

# RELATIONSHIP OF RESOURCES AVAILABILITY TO STUDENTS' USE OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA

BY

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## Abstract

*Resources availability as well as its accessibility in any university library is essential for any meaningful academic work to be achieved by the undergraduate students. This paper, therefore, assessed how adequately library resources in Nigerian university libraries affect undergraduate students' use of the university libraries. The study population was 1,453 undergraduates from across Arts, Education, Engineering, Law, Science and Social Science faculties in the selected universities and the survey research method was used for the study. The main instrument used for the data collection was a questionnaire. Descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage tabulation were used in analyzing the data. Results revealed that in university libraries in Nigeria subject coverage of the library materials in the students' areas of specialization is generally low. The study also revealed that the library materials the students have consulted in Nigerian university libraries are not current but the materials are usually accessible to users. To improve the inadequacy of library resources in Nigerian university libraries, majority of the respondents indicated the need for university administration in Nigerian universities to provide current and sufficient library materials in all the disciplines offered in the universities as well as provide adequate ICT facilities for users in the university libraries.*

**Key words:** Resources availability, Undergraduate students, Use, University Libraries, Nigeria

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

University institutions are generally regarded as the institutions where knowledge is transferred from one person to the other. This is a way of encouraging and promoting scholarship and research in all fields of human endeavour. A university library as one of the departments in the universities is expected to assist their parent institutions in achieving their objectives. Roberson (2005), cited by Adeoye (2011) defines a library as an institution that manages the intellectual products that individual can gain access to readily. Iyanda and Salawu (2006) on the other hand sees library as a building, an instructional and self development centre, which operate as an integral part of the entire school environment. Libraries provide resources for knowledge acquisition, recreation, personal interests and inter-personal relationships for all categories of users. However in an academic environment, attention is basically focused on academic and nonacademic staff, students and researchers (<http://readperiodicals.com/201109/2492135511.htm>).

Put differently, one important objective of the university libraries is to provide information resources in order to promote teaching, learning and research objectives required of a university. For adequate learning to take place learners must have access to necessary information materials and resources. They have to interact with tangible and intangible resources and institutions to ensure some levels of performance. In an academic environment as indicated in most literature, one of the main sources of information is the library. Therefore, university libraries are expected to provide adequate library resources in order to encourage and enhance research in their parent institutions.

The philosophy of librarianship is based on the concept of library services and provision of relevant resources for users. To this end, Professional Librarians continue to strive to collect, store, organize and disseminate all forms of recorded knowledge in order to satisfy both present and future information needs of users. Library resources are the information materials that satisfy the information needs of the users in the library. These are the materials in the library that make services possible. They are the materials which the users come to consult, read or borrow. Library resources are many and varied, but they can be divided into two broad categories namely "printed and non printed materials". The printed materials are books, pamphlets periodicals, newspapers and reference resources. Non-printed materials are however, often referred to as audio-visual resources. They are the product of advanced technology, some of which require special equipment to operate. Non-printed resources can be grouped into three (i.e. Audio, visual and audio-visual). We also have electronic resources as part of resources in the libraries (<http://readperiodicals.com/201109/2492135511.htm>).

Computers and related electronic resources have come to play a central role in education (Lang, 2008). Electronic resources are the prime ingredients and they become a common part of the suite of most academic library resources today ([http://cr1.du.ac.in/icalo9/papers/ndex\\_files/ical-106\\_68\\_169\\_2\\_Rv.pdf](http://cr1.du.ac.in/icalo9/papers/ndex_files/ical-106_68_169_2_Rv.pdf)). The proliferation of electronic resources has had a significant impact on the way the academic community uses, stores and preserves information (Heterick, 2002). These e-resources are added value to the academic libraries to offer better services to users.

The electronic resources empower and enrich the academic system, but the increase in information generation at an estimated rate of 13 percent per annum has made the task of collection, organization and retrieval of information very difficult (Subba Rao, 2001). Alternatively, the academic libraries often prefer electronic resources to substitute print collections for optimum use, especially as most libraries have problem of adequate physical space for users.

It is generally believed that for students to effectively use university libraries there should be adequate library resources available in these libraries. This could be in form of material, financial and human resources. To achieve adequate material resources, a well – balanced collection should be provided for all subjects or courses offered in the university, after all, "availability of learning resources means ensuring their presence in Nigerian universities for immediate use (Aguolu and Aguolu, 2002). Kuh and Gonyea (2003) stressed that, the size of a collection is used as an indicator of academic quality. Though recent years they argued have not necessarily been kind in terms of budget support, the library's central role in the academic community is unquestioned. It has been empirically demonstrated that there is a strong correlation between the size of university library collections and excellence of universities. In an assessment of the quality of American post – graduates education, the American Council on Education noted that the adequacy of a university library collection is an index to the quality of a post- graduate study and research. It also noted that all American universities that were rated "distinguished" had also their libraries rated "distinguished" (<http://www.acenet.edu>). The finding was based on the total number of volumes and current periodicals, held by the university libraries and the number of volumes added annually (<http://www.ntf.com/html/lib/assoc/ace/htm>).

