

Collection Development Variables and Use of Library Materials in Academic Libraries in South-South Geo-political Zone of Nigeria

Osim, T. A¹, Ebaye, A. S^{2*}

¹*Department of Library and Information Science, Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH) Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria*

²*The Library, Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH) Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria*

Abstract

This study investigated the “relationship between collection development variables and use of library materials in academic libraries, in South-South, Nigeria. To achieve the purpose of this study, three research questions were raised, and three hypotheses were formulated to guide the study”. Literatures related to the variables under study were reviewed; accordingly, the design for this study was ex-post facto design with a total population of 16620 students with a total of 800 as the sample for the study. This was done with the help of stratified and purposive random sampling techniques. The questionnaire titled: Collection Development Variables and Use of Library Materials in Academic Libraries Questionnaire (CDVULMALQ) was the instrument used for data collection. The instrument was validated by two experts in measurement and evaluation. The reliability of the instrument was established through the spilt-half method. A trial test gave reliability estimates of 0.69 to 0.86, and the hypotheses were tested at a .05 level of significance using Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation Analysis. The results of the analysis revealed a significant relationship between acquisition, weeding, and preservation of library collection and the use of library materials. Based on the findings, it was recommended, among others, that: Government should pay more attention to funding and acquisition of library materials for academic libraries.

Keywords: *Academic Library, Collection development, Information resources, Library materials, Library resources, Use of the library, Utilization.*

Introduction

Collection development is a process that involves carefully choosing relevant information resources covering different areas in each educational curriculum from a list of publications for the university libraries to cater to the needs of users. This helps the librarians to acquire only those information resources that are demanded and useful to both students and lecturers in print and non-print formats. For information resources to be effectively utilized, the library holdings must be such that they will satisfy the students’ information needs and academic aspirations, this can only be achieved

if the right titles are acquired. This will encourage the use of the library and its resources, thus, preventing discouragement and lack of interest in the use of library resources. However, students could show a lack of interest in utilizing library resources if the materials selected and acquired are of no relevance to the students’ information needs or that the materials are obsolete.

Consequently, acquiring library materials is not a child’s play, it takes a process of ordering such information resources in both print and non-prints for the library. This is usually done through designated librarians known as

Received: 02.06.2022

Accepted: 14.07.2022

Published on: 30.07.2022

*Corresponding Author: asenathebaye@yahoo.co.uk

acquisition librarians. It is also a process of acquiring qualitative and relevant materials to meet the needs of the students and build up a balanced collection to meet the objectives of the library. [1] and [2] maintained that collection development is a planned systematic building up of a collection based on the objectives of the library. [3] defined collection development as a planned continuous, cost-effective, and preferential acquisition of qualitative, relevant materials to meet the needs of users and the objectives of the library. It can be deduced from these definitions that collection development can not only be viewed from the angle of growth in volumes and titles but also in the quality of materials acquired that will enhance effective information delivery and the usage of such materials to reduce user frustration. Where the acquired materials fail to meet users' expectations, then there is the tendency that such materials will not be utilized. However, if the library acquires current, accurate, and relevant information sources that readily meet the students' information needs, then it will increase utilization. [4] observed that collection development is considered a critical factor in the provision of adequate and relevant information resources in the library. For libraries to be able to build up a balanced and unbiased collection, they must formulate policies that will serve the interest of users. He noted that acquisition librarians encounter challenges (both internal and external) in the process of formulating collection development policy.

Consequently, [5] observed that the major task of any library is to provide those materials which the individual user will find reliable and useful. Thus, the amount of satisfaction a reader finds in a library depends directly upon the library materials available for use in the library. They maintained that collection development is viewed as the process of building up and improving upon a library's information resources both qualitatively and quantitatively. Also, [6] highlighted the importance of

collection development in libraries. They pointed out that certain variables must be taken into consideration while developing a qualitative collection for the benefit of the users. According to them, the variables include policies, principles, techniques and procedures, problems associated with collection/development, and weeding. They further explained that it is equally important to evaluate the collections to know their usefulness to its users.

