

**UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES BY  
LECTURERS IN UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE,  
MAKURDI**

**BY**

**UKIH, M.M. ORGEM  
PG/MLS/08/49602**

**DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION  
SCIENCE**

**UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

**MARCH, 2012**

**TITLE PAGE**

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**A PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
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FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
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AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (MLS)**

**UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

**SUPERVISOR: DR. R.E. OZIOKO**

**MARCH, 2012**

**APPROVAL PAGE**

This work by Orgem M.M. Ukih (PG/MLS/08/49602 has been approved for the  
Department of Library and Information Science by:

---

**Dr. R.E. Ozioko**

Supervisor

---

External Examiner

---

Internal Examiner

---

**Prof. V.W. Dike**

Head of Department

---

**Prof. S.A. Ezeudu**

Dean of faculty

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Orgem M.M. Ukih a post-graduate student in the Department of Library and Information Science with Registration Number PG/MLS/08/49602 has satisfactorily completed research requirements for the award of masters in Library and Information Science. The work embodied in this thesis is original and has not been submitted in part of in full for another degree of this or any other university.

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**Ukih, M.M. Orgem**

Student (Name/Signature)

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**Dr. R.E. Ozioko**

Supervisor

## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to God Almighty through his son Jesus Christ and all genuine clergymen.

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**Orgem M.M. Ukih**  
Department of Library and Information Science  
Faculty of Education  
University of Nigeria, Nsukka

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## ABSTRACT

This research work was designed to examine the utilization of library resources by lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi. The specific objectives of the study is to find out the level of availability of library materials in the university, and determine the extent of use of the materials by lecturers. It is also to find out the factors that impede lecturers use of the library and make recommendations for improvement of library use. Six research questions guided this study. A descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The population of this study comprises all lecturers in University of Agriculture Library, Makurdi whose number is put at 480. Out of this population 192 representing 40% of the population was sampled. Out of the 192 questionnaire administered 153 were filled and returned representing 80% response rate. Statistical tools used for the analysis were frequency counts and mean scores. The major finding of the study is that there are many library resources such as books, journals, bulletin, transactions and proceedings, research monographs, research reports patents, technical bulletin, price lists, data sheets, dissertations, indexes/abstracts, biographies, gazetteers, dictionaries, and encyclopedias amongst others, in the University of Agriculture, Makurdi and that lecturers use the library mainly for consultation of books and reference materials. They also use it for research purpose and borrowing of books. A major findings was also that lecturers utilized books more than any other source of information. A number of recommendations were put forward for improvement of library use but the most prominent suggestion was that more up to date and relevant information sources should be acquired for the library, and that the library should be properly funded.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Background of the Study**

The main purpose of the University Library is to support the objectives of the University, which is to promote teaching, learning and research. The university library is meant to serve the undergraduates, post-graduates, lecturers and other members of the university community. The quality of a university is measured largely by the quality of its library because of its unique role in the university system. There can never be the existence of a university without a library since the university is meant to teach and carry out research. For the teaching staff and research fellows, the university library is supposed to provide information resources and services of sufficient quality and diversity.

The university library is supposed to provide a variety of services. It is also supposed to serve all the areas of knowledge taught in the university. Consequently, university libraries are sometimes decentralized with a main library co-ordinating departmental and faculty libraries. This is the situation in University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library where departmental libraries are co-ordinated by the main library. For a university library such as the University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library to perform its several functions, its collection must not only include books but other materials such as general and specialized reference collections, made up of journals, newspapers, manuscripts, historical maps, government publications, clippings, letters, thesis and audio-visual materials.

Utilization of library resources simply means using of library resources. A person or thing that uses something somewhere or someplace to achieve his or her purposes is a utiliser or user. In the same context, one can state that those who make use of the library materials for their benefits are library users or utilisers. Also, those who enter the library and find such library materials useful are library users. Whittaker (1993) also defined a user as ña person who uses one or more of library services at least once a year. Hence, people who go either to the public, private, special school or academic libraries for some genuine reasons, requiring the attention of the library staff, are known as the library users or utilisers. Library users in the universities can be divided up administratively into external and internal users. The internal users consist of undergraduates, post-graduates, lecturers, research fellows and other members of the tertiary institutions, while the external users are those who are not members of the institution, but are also served by the libraries but under certain specific official arrangement.

Users of academic libraries are mostly made up of subject readers who concentrate their use of library materials on subject fields, they are working in or are studying. Students belong to these subgroups of subjects readers. Subject specialists or academic staff are also part of these subgroups, with the students obviously forming a high proportion of the users of academic libraries.

Lecturers need library resources because they are repositories of knowledge that provide the vital underpinning for national development. The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi Decree No 28 of 1992, established the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (U.A.M Calenda 1996/1997 ó 1990/2000).

The general objectives of University of Agriculture, in Nigeria including that University of Agriculture, Makurdi were founded with a philosophy and objective of creating opportunities for progress, production and profit in agriculture by developing manpower for it (Ibekwe 1989). She went on to say that with these philosophies and objectives the conventional universities with Agricultural faculties were purely geared towards the production of graduates in Agriculture to man government ministries and research institutions, without actually embarking on agricultural training, research and extension with a view to enhancing high agricultural product, of the farming majority.

But more specifically, with the establishment of the Federal Universities of Agriculture in the country, the integration of agriculture education, research and extension, the service broad ecological zones of the country has probably resulted into the enhancement of agricultural production. Adedipe (1988) summed up the task and objectives of Nigerian Universities of Agriculture thus: the acceleration of the pace of agricultural production for attainment of self sufficiency in food production and improvement of human development and personal wellbeing of Nigerians through rural development.

Indachaba (1988) stressed that central to the essence of new Universities of Agriculture is the introduction of innovative approaches to research, training and extension. These include development of a strong disciplinary core with heavy practical training in crop production and husbandry, animal production and agricultural engineering technology. Development of training facilities and communication technologies for imparting new skills. There is also the need for cultural or research

linkages between the agricultural research institute and outreach programmes of the universities. These are the challenges of Universities of Agriculture generally in Nigeria.

Surmounting the challenges above require information by the lecturers amongst other stakeholders in these institutions to address. The information they need is provided by the library. This is achieved by effectively providing materials for the required agricultural information dissemination to the lecturers and other stakeholders. By so doing, it enables the parent institution to discharge her teaching and research functions.

The functions of any academic library are summarized in the promotion of teaching, learning and research. These roles are prosecuted through balanced acquisition, proper processing, storage, interpretation and dissemination of relevant information. Anything on the contrary renders the institution impotent in achieving its mission.

The University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library like any academic Library is important because it is a storehouse of information or record of human experience to which students, lecturers and researcher can turn for information. The Library makes available and accessible to its clientele information resources needed for teaching and learning. By offering instruction in the use of Library and bibliographical resources, the Library participates in the transition of knowledge.

The library of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi started in 1981. It inherited the facilities of the defunct Makurdi campus of the University of Jos, which in turn inherited the faculties of the defunct Federal University of Technology, Makurdi. The library which had a capacity for 150 (one hundred and fifty) readers and about 5000 volumes of book started offering skeletal services to the University academic staff earlier than the formal opening of the Library to the University community. This was to enable

the faculties prepare their lectures before the arrival of the pioneering students. The Library of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi had gone through several processes of merger and de-merger giving birth to the new University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library in January, 1988.

The Library started operations and services in the new library building named Francis Idachaba Library on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1995. At that time the library contained approximately 30,000 volumes of books and 3891 volumes of journals. The library is presently headed by a librarian Mr. Sugh Loho. It also has a total of about fifty-two staff made up of ten professionals and forty-two para-professionals. It has a reading capacity to accommodate 500 readers at a time. There has been no study on utilization of Library resources by lecturers at University of Agriculture, Makurdi and it is for this reason that the present study was undertaken. The choice of University of Agriculture Library, Makurdi lies in the fact that it is a new University with Agricultural bias and its investigation will enable us know the extent of library use by lecturers, and the impediments of library use by them.

### **Statement of the Problem**

It is generally expected that academic libraries should be fully utilized in order to enhance teaching and learning. When an academic library is regularly used, by lecturers they are able to up-date their knowledge in their fields of specialization and become more effective in the discharge of their duties. Above all the quality of graduates produced by the University will be high while lecturers can compete favourably with their counter parts elsewhere.

