

Challenges of Utilizing Library Resources by Students in Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa State

Habib Shehu*, Abdulakeem Akoworada Imran**, Alliyu Rasak Ojo***

Author's Affiliation:

*Department of Library and Information Technology, The Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

E-mail: shehabib2@gmail.com

**Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo, Oyo, Nigeria

E-mail: omoakoworada1@gmail.com

***College of Health Sciences and Technology Library, Ijero Ekiti, Nigeria

E-mail: rasakalliyu@gmail.com

Corresponding Author: Habib Shehu, Department of Library and Information Technology, The Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

E-mail: shehabib2@gmail.com

Received on 29.03.2021, Revised on 18.01.2022, Accepted on 12.02.2022

How to cite this article: Shehu H., Imran A.A., A.R. (2022). Challenges of Utilizing Library Resources by Students in Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa State. *Library Progress International*, 42(1), 11-18.

ABSTRACT

This study examines the challenges of utilizing polytechnic library resources by the students in federal polytechnic Nasarawa State. In carrying out this study three research questions were guided the study. This study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of this study is 1,825 (2018/2019) registered users of the library. The Sample for the study was 913. Proportionate sampling technique were used to draw the sample. The instrument used for data collection in this study was questionnaire. Research questions were answered using frequency count, Pie charts and percentages. Finding shows that 36.3% of the participants are male while 63.6% are female. Textbooks topped the highest consulted resources 97.6%, follows by journals materials 94.8%, computers 93.7%, CD-ROM 83%, newspaper 78.6%, photocopy 77.1%, theses and dissertations 76%, reference materials 75%, offline database 72.2%, scanner 58.6%, government document 44.2% among others. Finding also, reveal that 58.6% respondents establish that information resources provided by the libraries were suitable and the most impediment challenges were lack of internet 98%. The researcher proffered suggestions for effective and efficiency utilizing of library resources by students of federal polytechnic Nasarawa State. The highest suggestion acknowledged is that internet should be provided to enhance their scholar works.

KEYWORDS: Challenges, Utilization, Library, resources, Services, Federal Polytechnic.

INTRODUCTION

The extent to which polytechnic libraries can provide services to meet the needs of their users is dependent on the availability of committed staff and suitable organisational

factors. Polytechnics in Nigeria have the mandate of training and providing the middle manpower for the different sectors of the Nigerian economy. The services offered in the polytechnic libraries are therefore tailored towards the needs of their clientele who

comprise of students, academic and non-academic staff. Similarly, polytechnic library to effectively meet the information needs of the users, there must be a workforce that can act strongly for the attainment of organisational goals and also have a strong urge to remain loyal to the organization. In order for the library staff to put in their best, remain competent and effective in fulfilling their duties, it is the responsibility of managers of libraries to ensure that there is, in existence, a good working environment. Where authorities tend to think of their services almost exclusively, it is very likely that these services will not be effectively provided unless due recognition is given to those who manage them. Nevertheless, polytechnic libraries have a role to play in providing access to knowledge and information through modern and effective means to meet the demands of the society. Polytechnic libraries like any other libraries, have regulations which guide their users, and they are meant to be adhered to strictly to ensure that library perform their duties effectively and users make use of the library. For instance, the library's opening hours must be adhered to strictly. More, so polytechnic libraries play very important roles in the sustenance and development of the academic activities of their parent institutions. They bridge the gap between the vast information resources available in different disciplines through their services. They, arguably, remain an inseparable part of the polytechnics' setup which provide the information required to sustain and promote the intellectual activities of such institutions.

BRIEF HISTORICAL OF FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC NASARAWA

The Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa was established on 1st July, 1983 by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The establishment of the Polytechnic was predicated on the Government's desire to transform the society technologically. This is spelt out in the objective Decree No. 28 of 1987. Amongst the important objectives is: To train people to acquire technical and vocational skills which are needed for the economic and social development of Nigeria especially in the field of agriculture, industry and commerce. At the Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa academic work commenced in January 1984 at the Central Primary School dubbed temporary site with an

initial intake of 220 students enrolled in two schools: School of environmental and business studies. A department of liberal studies course and administration of pre-national diploma programmes. An important land mark in the development of the polytechnic was initial accreditation of all the programmes in 1985 and commencement of HND programmes in 1986 in business administration and management, accountancy, secretarial studies, town and regional planning.

