

ATTITUDE OF STUDENTS TOWARD THE UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY INFORMATION RESOURCES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN YOBE STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study was on attitude of students' toward the utilization of information resources in academic libraries in Yobe State, Nigeria. The study was guided by two objectives which are, Students' attitude towards utilization of information resources in Academic Libraries in Yobe State and factors militating against the utilization of information resources by students in Academic Libraries in Yobe State. The target population of this study comprised of nine thousand seven hundred and eighty five (9,785) registered library users in three (3) selected academic libraries in Yobe State. Sample size of 928 was drawn from the 9785 target population. Using Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) table for determining sample size. Self-designed questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts, percentages and histogram while results are presented in tables. Based on the finding the result on students' attitudes towards academic libraries; the results revealed that majority of the students strongly agreed that inadequate library resources affect the academic achievement of students. The study therefore concluded that library management should provide alternative good internet connectivity, source of power to curtail power outages and librarians should increase the level of awareness of its users towards the searching skills of users and computerized library services

Keywords: Attitudes, Information, Resources, Students, Libraries, Yobe, State, Nigeria

Introduction:

The availability of diverse information resources made available to them at the library, students can obtain any type of information service they require. In order for the library's

collection to be helpful in students' academic pursuits, the information resources offered in the library should be up to date. Understanding the information sources that the students utilize will assist the library in acquiring the regular and current information sources that these students require. The importance of reliable information services as a complement to the library's information resources cannot be overstated. Traditionally, the majority of these resources were encyclopedias, books, journals, newspapers, and other editorials. However, the rise of the internet has made the use of digital sources of information more common. Online libraries and journals, online encyclopedias like Wikipedia, blogs, video blogs like YouTube, and other digital knowledge sources are only a few examples.

It is obvious that a student's positive attitudes as well as that of the academic library are essential for effective utilization of information resources. Because behavior is a response to an event that reveals one's feelings, attitude and behavior are related. Additionally, it serves as the basis for one's socioeconomic background, emotional state, and behavioral patterns. It is also important to note those adequate materials and personnel, as well as the good and efficient use of information resources determines the types of attitudes with which the students regard their academic performance (Adesoji & Oluwaremilekun, 2016).

Delamater. (2000) defined attitude as "learned predisposition to respond to a particular object in a generally favorable or unfavorable ways". Similarly, Williamson (2010) contended that many students suffer low grade in schools because of their attitude towards their studies. Also, failure to use the academic library and its resources to expand their study has a negative effect on their academic performance. Furthermore, Little John (2002) "defined attitude as an accumulation of information about an object, persons, situation or experience, a predisposition to act in a positive or negative way towards some objects". Therefore, it is essential to create captivating, inviting and comfortable place for the student in order to help them cultivate good attitude towards the use of information resources. Library, more than any other place, provides ideal environment and vital information resources for student to develop excellent performance in academic works. Thus, it is imperative for the student to cultivate good attitude that will equip them for excellent performance in their academic work through the utilization of academic library. Farrant (2012) notes attitude is a major determinant of the individual orientation towards

his social and physical environment including himself. Africans and indeed Nigerians are not used to reading because the predominantly medium of communication is oral. Africans are not reading society but chatting society.

In the light of creating a good attitude towards the utilization of information resources, students are often advised to have a particular study area, stick to a specific schedule and do one task at a time. However, academic library provides a quiet study place and environment that is conducive to mental concentration. Adesoji. (2010) cited Omoniwa who post those libraries have been associated with the concept of life-long reading and learning. It was stated further that library especially academic libraries are desirable in order to inculcate into the student very early in life the attitude for various purposes such as education, pleasure, information etc.

The way and manner information resources are being used determines the effectiveness of the learning toward output of the students. A proper utilization of information resources will yield a productive learning, adequate use of resources in the library promotes and motivates learning and obsolete and/or irrelevant materials/resources will demotivate students to go and look for materials in the library. Collection development process (selection, acquisition etc) will drastically reduce and therefore, the main importance of the library establishment will diminish.

Attitude is an individual's characteristic way of responding consistently in a favorable or unfavorable manner to objects, people, or events in his environment. It is based on the individual's experience and his interpretation of it and leads to certain behaviors or opinions. Attitude reflects how an individual feels about something. Attitude provides a predetermined set of responses, so that a person's behavior or opinions can often be forecast in specific circumstances. Attitudes reflect settled behavior and settled mode of thinking as well as feeling.