The likely consequence of this scenario is that most lecturers will not be up to date in their knowledge in their fields of specialization and may likely not give out their best to students. Lecturers may also not be in a position to compete favourably with their counterparts in other Universities when it comes to presentation of papers and seminars. Also the inadequate use of University library's collection, will not justify the large sum of money spent on acquisition of materials, and staff salaries, and it will likely affect the quality of teaching and learning in the institution. It may likely result to production of half baked graduates. fidon (1999) stressed the fact that it is important to know the extent of library use because one's impression of library use may be entirely different with what is on the ground. It is also true that such factors like number of hours a library is open and the library's programme of instruction amongst many other factors may influence library use and it is only by an investigation that the true cause may be established.

The investigation of the library of University of Agriculture, Makurdi, will enable us know the extent of Library use. It will also enable us know the number of hours the library is open, and the library's programme of instruction as it affects the use of the library. We shall also know the impediments of library use by lecturers of University of Agriculture, Makurdi.

From personal observations the library of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi is most likely not adequately used by lecturers. This is the problem which the researcher feels that only an investigation will un-ravel the mystery and once problems are discovered and a solution found, lecturers will begin heavy patronage of the library.



### **Purpose of the Study**

The general purpose of this study is utilization of library resources by lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the level of availability of library materials in University of Agriculture, Makurdi.
2. To find out the kind of library resources that are available for use by lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi.
3. To find out lecturers purpose of use of University of Agriculture, Makurdi library.
4. To determine the extent of use of library resources by lecturers of University of Agriculture, Makurdi.
5. To find out the factors that impede/hinder the use of the library by lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi.
6. To find out the strategies that could be adopted to improve the use of University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library as recommended by lecturers.

### **Research Questions**

This study is guided by the following questions.

1. What is the level of availability of library materials in University of Agriculture, Makurdi?
2. What kind of library resources do lecturers consult most?
3. What is the purpose of the use of library resources by Lecturers of University of Agriculture, Makurdi?
4. What is the extent of use of library resources by lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi?

5. What factors impede/hinder the use of library of University of Agriculture, Makurdi by lecturers?
6. What strategies could be adopted to improve the use of University of Agriculture, Makurdi library by lecturers?

### **Significance of the Study**

The findings of the study will hopefully benefit the University of Agriculture, Makurdi management, the University Library, the lecturers of the University, the students and the general university community. The university management will know the problems of the library, that is whether the staff of the library are adequate or not. Whether the library resources are available in good quantity or not, whether the information sources are current and up to date or not. Whether the collections in the library have taken adequate care of the core-Agricultural subjects or not. They will also know the problems that hinder proper patronage of the library by lecturers. They will also know whether the funds they have been approving for the library are adequate or not.

The library management will also benefit from this study. They will be in a position to know whether lecturers have easy access to information sources and if not re-examine their classification and cataloguing systems. They will know whether or not lecturers benefit maximally from the library instruction programme. They will know whether or not library staff effectively serve lecturers by enabling them have easy access to information sources. The study will reveal feeling of lecturers regarding the appropriateness of information service delivery to enable the library management in providing what is appropriate. The study will also reveal the problems hindering effective provision of information service delivery to the library management.

The lecturers themselves will benefit from this study. The library resources which they indicated are not available may be acquired. The recommendations of lecturers on how they can effectively use the library may be implemented for their good. The study will serve a guide to other librarians who would want to conduct similar research. In the same vein, it will serve as a guide to other students of library science who may be interested in carrying out similar research on utilization of library resources in other academic institutions. It will reveal typical information sources that should be present in University Libraries. Also, the basic information sources that should be present in Agricultural University Libraries will be identified, this will enable Agricultural University Libraries to formulate policies in respect to its provision in the library.

Also the various information delivery methods through which information can be delivered will be exposed, thereby enabling university librarians to know the specific ones they can demand for. The study will also add to the existing literature in the field of librarianship especially in the area of utilization of University Library resources.

### **Scope of the Study**

The study will cover resource availability and use of the collections of the library by lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi. Makurdi is the capital of Benue state. Benue state is located in the north central zone of the Nigeria.

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The review of literature relevant to this study have been arranged and presented under the following headings:

- ❖ Conceptual framework.
  - ❖ Need for use of academic resources.
  - ❖ Resources of university libraries.
  - ❖ Utilization of the library by patrons.
  - ❖ Factors affecting use of the library by various categories of users.
  - ❖ Strategies for effective use of the library by lecturers.
- ❖ Review of empirical studies.
- ❖ Summary of literature review.

#### **Conceptual Framework**

The library is for use, hence Edoaka (2000) had defined it in terms of use. This include the facilities, personnel and information materials. Utilization of library therefore refers to the reported use of information sources in the library by users (which could be students, lecturers, or researchers etc). This involves the frequency of patronizing the library, frequency of borrowing books, kinds and age of information sources used Colin, (1990). Utilization of library resources therefore means the total use that library facilities, personnel and information resources are put to.

The availability of these resources however may not necessary mean their accessibility. This is because they may be there but physically can never be positioned in

areas people or users can make and use them. Availability therefore refers to physical accessibility to information resources in the library. Ifidon, (1999).

The library as a place where information resources are, and are used, has been defined in different ways. Some see it as a collection of books, serials and non-book materials kept for the purpose of reading and consultation. Others see it as a place building or room where a collection of books and other library materials are properly arranged in a building or room for promotion of human knowledge Alokun, (1994). However, library has been defined as place where everything about it, is associated with information and knowledge people or users can access and use. A library in a University is known as University Library. University libraries are meant to support the programmes offered by Universities.

To meet the information needs of lecturers, the University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library is divided into five main divisions namely.

The Serials Division, which keeps publications like journals, newspapers and magazines. Serial publication are constantly checked to determine if there are missing issue of journals. Journals are placed on open shelves while past issues of newspapers and magazines are tied up and kept in a store and are produced on request. Serial publications in University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library are catalogued and classified by the Technical Services Division. Unlike books, the record of serials are written in Kalamazoo. Newly received journals subscribed to are displayed on the periodical rack as new arrival. Materials in this unit contain very current information.

The Information and Communication Technology Division is made up of two units, that is the computer unit and audio-unit. The unit is connected to internet. There

readers who have electronic information needs no patronize to browse. The unit is heavily used by students who buy air time. Staff of the unit are always on hand to offer assistance to readers who do not know how to use the facilities.

The audio-visual unit is equipped with video recorders, a digital video camera, a compact disk, multi-media projector, overhead projectors, vision projector, microfilm reader, laptop computers, desktop computer, a screen board and public address system. There are various educational programmes on CD-Rom, video and radio cassettes, students project defense, seminars, and inaugural seminars are covered by this unit.

The Collection Development Division deals with the acquisition of Library materials in diversified form to meet the various information needs and aspirations of users. This is realized through purchase, which could be from publishers, local bookshops or through gifts and donations.

The last division, that being the Readers Services Division is the image maker of the University Library. It is the section of the Library where readers come to face to face contact with the staff, resources and services of the library. The Division is divided into: Circulatory/lending section, Reference section, Reserve section and Document section.

### **Need for use of Library Resources**

The importance of libraries to education generally lies in the fact that they provide necessary information to lecturers, students and researchers and community services. The significance of academic libraries lies in the fact that they are repositories of knowledge that provide the vital underpinning for national development. Alokun (1994). Libraries also exist as dynamic instruments of education to enable their parent institutions discharge their teaching and research functions. Libraries are important because they are

store-houses of information or record of human experience to which researchers can turn for information. Such libraries make available and accessible to their clientele information resources needed for research Euster (1995). Furthermore, the completeness of libraries enables the researcher to avoid duplicating what has already been done or is being investigated by another individual as well as know whether the available information resources are adequate for the type of investigation.

The academic Library to which University of Agriculture, Makurdi belongs is geared to implement the purposes of university's general programme. It is also to meet the educational objectives of the institution. Ideally, the library is generally to encourage the advancement of learning and to provide facilities for useful and meaningful research Ladule (1999).

The role of the Library therefore is to make available organized materials that will enable the institution to achieve its set objectives. Hence, the university library is the nerve centre, the central and primary place of the institutions academic activities. Nelson (2003). This indicates the fact that a university library should be built with vision, ambition knowledge and dedication. Above all, the University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library was built with the conditions governing the set up of its institution, that is to provide necessary information to lecturers, students and researchers and community services, without which the whole system will perhaps collapse.

In summary, apart from supporting the instructional programme of the institution, the Library (Emezi 1996) should endeavour to:

- (i) Provide extensive materials (books and non-book materials alike) for study, teaching and research for the benefit of the students and staff of the university and others.
- (ii) Encourage the students to develop the life-long habit of good reading with a view to encourage independent study.
- (iii) Prepare and preserve these materials, for further usage through cataloguing, classification and binding.
- (iv) Hold exhibitions and displays of library materials in order to reinforce the teaching of the institutions staff. From the foregoing, it is evident that a library in an educational institution is a force for and source of educational excellence. This reveals the fact that the provision of adequate library building, staff, finance, books and other reading materials is a necessity for any academic institution to successfully carryout its programme. Olafioye (1995). The University of Agriculture, Makurdi has as earlier noted provided all the needed materials in her library to take care of the university's curriculum.

