



LIBRARY USE AS CORRELATES OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF FINAL YEAR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OYE-EKITI, EKITI STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study investigated library use as correlates of the academic performance of final year undergraduate students in Federal university Oye Ekiti (FUOYE), Ekiti State, Nigeria. A correlational survey research design was adopted. The study population consisted of 969 final year undergraduate students from the selected faculties in Federal University Oye Ekiti, from which 210 were selected using simple random sampling technique. The research instrument used was self-developed questionnaire titled “Effect of library use in the academic performance of final year undergraduate students in Federal University Oye Ekiti”. Both face and content validation was done on the instrument by experts in the subject areas. Also, it gave a reliability coefficient of Academic Performance $\alpha=0.804$ (i.e. 80.4%); Library Use $\alpha=0.825$ (i.e. 82.5%). A response rate of 98% was achieved. Data were analyzed using descriptive and correlation, statistics. The study revealed a significant relationship between library use and academic performance ($r = 0.007, P < 0.05$). Also, the joint contribution of library use on academic performance was insignificant ($r = 0.007, P < 0.05$). It concluded that contrary to general belief, library use of students on academic performance were high. School management should provide necessary materials in line with the curricular and students’ programmes to the library in order

to meet their various information need. Besides, librarians should ensure that library materials are well classified and have their records well-arranged into the public library catalogue for easy identification and accessibility. These actions will attract potential users to the library as they can easily locate their needed resources to meet their information needs.

Key words: Library use; Academic performance; Library materials; Undergraduate students; FUOYE Students.

Introduction

According to Shahzadi and Ahmad (2011), student's academic performance and graduation rates have been the area of interest for higher education institutions. Investigation of factors related to the academic performance of university students become a topic of growing interest in higher educational circle. Many recent studies were carried out to explore factors that are affecting university student's academic performance. Academic performance is a multidimensional construct composed of the skills, attitudes, and behaviors of a learner that contribute to academic success in the classroom (Hijazi & Naqvi, 2006 cited in Ampofo & Owusu, 2015).

In this study, the researchers conceptualized academic performance as the after-effect of education, the range to which students, lecturers or institution achieved their educational goals. Factors that influence academic performance of students are as follows: Learning Facilities, Regular class attendance, Recruitment of qualified lecturer, student class performance, Proper guidance, Family income, Good teacher – student academic relationship.

On the other hand, Ogbebor (2011) posited that students use libraries to supplement and enhance their classroom experiences, to learn skills in locating needed information sources and to develop good reading and study habits. Public officials use libraries to research for legislation and public policy issues. Users may have a distorted view of their knowledge of library skill. Realizing this situation, it is necessary for students at all levels to be taught on the use of library and its resources so that they won't waste their valuable time and without assistant, also it enables students to make an effective use of library resources in meeting their information needs. The overall objective should be to make students appreciate the value of information and to impart library skills and study skills (Shrestha, 2008). Libraries provide intellectual resources for

knowledge acquisition, recreation, personal interests and inter-personal relationships for all categories of users. However, in an academic environment, attention is basically focused on academic and non-academic staff, students and researchers. (Adewale & Caroline, 2018).

The researchers conceptualized library use as when users such as; students, researchers, staff make use of the educational materials stocked in the library to meet their information needs and to improve their research and academic performances. Factors that could influence library use include; conducive library environment, relevant library books, internet facilities, friendly library staff, availability of public catalog, well labeled shelves and library location.

However, it can be observed that students with poor reading habit would not like to read even in a well-furnished school library, except they are forced to do so. Farooq, Chaudhry, Shafiq and Behanu (2011) revealed that academic performance is bedrock for knowledge acquisition and the development of skills. In other words, those students who frequently visit library and regularly carry out researches will tend towards increasing demands for learning. This will invariably spur them to perform better than those students who rarely visit library and its resources.

Laird and Kuh (2005) found that participation in information and library-related activities (for example, using the library website to find academic resources, asking librarians for help, etc.) were positively and moderately correlated with student engagement in other areas; namely, participation in information technology was associated with factors the researchers labeled as active and collaborative learning (for example, working with other students on class projects, working with other students outside of class, etc.).

