

Evaluation of Accessibility and Utilization of Agricultural Information Resources by Students in Agriculture University Library Abeokuta, Nigeria

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Abstract: *The Agriculture Library will continue to access, organize, preserve and disseminate information to students. The value of Library will not merely depend upon size of their collection, but on the strength of the ability to provide digital information, databases and enhance access to the world of information resources to users. The study was conducted to determine the accessibility and utilization of information resources, by students of Federal University Agriculture Abeokuta (FUAA). Approximately 7000 population were found in the FUAA, where around 306 questionnaires were administered to the respondents in the university and have 217 responses was received. A stratified random sampling technique was adopted for the study due to the largeness of the population. In the data analysis, frequency counts, simple percentages, charts were used for the statistical analysis. The findings revealed that the availability of information resources been varied as printed journals, text books, conference proceeding, technical reports and in terms of the E-resources it has E-books, E-Journals, E-Newspapers, Internet resources, CDROMs. But, based on the Library Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) guidelines radio message and manuscripts is necessary in the AUL is missing in FUAA library. Almost 45% visits occasionally, which alarms the library authority to wake up and to encourage the students community to draw attention and provide more useful information services and to improve their systems. The study also finds that more than 80% of user visiting the library for productive purpose, say acquiring and updating knowledge and research, where as less than 20% were visiting the library for leisure and just for time pass. At an average of more than 85% of the visitors are spending not less than an hour in the library means that the visitor are having real interest in getting information services from the library. The students preferred more of Journals, Textbooks and Reference Books, Thesis/Dissertations/projects and Atlas, Maps & Posters and also the Government Publications in the form of printed items and on digital formats they prefer the E-Journals, E-Newspapers & E-Zines, E-databases, Internet and the CD-ROMs. The respondents carefully mentioned all the problems in accessing and retrieval of information with the hope that all the problems will be solved and may get an improved library services.*

Keywords: Agriculture, Information sources, Digital information, Knowledge and research, University library, Utilization

1. Introduction

Agriculture University Library (AUL) is a place established for the particular purpose of selecting, acquiring, organizing, processing and disseminating of relevant information resources, providing access to information resources, rendered services to users and provide facilities to the library related to the curriculum and courses offered for agricultural research, teaching, learning and community services in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the institutions; In light of the above therefore, the essence of establishing the university of Agriculture libraries is to provide information resources, services and facilities to academics, researchers, students, livestock producers, agricultural business organizations, research workers and subject specialists with the anticipation to meet the challenge of man, food and hunger and to make for a sustainable development and economic growth in the country.

2. Literature Review

Some of the related review of literature in Agriculture University Library is read as follows: Yaseen, Shiwei Wen Yu, & Hassan, (2016) investigated on "Farmer's Access to Agricultural Information Sources" evidences from rural Pakistan. Findings indicated that majority of farmers (47.5%) ranked neighbor-friends-relatives as first source of

information while 31.9% of farmers ranked this source as second and 33.7% farmers' ranked it as third major source.

Abubakar, (2017) determined the "Availability and Utilization of Electronic Information Databases for Research by Agricultural Scientists in Federal University Libraries in North Central Nigeria the study showed that some agricultural libraries subscribing to some internationally prominent e-databases, AGORA 135 (69%), AGRIS 130 (67%), Cab Abstract 128 (66%) and Agricola 125 (64%), AND AFRICAL JOURNAL 118 (60%) AGRICOLA, CAB ABSTRACT, AGRIS, AND AGORA 120 (61%), 118 (60%), 110 (56%), 98 (52%), respectively; others are CD-ROM, MEDLINE, AGRICOLA, PubMed, Biomed Central, African Journals Online, AGORA and HINARI, CAB Abstracts, BEAST CD, VET CD, TEEAL, AGRICOLA".

