

Management and Utilization of Indigenous Knowledge Materials for Research by Postgraduate Students in Federal University Libraries in Nigeria

By

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Abstract

This study was carried out to investigate management and extent of utilization of indigenous knowledge materials for research by post graduate students in federal university libraries in Nigeria. The Descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. The total population of the study was 7,171 respondents made up of 271 Library staff and 6900 registered post graduate students with a sample size of 601 respondents. The study was guided by four research questions and two null hypothesis. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire developed by the researchers. Mean scores and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions while the null hypothesis were tested using the t-test statistic at 0.05 level of significance. The results revealed that the methods of acquisition of indigenous knowledge (IK) in the Federal University were employed to a high extent. It was also found that the ways IK materials were managed in the Federal University Libraries was highly effective in promoting research. Based on the Findings, it was recommended that there is need for provision of quality IK materials for post graduate students research. This will help to provide quality services for postgraduate students in the library. The study has also revealed the weak aspect of the management and use of IK materials in the libraries which should be improved upon in order to enhance the quality of services rendered for PG students' research.

Keywords: Management, Utilization, Indigenous knowledge, Library

Paper Type: Empirical Research

Introduction

The university library is an academic library established to achieve the objectives of providing adequate, timely, relevant and quality resources to library users in the university. The Library is the centre from where all intellectual activities radiate to academic and research programmes especially for postgraduate (PG) students and other library clients. The library provides materials to meet the information needs of library users and provide resources, which support teaching, learning and research as well as supporting the curriculum of the parent institution. A university cannot expect an excellent academic programme without the support of a standard and well-equipped library. .

The specific aims and objectives of a university library according to Ifidon & Ifidon, (2007) included: the provision of materials for undergraduate instruction, term papers and projects as well as for supplementary reading; provision of materials in support of postgraduate research; provision of materials in support of faculty, external and collaborative researches; provision of expensive standard works, especially in the professional disciplines; provision of items for all categories of part-time students, including students in distance learning programmes; among others.

In providing up-to-date information services for postgraduate students' research, a university library must take cognizance of the various Indigenous Knowledge (IK) materials available in the library to meet students' information needs. It is on this note that Aguolu & Aguolu (2002) stated that university libraries must acquire materials published and unpublished, print and non-print in some depth and globally in almost all the fields of knowledge. University libraries are quite different from other types of libraries such as, private, public, special and national libraries, they are distinct because they provide information materials in different formats to support teaching, learning and research for undergraduate and postgraduate (PG) students.

Students seek for information on Indigenous Knowledge materials for their research work. One of the major preoccupations of students in university education is engagement in research activities. Among the types of materials provided for postgraduate students research are indigenous knowledge materials which are part of Africana materials. IK materials are very important research resources/materials that encourage and enhance postgraduate students' research. They contain the history, wisdom and culture of Africans and covers the experiences of both the African continent and the world globally. IK is built up by group of people through generations of living in a close contact with nature but mostly not available in codified form (World Bank, 2004). IK is knowledge acquired from accumulated experiences of people living in a particular community and these accumulated experiences are passed on from generation to generation.

Effective management of IK materials is very important for the smooth running and maintenance of libraries goals and objectives, which is enhancement of teaching, learning and research. Adequate provision of

material resources, work force and management to enhance research and productivity is necessary. In support of this view Dim & Mole (2017) averred that the library is an appropriate anchor partner in the management of IK. Access to IK cannot be achieved without involving libraries because they are one of the building blocks of the local information and knowledge infrastructure.

When the IK materials are provided by the university library, the extent postgraduate students utilize it is very important. Utilization is not a new concept in this era. It means to make use of in order to achieve a purpose (Chisita, 2011). In the context of this work, utilization is an extent of use of IK materials available in federal university libraries for research by postgraduate students. It can also be defined as the proportion of the use of available IK resources/materials in the libraries. Utilization of IK materials in the library by postgraduate students and other library users will lead to further research and generation of new information or knowledge. IK materials in the library that are not being utilized are as good as dead as they cannot justify their existence or their being.