In 1986, the minister of education, Professor Jibril Aminu cut the sod to begin the physical development at the permanent site, with the completion of classroom blocks and offices or school of environmental studies, the permanent site was commissioned for use in December 1984. During this period, national diploma (ND) programmes in Architectural technology, Building and Quantity Surveying (BOS), Town and Regional Planning and Estate Management, school of business and management studies; Accountancy and secretarial studies were initiated.

The rapid academic development continued in 1992/1993 session with commencement of ND programmes in Electrical Electronic Engineering Technology, Science Laboratory Technology and Statistics. Subsequent year witnessed the introduction of HND programmes in these and other discipline especially science and technology based programmes. These programmes had associated with them requisite laboratories and workshops fully equipped to meet the requirements or accreditation. Indeed with this development, the polytechnic can now be said to be a full-fledged technical institution offering programme in core engineering, Applied Science, environmental and business studies. Now, the polytechnic has a student population of over 10,000 spread over 26 departments in six schools. An additional school of basic and remedial studies is responsible for IJMB programme and weekend courses. Indeed, from humbler beginning the Polytechnic has grown to an institution of stature in the country, drawing students and staff from all over federation and beyond. Source: Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa official website:

<https://enemsproject.wordpress.com/2016/06/10/historical-background-federal-polytechnic-nasarawa/> retrived on 29/03/2021

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Despite long term existence of the Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa State library, the magnitude to which learners access and use library resources is not obviously known. This symbolises that student's inability to make use of resources may be lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) or inability to identify the resources available or unavailability of Internet resources in the library. Meanwhile, Aina, (1998) observes, the extent and frequent of an individual student accessing and using relevant library resources parallels the extent to which an individual is being informed. Also, according to Fokomogbon et al (2013), "lack of standards in the provision of library services is reported as a major cause of student's failure of accessing and using relevant informational resources; reducing reading morale; and limiting student's innovations". However, it has been noted that students in federal polytechnic Nasarawa were worrisome due to one reason or the others. Likewise, probably some of them have not been to a library before. It could be as a result of the present state of library or lack of user's education. Whereas, the active use of library by clients is anticipated to be the major objective of establishing libraries in higher institutions of learning. This study, intends to find out the challenges of utilizing college library resources by the students in federal polytechnic Nasarawa State.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to determine the challenges of utilizing polytechnic library resources by the students in Nasarawa State. The study specifically sought to:

1. identify library resources used by students in federal polytechnic Nasarawa State
2. find out the suitable and relevance of the library resources.
3. determine the challenges confronting the utilization of library resources among students in federal polytechnic Nasarawa State

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the types of library resources used among the students in federal polytechnic Nasarawa State
2. How suitable are the library resources
3. What are the challenges confronting the utilization of library resources among students in federal polytechnic Nasarawa State

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A polytechnic is a technical institution offering post-secondary technical education programmes leading to the award of diplomas/certificates such as the National Diploma (ND) and Higher National Diploma (HND). The products of these institutions will have entry level employment skills to function as technicians, higher technicians/technologists or professionals, depending on the level of training, in their fields of specialization. A polytechnic may also be involved in applied research, and perform any other functions that its Council may require it to perform from time to time. The minimum entry requirement is the SSSC/GCE O'Level with credit passes in at least five subjects relevant to the programme or their equivalents.

Polytechnic libraries are repositories of information and educational resources consciously acquired, preserved and made available for the use of the members of the polytechnic communities (Ogbodo (2011). They signify the college's sole device capable of infecting the totality of knowledge to their patrons. In the provision of services, the library employees play a major role not only in how the services are provided but also in how they are perceived by the library users.

Oriowo (2001) asserted that achievement of a reading room hinge on talent and capabilities of individuals. Therefore, workforce's need to be adequate so as to accomplish their targets and purposes of establishment. However, Oyewusi and Oyebode (2009) in their study, reveals that respondents used books, journals and internet resources in the library for their academic pursuits. Similarly, Mozeh and

Ubwa (2017) in their study challenges of utilizing academia library resources. It revealed that textbooks are rated high with 82.72% and dissertation with 99%. In the same study challenges identified were lack of orientation, poor state of library, poor reading environment, and inadequate function of ICT among others.

