noted that the automation of library services as well as legal research systems using Lexis-Nexis, West Law, Heinonline etc can release personnel from cumbersome routine and time consuming tasks.

Noter-up services are peculiar to law libraries. Jegede (2001) remarked that in democratic administration, laws are enacted by both National and State House of Assembly and subsequently amended when the need arises. Noter-up services is usually an automated service. Jegede further maintained that with the use of computers, when a law is enacted and subsequently amended by another law, it is easier to update entries. This is important for law lecturers, law students, and legal practitioners to see at a glance the state of the legislations.

Law reports and periodicals are primary materials held in law libraries. They contain current information and development in their subject areas. Routing of current periodicals put the lecturers and students on notice on the acquisition of new titles or materials to the library collections and also alerts the users on what is currently published and acquired in different areas of law. This medium creates awareness among the lecturers and students also serve as invitation to the patrons to visit the library. Upholding the immense benefits of routing of current periodicals, Nnadozie (2016), expressed that it helps to draw the attention of the recipient thereby making it easy for him or her to notice the pertinent articles/information. This service is most useful to researchers who do not have enough time to conduct intensive literature search.

These are lists compiled by the library at the request of a library user, as a support service or as a way of drawing attention of law lecturers and law students on areas of law in library's collection.

Kadiri in Owushi (2019) stated that they are useful records when it comes to what has been written on a particular subject and at the same time areas of a subject which have not received adequate attention by the law library management.

Compilation of bibliographies and reading lists provides what a law library has in her collections indicating areas of weakness and also providing access for retrieval to ease research. Despite the fact that it provide what has been written on areas of law at the same time areas of law that have not received adequate attention.

In order to assist the users in getting the maximum benefit from a library, indexing and abstracting services are of immense help to lawyers and law students in locating authorities for citations as canvassed by Jegede in Enem (2014). Law books are usually in large volumes as such retrieval of information from such massive materials is often a very difficult task. Indexes and abstracts are usually distributed among law library users in order to ensure the full exploitation of current serials normally issued regularly. Indexes point out the content (topics or themes) treated in a publication with the exact page location for easy reference. While abstracts are summaries of articles published in learned journals. Both indexes and abstracts are tools of Current Awareness Services through which law lecturers, law students are kept abreast of developments in their areas of research interest.

Reprographic services have been very useful to modern law libraries. Nnadozie (2016) posited that reprographic services aim at facilitating the research and other academic pursuits of people by enabling them make copies of books, journals, magazines, pamphlets, newspapers and other documentary sources without running afoul of law guiding such activities. Nnadozie further maintained that people are saved the financial cost of buying an entire document when all that is needed is some pages or chapters, which can be easily

photocopied. In the absence of this type of service, there is the danger of the library users tearing pages of library materials which are difficult to replace them in these hard times.

This is one of the methods employed by law libraries in offering services to their users. This type of service requires the user to provide the library with his or her subject interest profile. With this, readers are sent notifications of items in the literature of relevant subjects as indicated in their respective subject interest profiles as documented by Amune (2002). Each reader is kept aware about the existence of resources, materials or data relevant to his/her areas of interest. This is done in order to keep patrons up-to-date in their respective areas of research and interests.

Since no library can effectively satisfy its users from the resources within its walls, we are living in a time where a library's worth is increasingly being measured by the services it offers in terms of helping clients to access universal information rather than its respective collections (Ejedafiru, 2010). The only way out to law libraries not being able to provide all the needed resources by the users is through inter-library loan services. It is against this background that Nwalo and Ogunniyi (2012) opined that with the rapid growth of publications, knowledge explosion, shrinking resources, escalation of prices, information centres are compelled to go for networking for resource sharing.

Since no law library that could be capable of satisfying all the needs of its clientele. It is on this note that Nwalo and Ogunniyi depicted that there is the need to cooperate in one area or the other of needs to provide the needed information resources to the users. It is as a result of this that Aina (2004) advocated that as much as possible, cooperative and resource sharing should be encouraged among libraries within a particular city or zone. This is a fact since no library is an island unto itself.