The question that may be raised at this point in time is, Are the IK materials being well utilized in these libraries? How easily are they retrieved? If IK is important at all, one wonders why these collections are not well developed in some university libraries in Nigeria. The situation in our libraries today in terms of the usage of IK materials may not be the best. The problem that IK may be facing could be poor staffing, poor services rendered to PG students and other library users, wrong perceptions of the users about IK materials, ICT tools are not adequately applied in accessing IK materials in the library, and lack of enough interest in the usage of IK materials in these libraries. Poor management and organization of Indigenous knowledge materials may likely lead to inaccessibility of indigenous knowledge materials in the libraries. If IK is not properly managed and utilized for postgraduate students' research, they may be likened to a mere waste of resources. However as at the period of this study, there was little or no known study on the management and utilization of IK materials in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. It is this gap that this study seeks to fill.

Statement of the Problem

Indigenous or traditional knowledge has to be properly managed and utilized in university libraries. Poor management and organization of Indigenous knowledge materials may likely lead to inaccessibility of indigenous knowledge materials in the libraries. If IK is not properly managed and utilized for postgraduate students' research, they may be likened to a mere waste of resources. The mistreatment of Indigenous knowledge has led to reluctance among many Indigenous people to allow their traditional knowledge to be accessible in the public domain. There remains a range of problems in representing Indigenous knowledge, particularly at the intersection of Indigenous Knowledge with Western forms of production, organisation, and management. There is a serious need for a research on how these materials are managed and utilized for research by postgraduate students in federal university libraries in South-East Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

1. What are the methods of acquisition of indigenous knowledge for research by postgraduate students' in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?
2. In what ways are IK materials organized for use by postgraduate students for research in the federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?
3. What are the methods of preserving IK materials for postgraduate students' research in Federal university libraries in South-East Nigeria?
4. What is the extent to which postgraduate students in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria use IK materials for research?

Literature Review

IK contain the history, wisdom and culture of Africans and cover the experiences of both the African continent and the world globally. IK is built up by group of people through generations of living in a close contact with nature but mostly not available in codified form (World Bank, 2004). IK is knowledge acquired

from accumulated experiences of people living in a particular community and these accumulated experiences are passed on from generation to generation.

Indigenous Knowledge is knowledge, which is culture specific, dynamic, constantly evolving, and originating from age-old beliefs, traditions, experiences and observations, indigenous to a specific area, non-formal, orally transmitted and usually not documented (Jain, 2008:15).

Using IK in Postgraduate research creates highly relevant and multidisciplinary research to postgraduate programmes. It also serves as effective instruments to promote the production and quality research output of students in the university. Ranasinghe, (2008) defined IK as a corpus of knowledge belonging to a particular geographical area. This assertion shows that IK belongs to a specific group of people living in a particular geographical location. Dim, Mole & Agu (2014) averred that IK is the knowledge a community possesses, and experiences generated over a long period of time by people living in that community or communities, and is usually passed on from generation to generation, through word of mouth. IK is the information base for a society that facilitates communication and decision-making. IK systems are dynamic and are continually influenced by internal creativity and experimentally as well as by contact with external systems". This shows that all human activities is based on the experiences and knowledge acquired from living in a particular environment and this knowledge is passed on from generation to generation. This unique knowledge that is passed on must be managed for easy access and use by postgraduate students, for research.

Management is synonymously seen as leadership, decision making, organisation, administration and control. Anderson (2007), and Stoner, et al (2005) in two separate studies highlighted the concept of management as planning or organizing processes that will lead to control of all types of resources in an organization, in order to reach a common vision. This definition included all the components of management as well as the behavioural system and contingency approach needed for attainment of set objectives in an organization. In addition, Henry Fayol as cited by Ifidon & Ifidon, (2007) also sees management as an act of forecasting, planning, organizing, controlling, commanding, and co-ordinating. Henry fayol, was the first to

advocate the principle of management. In the view of Nwachukwu (2009), Fayol carefully avoided a set of principles that would have been taught to other managers and students of management over the years. The author states that, the fourteen principles which cover all aspects of management include: division of labour, authority, discipline, unity of command, unity of direction, subordination of the individual interest to the general interest, remuneration, centralization, scalar chain (line authority), order, equity, stability of tenure of personnel, Initiative, esprit de corps (group spirit which indicates spirit of oneness).