Unfortunately, in most Nigerian university libraries inadequate funding according to Dalhatu and Adamu (1999) is the major problem facing libraries and the bedrock of any other development. There is inadequate budgetary allocation to libraries by the institutional authorities for running the libraries. Ajibero (1992) believed that the effect of these issues on our libraries has been serial cancellation, discontinuation of key reference materials and total stoppage of new serial subscriptions. To buttress the point further, Alabi (1993) emphasized that a much more pressing issue in adapting to the new trend is the financial involvement. He argued that the problem of funding is found to be acute in most libraries in Nigeria, and shortage of funds has been the hue and cry of most establishments planning automation. In other words, adequate funding of the university libraries is lacking in Nigerian universities and this could have adverse effect on the services rendered by the university libraries. Adequate funding is, therefore, necessary in order to equip the Nigerian university libraries with electronic and print information resources so they can effectively provide the information needs of their users.

However, in view of user's requirement for provision of adequate library resources in university libraries, it is imperative to know the extent to which adequate resources availability influences the use of university libraries by the undergraduate students in university libraries in Nigeria. In other words,

considering the importance of resources availability to students' use of university libraries, the research from which this paper is developed selected some Nigerian university libraries for study in order to investigate the effect of resources availability to undergraduate students' use of university libraries in Nigeria.

## 2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The main role expected from the university libraries is to support in the teaching, learning and research activities of their parent institutions. To accomplish this objective the university management allocates enormous funds for the development of the library and use of the collection by the staff and students. Unfortunately, studies on undergraduate students' use of university libraries in Nigeria have revealed that there is low patronage of library services as many users have not fully realised the potentials of the library and its services in this information revolution age. Some librarians in Nigerian university libraries readily confirmed this observation based on their user surveys.

Furthermore, in most universities the courses undergraduates offer should be attracting them to effectively make use of the libraries since students cannot perform well in their courses without using the course materials available in the libraries. Unfortunately, this is not the case in Nigerian universities where some students have the wrong notion that the information needs of their courses are only Internet-based, and so they do not need library services, rather they prefer to consult Internet services within and outside the university environments. This notion has to be changed because the university library is meant for every student and as such they should be using it for the good running of the undergraduate courses in the universities.

Also, in Nigerian universities literature has revealed that many resources are not available in the libraries and so use of library is low. Inflation affecting Nigerian economy has also influenced the acquisition of library resources. Most of the undergraduates' reading materials are usually imported and inflation has caught up with this and so the resources available for the undergraduates are few in the libraries.

Apart from print resources, libraries are expected to provide electronic materials for students but cost of providing and maintaining electronic devices in the libraries has not been encouraging. Also observed is that, most of the Nigerian university libraries that have installed some of the information technology (IT) devices such as the Internet services do not function satisfactorily because of constant failure of public power supply and lighting system as well as lack of proper maintenance culture of the IT facilities in the Nigerian libraries.

Furthermore, it was observed that some available library resources are either not constantly used or not used at all by the students. This was confirmed when the researcher randomly checked a good number of books spread across some disciplines in six university libraries in Nigeria and found from their date due slips that many of the books have not been borrowed for a long period of time. A substantial number have never been borrowed since they were acquired, yet records show that they are core texts in the various subjects.

In order to increase the use of the university libraries in Nigeria, it is important to empirically verify the effect of resources availability and know the extent resources availability contributes to students' low use of the libraries in Nigeria. Such knowledge is necessary in order to take appropriate steps in increasing the level of utilisation of the university libraries by undergraduate students in the overall interest of the students, the university and the nation as a whole.

## 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Use made of any library depends on the resources made available in the library. If the resources are not adequate for the needs of the users of the library, it is not likely that the library will be heavily used. The generally accepted functions of a university, according to Bolanle (1978) are to cater for the teaching of the students and for the research interests of the faculty. Thus, the objective of any university library is to provide such resources, in the form of recorded communications, as are necessary for both teaching and research in the university. The major function of a university is the

pursuit, promotion and dissemination of knowledge and research. To fulfill these functions the universities rely heavily on their libraries for the provision and conservation of materials.

Similarly, Srinivasa Rao, and Choudhury (2009) argued that, academic system largely relies on teaching, learning and research. Eternally, education depends on information resources. These resources are the driving forces for making an educated society. The educated society can exist only when information is stored, shared and utilized properly. In an academic arrangement, according to Srinivasa Rao, and Choudhury (2009) both "education" and "library" are inseparable-indivisible concepts, working for the promotion and evolution of teaching, learning and research for greater use of academia. Library is a repository of resources. It is an integral part of the educational system whose primary function is to serve users (students, faculty, researchers and staff) ([http://crl.du.ac.in/icalo9/papers/ndex\\_files/ical-106\\_68\\_169\\_2\\_Rv.pdf](http://crl.du.ac.in/icalo9/papers/ndex_files/ical-106_68_169_2_Rv.pdf)).

Edoka (2000) opined that in general, the functions of academic libraries are to provide information materials required for the academic programmes of the parent institutions, and also provide information resources in consonance with the needs of the faculty and students. This no doubt, would always attract the students to use the library resources. The objectives of university libraries can only be achieved by the selection and acquisition of relevant materials that are built around the courses offered in the institutions. The acquisition of just any materials is not enough. The librarian has to know whether the right materials are acquired and used and this is usually achieved through systematic evaluation (Edoka and Okafor, 2002).

