

Investigating the Factors Influencing the Use of School Libraries and the Purpose Strategies to Enhance Their Effectiveness as Information Hubs among Secondary Students in Katsina Local Government, Katsina State

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Abstract. *The purpose of this study is to explore the provision of information resources for enhancing the utilization and user satisfaction of school libraries among secondary school students in Katsina state. School libraries play a crucial role in supporting students' educational and personal development by providing access to a wide range of information resources. However, there is a growing concern about the lack of utilization and user satisfaction. This research was carried to investigate the factors influencing the use of school libraries. The study employ a quantitative methods approach, to gather data from secondary school students. The quantitative method will involve administering surveys to representative sample of secondary school students to assess their awareness, attribute, and frequency of library use. Additionally, data will be collected on the availability and adequacy of information resources, including books, digital materials, and other references materials. The population of the study comprises of eight hundred students from eight secondary schools in Katsina Local government Area, one hundred questionnaires were administer and eighty were returned for data analysis. The findings of the study revealed that the kind of information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area are textbooks, information resources are highly being utilized in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area, The format of information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area are mainly print materials, the extent to which teachers and students satisfied with available library resources in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area are highly satisfied, the challenges facing the information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area is inadequate funding and the ways in which the challenges are tackled is through provision of adequate funding. And the study recommend that government, private organizations and philanthropic should invest in school libraries. There should be provision of adequate budgetary allocation to school libraries to enhance effective library and information services among others.*

Keywords: *Information, Library, School libraries and Information resource.*

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Introduction

School libraries are established to support the curriculum-related research and instruction reading needs of pupils and teachers as well as provide collections, related equipment and instructional services of staff for elementary and secondary schools. It's a dedicated space within a school that houses a collection of resources, including books, magazines, newspapers, journals, audio-visual materials and online databases, specifically selected to support students' learning and research needs, teachers and staff. It is managed by a trained librarian responsible for the selection, organization, and maintenance of the whole collections. According to Ugocha (2011) school libraries are libraries established, maintained and administered at primary, secondary or other post primary school such as teachers training colleges whose objectives are to provide information services to support teaching and learning activities in school. Library resources are part of data and information assets of an organization, department or unit.

Information resources utilization implies putting to use those print and non-print materials available in the library for study, research and recreational purposes (Opeke and Odunlade, 2011). The library enjoys goodwill and patronage if its resources continually meet users' needs. According to Aniebo (2007), school libraries support and enrich the academic programme of their parent body as well as serve the students and teacher. Ifeka (2004), made it possible for many states to make positive plans for the development of school libraries in their respective areas by making some financial provision for school library development in their annual budget during the period. It's managed by a trained librarian responsible for the collection selection, organization, and maintenance of the whole collections. According to Aniebo (2007), school libraries support and enrich the academic programme of their parent body as well as serve the students and teacher. According to Ugocha (2011) school libraries are libraries established, maintained and administered at primary, secondary or other post primary school such as teachers' training colleges whose objectives are to provide information services to support teaching and learning activities in school.

Information resources are part of data and information assets of an organization, department or unit. Onwubiko and Uzoigwe (2004) refer to library resources as the totality of information materials that form a library collection. The resources are acquired to satisfy the information needs of the library clientele and to realize the parent institutional goal. According to them, library resources are classified into two; print and non-print materials. The print materials are in form of books (monographs) and serials, non-print. Chernik (2002), states that the school library incorporates all types of media into their collections and programmes such as audio tapes, video tapes, films of all shapes and sizes learning and computer-assisted instruction. The author further states that school libraries provide books, media and graph production facilities and equipment to support instruction, whether they are TV sets and cameras or overhead projectors. School libraries are essential components of any educational institution, as they provide students with access to a wide range of resources and information that can help support their academic success. In addition to providing access to resources, and also offer a quiet and conducive environment for reading, studying and research. They are crucial for promoting literacy and a love of reading among students, the resources available in the library can help inspire students to read for pleasure, which can help improve their reading skills, comprehension and vocabulary. According to Unegbu (2012), a school library can be said to be a miniaturized intellectual power house or information centre found in primary schools and secondary schools, it is a stepping stone towards a child's intellectual development. It provides suitable documents and information helpful in the school's educational programs and extracurricular activities. School libraries keep reference books such as, dictionaries, yearbooks, directories, encyclopedias, travel books and so on. So that students and teachers can get help from these other than textbooks school libraries provide books of simple and meaningful stories of classics, animals, and birds to give moral values and ethics to children and also procure bulletins, journals on different subjects and various aspects of education to keep teachers and school management updated in their respective areas.