Attitude according to Gawronski & Bodenhausen (2007) is an evaluation of an object of thought. Attitude objects comprise anything a person may hold in mind, ranging from the mundane to the abstract, including things, people, groups, and ideas. Attitudes are constructs which are not open to direct observation. Therefore, the common way of measuring attitudes is to study some aspect of behavior and from that makes inferences about the attitudes that may be responsible for behavior.

Students are learners who are studying at a university or other place of higher education. Students are those who are enrolled in a diploma or degree-granting program (either undergraduate or graduate) at an institution of higher learning and registered full-time according to the definition of his/her respective academic institution. The term 'students' refer to individuals registered and recognized as learners in educational institutions like colleges and universities for the purpose of acquiring knowledge and skills that could enhance personal developments to prepare them for the world of work. In this review, the term, 'students', was used to mean students in institutions of higher learning.

Statement of the Problems

Academic libraries play a crucial role in supporting students' learning, research, and academic success by providing access to relevant information resources (Olanlokun & Salisu, 2022). However, in Yobe State, Nigeria, there are growing concerns about the underutilization of library resources by students, which may negatively impact their academic performance and research capabilities (Abdulrahman & Isa, 2021). Despite the availability of information materials in academic libraries, studies indicate that many students exhibit poor attitudes toward utilizing these resources effectively (Eze & Onyebuchi, 2023).

Several compelling factors necessitate this research: **Low Patronage of Library Resources** – Research shows that many students in Nigerian tertiary institutions, including those in Yobe State, rarely visit the library or make use of available resources, preferring alternative (and often less reliable) sources such as the internet or personal notes (Adeleke & Olorunsaye, 2020). **Inadequate Awareness and Information Literacy** – Many students lack the necessary skills to locate, evaluate, and utilize library resources effectively, leading to frustration and disinterest in library use (Yusuf & Onasanya, 2021). **Poor Library Facilities and Outdated Resources** – Some academic libraries in Northern Nigeria, including Yobe State, suffer from inadequate funding, resulting in outdated books, insufficient digital resources, and poor infrastructure, which discourages students from engaging with the library (Mohammed & Abba, 2022). **Technological Disruptions and Digital Preferences** – With the increasing reliance on digital platforms, students prefer online resources over physical library materials.

However, if libraries do not provide adequate e-resources or internet access, students may disregard the library altogether (Okoro & Eze, 2023). Negative Perceptions and Attitudes– Some students perceive the library as irrelevant to their academic needs, especially if they believe that lecture notes and handouts are sufficient for their studies (Ibrahim & Bello, 2022). Socio-Economic and Environmental Factors – Challenges such as insecurity, power outages, and limited access to transportation in Yobe State may also hinder students from utilizing library resources effectively (Mustapha & Garba, 2021).

Given these issues, this study seeks to investigate the attitudes of students toward the use of library information resources in academic libraries in Yobe State, Nigeria. The findings will help identify key barriers affecting library utilization and provide recommendations for improving student engagement, enhancing library services, and ultimately supporting better academic outcomes. This research is necessary to address the gaps in library usage, improve information literacy, and ensure that academic libraries in Yobe State fulfill their role as effective learning support systems (Aina, 2020).

Objectives of the study

The main objectives attitude of students' towards the utilization of library resources in Academic Libraries in Yobe State, Nigeria:

1. examine students' attitude towards utilization of information resources in Academic Libraries in Yobe State and
2. factors militating against the utilization of information resources by students in Academic Libraries in Yobe State

Empirical Studies on Students' Attitude Towards Utilization of Information Resources in Academic Libraries

Several empirical studies have examined students' attitudes toward the use of library information resources in academic settings. These studies highlight varying perceptions, preferences, and challenges that influence students' engagement with library materials. Eze and Onyebuchi (2023) conducted a study on undergraduate students in Nigerian universities and found that while a majority acknowledged the importance of the library, only about 40% frequently visited it. The study revealed that students had a positive attitude toward digital