In library management, the library manages four key resources: people (library staff and library clientele); information (bibliographic and media resources); physical facilities (building, furniture and equipment); and finance (Ifidion & ifidion, 2007). These are human and material resources which when effectively managed would lead to the attainment of the organizational aims and objectives, one of which is to satisfy postgraduate students use of IK materials in the library. Thus, the postgraduate student's satisfaction over the use of IK materials can be achieved through effective management of Indigenous Knowledge materials in the libraries. To manage effectively, the manager must apply all the management variables as earlier mentioned. These managerial functions as distilled from the above definitions are five in number and they are Planning, Organizing, directing, staffing and controlling.

From the context of this study, utilization is the use of information materials for a particular purpose. (Prout 2009) viewed the concept of utilization as being unique. Utilization means to make use of. In this work, utilization refers to the extent of use of IK materials available in federal university libraries for research by postgraduate students. It is also referred to as the proportion of the use of available IK resources/materials in the libraries for optimum attainment of objectives. The ability to ascertain the rate at which an information material is used plays a vital role in the effective planning and management of such information material.

In the words of Uhegbu (2007), the use of information resources is the actual putting into use of the information resources, or putting it to its purpose. This indicates that there are many ways to put an information resources or materials such as Ik materials into use. IK materials could be used in medicine, food

preservation, conflict and conflict resolution, for research purpose or for academic pursuit. In this way, the user could gain enough knowledge of the subject and would be subjected to examination at one time or the other. IK could also be used for leisure particularly if it is put in different electronic formats such as VCDs, DVD, etc where it could be viewed by postgraduate students and other library patrons.

Uhegbu, (2007) also included what he termed as the principle of use which included user understanding, which in the authors view is the first principle of information resource use in which the user should understand himself. The author also stated that accessibility of the information resources is one of the prerequisites for the use of that information resources.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design and was carried out in South-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The population of the study was 7,171 which comprised of all the registered postgraduate students, professionals and paraprofessionals of the federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. It was made up of 271 library staff and 6900 registered postgraduate students from the federal university libraries in South-East Nigeria. The population of the library staff comprised of 103 professional staff and 168 paraprofessional staff. The study used a sample of 601 respondents comprising of all the 262 professional and paraprofessional staff members and 339 registered postgraduate students. The sample size represents 8.38% of the total population.

The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire designed by the researcher. There were two sets of questionnaires: one for the staff and another for the postgraduate students. The questionnaire for staff was titled, "Management of Indigenous Knowledge Materials for Research by Postgraduate Student Questionnaire" (MIKMPSQ). The questionnaire for students was titled "Utilisation of Indigenous Knowledge Materials for Research by Postgraduate Students' Questionnaire" (UIKMPSQ). Both Staff and students' questionnaires were made up of Sections A and B. Section A was on personal information of the respondents

such as name of the university, department, gender, rank and qualification of each of the respondents while Section B was made up of the questionnaire items to be responded to by the research subjects.

Results and Discussion

This section covers presentation of results. The data are presented in tabular form according to the various research questions and hypotheses that guided the study.

Research Question One

What are the methods employed in the acquisition of indigenous knowledge for research by postgraduate students' in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean Ratings and Standard Deviations of Respondents on the Methods employed in Acquisition of Indigenous Knowledge for Research by Postgraduate Students' in Federal University Libraries in South-East, Nigeria