Generally, in every library, be it simple, complex, modern, or local, an operational guideline and policy must serve as a guide to the acquisition and collection of information materials. [7] opined that policies are guidelines that ensure that all the information materials acquired are current and relevant to the users for effective utilization. However, he acknowledged the fact that the process of policy development is a complex one as such, must involve everyone, stakeholders, library users, etc must all get involved in building a world-class collection that will meet the needs of its users. It is important to note that it is not only librarians and information specialists that formulate policies for library collection; faculties and other interested individuals or users are also involved. The policy should reflect the goals and objectives of the parent institution". "For effective collection development policy", there must be a "document that clearly highlights the mission and vision statement of the library. A policy development process requires proper planning to enhance a standard policy document.

To keep the collections in good condition and up-to-date, libraries must at some point remove older, irrelevant, or those materials that are not frequently used to make space for new acquisitions. This process is referred to as weeding, which is the removal of obsolete, shabby, and non-usable materials (books, periodicals, encyclopedias, videos, etc.) from a library collection in a planned and systematic way. It is essential that the library information

resources always be in good shape to encourage students to effectively utilize the information resources. A good number of materials on the shelves of the library are in low demand and are hardly used by students, which renders them “unusable”. Meanwhile, every day the acquisition unit acquires new editions and titles of books and journals which are currently being kept in the Cataloguing unit because of lack of space. The library, therefore, has a lot of information resources that are not in use and need to be removed completely to make room for newer materials. A well-weeded library shelves are neat, attractive, and easily accessible to students making information resources search less stressful and a more satisfying task. Inversely, library shelves with irrelevant and obsolete information resources repulse the students, thereby leading to students’ lack of interest in the use of library resources”. Therefore, this study was conducted to examine collection development variables and use of library materials in academic libraries in South-South Geo-political zone of Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate how collection development variables can relate to use of library materials in academic libraries in South-south, Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. Find out the relationship between acquisition of information resources and use of information resources.
2. Investigate the relationship between the preservation of information resources and use of library materials.
3. Examine the relationship between the weeding of information resources and use of library materials.

Research Question

The following research were formulated to guide the study:

1. To what extent does acquisition of information resources relate to the use of library materials?
2. How does the preservation of information resources relate to the use of library materials?
3. What is the relationship between the weeding of information resources and the use of library materials?

Statement of Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to give direction to this study:

1. There is no significant relationship between the acquisition of information of resources and use of library materials.
2. Preservation of information resources has no significant relationship with the use of library materials.
3. Weeding of information resources has no significant relationship with the use of library materials.

Literature Review

In libraries, acquisition can be seen as the act of procuring and obtaining relevant library materials that are used for the growth and development of library users. Therefore, acquisition can be seen as the process of acquiring of qualitative and relevant information resources to meet the needs of the users and the objectives of the library. Acquisition of information resources is vital in collection development. The acquisition is the gateway to building a strong and desirable collection that will adequately cater for the needs of the university. The acquisition provides the library with diverse and adequate information resources in print and non-print formats to suit the need of the students. Adewuyi cited in [8] sees the acquisition as the bedrock upon which stock development is based. According to him, the acquisition procedure usually begins with stock checking and ends when the materials ordered for are received and certified by the acquisition staff.

Acquiring irrelevant or obsolete or inaccurate, and inadequate information resources on the other hand, does not encourage utilization of such information resources as the students do not find them useful enough to meet their information needs and the university also cannot achieve their cardinal goals. [9] reported that the problem of underutilization of information resources was inadequate information resources in the libraries. So, where the information resources are inadequate and found wanting, underutilization is inevitable. The goal of acquisition programs in the institutions is for the building of a comprehensive collection in the various subject areas for teaching, learning, and research purposes. Where the acquisition of information resources is not optimum, the achievement of the educational goals of the university is a mirage. Stressing the importance of print materials in the library", [10] opined that acquiring information resources is a core activity of libraries. "University libraries the world over still engages in buying and maintaining massive print collections while also maintaining digital formats. Despite the prophesy of vanishing print collections and the emergence of the digital paradigm, book collections still have a central role in building library stock.

