

Utilization of library statistical records for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study investigated utilization of library statistical records for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Survey research design was adopted in this study. The population of the study comprised of 169 library staff of the three (3) university libraries under study. Total enumeration sampling was adopted in the study. Therefore, the 169 library staff constituted the sample. However, a total of 158(90%) of the entire population of 169 to whom copies of questionnaire were administered returned completely filled questionnaire. Data collected were analyzed using frequency and percentages to answer the research questions while chi-square was used to test the hypothesis. Findings revealed that library statistical records were utilized for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State. It was concluded that library statistical records were existence and used in the libraries. Based on the findings, it was recommended that university libraries management should be encouraging for sustaining the utilization of generated library statistical records for short term and long-term planning in university libraries.

Keywords: Utilization, library statistics, records, management, university libraries

Introduction

Library statistics have been used as medium for supporting management of libraries by providing sufficient information for decision-making. Library statistics are generated from the routine operations carried out in the libraries, collected and reported for use. Specifically, statistical records provided by university libraries are expected to be useful for both library administrators and researchers for driving valid decision in managing university libraries. Salawu (2016) stressed that library statistics is the tool for implementing the feedback function of library management. Similarly, Uwakwe and Onyeneke, (2018) stress that “library statistics are effective tools for management appraisal of a library services and activities usually in numeric form on events that take place in the library to ensure proper management”. Library Statistics is an art which deals with

collections, classification, tabulation, presentation, and established relationship of records which dealt with services (routing activities) in the university libraries so that the pre-determined aims may be achieved. Thus; library is a basic tool that helps towards academic attainment of students, scholars and researchers of any knowledge-given industries, because it is set with the responsibilities of collecting, processing, storing and disseminating information and information resources to the user community.

Utilization of collected library statistics helped in making correction and adjustment where necessary in management of university libraries. One of the best ways to determine library effectiveness is the use of library statistics for management purpose (Ugah 2016). Utilization of library statistical records is a way of using the collected and recorded services rendered or delivered in the library on a daily, weekly, monthly or annual

basis for library routine like collection development, serial control, reference services, interlibrary loan, lending service and library administrative report etc. Adetoro, (2008) Stress that “Utilization of library statistics stimulate and instills confidence in the users to develop their talents, potentials and capabilities both academically and socially.

Therefore, library statistical records are used for decision making in the management of university libraries. But it is worrisome however if the statistical are not adequately utilized in managing the university libraries that may hampered the university library management decision making on information service delivery. Hence, the objectives of university libraries hardly achieve. This is what propel the researcher to conduct an investigates on utilization of library statistical records for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State.

Management is the process of achieving organizational objectives, within a changing environment, by balancing efficiency, effectiveness in an organization including libraries.

Rakhmayanti and Karwanto (2019) opined that management as what and how things that can be done, both through theory and through practice, so that libraries, documentation, and information can be managed efficiently and effectively. Hymavathi, (2016) view management as the use of statistical sampling and combinatorial optimization methods to solve problems in quality control, allocation of resources, logistics, project scheduling, labor and machine scheduling, to assembly line balancing. Management is the process of bringing together human and material resources for effective service delivery to achieve the library objectives.

Similarly, Akpan and Akpan (2018) asserted that university library is the principal instrument of the university in the

conservation of recorded knowledge. University library resources and service are gear to support the objectives of its parent organization. This mean university libraries are saddled with the responsibility of providing information resources in both printed and electronic form and which information resources are to be disseminate within and outside university community as the instrument of the university in the conservation and transmission of recorded knowledge.

Research questions

The following questions are raised for the study:

1. What are the types of library statistical records available for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria?
2. Which of the library statistical records are Utilize for management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria?

Hypothesis

The following hypothesis is tested in the study:

1. Utilization of library statistical records does not significantly influence management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria.