Statement of Problem

School libraries and their resources are essential for attaining the school functions of teaching, learning and research. For school library to be effective, their collections have to be balanced in terms of disciplines, types and formats such as print, audio-visual and digital or electronic resources. In this way, all the disciplines will be assured of having the resources they need for effective learning. Consequently, the teachers and students will perform their tasks and the school functions will be fulfilled. However, if the collections are not relevant, not available, scanty and inadequate the teachers and students will have to contend with collections that do not take into account the subjects taught or the types and forms of materials that will enhance user-satisfaction which promote utilization of the resources. It is feared that this could have negative effects of utilization and consequently, user satisfaction as some users may not have sufficient resources in their disciplines or in the formats they need to perform their functions or tasks. This means that the functions of the school will be adversely affected. For instance, teaching and research functions will be impeded since the inadequate and scanty collections may not adequately cater for their needs. The learning function which draws its strength from quality teaching will also be adversely affected. The question, therefore is to find out ways to provide information resources, balanced the collections and attain the heights of users satisfaction in school libraries in Katsina local government in terms of disciplines and formats, this is what the study intends to investigate.

Objective (s) of the Study

The general objective of this study is to investigate the provision of information resources for enhancing the utilization and user satisfaction of school libraries among secondary school students in Katsina state and in specific terms guide the study. They are to;

- 1) Identify the kind of information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area .
- 2) To find out the extent of utilization of the resources in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area.
- 3) Pin-point the information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area
- 4) Identify the challenges facing the information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area
- 5) Determine the ways in which the challenges facing the information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area are tackled.

Research Questions

1. What are the kind of information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area ?
2. What are the extent of utilization of the information resources in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area?
3. What are the information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area?
4. What are the challenges facing the information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area?
5. What are the ways in which the challenges facing the information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area are tackled?

Literature Review

Concept of Information

Information is regarded as major economic resources, which can be used by individuals, corporations and various level of institutions like other major resources; information offers the greatest

possibilities to those who know how to use it. The daily growth of information according to Chisenga, (2005) bring about problems of location, acquisition and organization. The problem are made more frustrating as user themselves find it difficult to locate and make use of the right of information they consider useful .Burch and Grundnitis(2009) view information as “data” that have been put into meaningful and useful context and communicated to a recipient who uses it to make decision” Aguolu (2009) puts forward an understanding of information from two perspectives namely; the viewpoint of its contents-intellectual essence and that of its processing and transfer. That is, the means by which it is produced published, organized, stored, retrieved and communicated. Thus the signal, stimulus, or whatever, message of human experience that is communicated purposely to elicit a response due to its response potential can be referred to as information. In other words, the term information has come to be regarded as the communication of knowledge. There is no doubt , therefore that information has played a central role in human life, hence a basic human need, which has an over-riding and all-permeating significance to all and sundry.(Issa,2007).

The Concept of Library

Edoka (2000) defined library as collections of records of human culture in diverse format and languages preserved, organized and interpreted to meet broad and varying needs of individual for information, knowledge, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment. The definition of library above indicated was adopted here mainly because it present libraries as a social institutions that have a common objective of acquiring various information materials (records) such as books, newspaper, journals, magazines, photographs, maps, films, microfilms, CD-ROMS, and other forms of records.

According to Onwubiko and Uzoigwe (2004), the library is an information center located in an organization, institute, agency, and industry to satisfy the information needs of the individual clients and the realization of the broad goals and objectives of the parent organization. A library collects, organizes, stores, and disseminates information. It is a resource center for students, teachers, researchers, and others. The library provides answers to specific and general information queries and problems. The major, purpose of the library is to provide information to its users.

The Concept of School Library

school library is those libraries established in the primary and secondary schools mostly by the state ministry of education or the school authority to serve the pupils/students, the teacher and other staff members of the school. According to Ashiru and Bappah(2023) school library is a collection of a wide variety of library resources housed in each school, centrally organized by trained professionals, prepared to offer services to students and teachers that will enrich and support the educational enterprise. Library provides an ideal environment and vital information resources for students to develop and sustain good study habits necessary for excellent performance in academic work. Therefore, the role of the library in every school in Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized as the library provides the necessary impetus to all categories of learners in schools from the slowest learner in kindergarten to the most intelligent senior in high school through the provision of print and non-print resources to aid learning.

