BUSINESS SUBJECT STUDENTS' PERCEIVED BENEFITS OF UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OGIDI ZONE, ANAMBRA STATE

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Abstract

The need to encourage students' utilization of library resources for better academic performance necessitated this study. The study ascertained the benefit of utilization of library resources as perceived by business subjects' students in secondary schools in Ogidi zone, Anambra State. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population consisted of 3577 business subject students and a sample size of 520was drawn for the study using stratified random sampling techniqueOne research question guided the study and two null hypotheses were tested. An 11- item structured questionnaire validated by three experts was used for data collection. The reliability of the instrument was established using test re-test method and data analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient; this yielded reliability coefficient of 0.83. Data were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research question and to determine the closeness of the respondent's means, while z-test was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The results revealed that business subject students in secondary schools in Ogidi zone, Anambra State agreed that library resources help students to use and cite materials accurately. The students strongly agree that library resources offer an environment that is conducive for study. It was found that the business subject students did not differ significantly on their mean responses on the benefit of utilization of library resources in secondary schools based on gender and location of the school libraries. It was recommended among others that management of secondary schools in Anambra State should organize seminars and workshop programs to enlighten student on the relevant and the use of library resources. This will help in enhancing the usage of library resources among students and improve their academic performance.

Key Words: Benefits, utilization, library, resources and Business subject students

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Introduction

Education is the key factor in the development and advancement of a society. No society can afford to toy with the education of its citizens as this could be detrimental to development. Education is generally seen as an aggregate of all the processes by which a child or young adult develops abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviours which are of value to the society in which he lives. Secondary education is the form of education children receive after primary education and before the tertiary level. The broad aims of secondary education according to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 2013) are preparation of students for useful living within the society and for higher education. It inspires the desire for self-improvement and achievement, producing citizens who can think and respect the views of others. Secondary education has a diversified curricular to cater for all students and provide a sub-professional manpower in science, technical knowledge and vocational skills.

Okoye and Udoudo (2015) noted the major areas of skill acquisition in secondary education to include business studies, basic technology, practical agriculture, home economics and computer studies. At the senior secondary level, each of the integrated subjects is split into many distinct subjects. For instance, business studies are further split to book keeping, financial accounting, commerce, office practice and economics. Business subjects as an integral part of general education is concerned with education for and about business (Okoli&Ibeh, 2017). The broad aim of offering these subjects is to produce highly skilled manpower required for the growing commercial enterprises in the country. To implement and achieve this, provisions of different types of educational resources to the students are very important. Such educational resources required include human resources, library resources and infrastructure to facilitate effective teaching and learning of the different business subjects.The aim of business subjects will equally be defeated where such resources like library resources are made available but not adequately utilize.

To utilize means the ability to make practical use of something. This is the process of making use of something available. Utilization as used in this study establishes the fact that library resources are already available but determines the resources been put into appropriate use by the student. Ezenwa (2009) noted that the effectiveness of a library does not depend on only its collection in terms of resources and other facilities per se, but also on the success of its exploitation and use. The students use library resources and services to supplement their class notes, assignments and in examination preparation. Adequate use of school library is a key to high academic performance.

Utilization of library resources assists teaching-learning processes when instructional materials such as textbooks, audio-visual materials, magazines,

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newspapers, journals and reference materials are stored. It is the function of the library to support the school curriculum by providing up-to-date information to keep teachers and students abreast of new developments (Moruf, 2015). Library resources promote the development of reading skills and encourage long-term learning habits through reading, listening and viewing a variety of materials. According to Strangin Okoli and Nwajei (2019) students can access a vast array of resources and use a wide range of books, journals, databases and other resources that will support and be of benefit to their academic efforts. The library is a powerhouse of the school and an integral part of the school system.

The availability and proper use of library resources has proved to be worthwhile in enhancing academic performance among secondary school students in different subject areas. Students of business subjects are expected to benefit a lot from usage of their school library resources. Unfortunately, these resources are seen available in secondary schools in Anambra State butseems not properly used by students generally including those studying business subjects. This could be that the students are not aware of the numerous benefits accruing to the use of library resources and those that are aware of the numerous benefits are not knowledgeable of how to explore the library for academic excellence. Popoola (2013) observed that in most secondary schools, library resources are either unavailable or poorly used which causes poor students performance and failures in internal and external examinations. Supporting this, Jato, Ogunniyi and Olubiyo (2014) noted that irregular use of school libraries by students was one of the causes of their poor scores in tests and examinations.In addition, Fakomogbon, Bada and Omiola (2012) observed that lack of standard school library with relevant information resources which students could use for their studies could be one of the causes of mass failure in the school. However, the major problem is poor utilization of the available library resources.

Students poor utilization of library resources in schools will continue to limit their investigation skills, as well as narrow their horizons and reading culture. The usefulness of any school library resource depends on its maximum usage by students otherwise it is as good as wasted. The school library is an important tool in the school system that supports the curriculum and helps schools to achieve educational objectives and goals. The school library serves these purposes by providingresources that encourage self-development among students who use them.