Studies, according to Otieno, et al (2015) have demonstrated that library users and they perceive and use library services are directly connected to how the staff handle the users. Iwhiwhu and Okorodudu (2012) carried a study on users' satisfaction with library and information resources, facilities and services in Edo State Central library, Benin City, Nigeria. Two hundred (200) respondents were selected using the availability sampling technique. Questionnaire and observation were the instruments of data collection and the data were analysed using descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequencies and mean. The result reveal that users were not satisfied with the information resources and that they were only satisfied with three services provided in the library; which are hours of service, labelling services and bindery. Corresponding, Okonoko, Sambo and Brume-Ezewu (2018) in their study challenges of utilizing academia library resources, it shown that lack of internet facility 92%, photocopying services within the library 92%, inadequate relevant materials 74%, inadequate functional ICT facilities/lack of user education, unfavourable state of the library 68%, lack of awareness of the library resources 63%, poor reading environment 52% among. Therefore, it can be argued that the academic set objectives of an institution can only be attained if the library is effectively stocked and offers the required services to the students and this service could not be effective and efficient deliver without adequate and functioning Internet facilities which are paramount services of academic library. The level and extent of the use of a polytechnic library would largely depend upon the adequate Internet resources which will enhance teaching, learning and research purpose.

Also, Bosah and Amadasu (2014), in their study, revealed that academic level of students does not affect their use of library resources. The study acclaims that male learners should

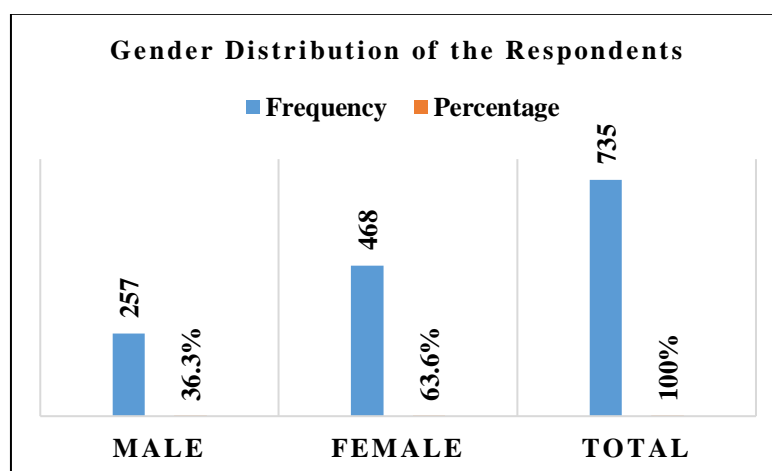
be targeted in a struggle to improve the use of reading room besides teachers should occupy learners with serious tasks that could inspire them to use the library frequently. More so, Nwezeh and Shabi (2011) emphasised that normal library orientation for freshmen should be revolutionized to allow learners comprehend the use of library and it resources.

Arua and Chinaka (2011) in their study recommended that suitable grant is necessary for the provision of contemporary information resources and the engagement of competent and trained teacher librarian. In spite of availability and use of library resources. Perera (2005) affirmed that sustaining client needs is vital to the administration of libraries. The organization workforces of a reading room should be cognisant of the modern desires of their clients, which may disagree from one library to another as well as from time to time. Therefore, carrying out consistent appraisals on user needs at consistent intervals on various aspects of library usage will be a helpful guide in influential the upcoming guidelines of library improvements.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study and the instrument used for data collection was questionnaire which was distributed to the respondents faced to face at the colleges library with the assistance of three library officers. The population of the study was 1,825 (2018/2019) registered users of the library. Sample size of 913 was drawn from the total population using proportionate stratified random sampling technique. Questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents and descriptive analysis of the responses was made using the statistic package for social science (SPSS) research. Out of the 913 questionnaire that were distributed to the respondents, a total of 735 was duly completed and found usable, thus, 80.5% response rate. The data collected for this study was analysed using simple percentage, pie chart and frequency counts.