Kemp in Nnadozie (2016) described current awareness services (CAS) as a system for retrieving newly available documents, selecting items relevant to the need of an individual and group, and recording them so that notifications may be sent to those individuals or

groups to whose needs they are related. Hamilton again in Nnadozie defined CAS as a service which provides the recipient with information on the latest development within the subject areas in which he or she has a specific interest or need to know. It is an awareness service designed by the law library to notify law lecturers, law students and legal practitioners of current research findings and recent developments in different areas of law.

Whatever reasons that could be given for evaluation, it is believed that it will lead to improved library services. Law library services need to be continuously evaluated to establish whether the services are meeting the training needs of the students. Provision of effective and efficient library services is the function of the library collections and facilities which are dependent upon funds. Inadequate funding of law libraries have affected the subscription of electronic databases such as West Law, Heinonline, Lexis-Nexis, Legalpedia, Law Pavilion etc.

Enem (2014) reported in her studies that most of the academic law libraries in Enugu State still operate entirely on traditional mode of librarianship devoid of automation and information communication technology (ICT) infrastructure. The author reiterated that computer application, network linkage, internet connectivity and access to online databases are yet to be found in most of those libraries. Even those that are ICT compliance cannot subscribe to famous electronic databases.

Olusanya (2005) remarked that libraries and librarians in any academic environment are made to serve users so as to provide them with all the necessary information they might need to equip them to improve their research and academic activities in the new knowledge age. Library services are geared towards satisfying users' needs. In the light of this, Iyishu and Nkanu (2013), depicted that a library will achieve its objectives if the services rendered meet the needs, aspiration and expectation of its users, such services include among others lending services, reference services, indexing and abstracting services, current awareness services, OPAC services etc.

Having x-rayed the factors affecting information service delivery in law libraries, it is

paramount to examine possible strategies that can be employed to improve services in law libraries, such strategies include: adequate funding has always been at the centre of an idea of establishing a standard legal collection. It has been described as the bedrock of any meaningful law library development. Ainoko (2011) documented that the issue of funding should not be limited to the initial establishment of law libraries but also its maintenance. Funds should always be made available to enable law libraries update their collections for the benefit of the users who are the reason for establishing them.

In order to promote law library services effectively, there is need for recruitment of qualified and competent law librarians with degree in law and a professional training in librarianship. The Council of Legal Education (2002) and the National Universities Commission (2004) have made it mandatory that law librarians in faculties of law in Nigerian Universities must have a degree in law and a professional degree in librarianship. It is against this backdrop that Aname (2011) remarked that this will make the librarians to know the needs of the law faculty much better than a non-law degree holder. That such librarian will be in a better position to make sound judgement about the collections in the law library as well as take care of peculiar reference needs of law lecturers, law students and researchers. If this is taken then it will improve the services of law libraries, invariably will enhance the quality of teaching, learning and research.

Qualified personnel is a *Sine qua non* for effective and efficient service delivery as it takes the ingenuity of a well-grounded information professional to acquire relevant and up-to-date information resources in a proper manner to facilitate effective dissemination and as well preserve and maintain same Ainoko (2011). Since no library can afford to satisfy her patrons no matter how rich the library could so there is the need for law libraries to come together in form of collaboration to assist one another. This now calls for consortium. Consortium is an association or grouping of institutions or financial organizations usually set up for a common purpose that would be beyond the capabilities of a single member of a group, (Anyaegebu, 2011). This entails a group of law

libraries agreeing to work together to promote full access to information held by individual libraries.

Okewusi in Anyaegebu (2011) described the scenario in Nigerian thus, with regards to law libraries in Nigeria, nothing in the way of library cooperation has so far been done or planned save for the fact that they all practice library cooperation on *Adhoc* or mutual basis, whereas in developed countries it is practiced regularly on an extensive scale. The author reiterated that although this was said many years ago, that the situation is still the same. This deserves an urgent attention considering the state of art of law libraries in Nigeria.