Furthermore, according to Aguolu & Aguolu (2002) literature review is the careful and systematic identification or location of document, analysis and reporting of information relevant/related found useful to the present study.

The importance of literature to post-graduate research are the following:

- It helps the researcher to determine the nature and scope of views, opinions in the earlier works done in ones proposed area of research.



- It can afford a researcher an opportunity to familiarize and acquaint oneself with current state of the art in ones proposed area of study.
- It will help the researcher to identify the missing gap in ones area of study which requires to be well covered.
- It will help the researcher to minimize or avoid completely emphasis in certain areas which do not need over duplication.
- A good literature review should highlight gaps, lapses in an earlier works in ones field of study.
- It will provide an insight into the direction and scope of researchers proposed study as to know whether the study is necessary or not.

By implication, the provision of such an insight may be preconditioned to determining, defining and delimiting what the problem of the study is all about. This will help in stating the problem of the study and equally guide the researcher in formulating research questions/hypotheses. Literature review will also guide a researcher to avoid the mistakes and pitfalls of other works.

Literature review is very necessary because once a researcher reads the strategies, procedures and conclusions of previous related studies, one should be able to determine whether such procedures are weak, impracticable, defective and unproductive that should be avoided.

Ifidon (1999) writing on the literature review stressed that researchers should select relevant works to their topics. Such topics should be new, capable of bringing changes and innovations to their field of studies. Such literature review should be liable to stimulate further debate on the future of the proposed study. He further stressed that

the documentation of identified sources have to be broad-based covering the searching of materials such as journals, magazines, professional associations newsletters, books, periodicals, newspapers, visits to professional colleagues, and personal interviews with authorities from the field of studies.

Basically, the purpose of reviewing such large materials is to enable one's present research findings to be presented and discussed in terms of whether they are in agreement with, or in supportive of previous findings or not. Nonetheless, whichever way the researcher chooses should be logically explained. This logical explanation is necessary because at times agreement or disagreement may occur in sampling method, research conditions and differences in data analysis which non-explanation may not be well known to the members of the panel.

In addition, literature review will help the researcher to suggest areas for further study irrespective of whether the information reviewed and the present findings are in support or disagreement with each other. According to Carter (1989) journal articles are known for their currency. Their citation patterns help in revealing interdisciplinary nature of disciplines which enable users to take decision on what is relevant to what is irrelevant. Besides that, citation analysis has assisted librarians in various disciplines to eliminate expensive low use/unused journals and then purchased those that are core and needed journals in different research areas. In other words, literature review helps librarians in decision-making. It is through literature review that research findings of related studies are articulated and brought together, published as dissertation that adds to collection development

### **Resources of the University Libraries**

There seems to be a relationship between the use of a library and knowledge of library materials. Arua (1997) is of the view that an establishment with one thousand items of information that are effectively used can be termed a library, while the other with over one million documents that are not effectively placed for use may simply be termed store house. Users who have cultivated the habit of visiting the library regularly are likely to identify and use information services they see in the library than those who don't visit the library. Awareness of the existence of materials precede use. Common resources of the University Library include manuscripts, note-books, newspapers, files and pamphlets, government documents, maps plans and personal papers of various kinds. Others include such reference tools as Encyclopedias, dictionaries, gazettes, maps and atlases, year books, handbooks, abstracts and indexes. Also under resources of University Libraries, certain factors such as accommodation, staffing/personnel, collections and finance have to be considered.

The need for adequate space to accommodate both library staff, patrons and collections conveniently is of paramount importance. As of many aspects of the Library building, standards, space would appear to be most crucial. Infact, failure to apply all the necessary parameters will lead to inadequate planning and inadequate space to satisfy the purposes for which the Library building is set up. Ifidon (1999).

On the issue of standard, the Library, Ifidon (1999) should make generous provision not only for space but also for congenial atmosphere that will be conducive to high productivity by Library staff and meaningful reading by Library users. However,

one should not overlook the current preference but functional buildings over monumental structures.

Realizing this fact, the committee of University Librarians in Nigeria Universities CULNU 2004 have outlined an adequate detailed breakdown of the reader/seating shelving, staff, book storage and other area spaces. It also included the flexibility and adoptability spaces for the Library's growth and development.

Contributing to this aspect, Nwamefor (2001) has emphasized that successful Library presupposes an adequate Library building. The building should in all cases present facilities for housing the Library's furniture and equipments, staff, readers and the collections. An ideal academic library should have in its capacity  $\frac{1}{4}$  of its potential users or alternatively 25% of the total institutions population. Ifidon (1999).

For any academic Library to take its proper shape of achieving its set goals and aspirations adequate planning, designing and physical structure of the building, coupled with all what it should contain are of utmost necessity. Ifidon (1999). The University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library has a standard building, the furniture is also okay and it has a present reading capacity of 500 members.

Staff/personnel also has to be considered under resources of a library. Presuming that a library is adequately funded and housed, the most important factor in weighing its adequate stock is the presence of adequate, experienced and qualified library staff. Unequivocally, therefore, the role and the status of library staff cannot be overemphasized, in this respect, Dede (1996) stressing the rationale behind the provision of adequate library staff, by quoting Lyle, reveals:

*“the effective position of College Library in instructing students in the use of the library tools and bibliography, in defining and carrying out of the objectives of a college, in collaboration with the faculty and in extending the use of library materials in education requires a well qualified and numerically adequate staff in the library service is pivotal. The student body, faculty, and public using the library are particularly sensitive to its oversight, judgement and enterprise. pp87.*

It might be interesting to note that personnel is very basic to effective library services. There has to be sufficient number of highly qualified staff for a library to render effective services. Indeed the development of a library can be judged from the caliber of its staff, who should be adequate to users satisfaction. This might be the reason why in most libraries staff emoluments normally take up between fifty and seventy percent of the total library's budget. The University of Agriculture, Makurdi has qualified and adequate staff to man the library. The library has a total of fifty-two members of staff, made up of ten professionals and forty-two para-professionals. These are adequate for the library which has a seating space for five hundred readers at a time.

On the issue of standards, the right quantity and quality of the library staff Ifidon (1999) must be with a minimum of one librarian to 200 readers up to a maximum 40 librarians for 8,000 readers. This thereafter, the ratio should be 1 librarian to 400 readers up to a maximum of 50 librarians for 12,000 readers. For every additional 1,000 readers there should be 1 librarian. However, the demand upon library or information services is conditioned by users expectations of the library and the librarians capabilities. The staff should be adequate and continuously motivated, stimulated and professionally challenged through in service training, seminars, workshops and conference attendance Aguolu (2002).

Collections also form part of resources of a library. There is no doubt that, what is at stake is the ability of Academic libraries and librarians to deliver adequate, relevant, up to date and needed collections to their clientele. Books have always been the basic tool for education. Very little result can be achieved without the use of books, journals, periodicals and audio-visual to academic institutions. They are the vehicle of communication and transmission of education, learning and culture of the society for the past, present and future. Ekpenyang (1990).

It might be interesting to also consider the book situation in academic institutions and Nigeria in general. Contributing to this aspect Bozimo (1993) lamented that the existing information sources in our higher institution libraries can no longer meet the needs of their patrons. She maintained that unless immediate positive and systematic efforts are made to improve their quality and quantity, it would become increasingly difficult to satisfy the academic activities.

Understandably, today, whenever the cost of education is discussed in Nigeria, books constitute a dominant project. However, giving the persistent issue of the problems in and constraints on, the provision of these adequate reading materials and suggesting possible solutions of mitigating or removing the obstacles to make them available Aguolu (2002), Ogunsheye (1990) have stressed them more vividly. Factors that have outstripped or rapidly eroded the rate of adequate provision of reading materials are summarized below as follows: -

1. The enormous concomitant growth in the number of institutions and users and the diversification of academic and research programmes with the available resources.

2. Poor and dwindling economy, coupled with the high inflation pressure of the materials.
3. Over dependence on foreign books as over 90% of the literature are imported contrary to the foreign exchange restrictions time lag and custom clearance which is difficult and with high tax.
4. Inability of the Nigerian publishing industries to publish higher educational books in bulk but mostly target towards meeting the needs of primary and post-primary schools.
5. Inadequate budget, as most of the institutions do not disburse to the libraries the five percent of their total budget endorsed by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and others.