Oriogu, Oluwatola, Ogbuyi, & Ogbuyi, (2015), Aba, Beetseh, Ogban, & Monica (2015) Owolabi, Oluwafemi, Foluke, & Atinuke (2016) (Onye, 2016) Kumar (2017) (Akpe, Gabriel, & Gbashinma, 2018) and (Aladeniyi & Temitope, 2018), noted that "information resources such as CD-ROM databases, textbooks electronic journals, and electronic books. Cybercafés; E-mail service used the internet services Reports, Handbooks Seminar/Conference Maps/Atlas CeRA Journals, Indiatat, CABI Abstract Horticulture Online Database, Agricultural Economics Database EBSCO Resource, J-Gate Plus, FAO, Agricola,

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Agricat. Students mainly utilized while Madu, Ibrahim, & Saratu, (2018) revealed the low level of ICTs utilization where they stated that computer utilization for information retrieval in the library is low, utilization of CD ROM was very low, low level of Internet utilization. Also, majority of the respondents do not use e-mail for information retrieval in the Library”

3. Statement of the Problem

The quality of learning, research of students depends on the quality of the information resources, available and accessible in AUL. However in spite of the above based on the observation by the researcher it was assumed that information resources available and accessible, that are provided in Agriculture University library FUA in Nigeria are not sufficient enough for optimum utilization may be due to paucity of funds, decay of infrastructural facilities,. Therefore, the main purpose of undertaking the study is to find out the level of accessibility and utilization of information resources in AUL under study.

Research Objectives

- 1) To find out the availability of various types of information resources in *Federal University Agriculture Abeokuta* (FUA)
- 2) To determine the utilization of information resources available in FUA
- 3) To understand the user’s problems in utilizing the library
- 4) To find out the means to develop the library services and facilities

Population of the Study

Table 1: Population of the respondents

S/N	Number of students	Sampled	Questionnaire distributed	Questionnaire returned
1	19883	306	306	217

Since the study is a mini project to understand the Accessibility and Utilization of Agricultural Information Resources by Students in AUL, Abeokuta, the sample of 306 means around 1.5% is justifiable. However, at last only 217 questionnaires were returned with complete response.

4. Data Analysis

Table 2: Demographic of respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage %
Male	138	63.59%
Female	79	36.40

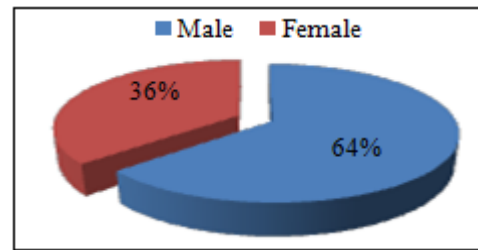


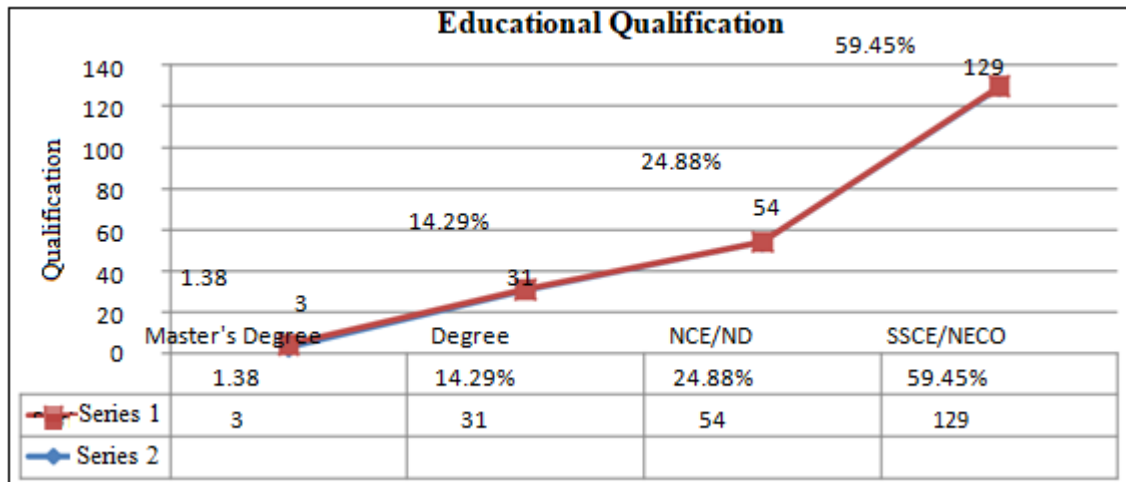
Table 2 revealed that Out of 217 respondents, about 138 (63.59%) were male while the remaining 79 (36.40%) were female. In general, it’s obvious that many of the Nigerian Universities, we find that the male students are more comparing to that of females. There are many social phenomena for the less number of females students found especially in higher studies. One of the main reason is that female students usually have no interest in agricultural sector. The government always encourages the female candidates to go for higher education.