The National Universities Commission (NUC), the Council of Legal Education (CLE) have made it compulsory that every law faculty should have law library that meet contemporary modern ICT requirements to serve the needs of the library users. Olorunfemi (2015) advocated that law libraries should rise up to the challenges of providing relevant and current information in the law libraries. The author posited that the Council of Legal Education and the National Universities Commission have articulated a standard that law libraries must meet in terms of quality and quantity of legal materials, electronic information sources.

Area of the study

The area of the study was South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. South-South; one of the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. South-South consists of Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross Rivers, Delta and Edo States. Each of these states has a federal university except Delta State (that has two). These are University of Uyo (Akwa Ibom State) Federal University, Otuoke (Bayelsa State), University of Calabar (Cross River State), Federal University of Petroleum Resources and Maritime University (Delta States), University of Benin (Edo State), and University of Port Harcourt (Rivers State). Out of the seven federal universities in the South-South, only four offer law programmes namely: University of Benin, University of Calabar, University of Port of Harcourt and University of Uyo.

Undermining the fact that the universities under study have been running law

programmes for more than 30 years, there was the need to evaluate their services and the challenges that the libraries contend with in services delivery. Also, faculty of law University of Port Harcourt, which is just three years old, in relation to the standard required by the regulating bodies the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Council of Legal Education (CLE). Besides, there was no evidence that research of this nature has been carried out in South-South geographical zone in Nigeria, hence the choice of this area.

Methods

The survey research design was used for this study. The study covered four federal universities offering law programmes in South-South, Nigeria. The population of the study was 3,584, users comprising of 133 lecturers, 3,451 students and 20 law librarians of the faculties of law of the universities under study. The sample for the study is 713 persons consisting 133 lecturers, 560 students and 20 law librarians of the faculties of law in federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. This sample represents 20% of the population. Ball and Gall in Uzoagulu (2011) stated that when a population

is of 5,000 use 10% and a population of 10,000 use 5% since the population of this study falls below 5,000, 20% of the population was considered appropriate. A self-structure questionnaire entitled: “Legal Information Services Evaluation Questionnaire (LISEQ)” was used for collection of data. A total of 713 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents, and 704 copies were retrieved, giving return rate of 98.7%. The data collected were analyzed using frequency, mean, standard deviation and real limit of numbers to answer research question while analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 significance level.

Results

The results are presented according to the research questions and hypotheses of the study.

Research question 1: What are the services offered in the law libraries of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria?

The data for answering research question 1 are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: The mean of responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the services offered in the law libraries of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria (n = 704)

Services		S	Remarks
Reference services	2.57	.50	Offered
Noter-up services	1.93	.47	Offered
Index/abstracting Services	2.06	.46	Offered
Current Awareness Services (CAS)	2.11	.43	Offered
Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)	2.47	.50	Offered
Current Awareness Services (CAS)	1.97	.49	Offered
Legal research services	1.87	.50	Offered
Compilation of bibliographic services	2.53	.49	Offered
Routing of current periodicals	1.77	.42	Offered
Reading list services	2.23	.76	Offered
Issuance of library bulletin	1.58	.80	Offered
Photocopying Services	2.15	.98	Offered
Inter-library loan services	1.33	.65	Not Offered
Translation services	1.48	.46	Not Offered

x = mean, S = Standard Deviation

Table 1 reveals that at the mean values of thirteen (13) out of the fifteen (15) services range from 1.58 to 2.57. This shows that the mean value of each of the services was above

the cut-off point of 1.50 on a 2-point rating, indicating that the respondents agreed that the 13 services were the types of legal information services offered in law libraries in federal

universities in South-South, Nigeria. The data also revealed that two (2) out of the 15 services had their mean value ranged 1.33 to 1.48. This shows that the mean value of the item is below the cut-off point of 1.50 of a 2-point rating, indicating that the respondents agreed that the 2 services on the types of legal information services were not offered in law libraries in federal universities. Table 1 also shows that the standard deviations of the services ranged from 0.42 to 0.98. This indicated that the respondents

are not very far from the mean and one another in their responses.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the types of services being rendered in the law libraries of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.