Popoola and Haliso (2009) define library information resources as those materials bearing information that are in both printed and electronic formats. These include: textbooks, journals, indexes, abstracts, newspapers and magazines, reports, CD-ROM databases, internet/E-mail, video tapes/cassettes, diskettes magnetic disk, computers, and micro forms. These information materials are the valuable materials that libraries acquire, catalogue, stock, and make available to their patrons, as well as use them to provide other various services. Lecturers/teachers need various kinds of information for teaching and research for the purposes of impacting knowledge in students and self development. To achieve this, the right information must be available for the right person at the right time in its appropriate format, which is the responsibility of the library. Thus, library literature usually disclose that the most effective way to mobilize people is through the provision of required information in the most useable form and that such information should be provided for the benefit of a large number of people (<http://readperiodicals.com/201109/2492135511.htm>).

Igben (1993) argues that provision of information resources in any library is to provide the information needs of its user community. To be most functional, the resources a library provides should correspond as closely as possible with the needs of its users for the user is the very reason for the existence of any information system (Anderson and Miller, 1983). A number of surveys have shown that on the average, librarians have acquired between 60 – 90 percent of the materials for their users (Buckland, 1975). The library should remain the centre for collection of information, whatever the new format. It should be noted that the major difference between the traditional library and new modern library lies in the comprehensive variety of media that are made available in the latter which makes it functioned better (Aliyu, 2004).

A study by Marama and Ogunrombi (1996) confirms high unavailability of library and information science (LIS) collections in most Nigerian university libraries, which had a negative effect on the use of information sources in the libraries studied. The librarians could not conduct nor publish quality research articles, and library students could not even use library services. The authors recommended that at least 5 percent of the book budget be set aside for LIS information sources. The study, though limited to LIS, can be generalized to other subject areas. Ajayi and Akinniyi (2004) found frustration among information seekers due to the non-availability of sources. Oyediran-Tidings (2004) studied information needs of library users at the Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, and observed low use of the library by the students, which was "attributed to the expressed unavailability of desired information resources." The paper suggests seeking user input for the acquisition process and policy.

Previous studies have concentrated on identifying the low level of use of university libraries in Nigeria. However, not much attention has been given to resources availability as a variable that could be responsible for the low use of the libraries by the students. This study, therefore, investigated the

influence of resources availability to undergraduate students' use of libraries. The study aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- i) To find out the relationship between resources availability in the university libraries and undergraduate students' use of university libraries in Nigeria.
- ii) To identify and recommend ways of improving information resources in Nigerian university libraries.

#### 4. RESEARCH DESIGN/METHODS

The descriptive survey research was used to collect data in the study. The stratified and purposive sampling techniques were used to select six universities from the population of Nigerian universities, owned by the Federal Government, that had been stratified by the time period they were established – two each from the 'first generation' universities (established between 1948 and 1969), 'second generation' universities (established between 1970 and 1979) and 'third generation' universities (established between 1980s to date). The universities are: University of Ibadan (UI) and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (ABU) -- first generation universities selected from the South-West and North West zones respectively; University of Jos (UNIJOS) and the University of Maiduguri (UNIMAID) -- second generation universities selected from North-Central and North-East zones, respectively); and University of Uyo (UNIUYO) and University of Abuja (UNIABUJA) – third generation universities selected from the South-South zone and the Federal Capital Territory, respectively (see appendix 1). Thus, the South-East zone is the only one that did not have a representative university in the sample of universities.

Furthermore, six academic faculties and two academic departments in each of the six faculties were selected from each of the universities. The faculties are Arts, Education, Engineering/Technology, Law, Science and Social Sciences. In order to ensure balanced representation of the undergraduate students in the universities, the students selected for the questionnaire survey were proportionately selected from each universities based on their faculties, departments and levels of study. The students were selected for the study through random sampling methods from the following departments: Physics, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Mathematics, Economics, Mass Communication, Theatre Arts, Music, History, English, Public and International Law, Library, Archival and Information Studies, Vocational and Technical Education, Private and Business Law, Physical and Health Education, Sharia Law, Political Science, Science and Technology Education, Special Education, Religious Studies, Archaeology & Anthropology, Communication Language Arts, Computer Science, Statistics, Teacher Education, Human Kinetics & Health Education, Creative Arts, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Food Technology, and Agricultural Engineering were involved in the study. The sub-sample sizes for the six universities were: UI (202 students), ABU (199), UNIJOS (342), UNIMAID (355), UNIUYO (206) and UNIABUJA (149), giving a total sample of 1,453 students.

Questionnaire, interview and observation instruments were used to collect data for the study. Questions were asked to gather information on the effect of adequate library resources available in the university libraries to students' use of the libraries. The university librarians of the universities investigated were interviewed to find out the size and recency of the library collections investigated. Observation instrument was also adopted in the study in order to assess the shelving patterns in the university libraries studied.

#### 5. FINDINGS

In order to ascertain the influence of availability of library resources which would in turn reveal the extent adequacy of the library resources available in the university libraries influence the use of the libraries by the undergraduate students; the following statements were provided for the respondents to reveal how adequately the library resources available in the university libraries are in their areas of specialization.