[8] X-rayed the performance and function of collection development in five academic libraries in Imo State, Nigeria. The objective of the study was to determine possible operational flaws and proffer solutions. The study employed the descriptive survey research design. The population comprised one hundred and nine (109) professional and para-professional staff of the five academic libraries under study. Data were collected from all the one hundred and nine professional and Para-professional staff of the libraries using a self-developed questionnaire. Data were analyzed using frequency distribution and percentages. The Findings of the study revealed, among others, that lack of a coordinating unit for

collection development activities and inadequate book votes, and irregular weeding of stock. Based on the findings, it was Measures addressing the flaws were suggested as a way forward in the discharge of the important function of collection development in the studied libraries".

[11] disclosed that academic libraries are the "nerve centers of academic and research activities" which help the parent institution achieve its academic goals by developing adequate library collections and providing continuous and wider access to relevant information resources in print and non-print formats. Libraries are appraised by the quality and quantity of their collections. It is important that the university libraries acquire current, accurate, and relevant information resources necessary for supporting the teaching, learning, and research activities of the universities. Consequently, [12] maintained that, if the information resources are inadequate for the needs of the students, the library will not be heavily used". He noted that the acquisition of information resources for the library is one of the major functions of a library which has to do with the selection and purchase of information resources to build the library's collection.

[13] carried out a study centered on "acquisition practices in state university libraries in North Central Zone of Nigeria". The study specifically sought to find out the acquisition policies in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria, ascertain the acquisition pattern, ascertain the sources of acquisition, identify current problems encountered in the acquisition practices and finally determine strategies to enhance the acquisition process. The study was guided by five research questions directly drawn from the purpose of the study". 196 respondents were used as the sample drawn from the population using the purposive sampling technique. The instrument used to collect data from librarians, library officers, and staff in the acquisition and serial sections of the libraries was "Acquisition

Practice Questionnaire (APQ). Other instruments for data collection were interviews and observation''. The instruments developed were face validated by the researcher's Supervisor and two experts. "The researcher, with the help of one trained research assistant from each university, distributed 196 questionnaires to respondents. Furthermore, data was analysed using simple percentages, frequencies, tables, and mean. The research findings revealed "that this important library activity is still stressed with problems which include: - Lack of adequate funds, non-existence of written acquisition policies, lack of skilled acquisition librarians, low level of publishing, lack of book trade, absence of staff motivation. The researcher recommends an increase in government allocation, proper formulation of written acquisition policies, training, and re-training of staff, and recruitment of skilled professional librarians to enable the state university libraries and similar libraries to overcome the problems associated with "acquisition practices, among others".

[14] examined acquisition of library resources in Enugu State University of Science and Technology Library and Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. "The objective of the study was to determine the acquisition method and processes in the under-study university libraries". The qualitative research design was adopted for the study. Data was collected using interview and observation methods. The result from the findings showed that one of the libraries has no library acquisition policy. Furthermore, library materials are acquired through purchase, gifts, and exchange. The author recommended that: internet services should be connected to the libraries, to reduce the work stress of the acquisition librarians, more funds should be released to the acquisition department. Staff in the acquisition department should be adequately trained to provide effective and efficient services, and more selection tools should be made available, proper acquisition policy

should be made for the library and strictly observed. This implies that those methods of acquisition are, however not the only way since donations constitute a major source of the collections. This is because donated materials may not tally with the needs of the accepting library.