Table 3: Highest Educational Qualification of the Respondents

Qualification	Frequency	Percentages %
Master's Degree	03	1.38
Degree	31	14.29%
NCE/ND	54	24.88%
SSCE/NECO	129	59.45%

(NCE: National Certificate of Education, ND: National Diploma, SSCE: Senior Secondary School Certificate, NECO: National Examination Council)

Table 3 indicated that 129 (59.45%) of the respondents have recorded that SSCE/NECO as their highest qualification, followed by 54 (24.88%) NCE/ND then 31(14.29%) Degree and 03 (1.38%) have the least qualification with Master's Degree. The table indicates that almost forty percentages of students are quitting the education with school levels and after school education, going for higher studies is gradually reduced. When they go for master level education, we hardly find a very few successful candidates.



Availability of Information Resources in FUAA

Table 4: Information Resources Available

S/N	Information resources	Yes	No	S/N	Information resources	Yes	No
	Print collections				E-Resources		
1	Journals	X		10	E-Databases	X	
2	Text books & Ref Books	X		11	E-Books	X	
3	Conf Proceedings & Technical reports	X		12	E-Journals	X	
4	Government publications	X		13	E-Thesis/ Projects	X	
5	Thesis /Dissertations/projects	X		14	E-Newspapers & E-Zines	X	
6	Magazines	X		15	Internet resources	X	
7	News papers	X		16	CDROM	X	
8	Atlas, Maps & Posters	X		17	Microfilms & Microfiche	X	
9	Manuscripts		X	18	Radio		X
				19	Television	X	

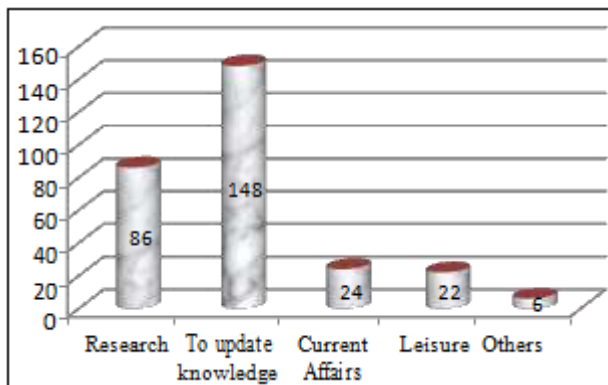
The Federal University Agriculture Abeokuta (FUAA) Library has almost all variety of print and electronic sources of information. But, based on the Library Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) guidelines radio message and manuscripts is necessary in the AUL is missing in FUAA library.

Table 5 indicates that the majority of the students used the library to update their knowledge, say around 52% and about 30% student used the library for research purpose. It means that the present time students are very serious about their education, specifically of Agriculture University. Very few students are using the library for leisure and hope that these groups of students might be getting information from any other sources other than the library, probably they might be getting good knowledge from the class room itself or they might be having their own sources of internet facilities to acquire necessary knowledge and information.