resources but showed reluctance in using physical books due to perceived inconvenience. Yusuf and Onasanya (2021) investigated information-seeking behaviors among university students in Kwara State, Nigeria. Their findings indicated that students who had prior library orientation programs demonstrated a more positive attitude toward library use. However, many students relied more on internet sources (Google, Wikipedia) than on scholarly materials available in the library. Adeleke and Olorunsaye (2020) surveyed students in South-West Nigerian universities and discovered that convenience and accessibility significantly influenced students' attitudes. Those who found the library environment conducive (e.g., good seating, lighting, and internet access) were more likely to utilize library resources regularly. Ibrahim and Bello (2022) focused on North-Eastern Nigeria, including Yobe State, and found that students in conflict-affected regions had a less favorable attitude toward library use due to security concerns and inadequate facilities. Many students preferred studying at home or in private accommodations rather than visiting the library. These studies collectively suggest that while students recognize the value of academic libraries, their attitudes are shaped by accessibility, convenience, digital preferences, and institutional support.

Empirical Studies on Factors Militating Against the Utilization of Information Resources by Students in Academic Libraries

Several factors hinder students from fully utilizing library resources, as identified in empirical research: Inadequate Information Literacy Skills – Okoro and Eze (2023), found that many students lacked the skills to navigate library catalogs, databases, and reference materials effectively. This lack of knowledge discouraged them from using the library, pushing them toward easier but less credible online sources. Poor Library Infrastructure and Outdated Resources – Mohammed and Abba (2022), conducted a study in Northern Nigerian universities and reported that insufficient funding led to outdated books, non-functional computers, and poor internet connectivity. Students expressed frustration over the unavailability of current textbooks and journals.

On preference for Digital Resources Over Print Materials – A study by Olanlokun and Salisu (2022), revealed that over 65% of students preferred e-books and online journals but were

discouraged by poor Wi-Fi connectivity and limited subscription to digital libraries. Negative Perception and Lack of Awareness – Abdulrahman and Isa (2021), found that some students believed lecture notes and handouts were sufficient for their studies, leading to low motivation for library use. Additionally, many were unaware of available services like interlibrary loans and research assistance. Environmental and Socio-Economic Barriers – Mustapha and Garba (2021) highlighted that in Yobe State, factors such as insecurity, power outages, and long distances to libraries discouraged students from regular library visits. Financial constraints also limited their ability to purchase supplementary materials. Inadequate Staff and User Support – Some studies, such as Aina (2020), noted that insufficient library staff and poor user education programs contributed to low resource utilization. Students often did not receive proper guidance on how to maximize library resources. Empirical evidence suggests that while academic libraries are essential for student success, multiple barriers—including poor infrastructure, digital divide, lack of information literacy, and socio-economic challenges—hinder optimal utilization. Addressing these issues requires improved funding, user education, modernization of resources, and better policy implementation in academic libraries.

Methodology

Survey design was used for this study and questionnaire was the main instrument for the study, titled QASTULR with the targeted population of this study comprised of Nine thousand Seven hundred and Eighty-Five (9,785) registered library users in three (3) selected academic libraries in Yobe State with the sample size of 928 was drawn from the 9785 target population. Using Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) table for determining sample size. Method of data analysis is descriptive statistics of frequency count and percentage.

Results Presentation

Research Question one: What are the students' attitudes towards academic libraries in Yobe State?

Table 1: Students' Attitudes towards Academic Libraries n 722

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD
1	Most students use their cell phones for reading and assignments instead of using the	208	306	142	66

	information resources that are available in the library.	(29%)	(42%)	(19%)	(9%)
2	Some students tear relevant pages from textbooks instead of making photocopies of where they have interest.	398 (55%)	262 (36%)	58 (9%)	4 (1%)
3	Majority of the newly admitted students don't register with the library.	321 (44%)	324 (45%)	70 (10%)	7 (1%)
4	Some students throw out text books through widows while using library.	311 (43%)	277 (39%)	121 (16%)	13 (2%)
5	Students patronize electronic information resources than printed resources in the library.	212 (39%)	293 (41%)	109 (15%)	108 (15%)
6	Users over stay with borrowed books instead of paying overdue charges.	324 (45%)	104 (15%)	181 (25%)	113 (15%)
7	Some students usually eat while in the library	312(43%)	301(42%)	75(10%)	34(5%)
	Total average.	2086/7 298(41.2%)	1867/7 266.8(36.9%)	756/7 108(15%)	345/7 49.2(6.9%)