[5] conducted a study to "examined the effect of collection development policy on library resources and users in university libraries in South-South Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria''. According to him, a collection development policy established ground rules for planning and budgeting, selecting, and acquiring library resources. These policies provide a framework for a well-organised collection development programmes for effective service delivery in academic libraries and the academic community at large. The study adopted a descriptive survey design, using a purposive sampling technique to draw a sample of one hundred and fifty (150) library users from the population under study. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire, and the collected data was analyzed using simple percentages. The findings revealed that problems such as funding pattern, information explosion and inflation were some of the variables affecting the smooth collection development policy in Nigerian university libraries. It was recommended, among others, that; the university libraries should train the librarians on business and negotiation skills that will enable them to understand the integrity of licensing and negotiation involved in the subscription of resources. However, [15] observed that material acquisition cuts across selecting and deselecting of current information resources and reviewing the resources, schemes for continuing acquisition, and evaluation of resources to ascertain how well they serve the users' needs. Therefore, a well-planned process of continuous and effective acquisition and preservation of current, accurate, and relevant

information resources to meet the requirement of the users is vital.

Information resources are preserved to ensure continuity of recorded knowledge and prevent loss of knowledge, especially in print format. Hence, [16] sees preservation as an activity that is concerned with maintaining a library's collections to be use either in their original physical form or in some other usable way. When information resources are well-looked-after and preserved, it makes the materials available for students to utilize them more in their learning and research activities. Also, the preservation of information resources allow information to be transferred from one generation to the other. Therefore, proper provision should be made available to preserve the information resources to ensure the availability and use of such information resources in the future. [17] carried out a study on preservation and conservation issues in selected universities in the south-west, Nigeria. It was recommended that, deteriorated materials be removed from the shelves and reading rooms as soon as they are noticed and taken to the bindery where they can be appropriately repaired and returned to the shelves to facilitate utilization.

[18] carried out a study to examine the various techniques used in preserving and conserving library materials in selected university libraries in Nigeria. The survey design was used. Fifteen (15) university libraries were purposively selected. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Collected data were structured into grouped frequency distributions using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The findings revealed among others, that preservation and conservation techniques, though adopted in the university libraries, were not effective in use, although the libraries all had preservation policies. Based on the findings, recommendations were made toward improving preservation and conservation practices in the libraries.

[19] noted that dust and deterioration of books were the major problems in the preservation and conservation of information resources. The researcher, therefore, recommended that libraries adopt modem technology to preserve the information resources. [20] also reported that dust and particles serves as one of the greatest problem facing the management and preservation of non-print materials. [20] were of the view that library management should provide good working preservation policies, provision of functional air-conditioners to regulate the temperature and humidity of the storage area, provision of an alternative power supply to check the constant power failure in universities libraries, training and retraining of staff; and adequate funding should be provided for preservation programmes to increase the life span of the library materials. [21] carried out a study to "investigate the maintenance culture of information resources among libraries in two selected private higher institutions in the Anambra State of Nigeria". The descriptive survey design was used for the study. A simple random sampling technique was also used. The population of the study was librarians working at the two university libraries. The universities under study were Paul University, Awka and Madonna University, and Okija libraries. The results of the study pointed out inadequate funding to carry out preservation activities in the library. Also, the study revealed that there was no preservation policy in the library. The findings of the study further showed that there was a lack of facilities for the preservation of resources in these libraries. If materials are not properly preserved, it will give room for deterioration and decay, as such, such materials should be weeded to create space for more current and up-to-date materials on the shelves.

Weeding of information resources is vital in collection development practice. It is obligatory if the library's vision and objective must be attained. Weeding often reveals the need for the acquisition of information resources and creates

space for the newly acquired information resources, reducing stress and time of the students in the search and retrieval of needed information resources in the library, it also leads to the easy discovery of lost or somewhat misplaced information resources. [22] opined that weeding is the removal of information resources (books, periodicals, encyclopedias, videos, etc.) from a library collection in a planned and systematic way. The deselecting process is an ongoing part of collection development, a deliberate and thoughtful activity that will keep the library current and vital. They maintained that the art of weeding library collection would bring the following benefits: create an up-to-date collection, ensure that all parts of the collection have been evaluated for equity issues and stereotyping, make gap analysis easier, direct further collection development, provide a cleaner and more attractive collection, make it easier to search and find relevant material, make it easier to maintain the library, highlight and makes accessible new and exciting resources.