S/N	Items	Unizik		Umudike		UNN		FUTO		Overall		Dec.
		\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	
1	Gifts from individuals, NGOs and other bodies	3.92	0.33	3.92	0.28	3.91	0.34	3.92	0.31	3.92	0.32	HE
2	Legal deposits	3.87	0.50	3.71	0.75	3.89	0.41	3.83	0.60	3.85	0.53	HE
3	Unsolicited Indigenous Knowledge materials in the Library from vendors	3.82	0.53	3.75	0.60	3.83	0.50	3.81	0.53	3.82	0.53	HE
4	Exchange of IK materials with other libraries	3.78	0.61	3.67	0.76	3.82	0.55	3.75	0.68	3.77	0.62	HE
5	Purchases of library materials	3.98	0.12	3.96	0.20	3.74	0.44	3.25	0.73	3.68	0.56	HE
6	Use of Internet	3.73	0.44	3.00	0.00	3.57	0.49	3.97	0.16	3.67	0.47	HE
7	Supplies from International agencies like the world Bank	3.70	0.49	2.96	0.20	3.55	0.51	3.92	0.35	3.64	0.52	HE
8	Supplies from governmental agencies like TETFUND etc	3.68	0.50	3.00	0.00	3.53	0.53	3.92	0.31	3.63	0.51	HE
9	Subscription to different data bases	3.68	0.50	3.00	0.00	3.53	0.53	3.92	0.31	3.63	0.51	HE
10	Professional associations	3.63	0.58	2.92	0.28	3.50	0.57	3.84	0.52	3.58	0.59	HE
11	Subscriptions to IK materials	3.62	0.55	2.92	0.28	3.50	0.54	3.80	0.52	3.56	0.56	HE
12	Donations from publishers/manufacturers etc	3.62	0.58	2.92	0.28	3.50	0.57	3.83	0.52	3.56	0.59	HE
13	Donations from individual libraries	3.50	0.62	2.88	0.44	3.50	0.57	3.80	0.61	3.53	0.63	HE
14	Exchanges /Bequests	3.55	0.62	2.88	0.44	3.47	0.57	3.73	0.64	3.51	0.63	HE
	Cluster Mean	3.70	0.37	3.23	0.24	3.62	0.38	3.81	0.35	3.67	0.39	HE

Results in Table 1 show the mean ratings of respondents on the methods of acquisition of Indigenous Knowledge for research by postgraduate students' in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. Results show that all the items in Table 1 had total mean ratings above 2.50 set as criterion for 'Agree'. This means the respondents agreed that the following items among others were highly employed in acquisition of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) for research by postgraduate students' in the federal university libraries. The major ones included: gifts from individuals, NGOs and other bodies ($\bar{x} = 3.92$), legal deposits ($\bar{x} = 3.85$), unsolicited indigenous knowledge materials in the library from vendors ($\bar{x} = 3.82$), exchange of IK materials with other libraries ($\bar{x} = 3.77$), purchase of library materials ($\bar{x} = 3.68$), use of Internet ($\bar{x} = 3.67$), supplies from international agencies like the world bank ($\bar{x} = 3.64$), supplies from governmental agencies like TETFund etc ($\bar{x} = 3.63$), subscriptions to different databases ($\bar{x} = 3.63$), gift from professional associations ($\bar{x} = 3.58$), subscriptions of IK materials ($\bar{x} = 3.56$) among others. This also reflects in the cluster mean of 3.67 with a standard deviation of 0.39.

The result of the study support the view of Dutse (2011) that the process of acquisition usually starts with a pre-order search to ensure that the title is not on order or already part of the library collection. Due to the importance of acquisition IK, it is often described as the spark and plug for and the brake on the building of a library collection. From the result of the study, it was discovered that these methods of acquisition of IK materials for research by postgraduate students in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria were highly employed by the librarians in the universities studied. Part of the reason for the non-reliance of only purchase could be the poor finances of the libraries and the need to complement library purchase with gifts and exchanges.

Research Question Two

In what ways are IK materials organized for use by postgraduate students for research in the federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?