Response Scale: SA= Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

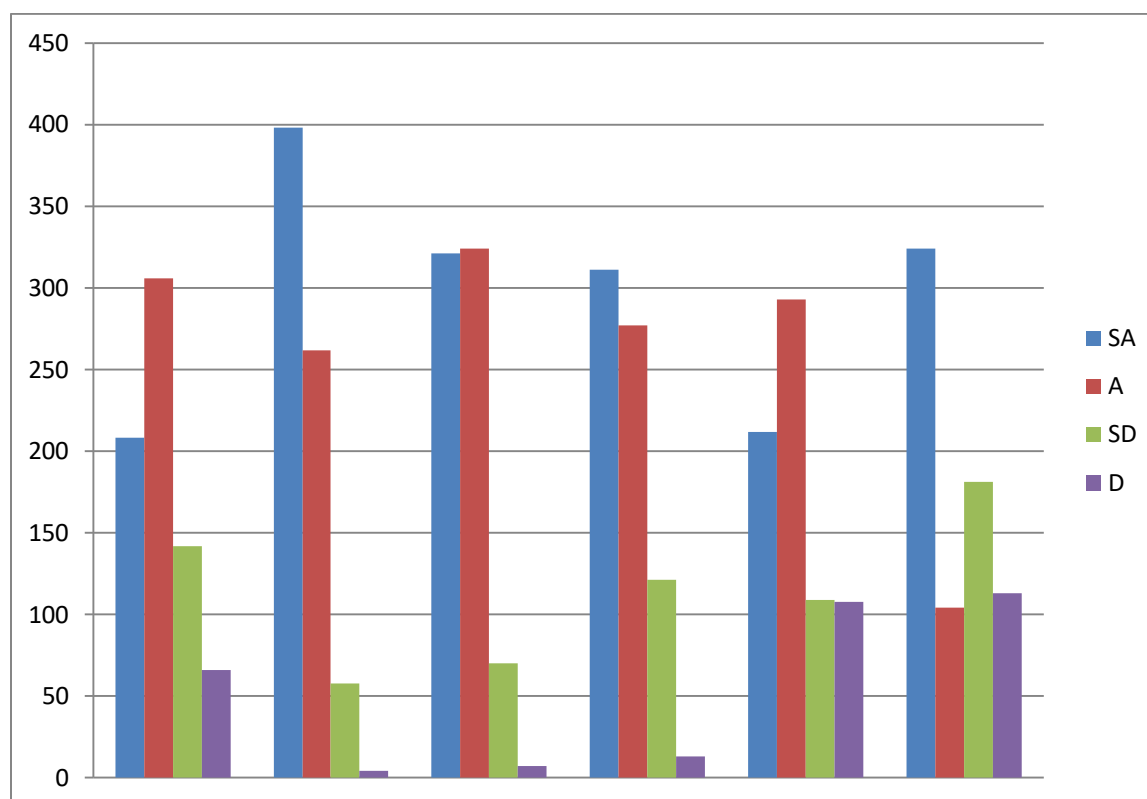


Table 1 Presented the responses views on students' attitudes towards academic libraries where most students use their cell phones for reading and assignments instead of using the information resources that are available in the library with 208(29%) who indicated strongly agreed, 306(42%) agreed, while 142(20%) disagreed and 66(9%) strongly disagreed. This shows that, majority of the respondents strongly agreed that students use cell phones for reading and assignments instead of using the information resources that are available in the library. Items two is on whether some students tear relevant pages from textbooks instead of making photocopies of where they have interest where 398(56%) strongly agreed, 262 (36%) agreed while 58(8%) disagreed and 4(1%) strongly disagreed with the statement respectively. Therefore, the majority of the respondent strongly agreed that some students tear relevant pages from textbooks instead of making photocopies of where they have interest. Items three is on whether majority of the newly admitted students don't register with the library where 321(44%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 324(45%) agreed while 70(10%) disagreed and 7(1%) strongly disagreed. This

implies that majority of the respondents agreed that, majority of the newly admitted students don't register with the library. Table analysis indicated that, some students throw out text books through widows while using library where 311(43%) strongly agreed, 277 (38%) agreed while 121(16%) disagreed and 13(2%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. These shows that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that, some students throw out text books through widows while using library. Items five is on whether students patronize electronic information resources than printed resources in the library where 212(29%) strongly agreed, 293(41%) agreed, while 109(15%) disagreed and 108(15%) of the respondents strongly agreed. Items six presented users over stay with borrowed books instead of paying overdue charges with 324(45%) strongly agreed, 104(14%) agreed while 181(25%) disagreed and 113(15%) strongly agreed. This implies that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that, users over stay with borrowed books instead of paying overdue charges. Finally, items seven are on whether some students usually eat while in the library where 312(43%) strongly agreed, 301(42%) s agreed while 75 (10%) disagreed and 34(5%) of the respondents strongly agreed. These shows that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that some students usually eat while in the library.