Purpose of Library Visit

Table 5: Purpose of visiting the library

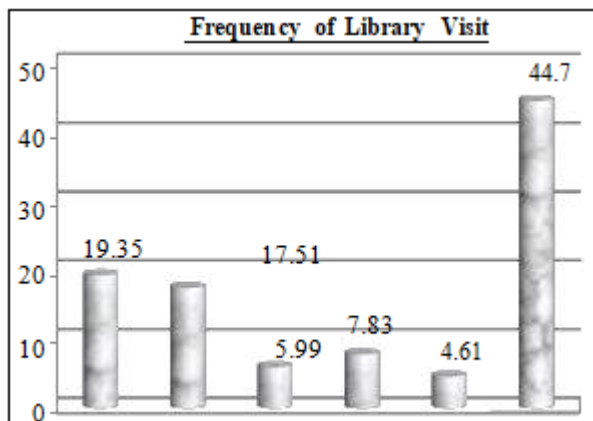
S/N	Purpose	Freq	%
1	Research	86	30.06%
2	To update knowledge	148	51.74%
3	Current Affairs	24	8.39%
4	Leisure	22	7.69%
5	Others	6	2.09%



Frequency of visiting the library

Table 6: Frequency of visiting the library

Frequency of visit	Freq	%
Every day (1/1D)	42	19.35
Twice in a week (2/7D)	38	17.51
Once in a week (1/7D)	13	5.99
Once in a fortnight (1/14D)	17	7.83
Once in a month (1/30D)	10	4.61
Occasionally (X/ND)	97	44.7



As for as the frequency of visit of the library concerned, only 20% of the students visiting daily and almost 45% visits occasionally, which alarms the library authority to wake up and to encourage the students community to draw attention and provide more useful information services and to improve their systems. As Dr. S.R.Ranganathan's first law of library science "Books are for Use", the library collection should be used by the readers in an effective way otherwise, it's big loss of the economy of the country.

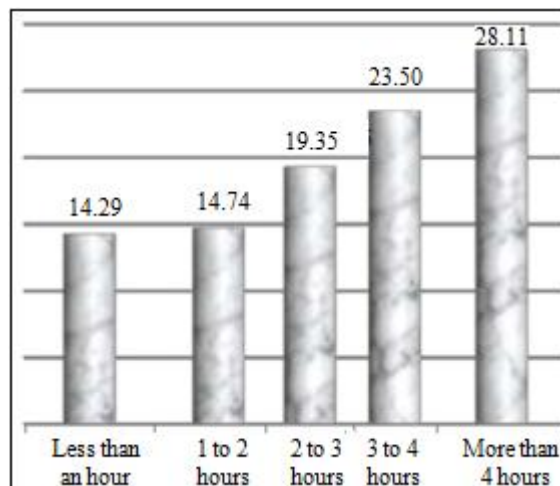
Time spending in library

It is good to see that the visitors coming to the library are spending more time in the library, not just coming to put an attendance. Around more than fifty percent of the visitors are spending three and/ or more hours in a day. At an average of more than 85% of the visitors are spending not less than an hour in the library means that the visitor are

having real interest in getting information services from the library.