Data for testing hypothesis 1 are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the types of services being rendered in the law libraries of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria

Groups	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Remark
Between Groups	60.887	2	30.441	1.807	.196	S
Within Groups	11808.345	701	16.845			
Total	11869.232	703				

S = Significant

Table 2 reveals a P-value of 0.196 which is greater than the alpha-value of 0.05. This indicates that there is no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the services rendered in the law libraries of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. Based on this result, the null hypothesis of no significant difference is upheld.

Research question 2: What is the effectiveness of legal information services rendered in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria?

The data for answering research question 2 are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: The mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the effectiveness of the legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria (n = 704)

Item statement		S	Remarks
Reference services	3.34	.91	HE
Noter-up services	2.85	1.11	HE
Index/abstracting services	3.10	1.07	HE
Current Awareness Services (CAS)	2.95	1.07	HE
Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)	2.93	1.03	HE
Current Awareness Services (CAS)	2.98	1.11	HE
Legal research services	3.15	1.04	HE
Compilation of bibliographic services	3.07	1.06	HE
Routing of current periodicals	2.95	1.07	HE
Reading list services	2.59	1.18	HE
Issuance of library bulletin	2.54	1.21	HE
Photocopy services	3.37	.77	HE
Cluster mean	2.85	1.08	HE

x mean, S = Standard Deviation, H.E. = Highly Effective, M.E. = Moderately Effective

Table 3 shows a cluster mean of 2.85, which is within the real limit of 2.50 to 3.49. This indicates that the respondents agreed that the legal information services rendered in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria are highly effective. The table also reveals that the standard deviations of the services were 0.77 – 1.21. This indicated that the respondents are not very far from the mean and one another in their responses.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the effectiveness of the legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.

Data for testing hypothesis 2 were presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the effectiveness of the legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria

Groups	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Remark
Between Groups	60.882	2	30.441	1.949	.270	S
Within Groups	10955.929	701	15.620			
Total	11016.811	703				

S = Significant

Table 4 reveals P-value of 0.270 which is greater than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicates that there is no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the effectiveness of the legal information services in law libraries in federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. Based on this result, the null hypothesis of no significant difference is upheld.

Research question 3: To what extent are the legal information services meeting the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria?

The data for answering research question 3 are presented in Table 5.

Table 5 The mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the extent the legal information services are meeting the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria (n = 704)

Services	S		Remarks
Noter-up services	3.02	1.08	HE
Inter-library loan services	2.32	1.17	ME
Routing of current periodicals	2.68	1.23	HE
Internet services	3.15	1.09	HE
Compilation of bibliographic services	3.15	1.09	HE
Translation services	2.34	1.18	ME
Photocopy services	3.61	.70	VHE
Loaning of Books	2.85	1.11	HE
Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)	3.17	1.09	HE
Current Awareness Services (CAS)	3.27	1.10	HE
Reference services	3.29	.98	HE

x mean, S = Standard Deviation, VHE = Very High Extent, HE = High Extent, ME = Moderate Extent

Table 5 shows photocopy services has the mean of 3.61, which is within the real limit of 3.50 to 4.00. This indicated that the respondents agreed to very high extent one item on legal information services are meeting the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. It also revealed that 8 items had their mean value ranged from 2.68 to 3.29, which were within the real limit of 2.50 to 3.49. This indicated that the respondents agreed to a high extent that the 8 items on legal information services are meeting the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. Table 5 also revealed that 2 items had their mean value ranged from 2.32 to 2.34, which were within the real limit of 1.50 to 2.49. This indicated that the respondents agreed to a moderate extent that the 2 services on legal information services are meeting the

training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria

Table 5 also shows that the standard deviations of the services ranged from 0.70 to 1.23 and were less than 1.96 (95% confidence limit). This indicated that the respondents are not very far from the mean and one another in their responses.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in the mean response of law lecturers, librarians and students on the extent to which the legal information services are meeting the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.

