

**Assessment of the Use of Academic Library system
and Services by Staff and Students of
Adamawa Polytechnic Yola**

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Abstract

The study is an assessment of the use of Academic Library by both students and staff of Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola. The study investigated reasons and frequency of library usage, most used library resources, availability of library resources and how accessible the library resources are. The methodology adopted was proportionate stratified sampling technique, one hundred and eighty (180) registered library users were selected and were all administered with questionnaire. 150 copies of the questionnaire were properly completed and returned. During analysis, frequencies were computed from the responses to the questions and converted to percentages as presented and analyzed. The analysis shows both students and staff use the library, but students constitute the majority of the users. 82 (55%) of the Respondent use reading resources, 23 (15%) borrow resources, 9 (6%) use the library for consultation, 25 (17%) for assignment and 11 (7%) use the the library for all of the above. 42 (28%) of the Respondent use the library daily, 23 (15%) use the library weekly, 60 (40%) use the library 2-3 days a week, 13 (9%) use the library monthly and 12 (8%) use the the library occasionally. 81 (54%) of the Respondent use textbook, 20 (13%) uses E-book, 9 (6%) use reference material, 5 (4%) use journal, 11 (7%) use newspaper, 4 (3%) use magazine, and 20 (13%) use all the above resources. 113 (75%) of the always find the material available, 33 (22%) find the material rear available, 14 (3%) does not find the material available. Academic Libraries must continue to protect the interest of their parent organization, users and the reason for its initiation by providing required information system and services at the required time in the required format for optimum usability especially in the trending areas in response to library users request

Keywords: academic library, students, staffs, use, polytechnic

Introduction

Library system and services are provided to serve and support educational activities of mother institutions, every organization requires information for the smooth flow of it activities, the success of every library depends on the availability of information system and services to users. In other to understand the effectiveness and efficiency on the use of library and information system and services, we need to evaluate the performance and activities of libraries which will result to improved services and fill the gap discovered. Radar (2007) is of the opinion that space and other required facilities to students for research activities in the library should be well planned and also provides secured and adequate space conducive to study and research with

suitable environmental conditions for its services. Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) recommended that staff should be sufficient in size and quality in order to meet the programmatic and services needs of its primary users. Librarians should have a graduate degree and necessary professional qualifications from an American Library Association (ALA) accredited program. There may be other professional staff that will have appropriate combinations of training, experience, and degrees.

The five laws of library science formulated by Ranganathan (1931) are designed to meet the information needs of the library users. That can only happen when the library system is regularly evaluated (assessment). One logical means of assessment is seeking the opinions of patrons (users). The research intends to find out how patrons in Nigerian Polytechnic system make use of information system and services in their institution's libraries and the problems encountered when accessing information.

Statement of problem

As library is very important to our educational system, Academic environment require it in improving their standard of learning and also in ameliorating the performance of their student. Academic library has been abandon by staff and student, academic library is meant to support teaching, learning and research but both staff and students have not effectively utilized and use the library and information system and services at their disposal, these are problems in the use of library and information system and services in student performance.

Objective of the study

The Study has the following objectives:

- to find the most user of Library
- to find out the reasons for using the library
- to examine how frequent users use the library
- to determine most used Library materials
- to know the availability of materials.

Research Questions

The Study was guided by the following research questions

- Who are the most users of Academic Library?
- What are their reasons for using the library?
- How frequent do they use the library?
- What are the most used library materials?
- How available are the library materials?

Literature review

A research was conducted at Ambassador Aliyu Library Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic Zaria on the Use of Library Information Resources and Services by Academic Staff and Students by Mu'azu et. al (2014) Both the students and the academic staff use the library, although students constitute majority of the users. Most respondents use the library 2-3 times a week or daily.

Obanewa et al. (2002) classified library users into four groups: general readers, creative readers, adult students, and readers with specialist interests. General Readers are those who read for information and general enlightenment. They consult newspapers, encyclopedias, general works, and related documents. The library offers this group of users' excellent Opportunity to update themselves and be very current about national and international affairs. The library serves as a powerful means of developing individual readers in their varied interests. Creative (entertainment) readers are those who read novels, magazines, fiction, and fantasy. The library resource offers these users materials which are interesting, entertaining, and educative. Adult students' interests are centered on information for serious academic pursuits. They consult textbooks and reference works. The last group of library users are people with specialist interests, including scientists, medical doctors, engineers, undergraduates, and post-graduate students.

