



## **LIBRARY INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NIGERIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AMONG ACADEMICS IN THE BAMIDELE OLUMILUA UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, IKERE-EKITI, NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The study seeks to examine the library information resources for sustainable development in the Nigerian educational system among academics in the BOUESTI. Three research questions guided the study. The study used a descriptive survey design. The population of the study is academics from the three colleges, viz., the College of Education, Science, and Technology. However, 173 academics constituted the sample for the study. No sample was drawn since the population is small. A questionnaire was the main instrument used for data collection. The questionnaire was on Google Forms and shared on the CERAD scholars' academic platform. The Cronbach's Alpha method was used to determine the reliability coefficient of the instrument. The collected data were analyzed by frequency count, statistics mean, and standard deviation. The study revealed that journals, textbooks, databases, newspapers, theses/dissertations, encyclopedias, and dictionaries were available in the university library but were only patronized occasionally. The finding also revealed the constraints to the use of available information resources in the library, which includes the non-availability of current information resources, the non-availability of lecturers in the book selection, and outdated journals, among others. Based on the findings of the study, recommendations are made that the university library should be properly funded by the management so as to acquire current or new editions and relevant information resources, particularly textbooks and journals.*



*Lecturers should be regularly informed of newly acquired information resources, and the university library management should extend the loan duration of books.*

**Keywords:** Information, Library, Library information resources, Sustainable Development, BOUESTI

## **INTRODUCTION**

Over the years, the library has supported educational efforts by providing teaching resources and services. Libraries have been identified as one of the elements of open access to quality and reliable information, which is crucial to educational and national development. According to Ahmed, Umar, and Dewa (2020), libraries are institutions that provide access to vast amounts of information for individuals, groups, and societies. Information is a crucial resource for every organization as well as a necessary input for all conceivable forms of people, the public, and communities. Information, which is the main occupation of the library is a necessary ingredient in life (Tyonum & Ezeogu, 2016).

A university library is a great place to go for information since it has a collection of books and other records and resources that are arranged and interpreted to suit the wide range of information demands of its users. Ogbebor (2019) observed that university libraries acquired great importance in civilized society for education and research. They play a vital role in the development of any society by enhancing the cause of education and academic research. They also cater to the information need of thousands of people. People also use library resources to gain information about personal interests or to obtain recreational materials such as films and novels. Public officials use libraries to research legislation and public policy issues. This means that any educational institutions without libraries are not worth it's salt.

Odu (2017) confirmed that library resources and services constitute an integral part of the research, teaching, and learning resources. This affirmed the importance of library resources if properly exploited, they could lead to proficiency in one's professional calling and enhances personality development. Ogbebor (2019) submitted that people in different professions use library resources to assist them in their work. They also use library resources to gain information about personal interests.



Meaningful and effective teaching and learning cannot take place without information resources present in the library (Omodara & Ojo, 2019). Hussaini, Veshistha, and Jimah (2018) described library information resources as materials that allow libraries to effectively perform the functions of providing information to users. These include; print resources viz. textbooks, periodicals, reference materials, manuscripts, treatises, technical reports, conference papers, indexes, abstracts, theses, and dissertations etc. e-resources such as e-books, e-journals, e-encyclopedia, etc. audio-visual materials such as films, tapes, slides, television, videos, and data stored on electronic media such as CDs and DVDs. These however constitute an integral part of the research, teaching, and learning resources.

Ofodila & Ifijeh (2022) explained that the quality of information resources in the library has an influence on the patronage of the library by lecturers and students in the tertiary institution. Hence, Barfi, Afful-Arthur & Agyapong (2018) opined that academics need various kinds of library information resources for teaching, research, and self-development. Academics require quality information resources to teach effectively, undertake innovative research and use their acquired knowledge and experience to provide expert services to the institutions to turn out professionals and qualified students who will be leaders of tomorrow.

Libraries are the most effective means of providing information resources in Nigeria, and their importance for the country's overall sustainable development cannot be overstated. Shah (2012) cited in Ahmed et al. (2020) described sustainable development as the process of transforming a nation's social, political, economic, educational, and cultural values towards an increase in the general well-being of its people (citizens), as well as a better standard of living for both the present and future generations. A goal of sustainable national development is to improve the quality of life on Earth. According to Nicholas & Perpetual (2015), sustainable national development refers to the total improvement and change in any society as it relates to personal advancement. It addresses a wide range of interconnected concerns in the political, social, economic, and environmental spheres while staying within the bounds of the world's natural resources to guarantee that everyone lives in peace and prosperity.