Table 7: Average time spend per day in the library

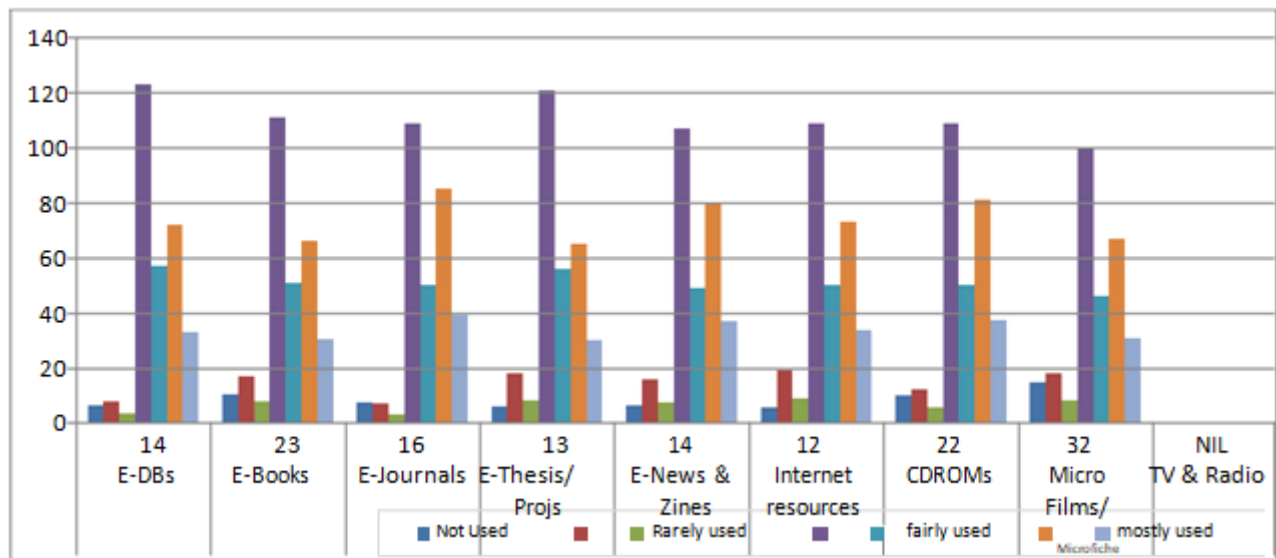
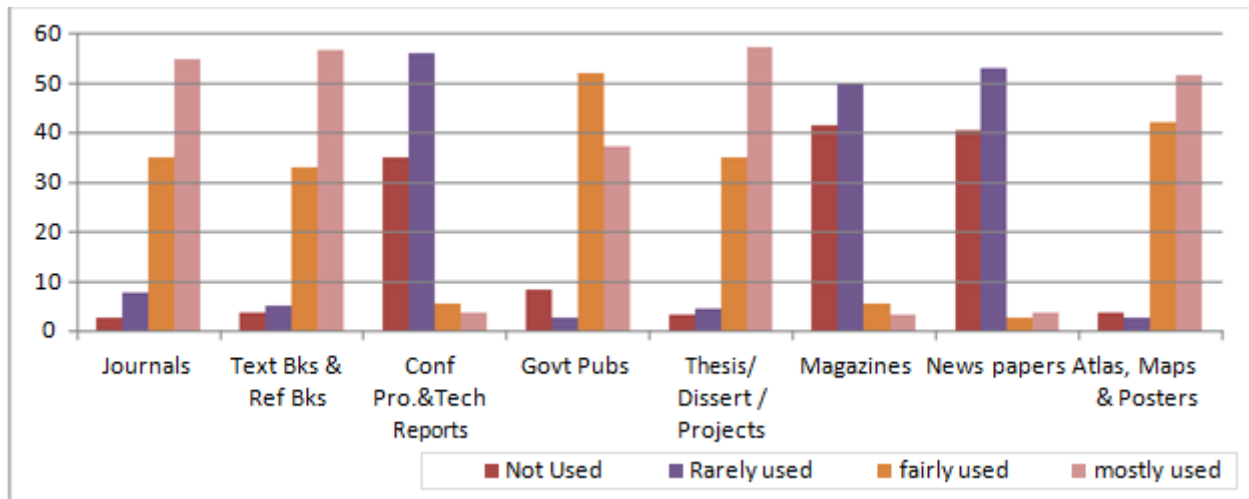
Average Time spend	Freq	%
Less than an hour	31	14.29
1 to 2 hours	32	14.74
2 to 3 hours	42	19.35
3 to 4 hours	51	23.5
More than 4 hours	61	28.11