Literature review

Library statistics help in determine library effectiveness in terms of services, resources and sound decision making for managing university libraries. Statistical data are feedback information that can be use in supporting management decision and make submission for grant for library development. Liu, and Douglas (2010) carried out a study on the Use of Library Statistics by Public Library Directors. the

study revealed among others that library statistical records are utilized and helpful not only for researchers but also to library administrators in decision-making processes. Similarly, IFLA (2010) affirmed that library statistics are necessary for the effective management of libraries. Statistics helps to determine the growth of library by controlling library activities, evaluation of the staff performance and planning. They give librarians an idea of how a particular resource is used, what time it is used and where users prefer to access.

However, Eiriemiokhal, Rhoda, and Ishola, (2016) conducted a study on Use of Statistical Records for Library Management at University of Ilorin the study revealed that library statistics are utilized. In the same vein Salawu (2016) stated that statistical records show the strength and weaknesses of the library in terms of resources, equipment, staffing, finance, used of collection, degree of patronage and services. Library statistic is used as an evaluation tool for measuring the library strength and weaknesses in terms of resource and services in university libraries.

Uwakwe-Solomon (2018) in a related study revealed that, the areas in which library statistics is needed in decision making is cost analysis, allocation of library resource, acquisition of library materials, recruitment of staff, library security, opening and closing hours of the library, cataloguing and reference services. The study also identified some problems that militate against effective and efficient use of library statistics in decision making as lack of well-articulated policy, insufficient fund, inappropriate collection of data, poor statistical keeping method, insufficient skill in analysis and interpretation of statistical data, lack of ICT facilities, poor attitude of management and staff. In the same vein Uwakwe, (2018) opined that library statistics is the act of keeping qualitative

records of operations of the library. Library statistic is a tool for drawing qualitative records of library operations in the area of technical service, lending service, inter-library loan among others, for management purpose.

In addition, Aloysius and Torosco (2022) revealed among others, that library statistical records are generated and utilized. generating library statistics it could be on routine operations occurrences in divisions and units/section like, the circulation, reference, serial, reserve, collection development, cataloguing and classification, acquisition, internet search and in administrative unit, reporting library activities to higher authority with hard facts and figures; monitoring the operation and the progress of the library, analyzing the library's Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT analysis) (Ugah, 2006). Generating and utilizing library statistics will enable library to take quality decision in packaging and repackaging product and services towards satisfying the information needs of users also to enhance effective management of university libraries.

Similarly, Aziagba and Umeozor (2013) opined that library statistics are utilized to improved service delivery. Adetoro, (2004) sees utilization of library statistics instills confidence in the users to develop their talents, potentials and capabilities both academically and socially. However, library statistics are utilized based on need for decision making, accessibility and to improved university libraries service delivery. Hameed, (2010) describes library statistics as accurate and precise records of data collected by the library staff of a particular unit in the course of discharging his/her daily duties for management purpose. Statistical data as feedback information that can be use in supporting management decision and make submission

for grant for library development. Akporhonor, (2011) revealed among others include, university library creates records, though more are created by the federal university libraries than the state university libraries, budget request records are the records most created in federal university library.

Methods

The survey design was adopted for the study. A survey as a research design describes the relationship between two or more variables and interprets the strong relationship among the different variable. The population for this study comprised all the 169-library staff in the three (3) university libraries in Nassarawa State, Nigeria namely: Federal University of Lafia Library Lafia, Nasarawa State University Library Keffi and Bingham University Library, Karu. The population of the study is 169 library staff of the three (3) university libraries. The breakdown of the population is as follows: the Federal University of Lafia library has (59) library staff, Nasarawa State University Keffi Library has (68) library staff and Bingham University Karu library has (42) library staff.

There entire 169 library staff constituted the sample size for the study. The decision to use the entire population was guided by the assertion of Bernard (2012) who stated that if a population of the study is less than two hundred (200), the entire population should be used for the study. Checked-list and questionnaire were the instruments used for data collection. Frequency, percentages, and chi-square were used to analyse the data collected.