The statements include:

Your level of satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock including the ICT facilities in your area of specialization is high = V1

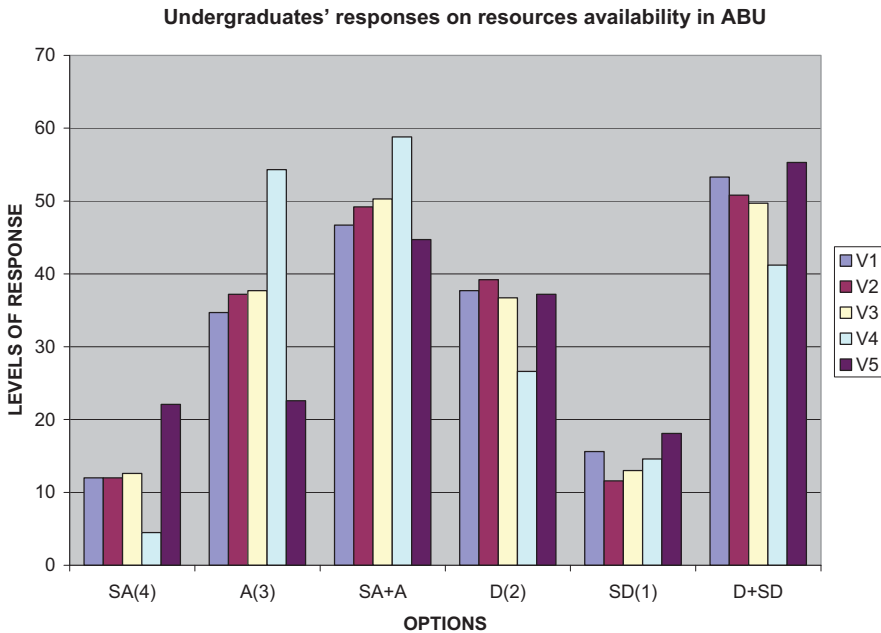
The materials you have consulted in your university library are current = V2

The university library materials you have consulted are outdated = V3

The information materials in your library are accessible to users = V4

The library's book loan duration of your university library is satisfactory = V5 (see also appendix 2).

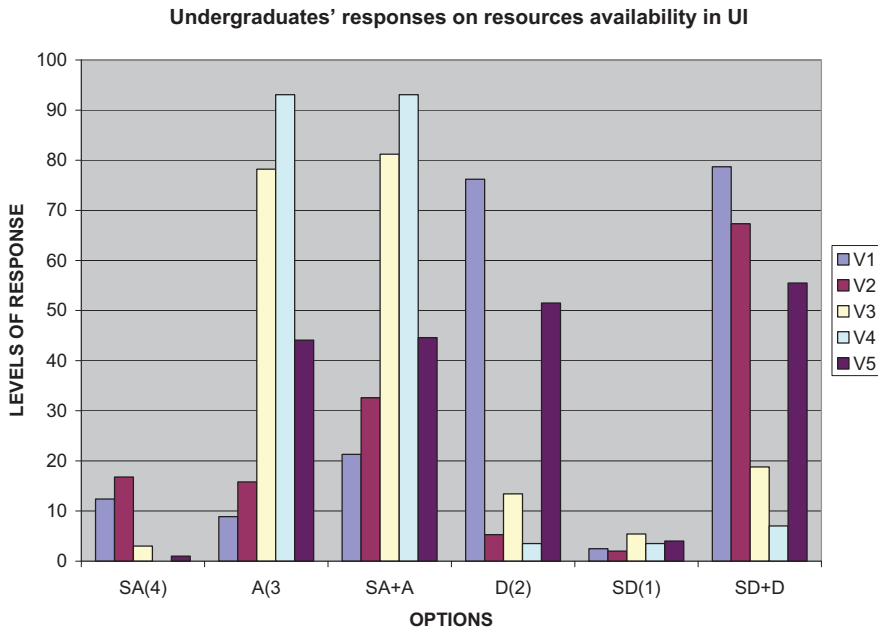
The summation of the frequency of SA(4) and A(3) options as well as that of D(2) and SD(1) options in each of the universities selected for the study were calculated and used to present the results. SA stands for Strongly Agreed, A stands for Agreed, D stands for Disagreed while SD stands for Strongly Disagreed. The results are presented in Figures 1 to 7