Statement of the Problem

It has been generally observed that large percentage of Nigerian universities have no standard university libraries. These greatly affect the academic performance of students in such Nigerian universities. Students are rarely interested in the use of library but in a situation where most universities are not having standard libraries; students in such universities will be forced to rely on other means of getting information to satisfy their educational need. Hence, this study tends to

investigate the effect of the use of library on the academic performance of undergraduate students in FUYOYE Library. Also, it seeks to boost the interest of students in using library to meet their information needs rather than depending on other unreliable and substandard online sources.

Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to investigate the effect of library use on the academic performance of final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE, while the specific objectives are to:

1. find out the level of academic performance of final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE.
2. investigate the extent of the use of FUYOYE library by final-year undergraduate students.
3. examine the relationship between library use and academic performance of final-year undergraduate students.
4. find out possible challenges affecting the academic performance of final-year undergraduate students.

Research Questions

The following research questions will guide the study:

1. What is the level of academic performance of undergraduate students in FUYOYE.?
2. What is the extent of library use by final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE?
3. What are those problems affecting academic performance of final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE?

Hypothesis

H₀: There is no significant relationship between library use and academic performance of undergraduate students in FUYOYE.

Methodology

Research Design

The research was carried out using descriptive survey design research methods. This involved collection of data from the target population which in this case was some final year undergraduate students in Federal University Oye-Ekiti which was the study area. The respondents were given questionnaires as the instruments to collect the needed data. According to Osuala (2005) cited by Yaya (2016), descriptive survey design gives the accurate assessment of the characteristics of the whole population of people. It is also more realistic than the experiment in that it investigates phenomena in their natural setting.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Students from each three selected faculties were randomly selected. Simple random technique was adopted to select 70 final year undergraduate students from each of the selected faculties. This gave everyone in the population an equal chance of being selected. The researchers randomly selected 210 sample size from the three selected faculties in Federal University Oye-Ekiti; which include: Faculty of Science, Faculty of Art and Faculty of Management Science. the experiment in that it investigates phenomena in their natural setting.

Research Instrument

Questionnaire used was self-developed base on the advice of my supervisor, research objectives and research questions. Questionnaire was used as the instrument for the data collection and it was made up of questions arranged systematically based on the variables: academic performance and library use. In order to ensure standardization of the instrument, a pilot study was conducted among undergraduate students of other Faculties that were not part of the sample for the main study. These included: Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Engineering. These were subjected to Cronbach's alpha reliability analysis and with alpha reliability coefficient results for the two variables that make up the study as follows; academic performance = 0.825 (i.e. 82.5%) and library Use = 0.804 (i.e. 80.4%).

Method of Data Collection

The corrected copies of the questionnaire were administered to final year students in all the three faculties slated for the study. The respondents were assured that information supplied by them would be treated with utmost confidentiality and used solely for the purposes of academic

research. Also, such information would not be divulged to a third party. The researcher assisted by two research assistants administered copies of the questionnaire to the available final year undergraduate students in the selected faculties in the university.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected for this study was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), 22.0 latest versions. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics, especially for research questions 1-3, hypothesis was tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis; these were used to test differences or relationships between the independent variable and the dependent variable. The result attested to the mutual relationship that exists among the variables (library use and academic performance) in the study.

Data Analysis Based on Research Questions

Research Question 1: What is the level of academic performance of final year undergraduate students in FUOYE?

Table 1: Academic performance of final year undergraduate students in FUOYE

Students' Academic Performance (Scores)	Frequency	Percent
53.00	20	10.0
55.00	20	10.0
58.00	20	10.0
60.00	20	10.0
61.00	20	10.0
65.00	20	10.0
67.00	40	20.0
68.00	20	10.0

70.00	20	10.0
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field Data

It could be seen from Table 1 above that final year undergraduate students in Federal University Oye Ekiti, considered their level of academic performance to be very high judging by the average percent of 100. It showed that the academic performance of final year undergraduate students in FUOYE. As revealed in the table, all the sampled students had a score of 53 and above. This signified that students' academic performance is on the average and above average grade in the university. Therefore, the level of academic performance among final year undergraduate students in FUOYE is average and above.

Research Question 2: What is the extent of library use by final-year undergraduate students in FUOYE?