Oyesiku and Oduwole (2004) focus on academic library use. The investigation revealed that the students used the library most during examinations and to do class assignments. The study further revealed that collections were inadequate to meet user's demands, even when 84.3% of users are not trained in information retrieval. Kebede (1999) outlines the nature and purpose of library evaluation, and further delineates the situation of developing countries, pinpointing specific issues that can be addressed. The article identifies the following stumbling blocks; lack of awareness, cost of conducting the evaluation, shortage of staff, and lack of methods and tools to employ for the purpose.

Adelani (1998) investigates the effective use of the library by education students. He was able to determine the impact of library orientation on their use of library, frequency of visits, purpose and problems in the use of library. Findings showed that a majority of the students lacked appreciation of the importance of the library. Iruoje (1995) discusses the difficulties underlying efforts to measure and evaluate library services based on use. she discusses library services that can be evaluated: catalogue use, reference service, journal use, and retrieval systems. She argues that evaluating services based on use is difficult, that the varied services provided by libraries must be evaluated independently, and that evaluation must be tailored to library type, collections, and users.

For effective use of polytechnic libraries to be achieved, the library should not only provide and preserve information resources, but should also inculcate reading habits to student, provide attractive reading areas with ventilated, noise free and conducive environment. Thus,

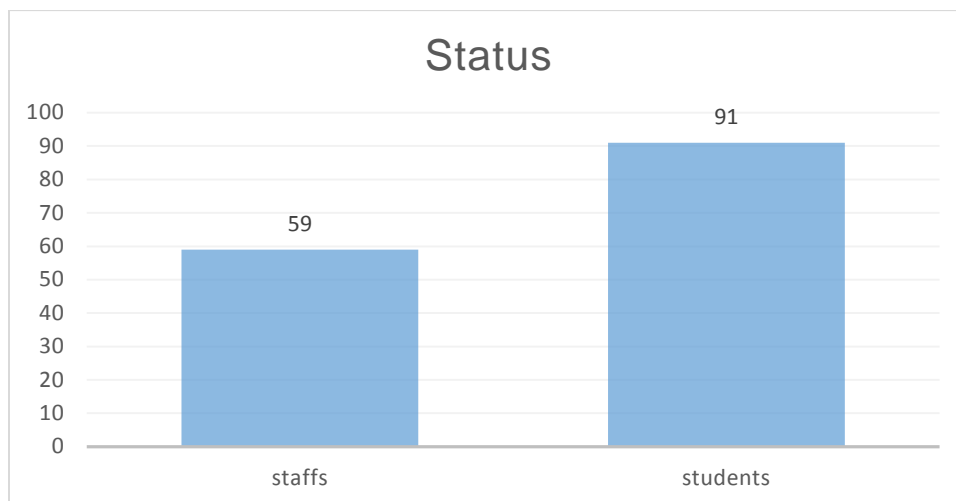
physical facilities such as furniture and lighting/ illumination are necessary for adequate use of polytechnic libraries.

Methodology

This is a survey research design. The population of 750 registered library users, of which 180 samples were selected, using a proportionate stratified sampling technique. The main Instrument for data collection was questionnaire. The questionnaire was brief and structured. Respondents were given time and opportunity to complete the questionnaire. 150 copies of the questionnaire were properly completed and returned. During analysis, frequencies were computed from the responses to the questions and converted to percentages as presented and analyzed as below:

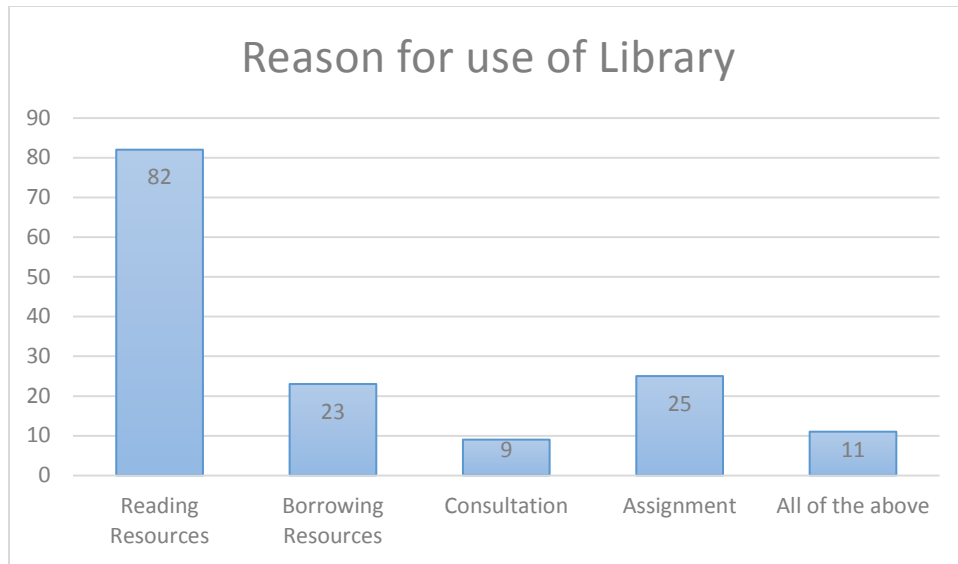
Findings and discussion

Fig. 1



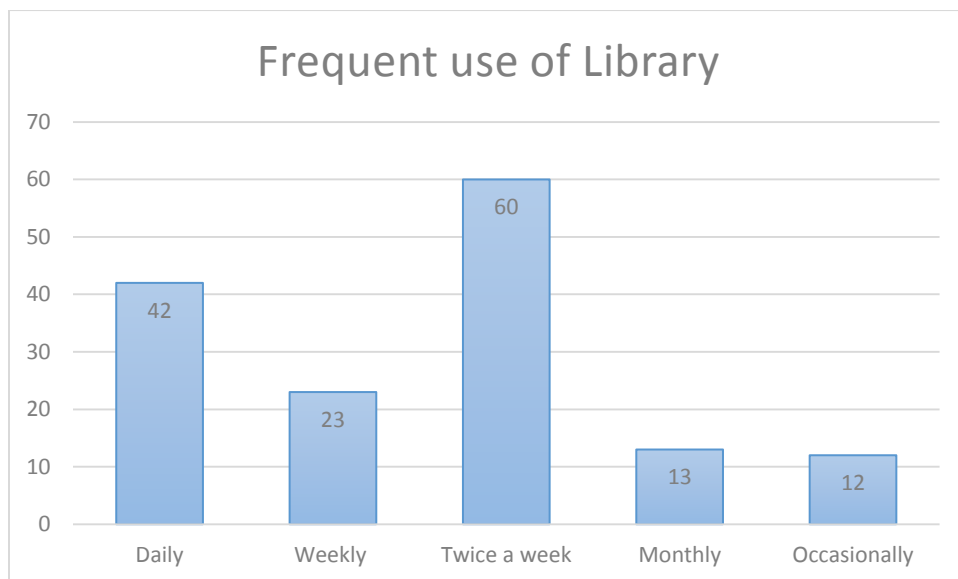
Source: Field work, (2018) fig. 1 show that 59 representing 39% of the Respondent are staff while 91 representing 61% are students, these shows that student use the library most.

Fig. 2



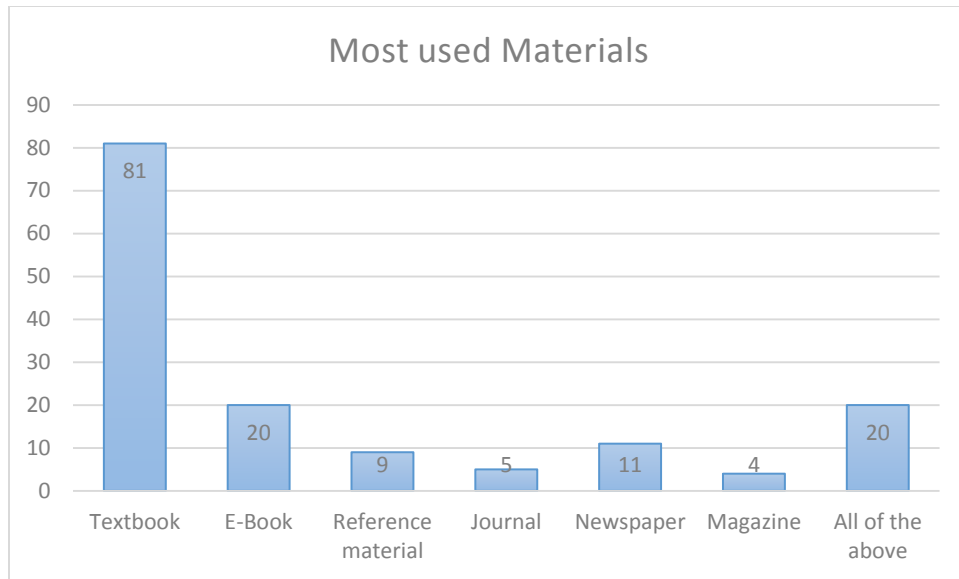
Source: Field work, (2018) fig. 2 show 82 (55%) of the Respondent use reading resources, 23 (15%) borrow resources, 9 (6%) use the library for consultation, 25 (17%) for assignment and 11 (7%) use the the library for all of the above.