[23] carried out a survey study on weeding strategy and effective management of library stock at the University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS) Korle-bu. The objective was to showcase the importance of weeding in maintaining an effective library collection. Using a survey research design for the study, and the instrument used for data collection was the interview method. The population of the study was made of twelve (12), which includes all professional and para-professional staff of the University of Ghana library. A sample of six (6) professionals and para-professionals were selected using the purposive sampling technique. Qualitative methods of description and thematic text analysis were used to analyze the data. The study revealed that there was no weeding policy in the UGMS library; there was also fear of creating space without replacements, lack of funds, and lack of time for weeding practice in the library. The study also revealed that the weeded items were kept

in a special room and were donated to other libraries or sold at moderate prices to users. The researcher recommended that a collection development policy should be formulated by the UGMS library to include all aspects of the weeding process.

[24] carried out a survey on weeding practices in New Zealand academic libraries. The aim of the study was to discover if there is a gap between current weeding practices and best practices as identified in the literature. A qualitative research design was adopted in the study. The instruments used for data collection were structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. The population of the study consisted of (64) librarians chosen from the eight (8) universities in New Zealand, and sampling was done using the purposive sampling technique. The findings of the study revealed that lack of space, obsolete materials on the shelf, and irrelevant materials were the reasons for weeding. The researcher recommended that weeding and reselecting be treated as a more holistic process and that libraries should work for hand- in- hand in deselecting the books in their collection. [23] recommended that there is a need for collection development to formulate policy on the weeding process, to create space, and remove obsolete materials on the shelf. In the same vein, [24] was of the view that lack of space, obsolete materials on the shelf, and irrelevant materials were the reasons for weeding. The researcher recommended that weeding and deselecting be treated as a more holistic process and that libraries should work hand in hand in deselecting the books in their collection. Hence, [25] in agreement ascertained that weeding increases access to relevant materials as it frees shelving space from less used materials.

From the various literature consulted, authors have made it clear that collection development policies are important in every library. They stressed the relevance of building a collection through the process of selecting, acquiring, preserving, and weeding library

materials for effective utilization. Hence, relevant and quality materials should be acquired in the library, as the right strategies should be put in place to keep the materials preserved while the obsolete decayed ones are weeded for a more user-friendly library that will catch the attention of user's academic libraries in South-South Nigeria.

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was the ex-post facto design with a total population of 16620 sixteen thousand, six hundred and twenty students who registered in their libraries in five federal university libraries in South-South. The breakdown showed that the registered students in University of Calabar 3574 (21.25%), University of Uyo 3909 (23.24%), University of Port-Harcourt 3625 (21.55%), Federal University Otuoke 1501 (8.92%), and University of Benin 4011(23.85%). A stratified random sampling technique involving the purposive sampling technique was adopted for this study with a sample of 831 respondents. The researcher structured a questionnaire item titled: "Collection Development Variables and Use of

Library Materials in Academic Libraries Questionnaire (CDVULMALQ)" for data collection. The instrument was designed by the researchers with the help of two experts in measurement and evaluation. The reliability of the instrument was established through the spilt-half method. A trial test gave reliability estimates of 0.69 to 0.86, the hypotheses were tested at a .05 level of significance Data collected was analyzed using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Analysis. The instrument was divided into three main sections. Section A was designed to collect the respondents' Personal data (PD). Section B was made up of 18 items that were sub-divided to elicit responses on each sub-independent variable. Each component has six items. Section C had information on students' use of library materials with a total of six items. The respondents were required to indicate the extent to which the given statements applied to them on a "4-point-Likert Scale of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D), and Strongly Disagreed (SD)". 831 items were distributed, but only 800 items were returned and found usable.