Table 2: Mean ratings of the Extent of library use by final-year undergraduate students in FUOYE

S/No	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation	Decision
1	Good internet network enhance Library use in the university	2.08	.913	Large extent
2	Relevant books in the Library enhance its use	2.07	.889	Large extent
3	Library staff positive attitude enhance the use of the library	2.10	.919	Large extent
4	Library location enhances its use	2.05	.887	Large extent
	Pooled Mean	2.05		

Source: Field Data

Table 2 revealed that final year undergraduate students in Federal University Oye Ekiti considered their level of library use to be very high judging by the pooled mean score of 2.05, Good internet network mean score was 2.08, relevant book in the library was 2.07, library staff

positive attitude mean score was 2.10 while library location mean score was 2.05. Library staff positive attitude appeared to have a higher average mean score of 2.10 than good internet that has the average mean score of 2.08. It showed that good internet uses occurred more than relevant book in Federal University Oye Ekiti library. As evident in the table, final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE, uses the library to a large extent.

Research Question 3: What are the problems affecting academic performance of final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE?

Table 3: Problems affecting academic performance of final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE

S/No	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation	Decision
1	Inadequate learning facilities	1.83	.778	NP
2	Irregular class attendance	1.82	.716	NP
3	Recruitment of unqualified lecturers	1.88	.781	P
4	Improper parents' and teachers' guidance	1.90	.729	P
5	Poor or low family income	1.89	.823	P
6	Lack of public and online catalogue	1.89	.812	P
7	Unfriendly library staff	1.83	.740	NP
8	Unapproachable and wicked lecturers	1.83	.731	NP
9	Inadequate library educational resources	1.79	.702	NP
	Pooled Mean	1.85		

Source: Field Data

Key: P: Problem; NP: Not Problem

Table 4.3 revealed that final year undergraduate students in Federal University Oye Ekiti considered those issues affecting their academic performance to be high judging by the average mean score of 1.85 on the scale of 2. Major challenging issues facing final year undergraduate students were inadequate learning facilities (mean = 1.88), irregular class attendance (mean = 1.82), recruitment of unqualified lecturer (mean = 1.88), Improper parents' and teachers' guidance (mean = 1.90), Poor or low family income (mean = 1.89). Lack of public and online

catalogue (mean = 1.89), Unfriendly library staff (mean = 1.83), Unapproachable and wicked lecturers (mean = 1.83), Inadequate library educational resources (mean = 1.79).

Research Hypothesis:

H₀: There is no significant relationship between library use and academic performance of undergraduate students in FUYOYE.

Table 4: Correlation between library use and students’ academic performance

Variables	Mean	Std Deviation	r-cal	Sig.	Remark
Library Use	62.40	5.57	0.007	0.924	Sig.
Academic Performance	19.42	4.49			

*p < 0.05

Source: Field Data

The mean score of the Library use of final year undergraduate students in Federal University Oye Ekiti was 62.40, SD = 5.57 while that of academic performance was 19.42, SD = 4.49. The correlation of coefficient obtained was 0.007 with p-value < 0.05. The result showed positive correlation between Library use and Academic performance of final year undergraduate students in Federal University Oye Ekit. There was a positive significant relationship between the variables as indicated in the above table as (r = 0.007, Sig. 0.924, P < 0.05). Null hypothesis was rejected. This indicated that there is significant relationship between Library use and academic performance of undergraduate students in Federal University Oye Ekiti. This implies that effective library use promotes academic performance of undergraduate students in FUYOYE and in any other tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

Research question one showed that level of academic performance of final year undergraduates student in Federal university Oye - Ekiti is on the average and above average grade in the university. Therefore, the level of academic performance among final year undergraduate

students in FUYOYE is average and above. These results were supported by the studies of Kuncel et al., (2005) and Hijazi and Naqvi (2006) who submitted that Academic performance is important for an institution for the good outcomes that lead to the job performance in the future. They reported that the academic performance is not affected by age, gender, and place of residence but they also said those who live near the university can perform much better than others who live far from the university. Moreover, poor studies habits are also tend to endanger the academic success of students and thereby affect their Cumulative Grade Points Average (CGPA) in FUYOYE.

Research question two showed the mean ratings of the extent of library use by final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE. It also showed that final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE, uses the library to a large extent. These were consistent with the research conducted by Unuabor and Osaghale (2018) that the use of library course to a very high extent has improved the undergraduate library usage in the various ways. These include: made them become independent learners; raised their awareness of scope of library resources and services; raised their knowledge of library use skills; made them know the difference between books and journals and the significance of primary, secondary and tertiary sources of information; made them understand better how information materials are organized; enable them to identify and use reference sources; removed symptoms of library anxiety; made them to become regular library users and so on.