RESULTS

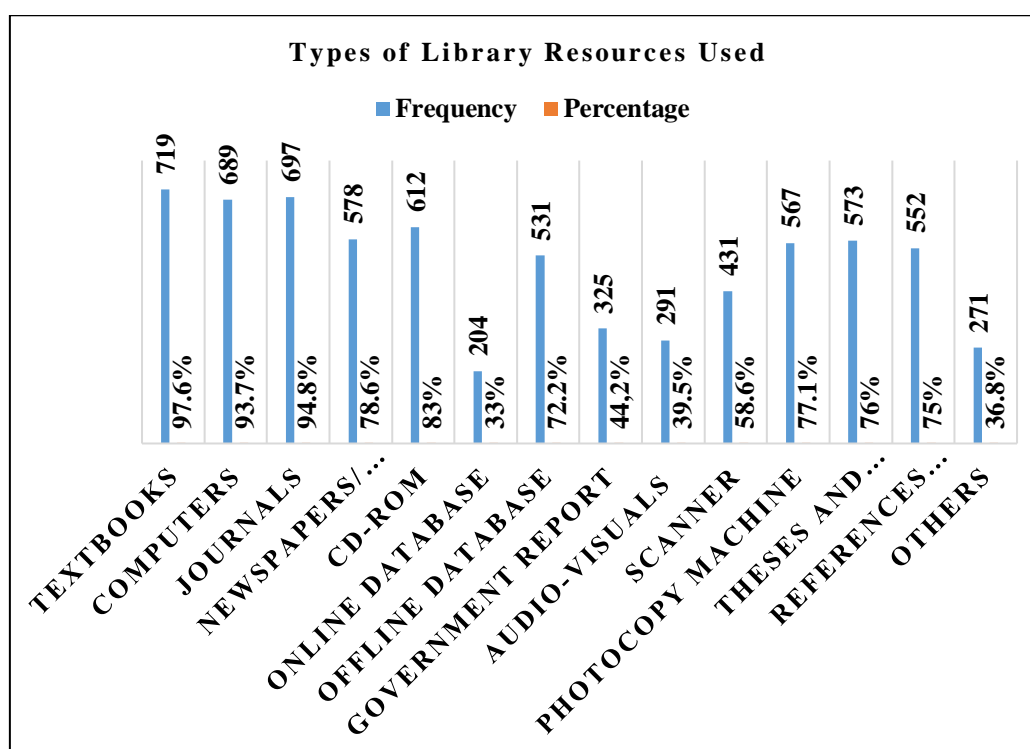


Source: field work

Figure 1: Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Figure 1 Shows that 36.3% of the participants are male while 63.6% are female. Higher population of the female could be as a result of

courses offer and certificates provided by the institution.

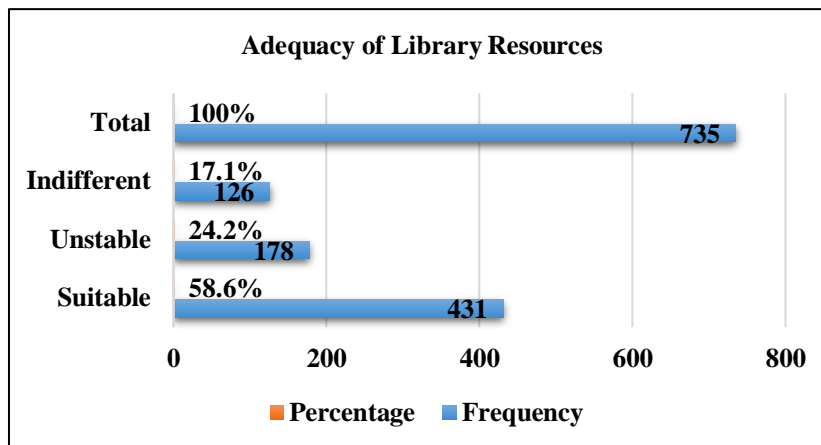


Source: field work

Figure 2: Types of Library Resources Used among the Students in Federal polytechnic Nasarawa State.

Figure 2 shows that the most consulted resources in the library were textbooks 97.6%. This was followed by journals materials 94.8%, computers 93.7%, CD-ROM 83%, newspaper 78.6%, photocopy 77.1%, theses

and dissertations 76%, reference materials 75%, offline database 72.2%, scanner 58.6%, government document 44.2% among others.