Results

A total of one hundred and sixty-nine (169) copies of questionnaire were distributed to the staff of the university libraries in Nasarawa State. One hundred and sixty-two (158) copies were properly filled, and analysed for the study. This represented the response rate of 90%.

Table 1 shows the types of library statistical records generated for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. All the 11 items listed were generated with frequency ranging from 101 - 158 with Percentages from 59.8 – 93.5 while the mean average % is 81. 56 for generation. 11 – 68 (6.5 % - 40. 2%) of not adequately generated.

Table 2 revealed that all the 11 items are utilized with exception of item no 2 that is underutilized with percentage of 48.5%. The percentages of utilization of the remaining 10 items ranging from 55.4 – 95.9 that only item no 35 is not utilized with percentage of 48.5%.

Hypothesis: Utilization of generated library statistical records does not significantly influence management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria.

Table 3 shows that the P-value of 0.00 is less than alpha-value of 0.05 ($P < 0.05$) at $df = 3$. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that Utilization of library statistical records does not significantly influence management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria is therefore rejected.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage of types of library statistical records generated for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

Num.	Questionnaire Item	G	%	NG	%	Remark
1	Records of Book selection	158	93.5	11	6.5	G
2	Records of orders placed with the vendors	132	78.1	37	21.9	G
3	Records of Books slip prepared, checked and filled	131	77.5	38	22.5	G
4	Records of Billed processed and pass for payment	101	59.8	68	40.2	G
5	Records of Book that accession	104	61.5	65	38.5	G
6	Records of Books with catalogue (CIPD)	113	66.9	56	33.1	G
7	Records of Titles of Book classified Records	131	77.5	38	22.5	G
8	Records of Title Books catalogued Records	136	80.5	33	19.5	G
9	Records of Number of catalogued cards filled	119	70.4	50	29.6	G
10	Records of Books prepared for processing past due, data book slip, tag, library label	117	69.2	52	30.8	G
11	Records of Books prepared for release/writing call numbers at various places in books and in catalogue cards	137	81.1	32	18.9	G
	Cluster percent		81.5%		18.5%	G

Key: G = Generated, NG = Not Generated

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage on which of the library statistical records are utilized for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

Num.	Questionnaire Item	U	%	NU	%	Remark
1	Book selected Records	118	69.8	51	30.2	U
2	Orders placed with the vendors	82	48.5	87	51.5	NU
3	Books slip prepared, checked and filled	150	88.8	19	11.2	U
4	Billed processed and pass for payment	135	79.9	34	20.1	U
5	Book that accession	134	79.3	35	20.7	U
6	Books with catalogue (CIPD)	97	57.4	72	42.6	U
7	Titles of Book classified Records	97	57.4	72	42.6	U
8	Books catalogued Records	116	68.6	53	31.4	U
9	Number of catalogued cards filled	162	95.9	7	4.1	U
10	Books prepared for processing past due, data book slip, tag, library label	135	79.9	34	20.1	U
11	Books prepared for release/writing call numbers at various places in books and in catalogue cards	132	78.1	37	21.9	U

Cluster percent 73.0% 27.0% U

Key; U = Utilized, NU = Not Utilized

Table 3: Chi-square test of significance of Utilization of library statistical records does not significantly influence management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria

	Df	χ^2	P	Sig level	Decision
Chi-square	3	230.02	0.00	0.05	Rejected
No valid Cases	169				

P<0.05

Conclusion

Based on the finding of the study, the research concluded that, university libraries in Nasarawa state the study revealed that library statistical records are generated from the routine activities in library operation, and useful for planning and decision-making in university libraries.

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

1. Types of statistical records generated should be as guide in order to improve library service delivery.
2. University libraries should be alive to their responsibilities in ensuring adequate interpretation of generated library statistical records in continued to enhance library resource utilization.
3. University library management should be encouraging for sustaining the utilization of generated library statistical records for short term and long-term planning in university libraries.

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