In line with this view, Prout (2009) states that the library is not just a reservoir of knowledge or information and human experiences but it also creates an avenue for accessing this treasure. The use of library resources stimulates interest, excitement and instils confidence in the user to develop his potential and capabilities both academically and socially. The more accessible sources are, the more likely they are to be used. This is because readers like to use library resources that require the least efforts to be accessed. Fakomogbon, Ibrahim and Gegele (2012) argued that school library helps to support the school curriculum by providing up-date information to keep teachers and students abreast of new development. The library also promotes the development of reading skills and encouraged long term planning habits through reading, listening to and viewing a range of learning materials

The school librarians are professionals who hold degrees in librarianship or information science, they suggest a variety of appropriate print, non –print and electronic resources to supplement and complement classroom materials and activities, and ensure proper organization of the library resources easy accessibility and use (Ossai,2010)

The Concept of Information Resources

Miller and Sppolman(2011), stated that “information is a resources on it own, as well as an asset to others. It falls within the resources hierarchy which starts with data, which leads to information, coming together as knowledge, and resulting wisdom. Data can be defined as the undigested observations, or unvarnished facts. Information follows as the organized form of data. Knowledge is then organized information which is internalized by its user and integrated with other bits and fields resulting from experience, the final step is the integration of the knowledge into wisdom, which is information which has been made useful by theory relating the bits of knowledge to each other. There are six inherent characteristics of information as a resource (1) information is expandable (2) information is compressible (2) information is substitutable (4) information is transportable (5) information is diffusive. (6) Information is shareable.

Utilization of library and information Resource

Utilization generally refers to putting to use or making something serviceable. In librarianship however, utilization connotes the act of accessing, retrieving and making use of a library material. School library usually select, acquire, process and make available a variety of resources for use by their users. Utilization is an act of making use of certain things for a purpose. It is also seen as making use of library resources to attain an educational goal. Utilization of library resources, therefore, refers to the extent of usage of library facilities such as books, journals, and research works by students.

Taiwo (2008) reiterated that one of the major objectives of the library is to ensure that its resources are utilized maximally. Okiy (2010) similarly stressed that, for the library to perform its role creditably, its resources must be effectively utilized. Utilization of library resources also promote active learning and thus enhances students’ critical thinking, individual work as well as group work. Adeleke (2005) noted that a library can be said to have contributed to the creation, transmission and advancement of knowledge only in so far as it is able to provide adequate resources and ensure that they are effectively utilized. Ikyoyel,(2015) and Mole (2006) noted that the advent of ICT has enabled library and information providers to serve patrons not only face to face , but also virtually. ICT, according to Ikyoyel,(2015) is on the ,lips of every nation because it brings innovation into information seeking and knowledge acquisition such that many countries now regard the mastering of the basic skills and concept of ICT as an inevitable part of the core of education.

Methodology.

Research Design

The survey research method was adopted for this study. According to Osuala(2000) stated that “survey research method is very effective for use when dealing with a large population, and which is possible for generalization. Survey research method is an aspect of descriptive research that has to do with large population

Population of the study

The population of this study are the libraries in the selected secondary school in Katsina local government area in Katsina state with each having 100 students in the eight secondary schools that participated in the research. This make approximately total number of eight hundred students.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

In this study in order to ensure that the sample is a representative of the population, a random sampling technique was employed. The population were randomly sampled in the sense that for every 100(one hundred) users, ten was picked so that for eight users, eighty users filled the questionnaires to enable a fair representation of the eight secondary schools in Katsina Local Government Area of Katsina State.

Instrument for Data Collection

This study adopted the use of questionnaires and it was design in such a way that some of the responses provided options from option (A) to option (D) so as to guide respondent and where the respondent feels that there is no suitable responses as to the respondent view that is not included on the questionnaire there. The study made the option (D) as an option to specify and space so that the respondent writes in the column provided. In some of the questionnaire, a column was provided for writing their words on the subject of the study.

Method of Data Collection

The researcher's visited the sample area to administer the questionnaire personally so as to be able to speak with the respondents about the importance of the questionnaire and to enable the researcher clarify certain issues which the respondents may not understand and needs clarification as well as to enable the researcher give out the questionnaire and to the respondents.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected by the researchers during the visit to the eight-secondary schools in Katsina local government area in Katsina state were analyzed using tables and percentage distributions..

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Data were analyzed and results were presented in line with the study research questions, whereas one hundred (100) students were given questionnaire and eighty (80) were returned for data analysis.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondent According to Schools

S/N	Name of Schools	No of questionnaire Administered	No of questionnaire returned
	G.C.K Pilot	12	10
	G.G.C.K Senior	11	9
	G.S.S.S K/Sauri	12	10
	SUNCAIS (ATC)	13	11
	G.D.S.S Kofar Yan'daka	14	12
	G.D.S.S KofarKaura	12	9
	K.C.K Senior	13	8
	G.D.S.S Natsinta	13	11
	Total	100	80

Background information of the respondents

Table 2: Distribution of Respondent by Gender:

Gender	Number of respondents	Percentage
Male	52	65%
Female	28	35%
Total	80	100%

The table2 above shows that 52 of the respondents representing 65% are male while 28 of the respondents representing 35% are females

Table 3: Distribution of Respondent by Age:

Age	Number of respondents	Percentage
12-15 years	31	38.75%
16-18 years	38	47.5%
19 and above	11	13.75%
Total	80	100%

The table3 above shows that 31 of the respondents representing 38.75% are between 12-15 years old, 38 respondents representing 47.6% are between 16-18 years old while 11 of the respondents representing 13.75% are 19 and above years old.