**Figure 1: Bar chart showing the undergraduate responses on resources availability in ABU.**

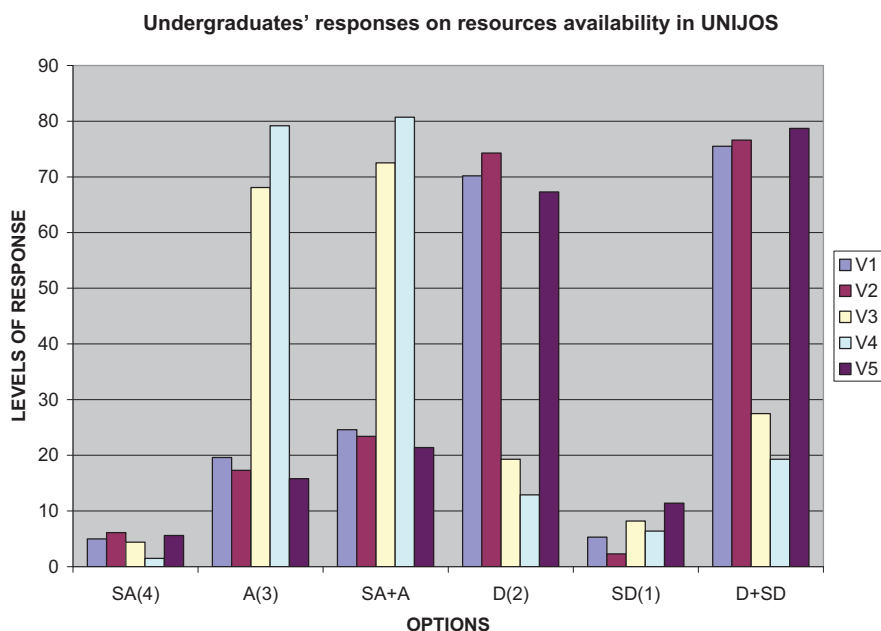
The response from the undergraduate students of ABU, Zaria on whether the level of their satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock, including the ICT facilities in their areas of specialization is high disclosed that 46.7% of the students agreed that the level of their satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock in their areas of specialization is high, while 53.3% of them disagreed with the statement. This shows that majority of the respondents indicated that the level of their satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock in their areas of specialization is not high, indicating that the library resources in their fields of study is inadequate and this would negatively affect the use of the university library by the undergraduate students. This is contrary to the findings of Whitmire (2001) who revealed that the undergraduate students were successful in locating their information needs in the library and this encouraged them to effectively use the library and its resources. Therefore, adequate library resources are necessary for effective use of university libraries by the undergraduate students.

Figure 1 also revealed that 50.8% of the respondents disagreed that the materials they have consulted in their university library are current against 49.2% that answered in affirmative. This no doubt would be discouraging the users from using the library. Thus, it is not surprising that 50.3% of the respondents indicated that the library materials they have consulted in their university library are outdated. Figure 1 also revealed that 58.8% of the respondents agreed that the information materials in their university library are accessible to users even though a good proportion of them 41.2% disagreed with the statement. However, this could positively affect the use of the library. From Figure 1, 55.3% of the respondents indicated that the library's book loan duration of their university library is not satisfactory, implying that the loan policies of the library do not encourage the respondents to frequently use the university library.



**Figure 2: Bar chart showing the undergraduate responses on resources availability in UI.**

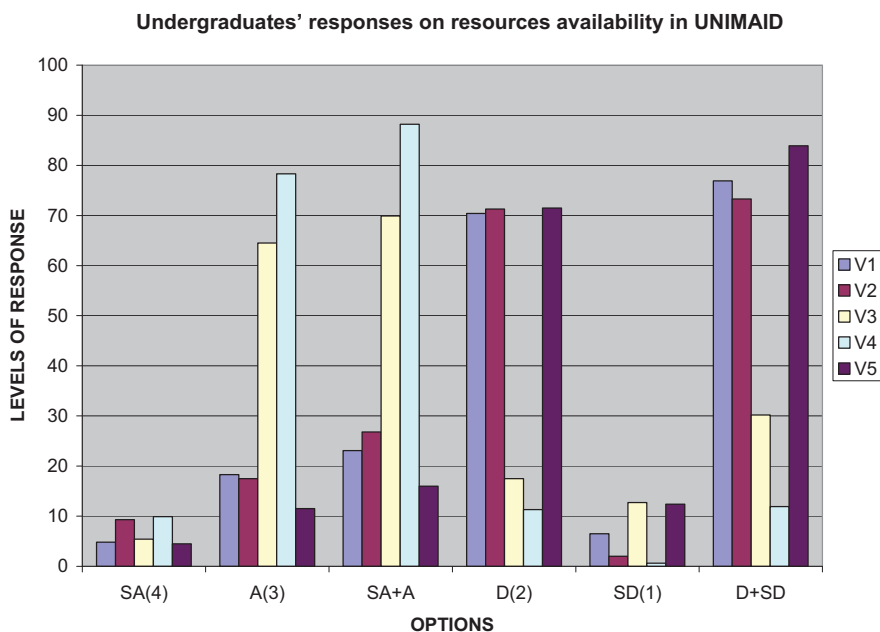
Figure 2 disclosed the perceptions of UI respondents' view about the level of their satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock, including the ICT facilities in their areas of specialization available in the library. To this, 21.3% of the respondents answered in the affirmative while 78.7% of them stated that they are not satisfied with the library's coverage of their areas of specialization. This shows that majority of the respondents disagreed that the level of their satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock in their field of studies is high this would negatively affect the use of the university library by the undergraduate students. This is contrary to the findings of Whitmire (2001). Other library resources' factors that could influence the use of university library are whether the materials the respondents have consulted in their university library are current, with 67.3% disagreeing that the library materials consulted in the university library are current, whether the university library materials are outdated, with 81.2% of them agreeing that the materials are outdated. This response is not surprising since majority of the respondents had already indicated that the materials they consulted in their university library are not current and this invariably would always affect their use of the library. Also investigated was whether the information materials in the university library are accessible to users, with 93.1% of the respondents revealing that the library materials are accessible to users while on the other hand, 55.5% of the respondents stated that the library's book loan duration of their university library is not satisfactory, indicating that the use of the library would be negatively affected.