Bradley (2022) opined that libraries contribute to sustainable development goals (SDGs). Through a variety of initiatives started by various libraries, libraries play a crucial key role in aiding the advancement of national development by offering equitable, high-quality education. Libraries currently support sustainable national development, particularly through fostering media, information, and digital literacy skills for the provision of high-quality information services. Libraries provide infrastructure for information and communication technology (ICT) to access high-speed internet, assist with the development of information literacy skills, and safeguard information to ensure continued access for future generations. Libraries circulate information resources in the community and ensure everyone has access to information. They collaborate internationally on interlibrary lending to ensure that all countries have access to reliable, accurate, relevant and up-to-date information.

Additionally, libraries greatly support the development of sustained reading skills, excellent health, high-quality education, increased output, and the nation's economy (Omeluzor & Ogo, 2019). Hence, no matter how the academic libraries are rich in terms of volumes of books, e-resources, and services, as good as dead if they are not utilized. Odu (2017) observed that the expectations of people are high when sourcing and retrieving information and when such information needs are not met, frustration usually sets in and this may drive the users away from the library.

Bitagi and Ozioko (2019) investigated factors militating against the utilization of information resources for research by scientists in Agricultural Research in Nigeria. The findings identified a lack of adequate information resources, outdated information resources, lack of modern ICT facilities, unstable power supply, and unawareness of library resources as major factors militating against the utilization of information resources. Oyesiku and Oduwole (2021) investigated the use of the academic library, a survey of Olabisi Onabanjo University library observed that because of the economic recession, especially in Africa, the acquisition of relevant and current books and journals is a very difficult task for most university libraries and is a major factor affecting library patronage. Other factors influencing library patronage by faculties of the university community include inadequacy of



library materials, inadequate funding, non-availability of library resources probably due to mutilation and stealing by delinquent users and among others.

Furthermore, Buhari (2021) investigated library information resources and services utilization as correlates of creativity of senior administrative staff of polytechnics in South-west, Nigeria, and found that library information resources mostly used by the respondents were books, government documents, dictionaries newspapers/magazines, Internet/CD-ROM/databases. Similarly, studies by Oduagwu and Oduagwu (2020) surveyed the resources and use of libraries of three selected secondary schools in Owerri, Imo State. The findings revealed ineffective use of the libraries due to gross inadequacy of the current resources, insufficient funding, insufficient space and furniture, insufficient loan duration, and insufficient time allocated to the use of e-library and among others.

In addition, Barfi, Afful-Arthur and Agyapong (2018) investigated the utilization of library resources by lecturers at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. In their findings, the factors that impede the use of library materials include, the users were not informed of new arrivals, inadequate instruction on library use, inadequately trained library staff, unavailability of the automatic generator to power sockets, non-availability of lecturers in book selection, and few up to date.

Ofofiele and Ifijeh (2022) researched current trends in library patronage by faculties at Ladoké Akintola University, Ogbomosho, Nigeria. The findings identified a lack of current listing of literature, unavailability, and accessibility of current information materials, epileptic power supply, lack of guidance in the use of library information materials, poor attitude and unfriendliness of the library staff, lack of current awareness, non-availability of internet connectivity, and outdated journals as barriers to library patronage. Ogbuivi and Okpe (2017) investigated the evaluation of library materials usage and services in private universities in Nigeria. The findings confirmed that 62.5% and 35% of respondents at Redeemer University and Babcock University respectively visited libraries every day while 40% and 32.5% at Lead City University and Covenant University respectively made use of the library occasionally.

However, based on the great importance attributed to library information resources, it has been observed that the information resources available in the university library,



Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere Ekiti are underutilized and not consulted judiciously as expected from academics. With this concern, the researchers feel that only investigation will unravel the mystery of why academics have not been coming to make use of information resources. This is what the research sets out to find and this is also the gap to be filled.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

University libraries have been identified as one of the elements for open access to reliable, up-to-date and accurate information that individuals cannot acquire, which is crucial to educational development for the sustainable development of individuals and society. Library resources constitute an integral part of the research, teaching, and learning resources. They play a vital role in the development of any society by enhancing the cause of education and academic research. With the provision of a wide variety of information sources, users of libraries are exposed to different information resources based on their information needs with their respective values. People in different professions use library resources to assist themselves in their work and for desired results. With this, one would expect to see a busy and adequately patronized library where knowledge is searched for. However, preliminary observation and statistics of information resource usage from the university library revealed that library information resources are under-utilized. Information resources are not significantly borrowed, consulted, and utilized by academics. This brings great concern to the need to scientifically unravel factors that may be responsible for this. Hence, library information resources for sustainable development in the Nigerian educational system among academics in the Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere-Ekiti, so that the identified gap can be filled.