Utilization of Information Resources

Table 8: Extent of utilization of information resources

SN	Information resources	Not Used		Rarely used		fairly used		mostly used	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
	Printed Sources								
1	Journals	6	2.76	17	7.83	75	35	119	54.84
2	Textbooks & Ref Books	8	3.69	11	5.1	73	33	123	56.68
3	Conference proceedings & Technical reports	76	35.02	121	56	12	5.5	8	3.69
4	Government publications	18	8.29	6	2.8	112	52	81	37.33
5	Thesis/Dissertations/Projects	7	3.23	10	4.6	76	35	124	57.14
6	Magazines	90	41.47	108	50	12	5.5	7	3.23
7	News papers	88	40.55	115	53	6	2.8	8	3.69
8	Atlas, Maps & Posters	8	3.69	6	2.8	91	42	112	51.61
	E-Resources								
10	E-Databases	14	6.45	8	3.7	123	57	72	33.18
11	E-Books	23	10.59	17	7.8	111	51	66	30.41
12	E-Journals	16	7.37	7	3.2	109	50	85	39.17
13	E-Thesis/ Projects	13	5.99	18	8.3	121	56	65	29.95
14	E-Newspapers & E-Zines	14	6.45	16	7.4	107	49	80	36.87
15	Internet resources	12	5.53	19	8.8	109	50	73	33.64
16	CDROM	22	10.14	12	5.5	109	50	81	37.33
17	Micro films & Microfiche	32	14.75	18	8.3	100	46	67	30.88
18	Television & Radio message	NIL							

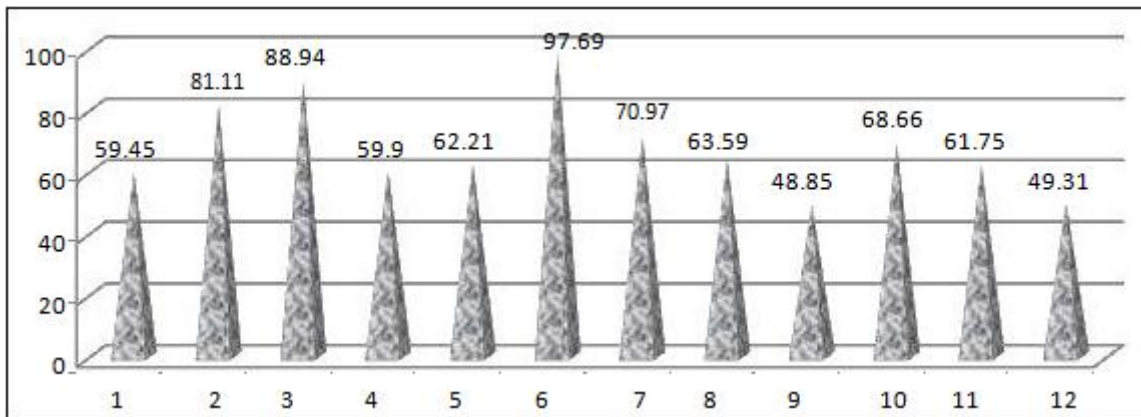


The table shows that the Agriculture University students are prefer more of Journals, Textbooks and Reference Books, Thesis/Dissertations/projects and Atlas, Maps & Posters and also the Government Publications in the form of printed items and on digital formats they prefer the E-Journals, E-Newspapers & E-Zines, E-databases, Internet and the CD-ROMs. The students were not bothered about print collections of magazines, newspapers. It is noteworthy to mention that as there is no much collection of conference proceedings and technical reports, the Agriculture Universities should come forward to conduct more seminars and conferences and so their publications. It is unfortunate to mention that the AUL doesn't have Radio which is more important for Agric Students.