In spite of the aforesaid, recent pressures from the general public and educational institutions have called for an urgent action on the part of Government, publishers, Associations of Academic Libraries for possible solutions to the scarcity of books and other reading materials. From the aforementioned points to avoid lopsided collections or inadequacy of information sources, the collections should grow *pari-pasu* with academic programmes of the institution. There is the need to consider the institutions populace, particularly the enrolment of the students and academic staff. Aboyade (1990).

The University of Agriculture, Makurdi in order to meet the collection needs of the university has a collection development division the collection development division deals with the acquisition of library materials in diversified form to meet the various information needs and aspirations of users. This is realized through purchase, which could be from publishers, local bookshops, or through gifts and donations. The

acquisition of collection at University of Agriculture, Makurdi takes into consideration students and staff population and the various faculty needs.

Another factor that normally affects the resources of university libraries is finance. Precisely, no matter how perfect the system of an organization and its management, and no matter how efficient and well-qualified the staff the fundamental requirements of a really satisfactory service is an income sufficient to operate and maintain the service properly. Lamenting the state in which a library finds itself, Alokun (2003) examined how academic libraries were being eroded by a host of obstacles. These range from acute shortage of funds and economy to high inflation which tended to place the libraries in worse situations to the fulfilling the goals and aspirations of their set-up.

Similar to this more insightful and financial stringency Ifidon (1999) examined many of the pitfalls and opportunities dealing with the survival of academic libraries in hard times, reactions to pressure, rational and irrational to the provision of efficient services. It is laudable to note that Nigerian academic libraries generally are faced with this same challenge. Momoh (1983) has ascertained the extent to which the libraries of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria have been affected and the roles the librarians and the management have played, are playing and are expected to play to meet the challenges of this financial constraints.

However, giving the possible solutions, Aguolu (2002) has urged academic institutions management to adhere to the giving of 5% of the institutional total annual budget to their libraries. Other sources of generating revenue for the library he ascertained include books overdue fines, photocopying and inter-library services,



operating of bookshops and appeal funds to other organizations, individuals and co-operate films.

Although, the economic situation is beyond what one can do alone in his own way, the aforesaid contributors have tried to make what is the best out of it. Among, the suggestions made revolved round enhancing adequate provision of funds through strategic categories techniques, planning and controlling coupled with the rationale behind it accordingly. Perhaps, if this strategy is wisely applied, some of the problems of these financial predicaments might be ameliorated. The University of Agriculture, Makurdi like the other universities faces the same problem, however, due to its Agricultural leaning efforts are normally made to pump funds into the library to take care of core-science subjects and agricultural research and extension activities.

#### **Utilization of the Library by Patrons**

A factor that might motivate an individual to use a library is how easy it can be used. Thus, ease of use becomes an important factor to consider when a user is contemplating using a library. It is better to device an information retrieval system that will not make it troublesome for a customer to have information. Ease of use is sometimes ranked ahead of quality or of information expected from a particular source. Wittaker (1993). Provision of library catalogues that are easy to use, adequate guides to library collections and adequately shelved books enhance and facilitate library use. The University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library is one of the academic libraries. It has precise role and function to play as determined by the institutions goals and aspirations. The task of this library is, no doubt a formidable one considering the complex nature of the institutions community and the variety of learning and research interest.

The prime user of the library is of course the student who has to use the library to supplement his lecture notes or write assignments. In addition, he expects the library to provide him with materials in disciplines other than his specialized subject area and to play the role of the school. The library also serves as a place where the student can learn to keep himself up to date with the development in the social, political and economic situation in his society and the world generally.

In short, an ideal academic institution library is also expected to provide light reading materials that can help to broaden the student's mind, to respect and appreciate his culture and to develop his moral and intellectual horizon. It is also an institution for training of the student to understand his surroundings and so graduate as an educated and well-groomed individual who has been prepared to give his quota to the development of his society. Alokun (2003). It is observed that every academic staff is particularly keen in keeping himself current in his subject field. Therefore, academic staff are one of the many users of the library who expect the library to provide them with materials to enhance their teaching and research findings. Majority of the lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi patronize the University Library who expect the library to provide them with materials to meet their teaching and research needs.

From the fore-going, it is clear that no teacher is an encyclopedia of all knowledge, nor can, an institution exist and successfully carry out its programme without adequate library resources. Thus for University of Agriculture, Makurdi or any other university library to discharge their cardinal responsibilities successfully adequate resources are indispensable. Colin (1990) confirms this when he accordingly emphasizes:-

First and foremost is an adequate financial resources without which the whole system will collapse. Secondly, availability of articulate staff that will be able to guide the user, build relevant, up to date and balanced collection and maintain it in an orderly manner for easy use. Thirdly, a decent but not too fanciful building that can provide a conducive atmosphere for learning which is an integral part of a good library. p.108.

Indeed, libraries are known to be the primary vehicles for access to man's recorded knowledge. This is because a learned professor and a curious scholar is always anxious to know and discover how rich and strong is the institution in his field of interest. Therefore, they should occupy a central position in the development of national educational objectives. Their policy is to provide adequate resources with a view to support their educational goals and aspirations. Onadiran (1989).

It should be emphasized that the University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library, the foyer of living is an important tool for teaching, study and research. Apparently, there is no better explanation as to the place, role and function of the library of University of Agriculture, Makurdi or indeed any other academic library than what in the words of Aguolu (2002) reveals "*The academic health, intellectual vitality and effectiveness of any university depends largely upon the state of health and excellence of its library, which is its life blood*" p.92.

It therefore follows that the role the library plays in the educational process of University of Agriculture, Makurdi and any other academic institution cannot be over emphasized. It should be the central and primary place that serves all the functions of the institution, teaching and research, the creation of new knowledge of learning and culture of the present and the past. Besides, the implication of this for library development is that it became imperative for the library to provide sufficient resources to meet University of

Agriculture, Makurdi goals and aspirations, a true representation of the totality of that which the institution stands for and exist.

### **Factors affecting use of Library by various Categories of Users**

A number of factors influence the use of academic library collections. These include availability of library materials, location, age of collection, and user education.

Availability of materials certainly influences the use of a library. The frequent use of a library will be influenced by the availability of the information sources in the library to the user. Availability is the simple most important determinant of the overall extent to which an information channel is used. Both availability and technical quality influence the selection of first choice. When books and other information sources are available in the library for use, the library user is satisfied as his information needs are likely to be met. The user develops a positive attitude towards the library, on the other hand, unavailability of information sources lead to user frustration.

The location of a library can influence its use. The extent of library use is partly dependent on the distance between the library and users home or office. Ranaganathan (1992). It is clear that if a library is located far away from user's residence, its use will be low. On the other hand, proximity of the library to the user's residence is likely to maximize library use.

Also the age of the collection affects its use. In most libraries current information sources are likely to be used than retrospective ones. Oyedum (1992) indicated that new titles were used substantially more than old titles. The implication of this is that age of materials affect the usage. As information sources become older with time, the frequency of their use declines. This is particularly important in a technological or Agricultural

oriented library where currency of information is frequently needed by users who have to keep abreast of current developments in their fields.

Another factor that influences the use of the library is user education. A major reason why academic libraries spend some time educating their users is to improve their skills on library use. User education certainly has some effect on library use. Colin (1990) stated that effective instruction should decrease the time which would have been wasted to bibliographic searching and could reveal to the user many possibilities of locating needed information in the library. It therefore follows that failure on the part of users to locate needed sources of information is partly due to lack of inadequate user education.

The main objective in giving user education is to help the users make the best use of overall library resources. The specific aims of the user education programme include:-

- a) To develop readers awareness of the overall information resources available to them in their own and other libraries.
- b) To develop skills necessary for retrieving required materials.
- c) To develop in-depth knowledge of materials in readers subject area.
- d) To develop skills in presenting bibliographic references. Ekoka (2000).

The user education policy of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library is quite effective. It covers both staff and students and normally lasts for a whole semester for newly admitted students and staff members. Here students and staff are taught such things as use of library catalogue, classification of books, circulation and lending procedures as well as roles and regulations of the university library.

### **Strategies of effective use of the Library by Lecturers**

There is every need to use, effective strategies to improve library use. Ranganathan (1991) observed that the college teacher who thinks of education only in terms of his particular course aims and who confines himself to the use of lecture notes, textbook and assigned readings all of his own choosing, has tradition and experience to assume his success. The collegiate teacher must suggest, provoke and guide reading and has to create interest where it does not exist. The lecturer can thus promote use of information sources in the library through teaching and research while the librarian will also do this through use of the library instruction.