Table 2: Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Respondents on the Organization of IK Materials for use by Postgraduate Student's Research. *N=262*

S/N	Items	Unizik		Umudike		UNN		FUTO		Overall		
		\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	Dec.
1	Preparing subject indexes and abstract of Indigenous knowledge (IK) materials in the library	3.80	0.40	3.8	0.38	3.91	0.28	3.89	0.31	3.87	0.33	SA
2	Manual cataloguing cards	3.78	0.49	3.88	0.33	3.88	0.42	3.88	0.40	3.86	0.42	SA
3	Shelf listing of the materials	3.72	0.61	3.67	0.76	3.85	0.49	3.77	0.64	3.78	0.59	SA
4	Integrated catalogues	3.78	0.49	3.83	0.48	3.71	0.51	3.85	0.45	3.78	0.49	SA
5	Preparing inventories and use of bibliographies	3.75	0.50	3.79	0.50	3.70	0.52	3.84	0.46	3.76	0.50	SA
6	Electronic resource management system	3.75	0.50	3.83	0.38	3.69	0.54	3.85	0.42	3.76	0.49	SA
7	Indexing and abstracting techniques	3.75	0.57	3.75	0.73	3.71	0.53	3.81	0.60	3.75	0.58	SA
8	In-house library constructed databases	3.70	0.72	3.67	0.81	3.65	0.69	3.77	0.68	3.70	0.70	SA
9	Cross-Searching alternative which engage the use of open Archive protocol for metadata harvesting (OAI-PMH)	3.70	0.69	3.67	0.86	3.67	0.64	3.75	0.75	3.70	0.70	SA
10	Digitization of IK materials in the library	3.68	0.65	3.71	0.75	3.64	0.62	3.75	0.68	3.69	0.65	SA
11	Preparing cumulative indexes/abstract of the materials	3.68	0.62	3.58	0.83	3.67	0.56	3.72	0.68	3.68	0.64	SA
12	Preparing registers	3.52	0.59	2.96	0.20	3.49	0.59	3.85	0.48	3.55	0.59	SA
13	Digital objects identifiers (DOI)	3.55	0.87	3.25	1.15	3.57	0.76	3.48	1.00	3.51	0.90	SA
14	Use of CD ROMs	3.42	1.01	3.13	1.22	3.45	0.91	3.35	1.13	3.38	1.03	A
15	Online cataloguing (Online public access catalogues (OPC))	3.17	1.18	2.63	1.34	3.39	1.10	3.05	1.27	3.17	1.20	A
Cluster Mean		3.65	0.45	3.56	0.42	3.66	0.41	3.71	0.42	3.67	0.42	SA

Results in Table 2 show the mean ratings of respondents on the ways IK materials are organized for use by postgraduate students' research in the federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. The respondents strongly agreed that all but two of the items are methods used in organization of IK materials for

use by post graduate students' research in the federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria, these included; preparing subject indexes and abstracts of indigenous knowledge (IK) materials in the library with the highest ($\bar{x} = 3.87$), manual cataloguing cards ($\bar{x} = 3.86$), shelf listing of the materials with ($\bar{x} = 3.78$), integrated catalogues ($\bar{x} = 3.78$), preparing inventories and use of bibliographies ($\bar{x} = 3.76$), use of electronic resource management system ($\bar{x} = 3.76$), using indexing and abstracting techniques ($\bar{x} = 3.75$), use of in-house library constructed databases ($\bar{x} = 3.70$), cross-searching alternative which engage the use of open archive protocol for metadata harvesting (OAI-PMH) ($\bar{x} = 3.70$), digitization of IK materials in the library ($\bar{x} = 3.69$), among others. The cluster mean is 3.67 with a standard deviation of 0.42.

The result of the study is in agreement with that of Moradi (2001) who stated that the ways IK materials are organized include; identification of the types of information sources available, identification of the existing works or works that are considered part of the work, and systematic collection of information resources in the libraries, archives and museums. Other methods, according to Iyoro & Ogungbo (2013) include preparing a catalogue of information resources based on the standard rules of documentation, providing ways to access information via the name, title, subject and other ways and providing tools for determining the location of each data. It is obvious from the finding that there was more emphasis on manual method of organizing the materials. This is a characteristic of libraries in the developing countries such as Nigeria.

Research Question 3: What are the methods employed in preserving IK materials for postgraduate students' research in Federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria?