## **The Objective of the Study**

The main objective is to investigate the library information resources for sustainable development in the Nigerian educational system among academics in the Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere-Ekiti. Specifically, the objectives of the study are to identify various library information resources available in the



university library, ascertain how often academics utilize the library information resources in achieving sustainable development, and identify the constraints to library information resources utilization in achieving sustainable development in the university library.

## **RESEARCH QUESTION**

The study will be guided by under listed research questions;

- What are the library information resources available to academics in the university library in achieving sustainable development?
- How often do academics utilize library information resources available in achieving sustainable development?
- What are the constraints to the utilization of library information resources by academics in achieving sustainable development?

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted at the Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey type of research design. The survey research design is considered appropriate because it requires the systematic and scientific collection of data from the population through the use of the questionnaire. The population of the study comprises all academic members from the university. There are three (3) colleges in the university viz. College of Education, College of Technology and College of Science because it operates a collegiate structure. As a result, total enumeration was used. The questionnaire was given to three experts for vetting before it was administered. The reliability was determined using Cronbach's Alpha. The questionnaire was on Google form and shared on all academic platforms for three weeks (6<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023). But only 173 academic members responded to the filling of the form, which represents 45%. The questionnaires submitted were analyzed using frequency count, descriptive mean ( $\bar{X}$ ) and standard deviation (SD). Any item with a mean score ( $\bar{X}$ ) of  $\geq 2.50$  was accepted while  $\leq 2.49$  was rejected.



Note: The scale point is 4, i.e SA= Strongly Agree (4), A= Agree (3), D= Disagree (2) and SD= Strongly Disagree (1).

## Results

**Table 1: Population of the Study**

Colleges	Male	Female	Total
College of Education	71	66	137
College of Science	131	59	190
College of Technology	55	11	56
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>383</b>

**Source:** Document collected from the Academic Planning, BOUESTI, for 2022/2023 Academic Session.

**Table 2: Frequency Distribution on Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

Gender	Frequency	%
Male	102	59
Female	71	41
<b>Colleges</b>		
College of Education	69	39.89
College of Science	72	41.62
College of Technology	32	18.45
<b>Academic Qualification</b>		
Bachelor's Degree	15	8.67
Master's Degree	115	66.47
PhD	43	24.86
<b>Status</b>		
Professor	3	1.73
Associate Prof.	5	2.90
Senior Lecturer	37	21.39
Lecturer 1	57	32.95





Lecturer 2	24	13.87
Assist. Lecturer	32	18.50
Graduate Assist. Lecturer	15	8.67

**Source:** Field Work: March 2023

Table 2 shows that the highest number of respondents are male 102(75%). The majority of the respondents 72(41.62%) are from the College of Science while the highest number of the respondents 115(66.47%) possessed a Master's degree and the majority of them are lecturers 1 cadre.

**Research Question 1:** What are the library information resources available to academics in the university library in achieving sustainable development?

**Table 3: Library Information Resources Available to Academics in Achieving Sustainable Development**

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	SDT	Decision
i.	Journals	180	300	30	13	3.02	8.15	Accepted
ii.	Textbooks	236	225	50	14	3.03	7.20	Accepted
iii.	Newspapers	196	191	30	12	3.06	8.05	Accepted
iv.	Monographs	60	108	140	52	2.08	6.56	Rejected
v.	Atlases	120	90	130	48	2.24	6.32	Rejected
vi.	Globes	60	105	160	43	2.12	6.81	Rejected
vii.	Conference Papers	120	135	140	28	2.46	6.73	Rejected
viii.	Standards	100	90	190	23	1.55	7.83	Rejected
ix.	Patents		120	135	130	33	2.41	6.57 Rejected
x.	Trade publications	100	93	184	25	2.32	7.58	Rejected
xi.	Encyclopedias	180	249	58	16	2.91	7.25	Accepted
xii.	Dictionaries	212	276	32	12	3.08	4.53	Accepted
xiii.	Government Doc	136	135	120	34	2.46	6.43	Rejected
xiv.	Theses/Dissertations	272	270	20	5	3.28	8.27	Accepted
xv.	Directories	136	135	160	14	2.57	7.15	Accepted
xvi.	Technical Reports	120	135	138	29	2.44	6.69	Rejected



xvii. Databases 248 240 34 14 3.10 7.51 Accepted

**Source:** Field Work: March 2023

Table 3 indicates that journals, textbooks, newspapers, Encyclopaedias, dictionaries, theses/dissertations, dictionaries and databases are accepted as library information resources available in the university library in achieving sustainable development while monographs, atlases, globes, conference papers, standards, patents, trade publications, government documents and technical reports are rejected as information resources available in the university library to access and utilize.