Other strategies for improving library use by patrons is that there must be provision of extensive materials (books and non-book materials) alike for study, teaching and research for the benefit of students and staff. For the University of Agriculture, Makurdi this has been taken care of by the library management as enough materials have been provided for the present library capacity of five hundred readers.

Another strategy for effective use of the library is to encourage the students to develop the life-long habit of good reading with a view to encourage independent study. This has been taken care of by the University Library through the provision of adequate materials to encourage independent study.

The University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library preserves library materials for further usage through cataloguing, classification and binding. In this way the materials are used for a long time. The library also instructs readers on how to use the library as earlier mentioned. By so doing it places proper tools in their hands thus avoiding theft and mutilation of books. Also the University of Agriculture, Makurdi library holds

exhibitions and displays of library materials in order to reinforce the teaching of institutions staff. The exhibitions and displays enables library clientele know the availability of new books and other library materials. In this way library patrons are encouraged to use the library: -

### **Review of Empirical Studies**

In the process of reviewing library use studies, we shall look at what happened in foreign countries and our country Nigeria.

One of the earlier use studies was conducted at Case Western Reserve University by McGaghy and Pucell (1982). Here Government publications and their use by faculty members were examined where documents were housed in a separate collection of the social sciences and humanities library. Data were collected by means of a questionnaire distributed to a sample comprising one third of the social sciences and humanities faculty. The questionnaire elicited information about the extent and frequency of use of government documents and related bibliographical tools and the degree of user satisfaction with assistance provided documents libraries. The response rate to the survey was 89% some 65% of the faculty members reported that they used government publications regardless of where the documents were located within the library. A low correlation was found between use of the general library and that of the document collections. The majority of the respondents claimed that they were satisfied with use of documents. Professors who needed help with documents indicated satisfaction with library assistance. Investigations concluded that neglect of government publications by some faculty members appeared to be associated with a lack of awareness of the library's resources.

A survey was conducted by Rzaso and Moriarty (1980) at the Purdue University among 6,568 respondents to determine whether significant differences existed among uses made of the library by faculty members, lecturers and other persons. Questionnaires were distributed to determine if these clientele were homogenous with regards to primary and secondary reasons for using the academic library. The patterns use were found to be of significant difference among the various categories of clientele.

Another study was conducted by Urguhart and Scofield (1992) in Cambridge University's Management Research Unit to develop techniques to measure the use of and effectiveness of library services. The study was concerned with the failure of readers to locate needed materials in three academic libraries. Specifically the following information was sought: (a) the proportion of books that readers failed to locate and whether the proportion varied according to topics of materials and to types of users (b) titles that were not usually available on books shelves and (c) causes of failure to locate books. Two data collection techniques were employed (a) records of failures to locate needed books were prepared by library clientele including details such as the following status of the user, subject area of the search number of books located or not located, whether a substitute book was found e.t.c and (b) randomly selected readers were interviewed as they left the library during certain periods of selected days. Although results differed some what among libraries, it was concluded that the collected data allowed libraries to establish priorities to pinpoint areas and procedures in need of change and to re-assess purchasing policies. This study was viewed by the researchers in an attempt to determine how librarians can better meet demands through an awareness of the information-seeking-behaviour and problems of readers.



Another study was conducted by Nelson (2003) at several Colleges and Universities in California where an attempt was made to measure faculty awareness of various reference services offered by libraries. The purpose of the study was to determine whether libraries successfully informed constituents of the availability of library reference services. A check list which included 13 selected reference services was distributed to a randomly selected sample of 1987 faculty members at six state supported institutions (Sample size was 30% of the total population). All services on the check list were offered by the libraries on a regular basis, and respondents were asked whether the services were available in their academic libraries. The survey revealed that the typical faculty member was aware of less than half of the available services and that inter library loan was the most widely recognized service. On the whole, faculty members were least familiar with the reference service whereby libraries would provide lists of information sources for specific courses. Academic rank and years of employment were found to be positively related to higher degrees of service awareness among faculty members. This study stressed the importance of publicizing and promoting reference services.

On the local scene, the study of the use of Kashim Ibrahim Library of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria by Ochai (2001) readily comes to mind. Ochai examined the adequacy otherwise of the library collection and to discover the problems the lecturers encountered, using the survey method, and questionnaires, interviews and documentary evidence as instruments for data collection. He found that generally science books were borrowed more frequently than other groups of books, that there is close correlation between the number of books borrowed per day and the total number of books in each subjects area. That some 40% of lecturers frequent the library in search of materials while

the rest 60% only came to the library occasionally. This study relates to the present one in terms of being a collection use study amongst lecturers in a Nigerian University.

Fowowe (1989) conducted a study on the use of University of Ilorin library by lecturers and students. Using the survey research method and questionnaire as instrument for gathering data, he found that 30% the lecturers visited the library on regular basis, while 80% lecturers reported that they used the library facilities. It was concluded that despite the amount of money spent on micro films, indexes and abstracts, only few lecturers used them. However, this study is related to the present one in terms of being a collection use of a University Library.

In a recent study of the utilization of the libraries of Federal University of Technology Minna by its users, namely students and lecturers, Oyedum (1998) using questionnaire to collect data found that while 53 (or 98.1%) lecturers generally use the library only 1 (or 1.9%) lecturers did not use the library. The findings also showed that majority of the respondents frequently used library books, followed by the journals, newspapers and index and abstract journals. Government publications and micro film were the least used. It was further revealed that majority of the respondents did not find the library resources adequate for their teaching and learning purposes. Some 49 (or 89.1%) of the lecturers claimed that the library materials were inadequate for their teaching requirements while only 6 (or 10.9%) lecturers reported that library information sources were adequate.

The study revealed that users of the University library were generally dissatisfied with the library collection. Oyedum's study is directly related to the present study in that it is a collection use study of the library of a technological or science oriented University.

## **Summary of Literature Review**

This chapter reviewed literature on the factors affecting library collection use and studies on use of academic library collections. The review revealed that despite the fact that collection use justifies the huge amount of money spent on the establishment and management of academic libraries, many of the items in library collections are not used while many users were dissatisfied with the library's collections. An examination of the literature on higher institutions libraries by Okoro (1990) has revealed the fact that there is great inadequacy of library resources, both human and materials. This according to Okoro (1990) is a major constraint to the effective implementation of good policies and programmes in the institutions. This review has equally revealed this.

Education and library are inseparable. Therefore lecturers and the library are inseparable. Many scholars have expressed their views on this issue. Said (1988) Onadiran (1989) and Aguolu (1983) are of the view that an academic library is the centre and image of the institution. It is a true representation of the totality of that which the institution stands for and exists. In essence, the academic library is to support the academic programmes of its particular institution. This literature review has also shown us the importance of libraries to universities. The literature review has shown us the importance of libraries to academic research, strategies for use of the library by its users, factors affecting use of library by various categories of users and the enormous resources of university libraries. It is clear from the review that if enormous resources that exist in University of Agriculture, Makurdi are well tapped, the lecturers in the institution will heavily patronize the library. The review also examined library use studies at both the

foreign and domestic scene and discovered that at both scenes the problem of inadequacy of materials exists.

There has been no study to the best of the researcher's knowledge on the utilization of library resources by lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi. It is for this reason that the present study was undertaken to examine the utilization of library resources by lecturers of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the research method to be adopted for the investigation including the research design, area of study, population, sample and sampling technique, instrument for data collection, method of data collection and method of data analysis. The chapter is organized according to these sub-headings.

#### **Research Design**

The research method or design adopted for this study is the descriptive survey method. Descriptive survey method involves a study of a population through the use of sample. The findings obtained from studying the sample can be applied to the entire population. Nwana, (1981). The choice of this design was considered most appropriate because a large population is involved in the study. Descriptive survey method aim at collecting data and describing in a systematic manner, the characteristics, features or facts about a given population.

#### **Area of the Study**

The area of study is Makurdi the Benue state capital. Benue state is located in the north central zone of Nigeria. The University of Agriculture, Makurdi is located in this zone.

#### **Population of the Study**

The population of this study comprise of all lecturers in the University of Agriculture, Makurdi. The lecturers population is put at 480 (U.A.M Post-Graduate prospectus 2010-2012). The lecturers were drawn from the College of Agronomy (48), College of Forestry and Fisheries (69), College of Agricultural Economics and Extension

(67), College of Animal Science (53), College of Agricultural Engineering and Engineering Technology (39), College of Food Science and Technology (40), College of Science, Agricultural and Science Education (75), the post-graduate school (45), and the library (28).

### **Sample and Sampling Technique**

From a population of 480 lecturers, a sample size of 192 representing 40% of the population was determined as recommended by Nwana (1981), that if a population is in few hundreds, a 40% of the population could be determined as a sample size from a given population. Nwana's recommendation is widely used by researchers. The lecturers were selected using random sampling. The stratified random sampling technique was used to ensure adequate representation from each faculty or school. Using the proportionate sampling technique 1% each was obtained from each faculty.