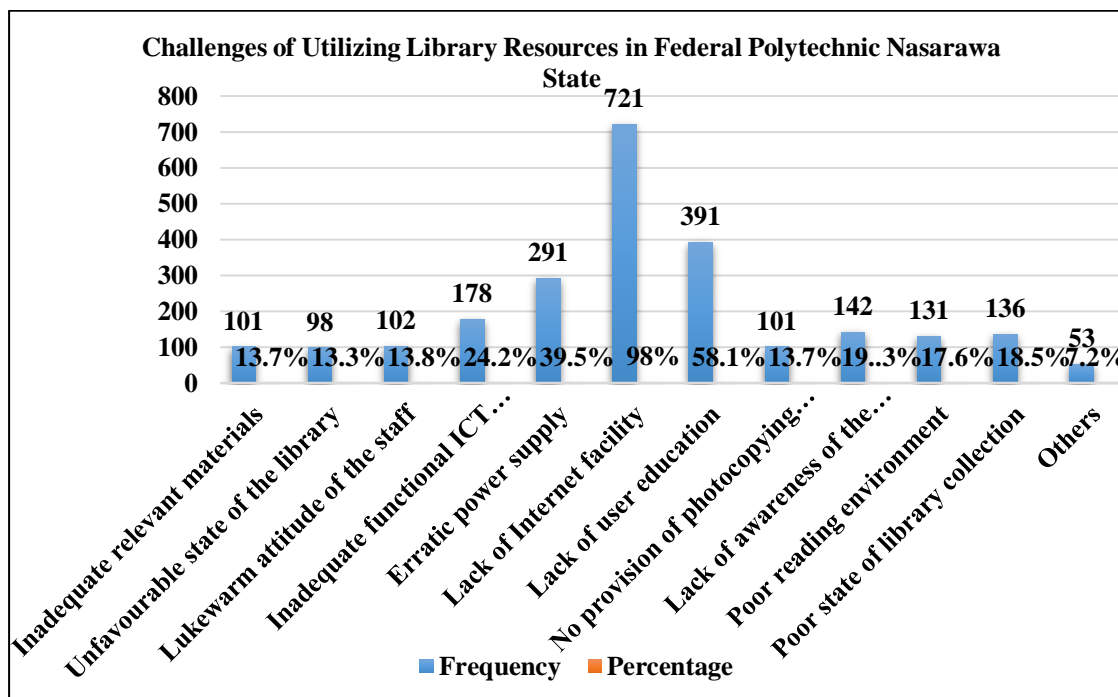


Source field work

Figure 3: Adequacy of Library Resources

Figure 3 shows that 58.6% respondents establish that information sources provided by the libraries were suitable, whereas 24.2% of the respondents establish unsuitable, and 17.1% remained indifferent in their opinions.

This could be as a result of insufficient of professional librarians in the college or negligence of the library by the authority in terms of capital for the reading room to acquire the wanted materials.



Source field work

Figure 4: Challenges Confronting the Utilization of Library Resources among Students in Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa

The most impediment factor facing by students of federal polytechnic Nasarawa state in order to utilize library resources effectively, which would enhance their scholarly research work is lack of internet facility 98% of the respondents affirmed that, their no Internet in the library which is given them a lot of setback in their research. Also, 58.1% of the respondents indicated that, lack of user education is hindrance in accessing library resources, while 39.5% of the respondents affirmed that irregular power supply is a serious obstacle whereas, 24.2% of the respondents revealed that, inadequate functional of ICT facilities is also a challenges in accessing the resources. More so, 19.3% affirmed that lack of awareness of the library resources. 18.7% affirmed that, poor state of library collection is an issues in accessing the materials in the library. Also, 17.6% of the respondents indicated poor reading environment, 13.8% indicated lukewarm attitude of the staff, 13.7% of the respondents indicate, inadequate relevant materials and no provision for photocopy machine.

DISCUSSION

Shows that 63.6% of the participants are male while 36.4% are female. Higher population of the female could be as a result of courses offer and certificates provided by the institution. The findings shows that the most consulted resources in the library were textbooks 97.6%. This was followed by journals materials 94.8%, computers 93.7%, CD-ROM 83%, newspaper 78.6%, photocopy 77.1%, theses and dissertations 76%, reference materials 75%, offline database 72.2%, scanner 58.6%, government document 44.2% among others. This is supported by Mozeh and Ubwa (2017), in their study, it shows that textbooks are rated high with 82.72% and dissertation with 99%. The findings reveal that 58.6% respondents establish that information resources provided by the libraries were suitable, whereas 24.2% of the respondents establish unsuitable, and 17.1% remained indifferent in their opinions. This is in line with Oriowo (2001), asserted that achievement of a reading room hinge on talent and capabilities of individuals. The respondents that were indicated unsuitable and indifferent in their opinions could be as a result of

insufficient professional librarians or lukewarm attitude of the institution or negligence of the library by the authority in terms of capital for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to acquire the wanted materials. The findings, indicate that lack of Internet 98%, is the most serious obstacle facing by students of federal polytechnic Nasarawa state. This is supported with finding of Okonoko, Sambo and Brume-Ezewu (2018) in their study challenges of utilizing academia library resources, it shown that lack of internet facility 92%, were the major impediment facing by the students of the college of education, Agbor.