Table 3: Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Respondents on Methods of Preserving IK Materials for Postgraduate Students' Research in Federal University Libraries in South-East Nigeria.
N=262

S/N	Items	Unizik		Umudike		UNN		FUTO		Overall		Dec.
		\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	
1	Closemarking of the student by library staff	3.93	0.25	3.96	0.20	3.92	0.26	3.95	0.22	3.94	0.24	HE
2	Prohibition of smoking within and outside the library premises	3.93	0.31	3.88	0.44	3.94	0.27	3.92	0.35	3.93	0.32	HE
3	Good ventilation in the library	3.93	0.31	3.88	0.44	3.79	0.43	3.92	0.35	3.87	0.39	HE
4	Closemarking of users in the library by library staff	3.85	0.54	3.88	0.44	3.84	0.55	3.85	0.53	3.85	0.53	HE
5	Cleaning and dusting of materials	3.83	0.41	3.88	0.44	3.79	0.43	3.92	0.35	3.84	0.41	HE
6	Maintenance of constant temperature in the library	3.90	0.30	3.83	0.38	3.75	0.43	3.89	0.31	3.83	0.37	HE
7	Use of floriscant lead tubes.	3.90	0.35	3.83	0.48	3.75	0.45	3.88	0.40	3.83	0.42	HE
8	Digitization of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) materials	3.80	0.44	3.92	0.28	3.74	0.48	3.91	0.33	3.82	0.42	HE
9	Air conditioning of the entire library	3.88	0.41	3.83	0.48	3.73	0.50	3.87	0.44	3.81	0.47	HE
10	Use of Boxes for pamphlets	3.87	0.38	3.92	0.28	3.70	0.50	3.88	0.36	3.81	0.43	HE
11	Established binding services	3.77	0.50	3.88	0.44	3.71	0.51	3.87	0.44	3.78	0.49	HE
12	Provision of fire extinguishers in the library	3.83	0.49	3.75	0.60	3.70	0.53	3.81	0.53	3.77	0.53	HE
13	Poor handling/Biological pest by library staff	3.78	0.64	3.63	0.77	3.83	0.58	3.72	0.70	3.77	0.65	HE
14	Digital archiving	3.73	0.51	3.83	0.48	3.68	0.52	3.83	0.47	3.75	0.50	HE
15	Reprography for producing duplicate Copies	3.78	0.58	3.71	0.75	3.66	0.58	3.77	0.62	3.73	0.61	HE
16	Use of dehumidifiers by library staff	3.80	0.65	3.67	0.81	3.67	0.66	3.77	0.70	3.73	0.68	HE
17	Use of reformative process by library staff	3.80	0.57	3.71	0.75	3.66	0.58	3.79	0.62	3.73	0.61	HE
18	Use of fumigation machine	3.68	0.53	3.79	0.50	3.64	0.54	3.77	0.50	3.70	0.52	HE
19	Reformatting of "about to decay" IK materials.	3.68	0.56	3.63	0.71	3.67	0.53	3.73	0.60	3.69	0.57	HE
20	Use of CD ROM	3.18	1.17	2.54	1.28	3.26	1.06	3.00	1.27	3.10	1.18	E
	Cluster Mean	3.79	0.30	3.75	0.35	3.73	0.35	3.80	0.31	3.76	0.33	HE

Results in Table 3 show the mean ratings of respondents on the methods of preserving IK materials for postgraduate students' research in federal university libraries in South-East Nigeria. The respondents agreed that all but one of the items are highly employed in preserving IK materials for postgraduate students' research in federal university libraries in South-East Nigeria, these included: close marking of the student's by library staff ($\bar{x} = 3.94$), prohibition of smoking within and outside the library premises ($\bar{x} = 3.93$), good ventilation in the library ($\bar{x} = 3.87$), cleaning and dusting of materials ($\bar{x} = 3.84$), Digitization of indigenous knowledge (IK) materials ($\bar{x} = 3.82$), Use of Boxes for Pamphlets ($\bar{x} = 3.81$), established binding services ($\bar{x} = 3.78$), digital archiving ($\bar{x} = 3.75$), reprography for producing duplicate copies ($\bar{x} = 3.73$), use of

dehumidifiers by library staff ($\bar{x} = 3.73$), use of reformative process by library staff ($\bar{x} = 3.73$), among others. The high use of these methods was also reflected in the cluster mean of 3.76 with a standard deviation of 0.33.

