

**INFLUENCE OF LIBRARY USER EDUCATION IN ACADEMIC  
LIBRARIES: A CASE OF UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN AND  
LAUTE CH.**

By

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**Abstract**

*This study focused on influence of user Education Programme on the use of University Libraries in Nigeria a case study of Universities of Ilorin and Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso Libraries. Questionnaire was designed and used to elicit responses from 280 students selected from different faculties in the two Universities.*

*Findings from the collected data, revealed that the students from both University agree that user education should be designed within the context of each course and provision of adequate and qualified manpower resources should be ensured to assist users locating materials. Also, user education programme should be made ICT driven to make the study realize its objectives.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Library is a very important part of academic institutions. According to Robertson (1992), a library is an agency, which engages in collection, organization, processing, preservation and dissemination of recorded information in the various formats. The library is a component part of the history of civilization and this is why it is sometimes described as social memory of human civilization. It always has an assumed responsibility to its immediate environment. The basic needs to which libraries respond in society, are those of education, research, information, civic responsibility, aesthetic appreciation and recreation.

The University library is meant to meet the objectives of the University environment it serves, that is, the curriculum of the institution. The National Policy on Education (2004) stated the aims of University education as:

- a. The acquisition of basic physical and intellectual skills which will enable individuals to develop into useful members of the community.
- b. The development of the intellectual capacities of individuals to understand and appreciate their environments and
- c. The acquisition of an object view of the local and external environments.

Popoola (2000) asserted that information is knowledge communicated or received by a user that has some forms of values to him. He submitted that information is the fifth factor of production. The reason being, that the world economy is information driven with a substantial amount of the available documentary information being in the form of grey literature, especially in the developing countries.

The need for library user education programme for students was introduced so as to ensure effective use of the library. also, because of the exponential growth of published materials, both in their chosen field and other fields, the growth in published materials particularly in the science, technology and medicine requires that scattered information in various formats be properly disseminated through information literacy programme for students.

Library user education programme is a form of education for library users. It is meant to help users to make maximum advantage of library resources to meet their information needs. The instructional programme is variously referred to as User Education, User Instruction, Library Skills, Library Instruction, Bibliographic Instruction and Library Orientation. . In 1970's, Library Use Instruction in the 1980's and information literacy in the 1990's. Lwehabura (1999) says although these terms may differ, they refer to the same concept which is . an organized programme practices across various types of libraries to enable library users acquire skills which would allow them to use library resources effectively and become information literate.

### **Statement of the Problem**

User education programmes are instituted in various institutions of higher learning with a view to helping students on how to make effective use of the library facilities as an essential information service unit. As the issue of poor performance of students in information literacy programme in library. "Library use" worry the librarian. Garba (2004), explained that the basic philosophy of the information literacy programme is to impact skills of library use on the students. This would

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enable them identify, locate, retrieve and exploit information resources from the library.

The major problems that agitated the mind of this researcher are:

It has however been observed that despite the fact that the use of library is an aspect of General studies course, University students exhibit low level of information seeking skills and behaviour;

This study will therefore focus on how information literacy programme affect students effective use of library resources and lack of standard in the integration of information literacy programme as an important aspect of library education to facilitate effective students study habit and research. The study therefore intends to find out why the use of library is poor.

### **Purpose**

- To examine the effect of implementing the programme on students use of the library.
- To find out the ways in which user education are being carried out, and if there is any differences between the two Universities.
- To find out students use of ICT in relation to user education.

### **Research Questions**

1. What forms of user education programmes exist in the two universities under study?
2. To what extent does the user education programme in the universities influence the students use of their libraries?
3. Is the use of ICT included in the user education programme?
4. To what extent does the user education programmes influence the students' use of ICT infrastructure in their universities?
5. What problems are encountered by the students in the user education programme in their universities?
6. What strategies can be adopted to overcome such problem?

### **Research Hypotheses**

To guide the study, the following hypotheses were formulated.

1. There is no significant relationship between user education programme and students use of library in their universities.
2. Relationship between user education programme and students use ICT infrastructure.

3. There is no significant relationship between user education programme and problems encountered by student in the programme.
4. There is no significant difference in the type of problems encountered in the user education programme by the students of Universities of Ilorin and Lautech.

### **Significance of the Study**

The study is hoped to:

- reveal the proper framework of user education that would bring positive change to the handling of the programme.
- It would lead to improved information seeking skills or behavior of the library users especially the university students.
- The findings will serve as a base for further studies it will be beneficial to librarians in the teaching of the programme.

### **Literature Review**

Fjallbrant (1998) explains that the goals and objectives of user education in academic library must be in agreement with the general aims of the library. According to him, the aims must be related to the goals and objectives of higher education, while Unomah (2004) sees the objectives of user education as that much at the end of the programme students should be able to use their university and other libraries in connection with their studies and future work. Furthermore, he stated that students should see the library as a place to work and to borrow materials, experience, interest and enjoyment in the process of obtaining information. An example of goals and objectives of an academic library in Nigeria should be that a student graduating from a Nigeria University should have necessary library skills to undertake research at post graduate level.

In Nigeria, different types of methods are used to dispense information and knowledge to the learners, these range from lectures, seminars/ demonstrations, guided tours, to self-instruction, each of these methods has merit and demerit. However, a good method of instruction should be capable of achieving the following:

1. Sufficiently motivate the student, enable the student to relate new work to existing knowledge.