Table 1. Universities and Population Distribution of Registered Students in Academic Libraries in South-South in 2017/2018 Session

State	University	No of faculties	Total
Akwa Ibom	University of Uyo	13	3909
Bayelsa	Federal University of Otuoke	8	1501
Cross River	University of Calabar	13	3574
Edo	University of Benin	-	4011
Rivers	University of Port Harcourt	12	3625
Total	5	-	16620

Sources: Library records, office of the university librarians of the various academic Libraries in 2017/2018

Results and Discussions

Hypothesis One

There is no significant relationship between the acquisition of information of resources and the utilization of information resources. "The independent variable in this hypothesis is the acquisition of information of resources while

the dependent variable is the utilization of information resources". To test this hypothesis, Person product-moment correlation analysis was employed. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 2. The result in Table 2 reveals that the calculated r-value of .321 is greater than the critical r-value of .088 at .05 level of significance with 798 degrees of

freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. This result implies that there is a significant relationship between the acquisition of information of resources and the utilization

of information resources. This means that the more information resources are acquired, the more they would be utilized of by students.

Table 2. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the Relationship between Acquisition of Information Resources and Utilization of Information Resources (N=800)

Variable	X	SD	r-value	p-level
Acquisition of information resources	14.29	3.72	.321*	.000
Acquisition of information resources	15.04	3.36		

*Significant at p-value, df=798

Hypothesis Two

Preservation of information resources does not significantly relate to utilization of information resources. The independent variable in this hypothesis is the preservation of information resources, while the dependent variable is the utilization of information resources. To test this hypothesis, Pearson product-moment correlation analysis was employed. The result of the analysis is

presented in Table 3. The result in Table 3 reveals that the calculated r-value of .176 is greater than the critical r-value of .088 at .05 level of significance with 798 degrees of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. This result means that selection of information resources does not significantly relate to the utilization of information resources.

Table 3. Pearson Product Moment Correlation of the Relationship between Preservation of Information Resources and Utilization of Information Resources (N=800)

Variable	X	SD	r-value	p-level
Selection of information resources	13.62	3.72	.176*	.000
Utilization of information resources	15.04	3.36		

*Significant at p-value, df=798

Hypothesis Three

Weeding of information resources has no significant relationship with the utilization of information resources. The independent variable in this hypothesis is the weeding of information resources, while the dependent variable is the utilization of information resources. To test this hypothesis, Person product-moment correlation analysis was employed. The result of the analysis is

presented in Table 4. The result in Table 3 reveals that the calculated r-value of .367 is greater than the critical r-value of .088 at a .05 level of significance with 798 degrees of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. This result implies that the weeding of information resources has a significant relationship with the utilization of information resources.

Table 4. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the Relationship between Weeding of Information Resources and Utilization of Information Resources (N=800)

Variable	X	SD	r-value	p-level
Weeding of information resources	13.73	4.30	.367	.000
Utilization of information resources	15.04	3.36		

*Significant at p-value, df=798

Discussion of Findings

This section is concerned with the discussion of findings that emerged from the results of the analysis. The discussion is presented according to the hypotheses of the study.

Acquisition and Use of Information Resources

The finding revealed that there is a significant relationship between the acquisition of information resources and the utilization of information resources. This means that if the library is well stock with current, relevant, quality, and up to the materials, then students are likely to use the library materials for their information needs. This is to say that acquisition of library materials is very key in every library if u must attract the attention of users. The findings is in line with the findings of [11], who stressed that libraries are appraised by the quality and quantity of their collections. It is important that the university libraries acquire current, accurate, relevant, and adequate information resources necessary to support the teaching, learning, and research activities of the university community. Affirming this view, [12] maintained that if the information resources are inadequate for the needs of the students, the library will not be heavily used.