The finding is consistent with Ebijuwá (2015) who also listed archiving, CD ROM and audio recording as some of the methods of preserving IK materials. The finding of this study on preservation has, no doubt, shown the high level of commitment of the libraries to preserving IK materials. This could be as a result of the value these libraries place on the IK material.

Research Question 4: What is the extent to which postgraduate students in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria utilise IK materials for research?

Table 4: Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Respondents on the extent to which Postgraduate Students in Federal University Libraries in South-East, Nigeria, use IK Materials for Research

S/N	Items	N=339										
		Unizik		Umudike		UNN		FUTO		Overall		Dec.
		\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	
1	Materials on postgraduate thesis	3.92	0.40	3.93	0.36	3.92	0.39	3.93	0.37	3.92	0.38	HE
2	The use of IK materials to understand the origin and culture of my people	2.75	0.43	2.80	0.40	2.80	0.40	2.73	0.44	2.77	0.42	ME
3	Use of Africana on IK	2.25	0.43	2.27	0.44	2.26	0.44	2.24	0.42	2.25	0.43	LE
4	Use of IK Materials on science and technology for postgraduate students' research	2.08	0.27	2.02	0.12	2.06	0.23	2.15	0.36	2.08	0.27	LE
5	Use of IK Materials on conflict and conflict resolution	2.07	0.41	2.07	0.25	2.07	0.24	2.10	0.29	2.07	0.30	LE
6	Use of IK materials to improve my academic performance	2.16	0.37	2.03	0.18	2.03	0.17	2.05	0.21	2.06	0.24	LE
7	Use of IK Materials on religion for postgraduate students' research	2.05	0.22	2.03	0.18	2.03	0.17	2.05	0.21	2.06	0.19	LE
8	Use of IK Materials on literature /fiction for postgraduate students research	2.04	0.30	2.05	0.22	2.02	0.15	2.05	0.40	2.05	0.28	LE
9	Use of IK Materials on Conflict and conflict resolution	2.04	0.35	2.03	0.18	2.03	0.17	2.10	0.29	2.05	0.25	LE
10	IK materials are being utilised for assignments	2.04	0.20	2.03	0.18	2.03	0.17	2.05	0.21	2.04	0.19	LE
11	Use of IK Materials in online data bases for PG research	2.04	0.20	2.03	0.18	2.03	0.17	2.07	0.25	2.04	0.20	LE
12	Use of IK Materials on language and languages	1.99	0.31	2.02	0.12	2.03	0.17	2.11	0.31	2.04	0.24	LE
13	Use of IK Materials on agriculture for postgraduate students' research	2.04	0.20	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.04	0.18	2.02	0.13	LE
14	Use of IK materials on sports and entertainment for postgraduate students'	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.04	0.18	2.01	0.09	LE

15	research Use of IK Materials on Computer games for postgraduate students' research	2.03	0.16	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.02	0.15	2.01	0.10	LE
16	Use of IK Materials on traditional marriage and family life for postgraduate students' research	2.03	0.16	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.02	0.15	2.01	0.10	LE
17	Use of IK Materials on Internet information research for postgraduate students' research	2.01	0.11	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.05	0.21	2.01	0.12	LE
18	Use of Materials on medicinal plants for postgraduate students' research	2.01	0.20	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.02	0.15	2.01	0.12	LE
19	Use of IK Materials on Anthropology and Culture for postgraduate students' research	2.00	0.28	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.04	0.18	2.01	0.16	LE
20	Use of IK materials online for PG research	2.00	0.28	2.00	0.26	2.00	0.25	2.01	0.32	2.00	0.28	LE
21	Use of IK Materials in e- books for postgraduate students' research	1.99	0.31	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.14	LE
22	Use of IK Reference Materials	1.96	0.35	2.03	0.18	2.00	0.25	2.02	0.26	2.00	0.27	LE
23	Use of Government documents on IK	2.00	0.28	1.95	0.22	1.95	0.21	1.98	0.21	1.97	0.23	LE
24	Use of Serial Publications/Periodicals on IK	1.96	0.26	1.95	0.22	1.95	0.21	1.92	0.27	1.94	0.24	LE
25	Use of Online Publications on IK	1.95	0.32	1.92	0.27	1.95	0.21	1.92	0.27	1.94	0.27	LE
26	Use of IK Materials on Pornography for PG research	1.07	0.25	1.10	0.35	1.11	0.39	1.12	0.39	1.10	0.35	LE
	Cluster Mean	2.08	0.05	2.08	0.04	2.08	0.04	2.08	0.05	2.08	0.05	LE