Data for testing hypothesis 3 are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the extent the legal information services are meeting the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria

Group	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Remark
Between Groups	65.442	2	32.721	2.887	.353	S
Within Groups	7943.732	701	11.332			
Total	8009.174	703				

S = Significant

Table 6 shows that the P-value of 0.353 which is greater than the alpha-value of 0.05. This indicated that there was no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the extent legal information services are meeting the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. Based on this result, the

hypothesis of no significant difference is upheld.

Research question 4: What are challenges of legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria?

Data for answering research question 4 are presented in Table 7.

Table 7: The mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the challenges in acquisition of legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria (n = 704)

Challenges		S	Remarks
Poor funding of law libraries	3.54	.81	Agreed
Scarcity/high cost of law books	3.20	.87	Agreed
Constant devaluation of nations currency	3.12	1.10	Agreed
Lack of expertise knowledge in acquisition of law books	2.59	1.07	Agreed
Time lag in supply and payment	2.85	.96	Agreed
Difficulties in acquisition of government publications and reports	2.83	1.00	Agreed
Lack of dedicated acquisition committee	2.81	1.05	Agreed
Lack of collection development policy	2.76	1.00	Agreed
Proliferation of legal materials	2.81	1.01	Agreed

x = mean, S = Standard Deviation

Table 7 reveals that all the 9 challenges have mean value which ranged from 2.59 to 3.54, and are greater than the mean cut-off point of 2.50 (or criterion mean) on 4-point scale. This shows the challenges to the acquisition of legal information sources in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. Table 7 also showed that the standard deviations of the services ranged from 0.81 to 1.10. This indicates that the respondents are not very far

from the mean and one another in their responses.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant difference in the mean response of law lecturers, librarians and students on the challenges in acquisition of legal information sources in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria

Data for testing hypothesis 4 are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the challenges to the acquisition of legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria

Group	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Remarks
Between Groups	86.158	2	43.079	2.787	.216	S
Within Groups	10836.759	701	15.459			
Total	10922.917	703				

S = Significant

Table 8 reveals that the P-value 0.216 is greater than the alpha-value of 0.05. This indicated that there was no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the challenges to the acquisition of legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. Based on this result, the hypothesis of no significant difference is upheld.

Research question 5: What are the strategies that could be put in place to enhance acquisition of legal information services in law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria?

The data for answering research question 5 were presented in Table 9.

Table 9: the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the strategies that could be adopted to enhance acquisition of legal information services in law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria

Strategies	Mean	S	Remarks
Library should provide access tools for ease of legal materials	3.73	.55	Agreed
Sufficient fund should be made available by library to enhance the acquisition of law reports	3.71	.60	Agreed
Orientation should be organized for law students on how to use legal materials held in the library	3.61	.59	Agreed
Provision of photocopying services for the users who want to make copies of books and journals in the library	3.63	.58	Agreed
Employment of qualified law librarians for efficient services delivery	3.66	.58	Agreed
Provision of adequate security by the library management to protect books/ journals held in the library	3.76	.49	Agreed
Inter-library loan services should be encouraged among law libraries within the South-South, Nigeria.	3.63	.58	Agreed
Subscription of Electronic Legal databases by the library	3.73	.55	Agreed
Provision of adequate ICT facilities for the users in the library	3.73	.55	Agreed
Staff training and re-training for capacity building	3.66	.62	Agreed

x = mean, S = Standard Deviation

Table 9 reveals that the mean value of 9 strategies range from 3.61 to 3.73, which were greater than the mean cut-off point of 2.50. This indicates that the respondents agreed that all the items were strategies that can be adopted to enhance acquisition of legal information services in law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria.