Preservation and Use of Information Resources

The result of the findings indicated that the preservation of information resources has a significant relationship with the utilization of information resources. This means that how well a library is able to keep its collections neat, tidy, and void of decay and dust will influence the decision of students to use the information resources in the library or not. This finding agrees with the findings of [17] who was recommended that deteriorated materials be removed from the shelves and reading rooms as soon as they are noticed and taken to the bindery where they can be appropriately

repaired and returned to the shelves to facilitate utilization. Also [21] findings corroborate with the findings of this study as they stressed that if materials are not properly preserved it will give room for deterioration and decay and this will cause students lack of interest in the use of information materials.

Weeding and Use of Information Resources

The findings of this study revealed that Weeding of information resources has a significant relationship with the utilization of information resources. This means that when deteriorated and obsolete materials are removed from the shelves to be replaced with current and up-to-date materials, it awakens the student's interest to make use of library materials. This view is in agreement with the views of Ephraim [25] who affirms that weeding increases access to relevant materials as it frees shelving space from less used materials. This study also confirms the study of [23], who observed that there is a need for collection development to formulate policy on weeding process, to create space, and remove obsolete materials on the shelves.

Summary of Findings

1. There is a significant relationship between acquisition of information resources and utilization of information resources. That is, if the library provides the students with diverse and adequate information resources in print and non-print formats, the students will make use of the information resources.
2. Preservation of information resources has a significant relationship with utilization of information resources. If the librarians protect the information resources from dust, deterioration and from being mutilated to ensure continuity of recorded information, there will be maximum utilization by students.
3. Weeding of information resources has a significant relationship with utilization of

information resources. Meaning, when librarians remove out-dated and irrelevant information resources from shelves to create space for the newly acquired information resources, the time and stress for searching and retrieval will be reduced, and the use of library materials by students will increase.

Conclusion

The quality of the collection remains the litmus test of service delivery effectiveness in the academic library. Acquisition, preservation, and weeding are the strength and the bedrock of any library collection. Librarians must always select and acquire the right information materials for their libraries, and such materials must be properly taken care of in order to attract the attention of users. Hence, librarians must continue to work hard to build a collection that is current and relevant to the information needs of users. This will increase students' interest in the use of library resources in academic libraries in South-South Nigeria.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Government should prioritize funding for the acquisition of information resources for university libraries.

References

- [1] Eguavoen, O.L (2002), Collection Development in Information Science and Technology for Library Schools in Africa/ edited by Madu, C. and Marie B. Darisu- Ibadan: Evi – Coleman Publication.
- [2] Ochal, A. (2002) Collection Development in Nigerian Libraries: Problems and Prospects (In) Olanlokun, S. O. and Salisu, T. M. Libraries and Librarianship in Nigeria, Lagos: Ikeja Press.
- [3] Omagbemi, C. O., Ogunbote, K. O., and Adekunmisi, S. R. (2003) Collection Development in Nigerian Libraries: A Case study of Olabisi

2. Weeding should be a “regular exercise” in the “libraries” to rid the shelves of irrelevant, obsolete, and damaged information resources.
3. Bindery divisions should quickly mend torn but relevant books for effective preservation and prompt replacement on the shelves”.

Acknowledgement

I wish to sincerely thank the almighty God for the grace and strength upon my life and for the journey mercies he granted me throughout the period of this study. I am particularly grateful to my co-researcher Dr. (Mrs) Ebaye for her support and for making sure that during the period of this study, we lacked nothing. Also worthy of mention is Anandhi R., who is always there to explain and make us understand what is required of us.

I wish to thank Dr Sylvester Ebaye for the support and encouragement throughout this study. I also wish to thank my son, Divine Onor-Nse Njar-Anom, for painstakingly typing the manuscript and for his meaningful input. I want to thank Dr Manyo for the financial support to make sure this research is published; I say thank you, and God bless you all.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest.