The result of the study as presented in Table 4 shows the mean ratings of respondents on the extent to which postgraduate students in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria, used IK materials for research. Results show that only item one (Materials on postgraduate thesis) was used to a high extent. The use of IK materials to understand the origin and culture of one's people recorded a moderate extent. Twenty four of the 26 items had total mean ratings within the range of 1.50 – 2.49 set as criterion for 'Low Extent. This means the respondents utilized IK materials for research purposes to a low extent. Such purposes include: for assignments, on conflict and conflict resolution, on online data bases, for PG research, on Pornography, on language and languages, and on literature /fiction materials. for postgraduate students research, on Religion, on science and technology and on sports and entertainment. The cluster mean of 2.08 with a standard deviation of 0.05. showed that postgraduate students in federal university libraries in South-East, Nigeria used IK materials, for research to a low extent.

The finding of the study showed that though the IK materials may be present in libraries under study but the rate of usage by postgraduate students was very low. The finding of the study agreed with the result of

Doyle (1995) who conducted a search to measure the rate at which students use the information in the academic library and also to determine their perception and satisfaction with the quality of services rendered to library users. Alegbeleye (2005) found some lapses in the services rendered at the circulation desk and that the members of staff at the circulation section were not adequately trained in information tools so as to know how to direct the users to the right sources, including the use of computer catalogues. The poor use of IK materials in the libraries under study could be as a result of the perceived poor level of awareness of the importance and existence of IK materials in the libraries. It appears that many students did not know that IK materials existed at all not to think of their existence in their university libraries.

Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made.

1. Government should take the issue of research in IK very seriously as in many countries of the world, make available more fund for acquisition of IK materials and resources in addition to provision of experienced and qualified staff with vast knowledge in ICT matters.
2. Library management should try to revitalize the lost African culture and tradition by making IK materials available and accessible to PG students and other researchers through effective use of print and electronic resources in the libraries.
3. The government should provide a database that concerns IK for researchers in the libraries in various aspects of human endeavour, be it in the areas of education, social sciences, history, political science, medicine, food preservation, environmental degradation and others. This will help to make IK materials available to postgraduate students for their research.
4. There should be provisions of quality IK materials for postgraduate students' research. This will help to provide quality services for postgraduate students in the library. The weak aspect of the management and use of IK materials in federal university libraries in South East, Nigeria should be improved upon in

order to enhance the quality of services rendered for postgraduate students' research in these university libraries.

5. Library administration should produce and implement written collection development policy that will immensely take care of IK materials in the university libraries.
6. Library management should also take care of all the management variables such as planning, organizing, supervising and controlling that will lead to the effective management and use of IK materials in federal university libraries in South-East Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study has no doubt filled a gap in literature on the extent of management and utilisation of indigenous knowledge materials (IK) for research by postgraduate students in federal university libraries. Among other findings, the methods employed in organization of IK materials for use for post graduate students' research included preparing registers, preparing subject indexes and abstracts of indigenous knowledge (IK) materials in the library, manual cataloguing cards, shelf listing of materials, integrated catalogues, and digitilization of IK materials in the library. The extent of use of IK material for research by postgraduate students in federal university libraries in South East, Nigeria is low. The findings will no doubt be of great significance to library and information professionals and library information seekers, especially, postgraduate students on how to effectively organise IK resources for effective access and utilization, and how to effectively utilize the resources respectively.

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