Research Question One: What are the kind of information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area?

Table 4: Kind of information resources available in secondary school

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage
Textbooks	21	26.26%
Posters	28	35%
Pictures	11	13.75%
Computers	20	25%
Total	80	100%

The table 4 above shows that 21 of the respondents representing 26.25% indicate that the kind of information resources available in secondary schools are textbooks, 28 respondents representing 35% indicate posters, 11 of the respondent representing 13.75% indicates pictures while 20 of the respondents representing 25% indicate computers.

Research Question Two: To what extent does the information resources are being utilized in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area?

Table 5: Utilization of information resources in secondary school

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage
Highly utilized	27	33.75%
Moderately utilized	22	27.5%
Fairly utilized	18	22.5%
Poorly utilized	13	16.25%
Total	80	100%

The table5 above shows that 27 of the respondents representing 33.75% indicate that the extent to which the information resources are being utilized in secondary school is highly, 22 respondents representing 27.5% indicate moderately utilized, 18 of the respondent representing 22.5% indicates fairly utilized while 13 of the respondents representing 16.25% indicate poorly utilized.

Research Question Three: What are the format of information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area?

Table 6: Format of information resources available in secondary school

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage
Print	47	58.75%
Non-print	19	23.75%
Oral information	11	13.75%
Other	3	3.75%
Total	80	100%

The table6 above shows that 47 of the respondents representing 58.75% indicate the format of information resources available in secondary school is print information resources, 19 respondents representing 23.75% indicate moderately utilized, 11 of the respondent representing 13.75% indicates oral information while 3 of the respondents representing 3.75% indicate others

Research Question Four: What are the challenges facing the information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area?

Table 7: Challenges facing the information resources

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage
Inadequate funding	43	53.75%
Inadequate information resources	23	28.75%
Unconducive environment	11	13.75%
Inadequate building structure	3	3.75%
Total	80	100%

The table 7 above shows that 43 of the respondents representing 53.75% indicate the challenges facing the information resources available in secondary school is inadequate funding, 23 respondents representing 28.75% indicate inadequate information resources, 11 of the respondent representing 13.75% indicates unconducive environment while 3 of the respondents representing 3.75% indicate inadequate building structure.

Research Question Five: What are the ways in which the challenges are tackled?

Table 8: Solutions

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage
Provision of adequate funds	41	51.25%
Provision of adequate information resources	26	32.5%
Provision of conducive environment	8	10%
Provision adequate building structure	6	7.5%
Total	80	100%

The table8 above shows that 41 of the respondents representing 51.25% indicate the solutions to the challenges facing the information resources available in secondary school is provision of adequate funds, 26 respondents representing 32.5% indicate provision of adequate information resources, 8 of the respondent representing 7.5% indicates provision of conducive environment while 3 of the respondents representing 3.75% indicate provision adequate building structure.

Summary of Findings

- i. The kind of information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area are textbooks
- ii. Information resources are highly being utilized in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area
- iii. The format of information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area are mainly print materials
- iv. The extent to which teachers and students satisfied with available library resources in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area are highly satisfied
- v. the challenges facing the information resources available in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area is inadequate funding
- vi. The ways in which the challenges are tackled is through provision of adequate funding

Conclusion

From the fore-going findings, it is concluded that the situation of school library resources and user satisfaction in secondary school of Katsina Local Government Area are still leaves much to be desired. To a great extent, it is not in doubt that there exist considerable needs for improvements in this direction, if only for our educational aims and aspirations to be attained.

Recommendations

1. The school authority should provide different kind of information resources available in school libraries to enhance learning and reading.
2. There should be provision for additional library services to make the children have more interest in using the library e.g. educational film shows, storytelling, reading competition etc.
3. Teachers must be sensitized on the need to work with school librarians in developing different format information resources to ensure the appropriate use of the school library and resources in teaching and learning.
4. The resources should be adequate, qualitative and varied to satisfy the information needs of both the students and teachers.
5. Government, private organizations and philanthropic should invest in school libraries. There should be provision of adequate budgetary allocation to school libraries to enhance effective library and information services.

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