CONCLUSION

From these survey results, we can draw a fair number of conclusions about the challenge of utilizing academic library resources by students in federal polytechnic Nasarawa State. The most challenge facing by the students is lack of Internet facility which is a life wire of a library in order to meet up with 21 century information dissemination to their scholars. The level and extent of the use of a polytechnic library would largely depend upon the adequate Internet resources which will enhance teaching, learning and research purpose.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the researchers recommend as follows, that

- Management should provide funds and committee should be enact to oversee the uses of the funds for the major purpose.
- Authority should provide Internet facility in the library to enhance effective service delivery.
- First year students should be introduced to computer training in order to enhance their searching strategies.
- The university and library in particular should provide alternative power supply in the campuses and environs.
- Library management should ensure that adequate relevant materials are available for the library users.

REFERENCES

1. Aina, L. (1998). Preparing for the next millennium in the education and training of Librarians in Africa. A paper presented in the Information for Sustainable Development in the 21st Century: *Proceedings of the 13th Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Librarians, Nairobi, July 27-31. Nairobi: Kenya Library Association.*
2. Arua, U. & Chinaka, G.I (2011). Use of library resources by staff and students of secondary schools in Umuahia North Local Government Area of Abia State. *Library philosophy and practice*. Retrieved on 27th September, 2016 from <http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP>.
3. Bosah, L.E & Amadasu, M.E. (2014). Influence of student's characteristics in the use of library resources in college of Education in Edo State, Nigeria. *Journal of Research in Education and Society* 5 (1)
4. Fakomogbon, M., Bada, A., and Omiola, M., (2013). Assessment of School Library Resources in Public Secondary Schools in Ilorin Metropolis. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business*, 3
5. Federal Polytechnic Hand book (2016)
6. Federal Polytechnic Act Decree 33 of 1979
7. Federal Polytechnic Amendment Decree 5 of 1993
8. <https://enemsproject.wordpress.com/2016/06/10/historical-background-federal-polytechnic-nasarawa/> retrived on 29/03/2021
9. Iwhiwhu, B.E. and Okorodudu, P.O. (2012), Public library information resources, facilities and services: Users' satisfaction with Edo State Central Library, Benin-City, *Nigeria Library Philosophy and Practice* (ejournal). Available at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/747/> (accessed 11th Oct., 2019)
10. Mozeh, Moses K & Ubwa, Gabriel K (2017). Challenges of utilizing university library resources by undergraduate students of Benue State University, Makurdi. *Glory land journal of library and information science*, 1. (1) 6-8
11. Nwezech CMT, Shabi IN (2011). Student's use of academic libraries in Nigeria: a case of ObafemiAwolowo University library, Ile Ife". *Lib.*
12. Ogbodo, C. (2011). Preservation of information sources in polytechnic libraries I South-East States of Nigeria. *Journal of Research in Education and Society*, 2 (1) (2011) 7-10.
13. Okonoko Vera N, Sambo, Atanda S & Brume-Ezewu G. Ejoro (2018), Challenges of utilizing library resources by the students of College of education, Agbor. *Covenant Journal of Library & Information Science (CJLIS)* 1(2), 1-9.
14. Oriowo, O.T. (2002). Staffing needs and requirements for effective library services in academic libraries. In Quadri, R.F., & Gbadamosi, B.O. (eds.). *Issues in Library and Information Services*. Emola Joy: 1-10.
15. Otieno, P.O., Otiike, J. and Rotich, D. (2015). The effect of library staff attitude to work on the use of information services in public university library in Kenya. *Asia Pacific Journal of Education, Arts and Social Sciences*. 1(9), 8-11
16. Oyewusi, F.O & Oyebode, S.A. (2009). An empirical study of accessibility and use of library resources by undergraduates in a Nigerian State University of Technology". Retrieved on 27th September, 2016 from *Library Philosophy and Practice* <http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP/>
17. Perera, P. A. S. H. (2005). A study on the pattern of usage of library facilities at the Medical Library, University of Peradeniya". *Journal of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka*, 9, 41-61.