- Onabanjo University Library, Nigeria. *Gateway Library Journal* 6 (2): 113 - 114.
- [4] Ali, H. (2020). Challenges and Opportunities in the Management of Collection Development Policy in Libraries. *Middle belt Journal of Library and Information Science*, 18, 164- 176.
- [5] Umoh, M. S., Effiom, a. P. & Igaja, m. N. (2021). Collection Development Policy on Library Resources and Users in University Libraries in South-South Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. *Global Journal of Educational Research* Vol 20, 173-17.
- [6] Samantaray, M. and Rath, P., 2014. Collection Development in Libraries: Challenges and Solutions

for Library Professionals. *Pearl Journal of Library and Information Science*, 8(1), 53.

[7] Igiomoh, V. E. and Duro, M., 2012. Electronic resources collection development practices in libraries in Nigeria. *Niger biblios*, 23(1&2), 84-9.

[8] Nwosu, C. C. & Udo-Ayanwu, A. (2015). Collection development in academic libraries in Imo State Nigeria: Status analysis and way forward. *International Journal of Information and Library Review*, 2(3), 50-78.

[9] Ani, E. O. (2016). Strategies for enhancing the utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libprac>.

[10] Carr, W. S. (2009). Weeding of academic library reference collections: A survey of current practice. *Journal of International Library Practice*, 20(3), 366 -371.

[11] Sasikala, C., Nagaratnamani, G. & Dhanraju, V. (2014). The pattern of collection development in academic libraries in Andhra Pradesh. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 19, 249 - 258.

[12] Adesanya, O. O. (2015). Acquisition patterns in academic libraries: A case study of Michael Otedola College of Primary Education, Noforija Epe Lagos State. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 7(2), 40 - 46.

[13] Abalaka, B. F. (2010). Acquisition practices in state university libraries in North Central Zone of Nigeria. (Unpublished MLS thesis).

[14] Ehirim, I. O. (2006). Acquisition of library materials in Enugu State University of Science and Technology Library and Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Unpublished Masters' Thesis in Library and Information Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

[15] Sanjay, P. (2016) Collection development in academic libraries. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 3(1), 13 1-141.

[16] Sawant, S. (2014). A study on preservation and conservation in Academic libraries in Mumbai. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 61, 153-159. Retrieved from [http://nopr.niscair.res.in/bitstream/123456789/29036/1/ALIS%2061\(2\)%20153-159.pdf](http://nopr.niscair.res.in/bitstream/123456789/29036/1/ALIS%2061(2)%20153-159.pdf).

[17] Njeze, M.E. (2012). Preservation and Conservation Issues in Selected Private Universities in South-West Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 761. Retrieved from <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1835&context=libphilprac>.

[18] Olatokun, W. M. (2008). A survey of preservation and conservation practices and techniques in Nigerian University libraries. *Library and Information Science Research Electronic Journal*, 18, 23-38.

[19] Ogbodo, C. (2011). Preservation of information sources in Polytechnic libraries in the Southeast States of Nigeria. *Journal of Research Education and Society*, 2(1); 230-235.

[20] Ogunsola, I. O. & Ikegune, D. O. (2016). Management and preservation of non-book materials in academic libraries: A case study of three University libraries in Nigeria. *International Journal of Library Science*, 6(4), 72-78.

[21] Oghenetega, L. U. & Ebele, U. C. (2014). Maintenance culture of information resources among librarians in two selected private higher institutions in the Anambra State of Nigeria. *Information and Knowledge Management*, 4, 6-14.

[22] American Library Association (ALA), (2010). American library association glossary of library and information science. (4th ed.). 228.

[23] Konlan, B., & Thompson, E.S. (2015). Weeding: A strategy for effective management of a library stock at University of Ghana Medical School, Korle-bu. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 7(6), 117-123. DOI:10.5897/ijlis2015.0577.

[24] Johnson, A. (2011). *A survey of weeding practices in New Zealand academic libraries*. Submitted to the School of Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Information Studies. Retrieved from <http://researcharchive.vuw.ac.nz/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10063/1724/thesis.pdf>.

[25] Ephraim; P. E. (2001). Setting the criteria and rationale in collection management: The University of Mauritius Experience. *Journal of Librarianship in Africa*. 1(2), 15-21.