Challenges associated with the use of Information Resources, services and facilities

Table 9: Challenges

S/N	Challenges	Freq	%
1	Lack of awareness and negligence	129	59.45
2	Inaccessibility of some information sources (closed access)	176	81.11
3	Problems in locating the most appropriate information resource (Lack of Time)	193	88.94
4	Lack of adequate information resources in my area of research	130	59.9
5	Lack of current information sources in the library	135	62.21
6	Poor internet connectivity (Speed and other technical problems)	212	97.69
7	Lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve relevant information	154	70.97
8	No information about the new arrivals of both print and digital	138	63.59
9	Lack of library space for conducive reading	106	48.85
10	Lack of enough qualified librarians to provide library information sources and services	149	68.66
11	There is shortage of loan period	134	61.75
12	The numbers of books I can borrow at a time are inadequate	107	49.31



Irrespective of low or high frequency of the challenges mentioned in the table, it is very important to understand challenges in any format and strive to rectify them and to provide good and valuable services to the students. As we know that the University Library is the heart of the University, it will facilitate the library to attain its fame. Finding remedial to improve the internet facilities will attract more students and it is worthy spending on digital information sources. With employing more suitable staff members and other security measures, the library should come forward to keep open all the sections of the library and proper organization of library collection will speed up the access and retrieval of relevant information. The AUL should always strive to find out the ways and means to attract the students, provide valuable information services and to prove that the Library is a growing organism.

5. Findings

- 1) The findings revealed that the male students are more comparing to that of females. There are many social phenomena for the lesser number of females students found especially in higher education. One of the main reasons is that female students usually have no interest in agricultural sector.
- 2) The study indicates that almost forty percentage of students are quitting the education with school levels and after the school education, going for higher studies is gradually reduced. When they go for masters level education, we hardly find a very few successful candidates.
- 3) The Federal University Agriculture Abeokuta (FUAA) Library has almost all variety of print and electronic sources of information. But, based on the Library Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) guidelines radio message and manuscripts is very essential in the AUL is unfortunately missing in FUAA library.
- 4) As for as the frequency of visit of the library concerned, the study revealed that only 20% of the students visiting daily and almost 45% visits occasionally. At an average of more than 85% of the visitors are spending not less than an hour in the library means that the visitor are having real interest in getting information services from the library
- 5) The findings shows that the Agriculture University students are prefer more of Journals, Textbooks and Reference Books, Thesis/Dissertations/projects and Atlas, Maps & Posters and also the Government Publications in the form of printed items and on digital

formats they prefer the E-Journals, E-Newspapers & E-Zines, E-databases, Internet and the CD-ROMs.

- 6) The study revealed that the respondents carefully recorded all their problems in accessing and retrieval of information with the hope that all the problems will be solved and may get an improved library services, specifically internet service, open access to all resources, the meaningful organization of all printed sources so as to gain quick access and retrieval.

6. Recommendations

The following are the recommendations made by the researcher on the basis of the data analysis and the results obtained from the study

- 1) The government should always encourages the female candidates to go for higher education in the country particularly agriculture university to help the women counterpart from rural background in the area of modern farming.
- 2) The federal university of agriculture should encourage the students community to draw their attention of the importance of library in their academic pursuit and provide more useful information services and to improve their systems. The library collection should be kept open to all so that the readers will utilize the resources in an effective way else, it's big loss of the economy of the country. The university as a matter of urgent important should provide the radio messages in the library based on the Library Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) guidelines.
- 3) The university should intensify user education with hope that the all the student community of FUAA should come to utilize the library resources of both printed and digital. An improved internet service will help the students to access more digital sources of information.
- 4) The study reveals that almost 45% of students visit the library occasionally, which alarming the library authority to wake up and to encourage the students community to draw attention and provide more useful information services and to improve their systems.
- 5) Irrespective of low or high frequency of the challenges mentioned in the study, it is very important to understand challenges in any format and strive to rectify them and to provide good and valuable services to the students.

7. Conclusion

As we know that the University Library is the heart of the University, it will make the library to attain its fame. Finding remedial to improve the internet facilities will attract more students and it is worthy spending on digital information sources. With employing more suitable staff members and other security measures, the library should come forward to keep open all the sections of the library and proper organization of library collection will speed up the access and retrieval of relevant information. The AUL should always strive to find out the ways and means to attract the students, provide valuable information services and to prove that the Library is a growing organism.

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