LIBRARY ORIENTATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLICATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

• The major objective of the University library is to provide resources, services and facilities which will now and in the future best contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the University. The University library serves as the depository of the University’s publications and a generating sources of knowledge and ideas. The library must be adequately stocked with all kinds of both local and foreign materials ranging from print to non-print materials like current and relevant textbooks, monographs, general reference books, serial publications, audio-visual materials and archival materials. The library must also provide necessary facilities and offer a wide range of services.

• In order to create awareness of the library resources and services as well as to be able to make use of the library and its resources effectively and efficiently, hence the need for the introduction of library user education and orientation programme.
LIBRARY ORIENTATION

- Library orientation is a programme designed in the library simply to make the library users aware of the library and its available resources and services as well as to educate users regarding general use of the library. Library orientation is concerned with ways of introducing the users to the general techniques of library usage and services available, and the organization, layout and facilities of the library.
AIMS OF LIBRARY ORIENTATION

Library is encouraged to assist the library users in developing skills to enable them to make the most effective use of the library resources and services. Among the aims of library orientation are to enable the users to:

- Be aware of the library’s existence and the services available;
- Be acquainted with the use of the library;
- Be able to see the library catalogues as indexes to the entire collection of the library;
- Know how to use the library catalogues independently in any library with particular references to author, title and subject catalogues; and
- Understand the classification scheme adopts by the library in order to be able to locate materials.
LIBRARY ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Library orientation in Universities normally takes place during the beginning of new academic session especially for new in-takes. Orientation programme is for whoever has the right to use the library and needs to know about the set-up of the library, resources, services and how to use the library effectively. Though, the programme is designed for potential users of the library, but it is only fresh undergraduates that partake.

Orientation programme is conducted by professional librarians. It is designed to introduce the library users to the library’s wealth of resources and to strengthen their research skills. During the orientation, the professional librarian would introduce the participants to the research tools and resources that would assist them in all research needs.
The general format of the library orientation consists of the following:

• Introduction of the library staff to the participants
• Explanation on the library collection
• Explanation on the organization and layout of the library as well as guided tour of the library.
• Distribution of pamphlet that give details of existing library regulations, registration procedure, opening hours, loan policy and other services of the library
• Explanation on how to judiciously and effectively use the resources in the library.
IMPACT OF LIBRARY ORIENTATION ON LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

Library orientation has notable impact on the publications of the library. The impact cannot be over-emphasized. The impact of library orientation on library publications include the following:

• Encouragement to use the library publications
• Improvement in users’ information seeking ability
• Promotion of reading culture by reading and borrowing library publications
• Protection of library publications from disorganization by obeying the instruction of leaving all consulted books on the reading table for shelving by the librarians.
• Preservation of library publications from damaging, mutilation, defacing, misplacing and stealing
• Creation of conducive environment for reading in the library by maintaining silence and rules.
USE OF LIBRARY AND ITS PUBLICATIONS
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- The library is regarded as a reservoir where a large facts or knowledge is being supplied to information seekers. Publications are used for diverse purposes including leisure reading, learning, scholarly research, teaching, professional reasons and hobbies. Among the University library users are the lecturers, students, non-teaching staff and other members of the community. Lecturers and researchers in the Universities, according to Aina (2004), are regarded as the library and information users with advanced degree in their subjects of specialization.

- Many studies including Farrington (1997), Rogers (2001), Dillion and Hahn (2002), Voorbij and Ongering (2006), Salaam (2008) and Ogguniyi, Akerele and Afolabi (2011) confirmed the fundamental concept that a fraction of the periodical collection in the library accounts for the majority of usage. Using the journal literature, as asserted by Farrington (1997), the individual researcher has to make a trip to the library to locate bound volume containing the article or articles desired. In the University community, as posited by Anunobi, Nwakwuo and Ezejiofor (2010), access to serials is primarily through the University library.
• A survey by Smith (2003) on the use of serials by academics at the University of Georgia found that 29% of the articles read were from print personal subscriptions, 25% from print library subscriptions, 10% from electronic personal subscription, 32% from electronic library subscriptions and 4% from other resources. Lecturers from four faculties of Moi University, Kenya studied by Ocholla (1996) ranked the information resources they use in the following order: journals, textbooks, research reports, conference literature and others. This shows the library and its publications are being used.