### **Instruments for Data Collection**

The instruments employed in gathering data for this study were the questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed by the researcher. It is made up of five sections. Section A is on level of availability of library materials in University of Agriculture, Makurdi and it has four items. Section B is on why lecturers use the library of University of Agriculture, Makurdi and it has four items. Section C is on frequency of use of the library by lecturers and it has three items.

Section D is on factors hindering the use of the library by lecturers and it has four items. Section E is on steps that could be used to improve the use of the library and it has three items.

### **Validation of the Instruments**

The instruments were subjected to face validation. They were given to two experts, one in the Department of Library and Information Science, Benue State University, Makurdi and another to the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The instruments were equally given to project supervisor for validation. Their comments, corrections and suggestions were all integrated into the final drafts of the instruments. (See Appendix 1 and 2).

### **Method of Data Collection**

The researcher went to University of Agriculture, Makurdi to administer 192 copies of questionnaire meant for lecturers. The distribution was done by the researcher in University of Agriculture Library, Makurdi, academic departments and in lecturers' offices. The distribution took one week, while collection of the completed questionnaire took another week. After collecting all the copies of the questionnaire, interview was organized with the University Librarian on areas in the questionnaire that the researcher wanted more details to be provided or areas that needed clarification. In the end 153 questionnaire representing 80% response rate were appropriately filled and returned. The study is therefore based on the number of questionnaire completed by lecturers.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The data gathered through questionnaire were presented in tables while mean scores were used in the data analysis. A 4 point scale was used. The mid point of 2.5 criterion mean is accepted as positive response. The formular for this is  $\bar{X} = \sum \frac{X}{N}$

$\bar{X}$  = mean

$\Sigma$  = summation

X = raw score

N = number of observations

Any mean score that is 2.5 above is considered as positive and accepted. And any mean score below 2.5 is considered as negative and rejected. For the percentage 50% is regarded as positive and accepted while any below 50% is regarded as negative and not accepted.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of data in consonance with the research questions raised in chapter one of this study.

**Research Question 1:** What is the level of availability of library materials in University of Agriculture, Makurdi.

**Table 1: Mean Responses on the level of availability of library materials in university of agriculture library, Makurdi**

Lib. Resources	AA	A	FA	NA	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
Journals	80	50	23	0	3.37	Accepted
Bulletin	90	40	23	0	3.44	Accepted
Transaction and proceedings	70	63	20	0	3.23	Accepted
Research monographs	85	50	20	0	3.46	Accepted
Research reports	100	40	13	0	3.56	Accepted
Patents	75	58	20	0	3.35	Accepted
Technical bulletin/report	75	60	58	0	3.89	Accepted
Price lists	100	50	3	0	3.63	Accepted
Data sheets	0	0	0	153	.0	Rejected
Dissertations	120	20	13	153	4.69	Accepted
Letters	130	15	8	0	3.79	Accepted
Dairies	60	60	33	0	3.17	Accepted
Memoranda	80	50	23	0	3.37	Accepted

Company files	0	0	0	153	0	Rejected
Thesis	140	10	3	0	3.89	Accepted
Oral history	0	0	0	153	0	Rejected
Internal research reports	80	52	21	0	3.3.38	Accepted
Indexes/abstracts	120	20	13	0	3.69	Accepted
Biographies	85	49	19	0	4.39	Accepted
Gazetteers	78	60	25	0	3.54	Accepted
Guide & travel books	90	40	23	0	3.43	Accepted
Text books	153	0	0	0	4.00	Accepted
News paper	120	30	3	0	3.72	Accepted
Magazines	120	30	3	0	3.72	Accepted
Periodical	118	31	4	0	3.74	Accepted
Internet services	110	30	13	0	3.63	Accepted
CD Roms	85	50	18	0	3.43	Accepted
Cassettes (Audio)	80	50	23	0	3.37	Accepted
Video cassettes	90	38	25	0	3.42	Accepted
Encyclopedia	120	30	3	0	3.76	Accepted
Dictionaries	153	0	0	0	4.00	Accepted
Atlases, maps & globes	150	3	0	0	3.98	Accepted
Translated documents to indigenous language	78	50	25	0	3.35	Accepted
posters	60	60	33	0	3.18	Accepted
Manuals	90	38	25	0	3.42	Accepted

Extension video shows	75	58	20	0	3.03	Accepted
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Key: - AA = Actually available A = available FA = fairly Available NA = Not available.

Table one shows the mean response of the level of availability of library materials. The mean scores shows that out of the 36 library materials listed, With the exception of three, data sheets (0) and oral history (0) company files (0) all the rest recorded between 3.03 mean score to 4.69. The first three mentioned have been negatively rated and rejected while the 3 library materials such as dissertations, biographies, dictionaries and so on listed with mean score of more than 2.5, that is 3.03 to 4.69 are positively rated and accepted. This means that all the 33 Library materials are adequately available in University of Agriculture Library, Makurdi.

**Research Question 2:** What is the purpose of use of library resources by lecturers in University of Agriculture Library, Makurdi?

**Table 2: Mean Responses on Why lecturers Use Library Resources in University of Agriculture Makurdi.**

S/NO	Why do you go to the library	VA	A	FA	NA	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
1	To consult reference Materials and books	150	0	0	0	3.92	Accepted
2	To prepare lecture notes	90	38	25	0	3.42	Accepted
3	To read new sappers	60	60	33	0	3.18	Accepted
4	To borrow books	65	55	33	0	3.20	Accepted
5	For research purposes	70	63	20	0	3.33	Accepted

Key = VA = very appropriate A = appropriate FA = fairly appropriate NA = Not appropriate

Table two shows the mean responses on why lecturers use library resources in University of Agriculture Library Makurdi. From the table, it is obvious that all the mean scores on the items provided have been rated between 3.18 to 3.92. This means that the items have been rated positively and accepted since none of them falls below 2.5 mean score. This implies that all the lecturers in University Agriculture Makurdi consult the library resources to use reference materials, to prepare lecture notes, to read newspapers, to borrow books and for research purposes.

**Research Question 3:** What is the extent of use of library materials by lecturers in University of Agriculture Library, Makurdi?

**Table 3: Mean Responses on the extent of use of Library Resources by Lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi**

S/No	Library Resources	VHE	HE	ME	LE	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
1	Books	153	0	0	0	4.00	Accepted
2	Journals	65	55	33	0	3.20	Accepted
3	Newspapers	70	65	20	0	3.33	Accepted
4	Research monographs indexes/abstracts	60	60	33	0	3.18	Accepted
5	Research reports	70	63	20	0	3.33	Accepted
6	Translated document to in digamous languages	78	50	25	0	3.35	Accepted

Key = VHE = very high extent, HE = high extent ME = moderate extent, LE low extent.

Table 3 show the mean scores on the extent of uses of library materials. The table shows that all the library materials have a mean score of 3.18 and above. This means the library materials are rated positively and accepted, implying that all the listed library material such as books, journals newspapers, research monographs, indexes, abstracts, research reports translated documents to indigenous languages are used to a very high extent with books, translated document to indigenous languages and newspapers being utilized to a varing extent.

**Research Question 4:** What factors hinder the use of library materials by lecturers in University of Agriculture Makurdi.

**Tables 4: Mean Responses on factors that hinder the use of Library Material by Lecturers in University of Agriculture Library, Makurdi**

S/No	Factors that impede/ Hinder	AH	H	PH	DH	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
1	Non-involvement of teachers in book selection	90	30	25	8	3.42	Accepted
2	No up to date maternal	150	3	0	0	3.98	Accepted
3	Not many journals	78	60	13	0	3.41	Accepted
4	Users not informed of new í	60	60	33	0	3.15	Accepted
5	Poor library instruction	58	57	38	0	3.41	Accepted
6	Unavailability of automatic generator	88	40	25	0	3.41	Accepted
7	Unavailability of air conditioners	88	40	25	0	3.41	Accepted
8	Inadequate library staff	76	62	15	0	3.41	Accepted

Key = AH = actually hinders, H = hinders, PH = partially hinder DH = donot hinder.

Table 4 shows the mean response of factors that impede hinder the use of library materials by lecturers. The mean scores shows that all the factors listed scored nothing less 2.5 and infact scored 3.13 to 3.98 mean scores. By this, it means all the factors are rated positively and are accepted. They include non involvement of lectures in book selection, no up to date materials, not many journals, users not informed of new arrivals poor library instruction unavailability of automate generator, unavailability of air conditioners and inadequate library staff are factors that actually hinder the use of library materials by lecturers.