Research question three showed those challenging issues affecting academic performance of final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE. Thus, the problems affecting academic performance of final-year students in FUYOYE are: recruitment of unqualified staff, improper parents and teachers' guidance, poor or low family income, lack of public and online catalogue are the problems affecting academic performance of final-year undergraduate students in FUYOYE. These findings agreed with study of Raychaudhuri, Debnath, Sen and Majumder. (2010) who examined factors affecting students' academic performance. Family income was one of the basic objectives of their study. Primary data was collected through random sample survey from students in the government and government aided schools and their households. Using regression analysis, they found that factors like students' attendance, mother's education and

presence of trained teachers in the school have a positive impact of students' academic performance. They also found that academic performance of students' depend on a number of socio-economic factors. They concluded that students' economic status affects their performance and the risk of becoming a dropout.

From the finding and analysis presented in table 4, the null hypothesis one was rejected. This indicated that there was significant relationship between Library use and Academic performance in Federal University Oye Ekiti ($r = 0.007$, $P < 0.05$). This is in conjunctions with the study of Farooq, Chaudhry, Shafiq and Behanu (2011) that academic performance is bedrock for knowledge acquisition and the development of skills. It is made possible when a reader frequently visit library utilize its resources for research and learning activities. This implied that a new role of librarians is to act as tutors of the library usage to students in order to positively enhance their academic performance. Hence, the libraries relations to the mission of the university should be more clearly articulated and strengthened by the library management.

Conclusion

From the forgoing, the study has succeeded in disabusing the earlier submission of low academic performance of students judging from the need of effective library usage by undergraduate students in Federal University Oye Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria. In other words, the study was directed towards students' academic performance in conjunction with the library use. It established that library uses were correlated with academic performance of students in any tertiary institution especially in the Federal University Oye Ekiti.

Besides, the study confirmed the assertion that library use enhances good academic performance of students in any University especially in Federal University Oye Ekiti This study also established a strong relationship between academic performance and library use which are the independent and the dependent variables of the study. Academic performance of students is influenced by some factors such as the good relationship between lecturers and students, family income, well shelved library materials etc. Hence, the findings and recommendations that emanated from this study would be relevant to our local needs especially in the Federal University Oye Ekiti (FUOYE) and in most Nigerian universities in general.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and challenges that were revealed in the study, the following recommendations are hereby proffered as the way forward:

1. Some of the students found it difficult to visit the library because they could not find relevant educational materials that would fit their courses. School management should provide necessary materials in line with the curricular and students' programmes to the library in order to meet their various information need. This will allow students to regularly make use of the library.
2. Most of the students did not like going to the library because they did not know how to get those materials needed for their studies and this prevents them from seeing the need of visiting the library regularly. Librarians should ensure that library materials are well classified and have their records well-arranged into the public library catalogue for easy identification and accessibility. Also, it will allow students to rely more on the library anytime they are in need of information to keep them abreast in their study.
3. Most of the students complained about the library staff for not being friendly with them; this prevents them from visiting the library. Library staff should be friendly (but should not compromise the library standard) with any library user. Every user should be cordially treated. This will enable them to use the library in order to improve their academic performance.
4. Background of some students also influences their use of the library resources to boost their academic performance. Parents should be encouraged to adopt specific techniques and strategies aim at building reading habit and positive image of the library and its resources that would commensurate with their abilities in earning sound academic performance.

Suggestions for Further Studies

The present study focused on the library use as correlates the academic performance of final year undergraduate students in the Federal University Oye Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The study

surveyed final year undergraduate students of three faculties such as: Faculty of Management Science, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Arts. Therefore, the following areas of study are suggested for further research:

1. An investigation on how final year undergraduate students in the Private University in Ekiti State Nigeria perceive those factors identified in this study in relationship to their library use and academic performance.
2. A study on how final year undergraduate students of other faculties in Federal university Oye Ekiti perceive those identified factors in this study in relationship to their academic performance.
4. A study on how final year undergraduate students in other tertiary institutions in Nigeria perceive factors identified in this study in relationship to their academic performance.
5. Besides, it is important to further investigate the various factors that could influence library use in achieving good academic performance of students in other areas that were not covered in this study.

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