Fig. 3



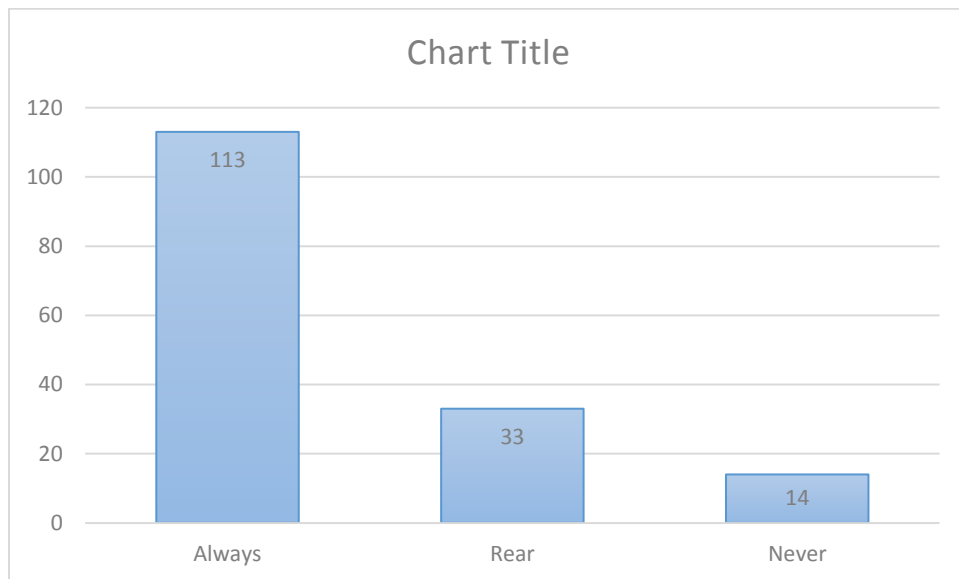
Source: Field work, (2018) fig. 3 show 42 (28%) of the Respondent use the library daily, 23 (15%) use the library weekly, 60 (40%) use the library 2-3 days a week, 13 (9%) use the library monthly and 12 (8%) use the the library occasionally.

Fig. 4



Source: Field work, (2018) fig. 4 show 81 (54%) of the Respondent use textbook, 20 (13%) uses E-book, 9 (6%) use reference material, 5 (4%) use journal, 11 (7%) uses newspaper, 4 (3%) use magazine, and 20 (13%) uses all the above resources.

Fig. 5



Source: Field work, (2018) fig. 5 show 113 (75%) of the always find the material available, 33 (22%) find the material rearly available, 14 (3%) does not find the material available.

Discussion of Findings

The finding investigates the status of registered library users, the resources they mostly use, the frequency of their use of library, the type of material they use most and how available are the materials are to them. The research indicates that both students and academic staff use the library, but students are the majority of the users as of the library. Most respondents use the library 2-3 times a week or daily a good indication of library use. Many reasons were advanced for using the library. The largest number of respondents came to read books from the collections, while some came to consult reference materials. This shows that resources are used. Textbooks are the most frequently-used materials followed by reference materials. Low rate of catalogue use casts doubts on whether the library's collections are being fully used. This doubt was confirmed by respondents who claimed that "sometimes" reading materials were available

Both the students and the staff use the library, but students constitute the majority of the users of the library with 61%. 82 (55%) of the Respondent use reading resources, 23 (15%) borrow resources, 9 (6%) use the library for consultation, 25 (17%) for assignment and 11 (7%) use the the library for all of the above. 42 (28%) of the Respondent use the library daily, 23 (15%) use the library weekly, 60 (40%) use the library 2-3 days a week, 13 (9%) use the library monthly and 12 (8%) use the the library occasionally. 81 (54%) of the Respondent use textbook, 20 (13%) use E-book, 9 (6%) use reference material, 5 (4%) use journal, 11 (7%) use newspaper, 4 (3%) use magazine, and 20 (13%) use all the above resources. 113 (75%) of them always find the materials available, 33 (22%) find the materials rarely available, 14 (3%) does not find the materials available.

Conclusion and recommendations

It is recommended that the library should creat awareness especially on their system and services, Library resources should be made known to users, the library should also adopt a system that will improve the frequent use of the library, materials other than books should be known by users and should always be available. Library should follow the technology and trending activities within the field of knowledge, the library should also provide up to date information recourses, provide conducive and qualified librarian in other to promote the mission and vision of the library.

Academic Libraries must continue to protect the interest of their parent organization, users and the reason for its initiation by providing required information system and services at the required time in the required format for optimum usability especially in the trending areas in response to library users' request. The Librarian should go outside the box in ensuring that the library is attractive and satisfies the users.

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