The influencing factors on the benefit of utilization of library resources by business subject students in secondary schools could be gender and location. Gender in this study means the physical attributes of a person as a male or female. It is possible that the male and female business subjects' students may differ in their opinion regarding benefits of utilization of library resources in secondary schools in the area of the study. For instance, Daramola (2013) stated that male students visit

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the library more frequently than female students. Daramola also noted that low intensity of library visits among females might be as a result of their perception of the library and the difficulty in combining academic work with home chores. Similarly, location in this study means the particular area in the schools where the library is built whether at the centre of the school or outskirts of the school/classroom. Ajayi and Oguyemi (2011) reported that location of the library does have an influence on its use. Where the library is located at the outskirts of the school premises, students may find it difficult to use the resources because the location is not easily accessible. School library resources are of no value to students of business subjects if they are not appropriately utilized. It is on this backdrop that this study was conceived to ascertain the benefits of utilization of library resources by business subject students in secondary schools in Ogidi zone, Anambra State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to ascertain the benefits of utilization of library resources to business subject students in secondary schools inOgidi zone, Anambra State.

Research Questions

What are the benefits of utilization of library resources to business subject students in secondary schools inOgidi zone, Anambra State?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance

1. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female business subject students on the benefits of utilization of library resources in secondary schools inOgidi zone, Anambra State.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of business subject students on the benefits of utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Ogidi zone, Anambra State based on location (center and outskirt).

Review of Related Literature

Arua and Chinaka (2011) sees school library resourcesas all inputs which are made available in the school library, to provide good learning environment for students and teachers so as to be able to achieve educational goals.This variety of library resources are essential to facilitate the school library fulfilling its functions among which are: the provision of resources necessary for the school's educational programmes and, to help in improving the reading skills and learning habits of students.Achebe (2008) asserted that continuous use of library resources has positive multiplier effect on the academic performance and self-development of its user. The

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use of library resources can appeal to the individual attention by creating interest goal that will help the learner achieve direct effort.

Library resources are the materials in the library that make information-related services possible. These resources embody books, journals, newspapers, magazines, thesis, reports, government publications among others (Odu, 2016). Library resources manifest either in print or in electronic format.Aguolu and Aguolu (2012) also noted that libraries provide instructional materials to enrich the curriculum and give unlimited opportunities for students' learning. An effective school library at secondary school level gives foundation for self-education necessary for facing challenges of higher education.

Haycock (2008) noted that in schools with good library resources, students perform significantly better on tests for basic research skills, reading comprehension and in their ability to express ideas effectively in relation to their reading. More reading occurs when there is a school librarian, as the guidance of a teacher librarian appears to exert significant influence on student achievement in information-gathering. In schools with good libraries and full-time librarians, students perform better at higher levels in reading comprehension, and in knowledge and use of reference materials than students in schools with minimal or no library service. Edoka (2010) noted the benefit of school library resources in academic performance of students to include support and reinforcement of learning of school core subjects' content by students, carrying out school assignment always, improve knowledge on the course of study and the students keeping up with current affairs. Others are improved self-concept to students and research for specific topics of interest among others.

Method

The study employed descriptive survey research design. The study was carried out in Ogidi Education zone of Anambra State. The population of this study consisted of all the students offering business subjects' in SSSI to SSSIII in 37 secondary schools in Ogidi Education zone. There are 3577 business subject students from (SSSI 1515, SSSII 1179 and SSSIII 883) in secondary schools in Ogidi zone. A sample of 520 students was used for the study using stratified random sampling technique. Data for this study was collected using a validated structured questionnaire on a 4-point rating scale of Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2) and Strongly Disagree (1). The reliability of the instrument was established through test retest method. The data for the reliability were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and a reliability co-efficient of 0.83was obtained.

The research instrument was administered to the respondents with the help of three research assistants. Out of the 520 copies of the questionnaire distributed, 497

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copies (representing 94 percent) were duly completed, retrieved and used for data analysis. Data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions and determine the closeness of the respondents' mean ratings respectively. Hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance. Decisions on the items rated were based on the real limit of numbers for the weighted means as follows:

Responses	**Rating Scale**	**Real Limits of Number**
Strongly Agreed (SA)	4	3.50 – 4.00
Agree (A)	3	2.50 – 3.49
Disagree (D)	2	1.50 – 2.49
Strongly Disagree (SD)	1	1.00 – 1.49

Results

The results are presented in Tables 1 to 3 as follows:

Research Question: What are the benefits of utilization of library resources to business subject students in secondary schools in Ogidi zone, Anambra State?

Table 1: Mean ratings on the benefits of utilization of library resources by business subject students in secondary schools in Anambra State.