**Research Question 5:** What steps could be taken to improve use of library of University of Agriculture Makurdi by lecturers?

**Table 5: Mean Response on the steps to be taken to improve the use of Library Materials in University of Agriculture Library, Makurdi, by lecturers**

S/No		VA	A	FA	NA	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
1	Buy more relevant books	88	40	25	0	3.41	Accepted
2	Buy more current information sources	153	0	0	0	4.00	Accepted
3	Buy multiple copies of books	92	28	25	0	3.28	Accepted
4	Fund library adequately	90	35	28	0	3.42	Accepted
5	More departmental libraries needed	58	57	38	0	3.13	Accepted
6	Increase professional staff	76	62	15	0	3.41	Accepted
7	Subscribe to move industrial/agric magazines	88	40	25	0	3.41	Accepted
8	Automatic generator needed	90	38	25	0	3.42	Accepted
9	Involve lecturers in book selection	65	55	33	0	3.20	Accepted
10	Improve library instruction	58	57	38	0	3.13	Accepted

Table 5 shows the mean scores of steps to be taken to improve the use of library materials in University of Agriculture library by lecturers. The mean scores revealed that all the above listed items are rated positively and accepted as none falls below 25 mean score. This means that all the items in the table are considered as steps to be taken in order to improve the use of the library materials in the University of Agriculture library Makurdi. The first of them include to buy more current information sources (4.00), automatic generator needed (3.42), increase professional staff and subscribe to more industrial/Agric magazines (3.41).

### **Summary of the Major Findings**

Based on the data presented and analysis, the findings could be summarized as follows:

1. There are adequate library resources in the library of the University of Agriculture Makurdi.
2. Lecturers' main reasons for using the library of University of Agriculture Makurdi were to consult reference materials and books, borrow books, read newspapers conduct research and prepare lecture notes.
3. The usage distribution of information sources by lecturers revealed that they used to a very high extent books, journals, newspapers researcher monographs, indexes/abstracts, research reports translated documents to indigenous languages but most especially books.
4. Lecturers were of the view that the major impediment to their use of the library was the inadequacy of current information sources, their non-involvement in book selection, and inadequacy of professional staff amongst other reasons.

5. Several suggestions were put forward by lecturers for improving the library but the most prominent suggestions were acquisition of more current and up to date materials, proper funding of the library and acquisition of automatic generator.



## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

This chapter dwells on discussion of the findings, implications of the study, recommendations, limitations of the study, suggestions for further research and conclusion.

#### **Level of Availability of Information Sources**

Based on the findings from the analysis done it has been discovered that there are adequate information sources available for lecturers' use in the library of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi. Out of the thirty six library materials listed only three were not available and the rest are available. This finding is in line with Emezi (1996) that a university library should endeavour to provide extensive materials (books and non-book materials alike) for study, teaching and research for the benefit of the students and staff of the university and others. Hence, for a university to serve all in society, its information sources must be diverse and varied in nature in order to serve the library clientele in general.

#### **Why Lecturers use the Library of University of Agriculture, Makurdi**

This study revealed the reasons why lecturers use the library of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi. Based on the analysis and findings derived from the study, different reasons why lecturers use the library of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi have been identified. The major reason is that the library is used to consult reference materials and books. This is expected because books constitute the dominant information source available in the library and lecturers need them to keep abreast of current

happenings just as reference materials are used. The findings also revealed that a good number of lecturers use the library for research. This is in agreement with Edoka (2000) who revealed that one of the fundamental functions of libraries in support of research in every university is taking the inventory of available library resources and communicating these to the university authority. This has been considered very important in terms of effective teaching, research, publications, conservation, interpretation dissemination of knowledge and ideas. Aguolu, (2002). The findings also revealed that a number of lecturers go to the library to prepare lecture notes. This is quite expected since the library has books and materials that cover virtually all the topics taught by the lecturers. A number of lecturers responded that they go to the library to read newspapers. The reading of the newspapers is meant to keep the lecturers with current happenings around the globe. A few lecturers also responded that they go to the library to borrow books.

### **Extent of Usage of Library Resources**

Based on the findings as revealed by the study, majority of the lecturers said they used books more frequently than other information sources. One reason for this is that books are more in number than any other information source.

A second reason is that the lecturers relied heavily on books essentially for their teaching responsibilities. The books contain the kind of information required for teaching and learning. The findings also revealed that lecturers use journals frequently to enable them keep abreast with current development in their fields. The findings also revealed that a number of lecturers come to the library to read newspapers, while a few make use of indexes and abstracts and research reports. The indexes and abstracts tells them where information can be found. Such information could be in books, pamphlets,

conference/workshop paper and journals or non-print form. Indexes and abstracts supply enough details to trace these materials. Research reports enable the lecturers know areas where research has been undertaken.

It must however, be stressed that lecturers need to be patronizing more of the information sources available in the university library. Such information sources like diaries, memoranda, company files and internal research reports need to be heavily patronized. This is in line with Awojobi (2004) who recommended that lecturers should make use of as many information sources as possible and not restrict themselves to a few. This also agrees with Jam (1992) who surveyed information needs of academic staff and found that their information needs are mostly job-directed and private arrangement for keeping up to date in various fields of specialization.

### **Factors that impede/Hinders the use of the Library**

Based on findings as revealed by research question four, majority of the lecturers are of the view that a major impediment to their use of the library is the inadequacy of current information sources. This is because being an agricultural oriented university the lecturers are concerned with current information sources to up date their knowledge in their fields of specialization. The provision of current agricultural information to relevant users is very strategic in the overall increase of food production in Africa. This agrees with Nwali (1997) who while studying the agricultural information provision in Nigeria concluded that relevant current agricultural information is necessary if Nigeria is to obtain self-sufficiency in food production. A number of lecturers listed the non-involvement of lecturers in book selection as an impediment to lecturers use of the library. The major advantage of involving lecturers in book selection policy is that they

normally list books that are directly relevant to the curriculum they teach. The involvement of lecturers in the book selection policy of the university will certainly ginger more lecturers into library use. One other observation as revealed by research question four is the inadequacy of staff. Lecturers are of the view that the staff of the library are inadequate and therefore overstretched. There is every need for the library staff members to be increased.

Writing on the importance of staff, Ifidon (1988) states that the right quantity and quality of the library staff must be a minimum of one librarian to 200 readers up to a maximum of 40 librarians for 8,000 readers. Agreeing with the issue of quality and quantity of staff, Aguolu (2002) added, that the staff should be adequate and continuously motivated, stimulated and professionally challenged through in-service training, seminars, workshops and conference attendance. A number of staff as observed in research question four were of the opinion that a major impediment of the library use by lecturers was that lecturers were always not aware of new arrivals in the library. There is every need for adequate publicity for newly acquired materials will arouse interest in lecturers who will rush for new ideas. This view agrees with Nelson (2003) who stressed the importance of publicizing and promoting newly acquired materials in the library. As it is, whatever assumption hitherto proffered of impediments to lecturers use of the library of University of Agriculture, Makurdi is a fallacy. It is only by an empirical work like this that the true situation of lecturers impediment to library use can be discerned and dependable solution proffered. The impediments to library use by lecturers confirms the works of Ochogwu (2007) Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) who catalogued problems of library use to include lack of funds, facilities, inadequate staff and lack of proactive

librarians. This assertion is true because information service delivery involves funds, good condition of service for personnel as well as qualified staff.

### **Steps to be taken to improve the use of University of Agriculture Library, by Lecturers**

Based on findings as revealed by research question five majority of lecturers are of the view that if more current information sources are acquired it will promote higher library use by lecturers, rely on current information sources to up date their knowledge in their fields of specialization. This agrees with Aina (1990) who stressed that current agricultural information both published and/or unpublished knowledge on all aspects of agriculture is needed. The findings as revealed by research question five also show that lecturers were of the view that more relevant books should be acquired for the library. This is very important for an agricultural oriented university of this nature. Here it is certainly the quality of books and not quantity that matters. The right books that pertain to the lecturers course coverage matters and not quantity. This agrees with Katz, William (1980) that it is better for a library to have one thousand relevant books to the clientele it serves than having over twenty thousand irrelevant books. The findings as revealed in research question five shows that a number of lecturers suggested that multiple copies of books should be purchased for the library to promote more library patronage. The purchase of multiple copies of books will ensure that some copies will still be available for use, even if a number are borrowed. A number of lecturers suggested adequate funding of the library, increase in the number of departmental libraries, increase in number of professional staff need to sub-scribe to more industrial/agricultural magazines and acquisition of some automatic generators amongst other reasons that will promote

adequate library use. Lecturers were also of the view that they should be involved in book selection policy of the library and that library instruction in the school should be improved upon.