The table also shows that the standard deviations of the strategies range from 0.49 to 0.62 and are less than 1.96 (95% confidence limit). This implies that the respondents are not

very far from the mean and one another in their responses.

Hypothesis 5

There is no significant difference in the mean response of law lecturers, librarians and students on the strategies that could be put in place to enhance the legal information services in law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria

Data for testing hypothesis 5 are presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the strategies that can be adopted to enhance legal information services in law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria

Groups	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Remark
Between Groups	69.172	2	34.586	2.157	.386	S
Within Groups	11239.834	701	16.034			
Total	11309.006	703				

S = Significant

Table 10 reveals that the P-value of .386 is greater than the alpha-value of 0.05. This indicate that there is no significant difference in the mean responses of law lecturers, librarians and students on the strategies that can be adopted to enhance acquisition of legal information services in law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. Based on this result, the null hypothesis of no significant difference is not rejected.

Discussion

The findings of the study are discussed based on the of services being offered in the law libraries; effectiveness of legal information services in the law libraries, extent to which legal information services meeting the training needs of the users; challenges of the legal information services; strategies that could be put in place to enhance legal information services in law libraries.

The finding revealed that reference services, noter-up services, indexing/abstracting services, Current Awareness Services (CAS), etc, were the types of services rendered in the

law libraries of the federal universities in the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. Whereas Inter-library Services and Translation Services were types of services not rendered in the law libraries under study. The finding also showed that there was no significant difference in the mean response of law lecturers, librarians and students on all the services on the types of services being offered in the law libraries of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. This was to show that the responses of the respondents were not influenced by their professional status. This confirms Ainoko (2016) who noted that legal information services in the library is done through series of library activities and services which include routing of periodicals, current awareness services (CAS), compilation of bibliographies, indexing and abstracting services, Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI), noter-up services, reprographic services etc. This also agrees with Iyishu and Nkanu (2013) who remarked that a library will achieve its objectives if the services rendered meet the needs, aspiration and

expectation of its users, such services include among others lending services, reference services, indexing and abstracting services, current awareness services, OPAC services etc.

The results further revealed that legal information services in the libraries were highly effective. There was no significant difference in the mean response of law lecturers, librarians and students on the effectiveness of 13 services on legal information services in the law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. This showed that the response of respondents on 13 services was not influenced by the professional status of the respondents. This is in line with Ainoko (2016) who noted that the quality of services offered to users is related to the adequacy and currency of legal information sources held in law libraries. These services have not been effectively achieved due to challenges affecting law libraries. Even as the services offered in the library seems to be effective, there is the need for sourcing from other libraries hence, Ejedafiru (2010) was of the opinion that “since no library can effectively satisfy its users from the resources within its was; that we are living in a time where a library’s worth is increasingly being measured by the services it offers in terms of helping clients to access universal information rather than its respective collection.

It was discovered that to a very high photocopying services on legal information services met the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria; to high extent 8 services (Noter-up Services, Routing of Current Periodicals, Internet Services, etc) on legal information services met the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria; while to moderate extent 2 services (Inter-library Loan Services and Translation Services) on legal information services met the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. It was found that there was no significant difference in the mean response of law lecturers, librarians and students on the extent the 10 services on the legal information services meeting the training needs of the law students of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria, whereas a difference existed on the extent of one service (General

Reference Services) on the legal information services meeting the training needs of the law students of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. The finding disagree with Haruna (2006) who observed that the economic recession in the country, with its attendant problem of hyper-inflation and foreign exchange rate, seems to have limited the ability of individual lawyers and law libraries to acquire needed information materials for utilization. That this has assumed many dimensions and its negative effect on studying, learning and professional practice is unfathomable.