• To be able to carry out a meaningful research, as pointed out by Okafor and Dike (2010), the researcher must be able to have access to adequate information especially from publications in the library.
LIBRARY
PUBLICATIONS
INFLUENCE OF USE OF LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS ON PUBLICATION OUTPUT OF RESEARCHERS

• Universities are involved in teaching, research and publication. One of the pre-occupations of any lecturer is research. The outcome of research is usually published. The rating of a lecturer is usually determined by the quantity and quality of his or her publications. Publication output of every lecturer, to a great extent, determines his or her promotion based on the policy of “Publish or Perish”. Faculty publishing productivity as emphasized by Creamer (2002), is often used as an index of departmental and institutional prestige and strongly associated with an individual faculty member’s reputation, visibility and advancement in career. A study, by Ogbomo (2010), maintained that publication is essential for problem-solving, leading to dynamism in library services as a response to changing timed and environment.

• The Academic Staff Union of Nigerian Universities (ASUU) as confirmed by Okwilagwe (2001), is one of the agencies and Professional association whose activities directly influence the book publishing industry in Nigeria. This is an evidence that academic staff are engaged in the creation of knowledge such as training, research, writing, development of manuscripts, manufacturing of books and the utilisation of knowledge created and manufactured into books by way of distribution, dissemination of information and teaching.
• Publication output of lecturers, as described by Okafor and Dike (2010), can be in form of journal articles, technical reports, articles in conference proceeding, books or chapters in books. The quantity of publication output of lecturers, as revealed by Popoola (2002), could be measured by counting the number of journal articles, technical reports, papers in conference proceedings, books or chapters in books published over a period of time.

• The E-Journal (eJUS1t) user study conducted among thousands of biomedical researchers in the period 2000-2002 by the University of Stanford found that 98.0% indicated that e-journals shorten time spent on article retrieval or visiting the library; 70.6% said that e-journal usage increase the number of papers they read outside their primary discipline; 69.4% agreed that they exchanged more articles with colleagues, because e-journals make distribution of articles easier and less costly; and 40.2% reported that they publish more papers because e-journals make accessing good quality papers faster and easier.

• A study of Olorunisola and Akinboro (1998) discovered that a total of 112 articles were published in African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science (AJLAIS) from 1999 to 1997. Fifty-five (49.11%) were research articles, while 40(35.71%) were theoretical articles, 16 were short communications and one research note.
CONCLUSION

• Available literature reveals that lecturers use publications, conduct researches and produce publications. In using relevant publications, conducting meaningful research and having adequate publications, the lecturers must have access to and use publications especially in the library. For easy access to and use of publications in the library, library orientation is necessary. Lecturers and researchers form part of the population of users of the library and its publications. Majority of publications stocked for users in the library are produced by lecturers.

• It has been established that there is correlation between library orientation and publications, in the sense that the lecturers and researchers use the library and its publications to carry out research to produce publications. The publications produced by the lecturers and researchers are acquired and stocked in the library for research activities.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• The library should be adequately funded for provision of current, relevant and adequate resources for research activities by the authority.

• Every library user should participate in library programme so as to be able to know the librarians in the library; importance of library; set up of the library; the resource, services and facilities of the library, as well as organization and location of materials in the library.

• Lecturers and students should regularly patronize the library so as to encourage the library to serve them more and better.

• Lecturers should regularly recommend current materials that are relevant to their areas of specialization to the library for acquisition

• Lecturers and researchers should be granted grant for research and publishing

• Lecturers and researchers should deposit copies of their publications in the library for the development of library collections.
REFERENCES


THANK YOU