It means that all hands must be on deck to ensure that service delivery to lecturers are effective. These steps to be taken to improve lecturers use of the library however necessary must be combined with sincere commitment during the implementation by both the management of the library and the university authority to yield the desired result.

### **Implications of the Study**

The findings and discussions in this study show that the library of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi has adequate library resources. Of the thirty six information sources listed, thirty three of them were found to be available. Only three of them namely Data sheets, company files and oral history were discovered not to be available. The only problem about the availability is that they are not adequately available but only fairly available. The implication is that not many lecturers will have access to them at all times. It is therefore the view of the researcher that more of those items should be procured to make them adequately available.

The findings and discussions on why lecturers use the library of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi shows that the major reason is to consult books and reference materials. They also go to the library to read newspapers, borrow books and for research purpose. Not many of them go there for internet browsing, probably because they have their laptops at home. The implication of this is that since there aren't multiple number of information sources, the lecturers consider the library as not being too relevant and don't visit there often.

The findings on extent of usage of library materials by lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi reveal that the lecturers used more of books than other materials. The usage of books is closely followed by journals, newspapers, and research reports. The implication is that lecturers used more books because of their high availability compared to other information sources. Journals usage is meant to keep them abreast of new developments in their fields while they use research reports to know areas that have been investigated and those that need investigation. A further implication of a use of few information sources to the detriment of others is that the other information sources are not many in number and that their importance is not known. The findings on impediment/hindrance to the use of the library of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi reveals that lecturers complain of inadequacy of current information sources. The implication is that once lecturers are not involved in book selection policy and more funds not made available to the library, the library will not acquire a lot of current information sources and that will not ginger more lecturers to library use.

### **Recommendations**

- Based on the findings from this work, the following recommendations are made: -
- ❖ Current and relevant information sources particularly books and journals should be acquired. Multiple copies of heavily used books should be acquired by the library management.
  - ❖ Additional professional and para-professional library staff should be employed by the university. The staff found in the library at the time of research were few and overstretched.

- ❖ More funds should be approved for the university library. The National University Commission's directive of commitment of 5% of the university's annual budget to the library should be implemented. This will enable the university library to meet all its financial obligations.
- ❖ Lecturers should be regularly informed of newly acquired information sources. This could be done by sending list of currently received publications to each head of department. Lecturers should equally be involved in the book selection policy of the university.
- ❖ An automatic generator should be acquired for the library to be providing power in case of failure from the public supply. Similarly the air-conditioning system should be provided and made functional for the library.
- ❖ Library user education programme should be improved as many lecturers did not participate in it. Many of those who participated were not satisfied.

### **Limitations of the Study**

This study has some certain limitations. They include

Some of the respondents especially the lecturers were afraid to give sincere information about the state of the library for fear that the leadership will be upset. Some of the lecturers felt that it is an exercise in futility, that is, nothing will come out of it. However, most lecturers on the assurance of the researcher that any information given will be treated highly confidential, but were still insincere. This insincere information was a serious limitation to the study.



### **Suggestions for Further Research**

In view of the fact that no study is comprehensive in itself, the researcher is making the following suggestions for further studies.

1. A further study should examine circulation records of the use of books in various agricultural subjects.
2. Studies should be conducted on the utilization of library resources in the other agricultural universities located in other parts of the country.

### **Conclusion**

The study is on the utilization of library resources by lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi the specific objectives of the study are to find out the level of availability of library materials in the university, and determine the extent of use of the materials by lecturers. It is also to find out the factors that impede library, use by lecturers and make recommendations for improvement of library use.

The research design used is the descriptive survey method, which involves a study of a population through the use of sample. The population of this study comprises all lecturers in the University of Agriculture, Makurdi which is put at 480.

The instrument employed in gathering data for this study was a questionnaire. As for the method of data collection, the researcher visited the University of Agriculture, Makurdi to administer questionnaire to lecturers. Of the 192 copies of questionnaire administered only 153 representing 80% were correctly filled and returned. As for the method of data analysis the data gathered on various items in the questionnaire were scored by frequency counts and mean scores.

The major findings of the study are that there are adequate library resources in the library of University of Agriculture, Makurdi and that lecturers use the library mainly for consultation of books and reference materials. They also use it for research purpose and borrowing of books. Furthermore, lecturers utilized books more than other sources of information.

A number of recommendations were put forward for improvement of library use but the most prominent suggestion was that more up to date and relevant information sources should be acquired for the library.

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**APPENDIX 1**

Department of Library and  
Information Science,  
University of Nigeria,  
Nsukka.  
29<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

Dear Sir/Madam,

í í í í í í í í í .

í í í í í í í í í .

**REQUEST TO COMPLETE QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS FOR RESEARCH****PURPOSE**

I am conducting a study on UTILIZATION OF THE LIBRARY RESOURCES BY LECTURERS IN UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI for my Masters in Library and Information, Science degree programme.

I am appealing that you kindly fill the attached questionnaire. I am also appealing that the responses should be precise and honest information.

Apart from the questionnaire you may also wish to assist me with other useful; information concerning the topic.

Thanks for your anticipated co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

**Ukih, M.M. Orgem**

07032330250

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON UTILIZATION OF THE LIBRARY RESOURCES BY  
LECTURERS IN UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI**

**Introduction**

Please answer each of the following questions by ticking (√) in front of the answers which express your feeling the best. Some questions permit more than one reply.

The answers to the questions will be kept strictly confidential.

1. Sex: ----- Male ----- Female -----
2. Department/College -----
3. What course are you teaching -----

**Section A**

**Questions on Availability of Library Materials in U.A.M. Makurdi**

What Library materials are available for use by Lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi?

Key = AA = Adequately Available A = Available FA = Fairly Available NA = Not Available.

S/No	Library Resources	AA	A	FA	NA
1.	Journals				
2.	Bulletin				
3.	Transaction and proceedings				
4.	Research monographs				
5.	Research reports				
6.	Patents				
7.	Technical bulletin/report				
8.	Price lists				
9.	Data sheets				
10.	Dissertations				
11.	Letters				
12.	Dairies				
13.	Memoranda				

14.	Company files				
15.	Thesis				
16.	Oral history				
17.	Internal research reports				
18.	Indexes/abstracts				
19.	Biographies				
20.	Gazetteers				
21.	Guide and travel books				
22.	Text books				
23.	Newspaper				
24.	Magazines				
25.	Periodicals				
26.	Internet services				
27.	CD-ROMs				
28.	Cassettes (Audio)				
29.	Video cassettes				
30.	Encyclopedia				
31.	Dictionaries				
32.	Atlases maps and globes				
33.	Translated document to indigenous languages				
34.	Posters				
35.	Manuals				
36.	Extension video shows				



**Section B****Questions on Purpose of Lecturers use of the Library**

Key = VA = Very Appropriate A = Appropriate FA = Fairly Appropriate NA = Not Appropriate

S/No	Why do you go to the Library	VA	A	FA	NA
1.	To consult reference materials and books				
2.	To prepare lecture notes				
3.	To read newspapers				
4.	To borrow books				
5.	For research purposes				

**Section C****Mean Responses on Extent of Usage of Library Materials by Lecturers**

Key = VHE = Very High Extent HE = High Extent ME = Moderate Extent LE = Low Extent

S/No	Library Resources	VHE	HE	ME	LE
1.	Books				
2.	Journals				
3.	Newspapers				
4.	Research monographs indexes/abstracts				
5.	Research reports				
6.	Translated documents to indigenous languages				

**Section D****Questions on factors that Impede/Hinder the use of Library by Lecturers in University of Agriculture, Makurdi**

Key = AH = Actually Hinder H = Hinder PH = Partially Hinder DH = Don't Hinder LE = Low Extent

S/No	Factors that Impede/Hinder	AH	H	PH	DH
1.	Non-involvement of lecturers in book selection				
2.	No up to date materials				
3.	Not many journals				
4.	Users not informed of new arrivals				
5.	Poor library instruction				
6.	Unavailability automatic generator				
7.	Unavailability of air conditioners				
8.	Inadequate library staff				

**Section E****Questions on Steps to be taken to improve University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library use by Lecturers**

S/No	Library Resources	VHE	HE	ME	LE
1.	Buy more relevant books				
2.	Buy more current information sources				
3.	Buy multiple copies of books				
4.	Fund library adequately				
5.	More departmental libraries needed				
6.	Increase professional staff				

7.	Subscribe to more industrial/agric magazines				
8.	Automatic generator needed				
9.	Involve lecturers in book selection				
10.	Improve library instruction				