The study found that a number of challenges to the provision of legal information services in the law libraries of the federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. These challenges include: inadequate funding, lack of qualified law librarians, out-dated law books, gaps in law reports, etc, lack of photocopy facilities was not among the challenges in the provision of legal information services. The finding also revealed that there was no significant difference in the mean response of law lecturers, librarians and students on the 10 services on the challenges to the provision of library services whereas a significant difference existed on responses to 6 services (inadequate funding, lack of qualified law librarians, out-dated law books etc) on the challenges of provision of legal information services in the law libraries under study. This finding is in line with the work of Haruna (2006), Lawal and Okwueze (2007), remarked that for long as stocks of these libraries had not been replenished due essentially to lack of funds. This finding is in agreement with Olorunfemi (2015) who noted that lack of adequate law sources such as electronic resources and print sources were the main problems confronting law students when conducting legal research because they are not allowed access to electronic resources.

Strategies that could be adopted to enhance legal information services in law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria, include: libraries should provide access tools for ease of legal materials, sufficient funds should be made available by the library management to enhance the acquisition of law reports, subscription of electronic databases, orientation should be organized for law students

on how to use legal materials held in the library, etc. The findings also revealed that there was no significant difference in the mean response of law lecturers, librarians and students on the 9 services on the strategies that can be adopted to enhance provision of legal information services in law libraries under study. There was a significant difference on 2 services (subscription of Electronic Legal Databases by the library and Employment of qualified law librarians for efficient services delivery) on the strategies that could be adopted to improve provision of legal information services in Law libraries of federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. Thus, as the responses of the respondents on 9 services were not influenced by their professional status. The finding corroborated Enem (2004) pointed out that recruitment of more experienced, qualified and dedicated staff is necessary for efficiency and productivity. Haruna (2006) affirmed this by stating that more librarians with background in law and librarianship should be employed for quality services.

Conclusion

The ultimate aim of an information provider, such as law library, is to satisfy user's information needs by providing them with the right information at the right time and through the right means. This is done through series of library activities and services which include routing of current periodicals, current awareness services, indexing and abstracting services, reprographic services etc.

The quality of services offered to users is related to the adequacy and currency of legal information sources held in the law libraries. These services have not been effectively achieved due to challenges affecting law libraries, such as inadequate funding, foreign exchange rate appears to have limited the ability of law libraries to acquire needed information sources for utilization, further compounded the problems is lack of professionalism in running some law libraries also because non-professionals are often entrusted with the management of some law libraries, collections of such libraries are often lopsided. Hence the need to carry out this research to evaluate the legal information services of the law libraries in the South-South, Nigeria.

The increasing amount of investment that universities have been committing to the provision of legal information sources means that universities would be interested in studies that would evaluate legal information services in the law libraries in the South-South, Nigeria. This is with the view to ascertain whether they are meeting the information needs of the law students and lecturers. Evaluation is normally carried out to determine whether the legal information services is actually meeting its objectives, how well it is servicing its users, in which way it is efficient and what remains to be done.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The federal government through the National Universities Commission, Ministry of Education and interested stakeholders should provide adequate funds to enhance acquisition of legal information sources such as law books, law reports, ICT facilities, subscription to electronic databases to facilitate effective library services for the benefit of the students and faculty members.
2. The library management of the various universities should encourage inter-library loan services among law libraries within South-South, Nigeria to enhance research and learning among students.
3. Government departments, agencies and parastatals should make their reports and publication available to law libraries as well as to encourage local publishers to publish law books to reduce cost of acquisition of foreign law books.
4. Recruitment of qualified law librarians for efficient services delivery such librarians should have sufficient knowledge of law apart from professional qualification as a librarian because such librarian with a degree in law will know the needs of the law faculty much better than a non-law degree holder.
5. The law librarian should have the authority to join library or other information networks that can aid in

acquiring, sharing and providing access to information services.

6. Law libraries should provide access to the internet for users linking the library's online catalogue, and other online information resources into a library website to maintain relevant links to law related websites within and other jurisdictions.

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