**Figure 3: Bar chart showing the undergraduate responses on resources availability in UNIJOS.**

The respondents of UNIJOS were requested to indicate whether the level of their satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock, including the ICT facilities in their areas of specialization is high. Figure 3 revealed that 24.6% of them indicated that the level of their satisfaction

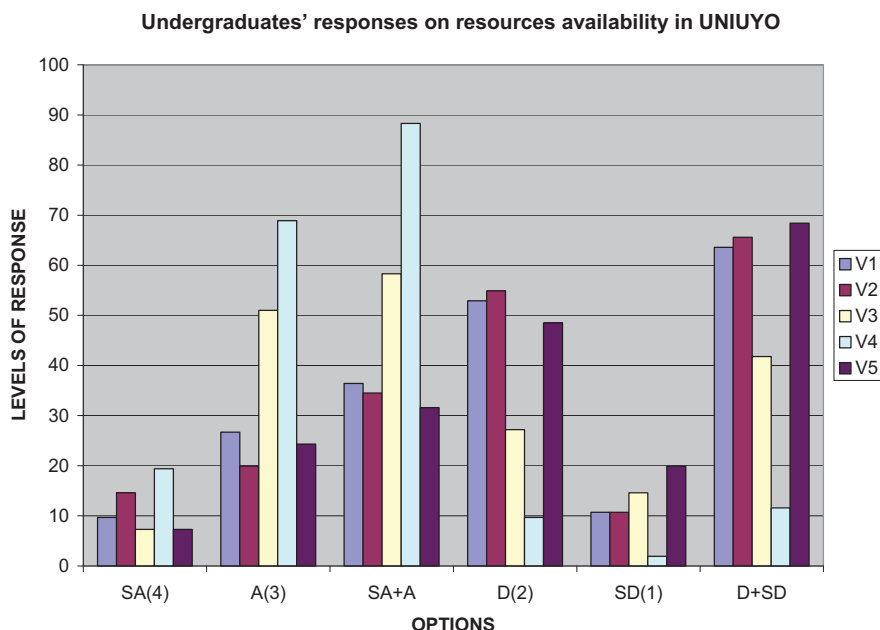
as regards the subject coverage of the library stock in their areas of specialization is high, while 75.5% of them did not agree with the statement. The findings showed that majority of the respondents did not agree that the satisfaction they derive from the subject coverage of the library stock in their areas of specialization is high, indicating that the library resources in their fields of study is inadequate and this would negatively affect the use of the library. This is contrary to the findings of Whitmire (2001). Some 76.6% of the respondents disagreed that the library materials they have consulted in the university library are current. Hence, 72.5% of them stated that the university library materials they have consulted are outdated. These to a great extent would always have adverse effect on the use of the university library. However, 80.7% of the respondents reported that the library materials in UNIJOS library are accessible to users and on the other hand, 78.7% of them revealed that the library's book loan duration of their university library is not satisfactory.



**Figure 4: Bar chart showing the undergraduate responses on resources availability in UNIMAID.**

From Figure 4, it is revealed that 23.1% of the respondents from UNIMAID reported that the level of their satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock in their areas of specialization is high, while 76.9% of them disagreed with the statement. This no doubt would always discourage the students from using the library as it is clearly indicating that the library resources in their fields of study are inadequate.

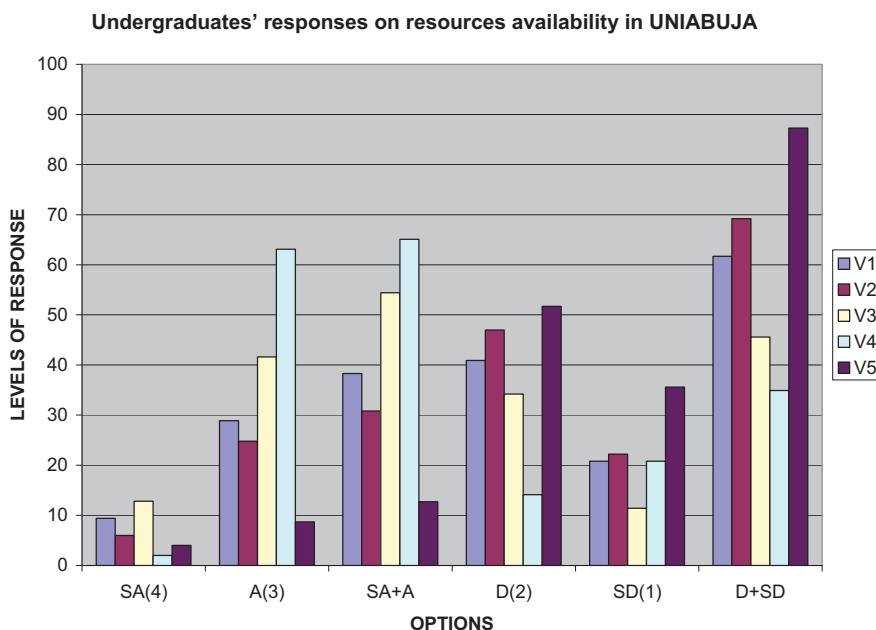
Figure 4 also revealed that 73.3% of the respondents stated that the materials they have consulted in their university library are not current, 69.9% of them disclosed that the university library materials they have consulted are outdated. All these would negatively affect the use of the library by the students. From Figure 4, it is also reported that 88.2% of the respondents stated that the information materials in their university library are accessible to users and another 83.9% of the respondents revealed that the library's book loan duration of their university library is not satisfactory and this would have negative effect on the use of the library.