S/No	Benefits of library resources	Mean	SD	Decision
1.	Library resources support and reinforces the learning of school core subjects' content	3.70	0.46	Strongly agreed
2.	Library resources enable students carrying out school assignment always	3.76	0.43	Strongly agreed
3.	Library resources improve students' knowledge on the course of study	3.31	0.46	Agreed
4.	Library resources keep students abreast with current affairs	3.29	0.45	Agreed
5.	Library resources improve one self-concept	3.27	0.44	Agreed
6.	Library resources help students to research for specific topics of interest	3.35	0.48	Agreed
7.	Library resources have total development of the students and enlarges their knowledge	3.33	0.47	Agreed
8.	Library resources help students to interact directly with resources	3.75	0.43	Strongly agreed
9.	Library resources help students to acquire information and develop research skill for lifelong learning	3.40	0.49	Agreed
10.	Library resources help students to use and cite materials accurately	3.36	0.48	Agreed

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11. Library resources offers an environment conducive to study	3.76	0.43	Strongly agreed
Cluster Mean	**3.48**		**Agreed**

The item by item analysis in Table 1 shows that out of 11 items rated, four were strongly agreed and seven items were agreed. However, the cluster mean of 3.48 revealed that business subject students in Ogidi zone, Anambra State agreed on the benefits of utilization of library resources in schools. The standard deviation shows homogeneity amongst responses indicating a consensus of opinion.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female business subject students on the benefits of utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Ogidi zone, Anambra State.

Table 2: z-test analysis on mean ratings of the male and female business subject students on the benefits of usage of library resources in secondary schools in Anambra State

Gender	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	Df	P-value	Decision
Male	105	3.47	0.20	495	0.27	Not significant
Female	392	3.48	0.19			

Data in Table 2 show that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female business subject students in secondary schools in Ogidi zone, Anambra State. This is shown by the p-value of 0.27 which is greater than the significance level of 0.05. The null hypothesis is therefore not rejected.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the mean responses of business subject students on the benefits of utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Ogidi zone, Anambra State based on location (center and outskirt).

Table 3: The z-test analysis on mean ratings of business subject students on the benefits of usage of library resources in secondary schools in Anambra State based on location.

Benefits of library resources	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	Df	P-value	Decision
Center	163	3.48	0.19	495	0.99	Not significant
Outskirt	334	3.48	0.19			

The data analysis in Table 3 shows that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of business subject students in secondary schools in Anambra State

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on the benefits of usage of library resources based on location (center and outskirt of the school). This is shown by the p-value of 0.99, which is greater than the significance level of 0.05 at 495 degree of freedom. The null hypothesis is therefore not rejected.

Discussion of Findings and Implications of the Study

The findings of this study revealed that business subject students' in secondary schools in Anambra State strongly agreed that the benefits from utilization of library resources include support and reinforcement of the learning of school core subject contents, carrying out of school assignment always, direct interaction with resources and offer a conducive environment for study. They also agreed that utilization of library resources improves their knowledge of the course of the study, improves one's self concepts, helps them in research of specific areas of interest to acquire information and to develop skills for lifelong learning. Others are that library resources keep them abreast of current affairs, it develops and enlarges their knowledge and help them to use and cite materials accurately. These findings are in line with that of Edoka (2010) and Haycock (2008) who stated that in schools with good library resources, students perform significantly better in tests for skills in reading comprehension, in ability of expression of ideas and basic research skills. This is also in consonance with Olagunju and Abiola (2008) who noted that the usage of library resources in teaching brings about fruitful learning, since it stimulates students sense of reasoning as well as in motivating them.

The findings of the study also revealed that the business subjects' student did not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the benefits of utilization of library resources in secondary schools in Ogidi zone, Anambra State based on gender and location. Male and female business subject students with library at the centre and those at the outskirt did not differ significantly in their view on the benefit of utilization of library resources.

The findings of this study have some educational implications for teachers and students in secondary schools offering business subjects. Business subject students are expected to benefit since it would help to educate them on the relevance and how best to use the school library. The teachers would also use these findings to make their students use the library frequently and help students to redirect their focus in ways that could lead to solving difficult problems in business subjects using library resources. This also implies the school management creating a school timetable and classroom environment that encourages students access to a vast array of resources and wide range of books, journals, database and other resources that will support and be of benefit to their academic efforts through the library.

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Conclusion

Library resources is worthwhile in enhancing academic performance of secondary school students in business subjectsas it provides them access to a vast array of resources and wide range of books, journals, database and others that will support and be of benefit to their academic efforts. The benefit of utilization of library resources in secondary school is embracing for all persons whether male or female and not minding where the library is located.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Management of secondary schools in Anambra State should organize seminars and workshop programs to enlighten student on the relevant and the use of library resources. This will help in enhancing their usage of library resources.
2. Teachers should motivate students to use library resources by giving assignment that enhances student consultation of library resources.
3. Management of secondary schools in Anambra State should equip their school libraries to improve academic performance of students. This is possible with joint funding programme by the government, school authority and the community in provision of functional library across the state. This synergy approach will improve the academic achievement of the students in business studies.

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