Research Question Four: What are the factors militating against the utilization of information resources by students in the academic libraries in Yobe State?

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD
1.	Poor internet connectivity	372 (51%)	269 (37%)	78 (11%)	3 (1%)
2.	Frequent changes in technology development	4(1%)	101 (14%)	279 (38%)	338 (47%)
3.	High costs of maintenance	271 (38%)	281 (39%)	45 (6%)	125 (17%)
4.	Lack of skills in information search	396 (55%)	135 (19%)	8 (1%)	183 (25%)

Total Average	1043/4	786/4	410	649
	260.7(36.1%)	196.6(27.2%)	102.5(14.1%)	162.2(22.4)

Table 2: Factors militating against the Utilization of Information Resources by Students in Academic Libraries
n 722

Response Scale: SA= Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D= Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

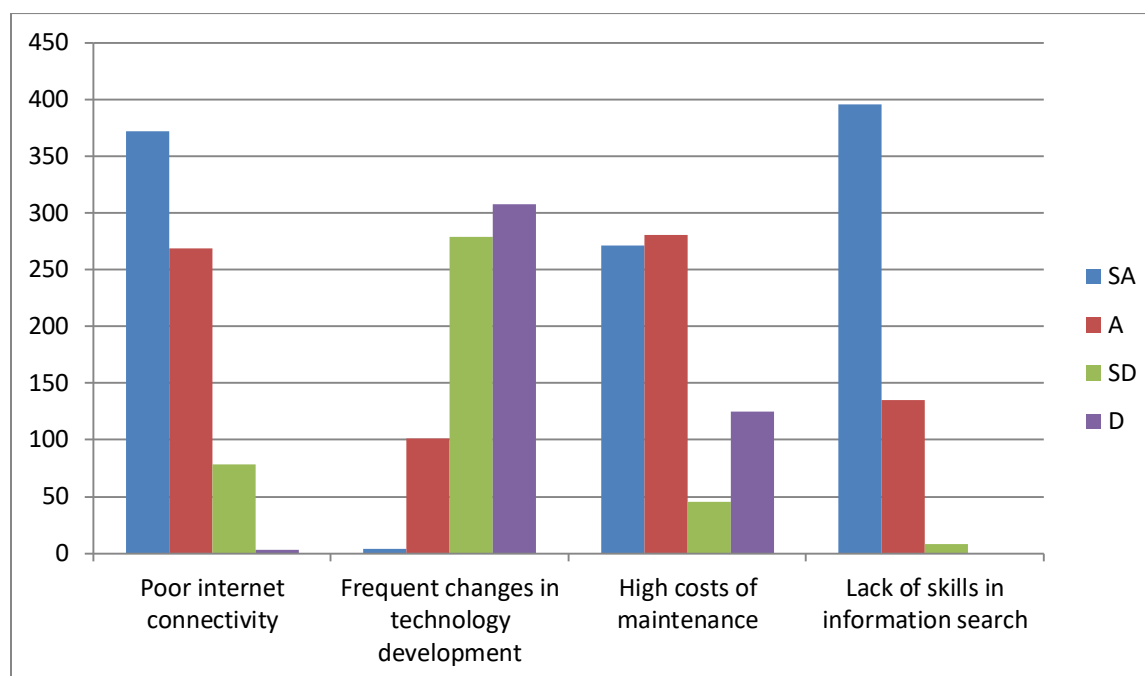


Table 2 shows the factors militating against the utilization of information resources by students in the academic libraries in Yobe State, where poor internet connectivity with 372(51%) of the respondents agreed that poor internet connectivity is one the factors that affect utilization of information resources, 269(37%), agreed, while 78(11%) disagreed and 3(1%) of the respondents strongly agreed. Items two is on whether frequent changes in technology development are factors affecting utilization of information resources where 338(47%) strongly disagreed, 279(38%) disagreed while 101(14%) agreed and 4(1%) of the respondents strongly agreed. Items three is whether high cost of maintenance is a factor that affect utilization of

information resources, where 271(38%) strongly agreed, 281(39%) agreed while 45(6%) disagreed and 125(17%) strongly disagreed. Finally, results on whether lack of skills in information search are factors militating against utilization of information resources where 396(55%) disagreed, 181(25%) strongly disagreed, 135 (19%) agreed and 8(1%) of the respondents strongly agreed. Therefore, based on the table above, the finding indicated that, majority of the respondents strongly agreed with most factors militating against the utilization of information resources with 36.1% of average as against 14.1%