**Figure 5: Bar chart showing the undergraduate responses on resources availability in UNIUYO.**

The respondents from UNIUYO were requested to indicate whether the level of the respondents' satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock, including the ICT facilities in their areas of specialization is high. Figure 5 revealed that 36.4% of UNIUYO undergraduate students indicated that the level of their satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock in their areas of specialization is high, while 63.6% of them disagreed with the statement. This shows that majority of the respondents believed that the library resources available in UNIUYO do not adequately cover their fields of study and this would negatively affect the use of the university library by the undergraduate students. Similarly, 65.6% of the respondents agreed that the materials they have consulted in their university library are not current. Probably, this could be the reason why 58.3% of the respondents reported that the university library materials they have consulted are outdated. Figure

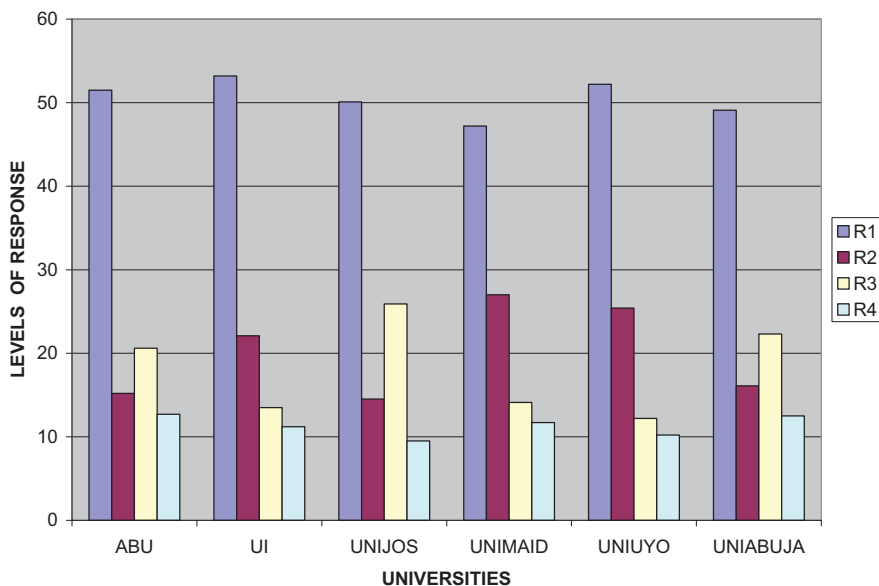
5 further revealed that 88.3% of the respondents stated that they usually have access to the materials in the university library and 68.4% of them disagreed that the library's book loan duration of their university library is satisfactory. This would always affect the use of the library negatively.



**Figure 6: Bar chart showing the undergraduate responses on resources availability in UNIABUJA.**

In UNIABUJA the respondents were requested to indicate whether the level of their satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock, including the ICT facilities in their areas of specialization is high. To this, 38.3% of the respondents indicated that the level of their satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock in their areas of specialization is high, while 61.7% of them disagreed with the statement, implying they are not satisfied with the library resources of their university since it does not adequately cover their areas of studies. This, therefore, would negatively influence the use of the library. In the same vein, 69.2% of the respondents disclosed that the materials they have consulted in their university library are not current, 54.4% of them stated that the library materials they have consulted are outdated, 65.1% of the respondents indicated that they have access to the university materials and 87.3% of them agreed they are satisfied with the library's book loan duration of their university library.

**Suggestions on how to improve the resources availability in Nigerian university libraries**



**Figure 7: Bar chart showing the recommendations from the undergraduate students.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Provision of enough information materials that should cover and satisfy the information needs of the users = R1

Provision of current library materials =R2

Provision of ICT facilities =R3

Improve the libraries' book loan duration policies =R4

The last of the objectives of the study demanded that the respondents should identify ways of improving the resources availability in Nigerian university libraries. Figure 7 revealed that majority of the respondents suggested the need to provide enough information materials that should cover and satisfy the information needs of the users. Some also indicated provision of current library materials in

the Nigerian university libraries. A good number of them suggested the need to provide ICT facilities and the need to improve the libraries' book loan duration in the Nigerian university libraries.