**Research Question 2:** How often do academics utilize library information resources available in achieving sustainable development?

**Table 4: Frequency of Using Information Resources in the University Library**

S/N	Item	Frequency	Percentage (%)
i.	Everyday	35	20.23
ii.	1-3 times a month	50	28.90
iii.	Occasionally	75	43.35
iv.	Not at all	13	7.51

**Source:** Field Work: March 2023

Table 4 shows that 75(43.35%) respondents patronized library information resources and occasionally, 50(28.90%) used the library 1-3 times a month, 35(20.23%) respondents used the library information resources every day while 13(7.51%) do not use library resources all.

**Research Question 3:**What are the constraints to the utilization of library information resources by academics in achieving sustainable development?



**Table 5: Constraints to the Utilization of University library information resources by Academics**

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	X	SDT	Decision
i.	Non-availability of current information resources	212	207	68	17	2.91	6.84	Accepted
ii.	Epileptic power supply	180	252	38	25	2.86	7.18	Accepted
iii.	Lack of guidance in the usage of library information resources	120	75	150	43	2.24	6.92	Rejected
iv.	Outdated journals	180	249	44	23	2.87	7.22	Accepted
v.	Poor attitude and the unfriendliness of library staff	140	75	190	18	2.45	7.77	Rejected
vi.	Non-availability of Internet connectivity	180	270	40	18	2.94	7.58	Accepted
vii.	Poor library awareness in terms of new acquisitions and other services	180	249	58	16	2.91	7.25	Accepted
viii.	Inability to locate relevant Information resources on the shelves	180	225	50	18	2.91	7.32	Accepted
ix.	Non-availability of lecturers in the book selection	196	191	30	12	3.06	8.05	Accepted
x.	Short time allocated to the use of e-library	120	135	138	29	2.44	6.69	Rejected
xi.	Insufficient loan duration of books	236	225	50	14	3.03	7.20	Accepted
xii.	Poor conducive of library environment	140	75	190	18	2.45	7.77	Rejected

Source: Field Work: March 2023



Table 5 shows that non-availability of current information resources, epileptic power supply, outdated journals, non-availability of Internet connectivity, poor library awareness in terms of new acquisitions and other services, inability to locate relevant information resources, non-availability of lecturers in the book selection and insufficient loan duration of books are accepted as barriers to use university library information resources while lack of guidance in the usage of library information resources, poor attitude and the unfriendliness of library staff, short time allocated to the use of e-library and poor conducive of library environment are rejected as barriers to use library resources available.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Based on the results of the research questions, some vital issues that need detailed discussions were noted.

The study found that library resources mostly used by academics are journals, textbooks, newspapers, Encyclopaedias, dictionaries, directories, theses/dissertations and databases. This finding is supported by the findings of Buhari (2021) that library information resources mostly used by the respondents were textbooks, dictionaries newspapers/magazines, and Internet/CD-ROM/databases.

The study found that library information resources and services are used occasionally. The finding collaborated with the findings of Ogbuiyi and Okpe (2017) that 40% and 32.5% at Lead City University and Covenant University respectively made use of the library occasionally.

The study found that non-availability of current information resources, epileptic power supply, outdated journals, non-availability of Internet connectivity, poor library awareness in terms of new acquisitions and other services, inability to locate relevant information resources, non-availability of lecturers in the book selection and insufficient loan duration of books are constraint to the utilization of library information resources. This corroborated the assertion of Ofodile and Ifijeh (2022), Ofodile and Ifijeh (2022), Oyesiku and Oduwole (2021), Oduagwu and Oduagwu (2020), Bitagi and Ozioko (2019) and Barfi et al. (2018), that epileptic power supply, outdated journals, insufficient loan duration, non-



availability of lecturers in book selection, non-availability of internet connectivity, poor awareness of new books and journals as barriers to use library information resources.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study has established that Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere-Ekiti University Library has information resources which are crucial to educational development for the sustainable development of individuals and society but which are under-utilized and patronized occasionally by academics. However, non-availability of current information resources, outdated journals, poor library awareness in terms of new acquisitions and other services, inability to locate relevant information resources, non-availability of lecturers in the book selection and insufficient loan duration of books directly and indirectly lead to reason the academics are not making use of the available information resources in the University library. Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were proposed:

- I. The university library should be properly funded by the management to acquire current or new editions and relevant information resources particularly textbooks and journals to users.
- II. The academics should be regularly informed of newly acquired information resources and equally be involved in the book selection of the university library.
- III. The university library management should extend the loan duration of books.

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