Discussion

Attitudes towards utilization of information resources in academic libraries; the results revealed that majority of the students 298(41%) strongly agreed that some student's attitude towards library information resources affect the academic achievement of students. This is in-line with study conducted by Adesoji and Oluwaremilekun (2016) on attitude of students towards the use of information resources and their effect on academic performance. It identifies library resources made available to students in various schools in Odogbolu Local Government Area of Ogun State. The study finds out the following, library resources have a negative significant relationship with students' academic performance in Odogbolu Local Government Area. The attitude of students towards library resources has a negative effect on their academic performance. Because library resources are not adequately available, it has a negative effect on student academic performance. Based on the finding, recommendations were made, that the library should make it a point to give library orientation at the beginning of academic sessions about the available resources and services towards their academic performance. Study carried out by Olatoye, Nekhwevha and Muchaonyerwa (2020) on the determinants of undergraduate students' attitude and perception towards the use of electronic information resources (EIRs) among undergraduate students in selected universities in Eastern Cape, South Africa, revealed that the respondents usually encounter difficulties which negatively influence their attitudes and behavior towards e-resource use. They assume that additional special computing skills are required before one can be competent enough to effectively utilize these resources.

Revelation on factors militating against the utilization of information resources by students in the academic libraries in Yobe State; result shows majority of the respondents with 261(36%) strongly agreed that lack of skills in information search and poor internet connectivity among others affect utilization of information resources by users. This is in agreement with study conduct by Madondo, Sithole and Chisita, (2017) found that many electronic resources were substantially under-utilized by undergraduate nursing students at the University of Namibia's Northern Campus. The main barriers identified were the shortage of computers, unreliable internet connections and lack of information literacy skills. This study reported lack of knowledge and awareness of journals among students and faculty members; lack of adequate fund allocation to subscriptions; poor knowledge about the links to e-journals; lack of computer skills; lack of adequate computer lab facilities; and lack of training and orientation programmed as some of the major challenges to journal usage, microform, tapes, and abstracts. Some persistent challenges, namely bandwidth and funding, continue to affect e-resources usage. The high cost of bandwidth remains a major challenge that still hampers the full utilization of e-resources and when users do literature searches and/or try to download articles but find the Internet slow, some of them give up, and this affects usage, states that "Lack of printing facilities, terminals and trained staff are the major reasons that would discourage users from accessing the electronic information services. Ali also states that ... "users face difficulties while browsing electronic information resources", suggests that substantial barriers to electronic resources access and use include a lack of research culture.

Conclusion

The study revealed that a majority of the students (41%) strongly agreed that negative attitudes toward library resources affect academic achievement. This suggests that while libraries are essential for learning, students' perceptions—such as indifference, preference for alternative sources (e.g., internet), or lack of awareness—hinder optimal use. Addressing these attitudes through user education, awareness campaigns, and improved library engagement strategies could enhance students' appreciation and utilization of library resources.

A significant proportion of respondents (36%) strongly agreed that lack of information search skills and poor internet connectivity were major obstacles. Other likely challenges (based

on literature) include outdated materials, inadequate infrastructure, and environmental factors like power outages and insecurity. To improve resource utilization, academic libraries in Yobe State should: Enhance digital literacy training to equip students with search and evaluation skills. Upgrade ICT facilities, including stable internet and e-resources. Collaborate with institutions to secure funding for modernized libraries. Conduct regular user surveys to identify evolving challenges and preferences.

Recommendation

1. Library management in Academic Libraries in Yobe State should create awareness on the effect of student's attitude such as tearing of some pages from books, not registering with the library, smuggling out with books through windows, eating in the library, holding borrowed books etc.
2. Library management should provide good internet connectivity, source of power to curtail power outages for effective utilization of information resources

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