## 6. DISCUSSION

From the above findings it is obvious that adequate library resources in any university library are vital for effective use of the library to be achieved. In other words, it is generally expected there should be a good relationship between resources availability and undergraduate students' use of university libraries. There is no doubt that Nigerian undergraduate students are in the universities to learn and they would be frequently attracted to use the university libraries when there is sufficient and adequate library stock comprising of print and electronic resources in their areas of specialization. An adequate library resource is an indicator of academic quality. This is why Adebimpe and Adeniran (2001) maintained that it is not out of place to say that the establishment of school/college libraries where educational resources are preserved has a positive correlation with educational quality at school/college levels. The importance of adequate library resources in university libraries can never be over-emphasized. No wonder, Anderson and Miller (1983) stressed that to be most functional, the resources a library provides should correspond as closely as possible with the needs of its users for the user is the very reason for the existence of any information system. To buttress this point further Igben (1993) argues that provision of information resources in any library is to provide the information needs of its user community. Furthermore, the library stock as defined by Elaturoti (1992) is "an organized collection of books and non – book media, especially collected to support the educational programme of the school". Where there is adequate library stock students will develop the habit of reading both for pleasure and for the purpose of gathering information for themselves.

Unfortunately, in the Nigerian university libraries investigated, the study revealed that the subject coverage of the library materials in the students' areas of specialization is generally low and inadequate. This is not encouraging on the part of the students. Similarly, majority of the respondents in the studied universities indicated that the library materials they have consulted in their university libraries are not current but outdated. Also, the respondents indicated in the study that their libraries' book loan duration is not satisfactory. All these go a long way to portray the reason behind low use of most of the university libraries investigated in the study, since the resources availability in these university libraries is inadequate. Certainly, in every university system, for undergraduate students to effectively use the university libraries there is always the need for adequate library resources to be available and accessible to them.

Information from the oral interview with the university librarians revealed that the university managements normally release the funds budgeted for the university libraries, though there could be part release of the funds. It was also revealed from the interviews that the total subvention for all the sampled universities for the past five years was about N82, 519,852, given an average annual subvention of N16, 503,970 (interview information obtained 2008/2009 academic session). This amount is grossly inadequate considering the type of library resources such as ICT facilities, current journals and textbooks expected to be available in the present day university libraries. This view is in line with the findings of Lyman and Varian (2003) who stressed that globally, nearly all information resources have increased, at times dramatically, over the last several years. According to them, in the United States of America for instance, from 1999 to 2002 books (original print) have increased by 83% while online scholarly journals nearly doubled from 1997 to 2001. They maintained that, with the advent of a major information source such as the Internet combined with patron demands, the average library budget that is spent on electronic materials should be highly increased in prices. This does not seem to be the case with the university libraries in Nigeria.

## 7. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, one could argue that based on the findings of the study there is a good relationship between library resources availability and students' use of university libraries. Thus, the need for provision of adequate and sufficient library resources comprising of print and electronic sources in Nigerian university libraries is essential. Without adequate and sufficient current library materials available for use in Nigerian libraries, users would always find it difficult to visit and study in the university libraries. Therefore, current and adequate library materials as well as suitable libraries' book loan duration policies should be made available in the university libraries in order to boost the library usage of the university libraries by the Nigerian undergraduate students.

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**STRATIFIED GENERATIONS OF NIGERIAN FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES**

S/nos	Name of universities	Year of establishment	Generations
1.	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	1948	1 <sup>st</sup> *
2.	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	1960	1 <sup>st</sup>
3.	Obafemi Awolowo Univ., Ile-Ife	1963	1 <sup>st</sup>
4.	Ahmadu Bello Univ. Zaria	1962	1 <sup>st</sup> *
5.	University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos	1962	1 <sup>st</sup>
6.	University of Benin, Benin City	1971	2 <sup>nd</sup>
7.	Bayero University, Kano	1975	2 <sup>nd</sup>
8.	University of Calabar, Calabar	1975	2 <sup>nd</sup>
9.	University of Ilorin, Ilorin	1975	2 <sup>nd</sup>
10.	University of Jos, Jos	1975	2 <sup>nd</sup> *
11.	University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri	1975	2 <sup>nd</sup> *
12.	Usman Danfodiyo Univ., Sokoto	1975	2 <sup>nd</sup>
13.	Univ. of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt	1975	2 <sup>nd</sup>
14.	University of Abuja, Abuja	1988	3 <sup>rd</sup> *
15.	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka	1992	3 <sup>rd</sup>
16.	University of Uyo, Uyo, Akwa Ibom	1991	3 <sup>rd</sup> *

\*Selected universities for the study

**APPENDIX 2**

**RESOURCES AVAILABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE (RAQ) FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is aimed at collecting information on undergraduate students' use of Library in Universities in Nigeria. Kindly respond to the questions to enable the researcher successfully complete the study. All information provided will be used for educational purpose only and the anonymity of the respondent will be guaranteed.

Oyedum, G.U.

**SECTION A: AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES**

Please answer the following questions by ticking (✓) in the appropriate spaces provided where SA= STRONGLY AGREED, A= AGREED, D= DISAGREED, SD=STRONGLY DISAGREED

S/N	STATEMENTS	SA	A	D	SD
1	Your level of satisfaction as regards the subject coverage of the library stock including the ICT facilities in your area of specialization is high				
2.	The materials you have consulted in your university library are current				
3.	The university library materials you have consulted are outdated.				
4.	The information materials in your library are accessible to users.				
5.	The library's book loan duration of your university library is satisfactory.				
6	Please identify and recommend ways of improving information resources in Nigerian university libraries.				