

# ATTITUDES OF SEMINARIANS AS DETERMINANTS OF LIBRARY USAGE IN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS IN OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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## Abstract

The study investigated the attitudes of seminarians as determinants of library usage in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria. The study was guided by two research questions with one null hypothesis tested at 0.05 level of significance. A descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The study population was seven hundred and eighty-six (786) seminarians from three theological institutions in Osun State. The sample size of two hundred and sixty (260) was selected using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table. A stratified sampling technique was adopted. A well-structured questionnaire was used for the collection of data. Two hundred and ten (210) questionnaires were retrieved from the respondents. The data collected was used and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings from the study showed a moderately high level of library usage among the respondents. The hypothesis test revealed that the attitude of seminarians significantly influences library usage (Adj.  $R^2=0.59$ ,  $F(1,209) = 113.53$ ,  $p = 0.00$ ). The study concluded that the attitude of seminarians enhances their library usage. Thus, it was recommended that the library provide library orientation to seminarians at the start of each academic session, informing them about the available resources and services.

**Keywords:** Attitudes, Seminarians, Library Usage

## Introduction

The library is an essential part of any academic environment, which supports the objectives of the parent institution by providing information and services that enhance

the delivery of useful resources to its users. Students' attitudes tend to influence their degree of library usage.

Attitude is related to emotions, thoughts, opinions, and feelings. Attitude implies evaluation, which is usually done on a bipolar continuum from favourable to unfavourable or positive to negative, encompassing qualities such as good-bad, harmful-beneficial, pleasant-unpleasant, and likeable-dislikeable (Ajzen, 2001). Attitude is determined by the individual's beliefs about outcomes or attributes of performing the behaviour (behavioural beliefs), weighted by evaluations of those outcomes or attributes.

Attitude is a collection of feelings, thoughts, and actions directed at a certain thing, person, event, or object. Thus, a person with strong beliefs that positively valued outcomes will result from performing the behaviour will have a positive attitude toward the behaviour. Conversely, a person with strong beliefs that negatively valued outcomes will result from the behaviour will have a negative attitude. Such feelings or beliefs can vary from bad to good toward the object of the attitude. (Montano & Kasprzyk, 2008). Similarly, attitude is a set of emotions, beliefs, and behaviour toward a particular object, person, thing, or event. It is possible that an individual can have both ideas or feelings towards a certain item, which can be negative or positive ideas or feelings toward the same object or subject. (Banaji & Heiphetz, 2010).

Library usage in this study refers to how library users interact and utilize the resources, services, and facilities a library provides. This encompasses various activities and interactions, reflecting the library's role as a hub for knowledge, information,

learning, and community engagement. In addition, to foster the efficient and effective use of the libraries, there is provision for seating facilities for readers who want to take notes. This includes the use of information resources available in the library for study and research purposes. This demonstrates how library information resources fulfill their duties and contribute to the solution of information needs through their use.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Libraries are established in higher institutions to enhance teaching, learning, and research activities to achieve the objectives of the parent organization. However, the main objective of libraries in theological institutions is to select information materials that will support and enrich the educational programmes of the parent institution. The selected information materials for these library collections serve the purpose of their curriculum, theologically related research, and the information needs and interests of the patrons.

However, the management of theological institutions has been investing in building a robust collection by spending a huge amount of money to acquire both print and electronic resources, yet, because of the bad attitude of seminarians, their level of response to the usage is low, which does not justify the amount spent on the library.

Nevertheless, despite the importance of libraries in theological institutions, studies and preliminary observations indicate that seminarians display a poor attitude towards library usage. The undergraduate students are overall satisfied with the available library resources, services, and facilities, but these resources and services are not being fully used by undergraduates (Chamani, 2020). It is based on this that the study seeks to examine attitudes of seminarians towards library usage in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria.

## Research Questions

1. What is the level of library usage of seminarians in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria?
2. What is the attitude of seminarians towards library usage in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria?

## Hypothesis

**Ho<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between attitude and library usage of seminarians in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria

## Literature Review

From the perspective of Psychologists, attitude is a learned tendency to examine things in a specific way. This evaluation can include humans, problems, items, or events. Such evaluations are often good or negative, but can also be unknown. The inclination to react either favourably or unfavourably to a certain subject, be it an idea, an object, a person, a circumstance, or other people, is known as attitude (Wood, W, 2010). Attitudes are our positive or negative evaluation of a particular behaviour, whether an individual thinks the behaviour is a good or bad idea or if it will lead to results, they value. Attitudes are evaluated as a fundamental psychological concept because they help explain people's decisions and actions. It is a global and relatively enduring evaluation of whether we think the target is generally good or desirable. People's thoughts or feelings about an object are known as their attitudes. Regarding psychology, attitude conveys favouritism or disfavouritism toward a person, location, object, or occasion. Its strength can vary, such as how persistent, resistant to change, and predictive of behaviour they are. It might be based on affective, cognitive, or behavioural data (Ünal & İşeri, 2012).

Babayi et.al (2019) conducted a study assessing the attitude of students towards the utilization of computerized library services in Nigeria and found that the students had a positive attitude toward computerized library services. The internet is the most accessible service to them. In addition, Nyemezu (2023) examined the attitude of library and information. Science students towards using electronic information resources in some selected university libraries in Rivers State. The study shows that the attitude of the LIS students influences their perceptions and the frequency of the usage of the electronic information resources available in the library. Another study conducted on students' reading habits and attitudes in the Faculty of Education at Universiti Teknologi Mara, Puncak Alam revealed that students had overall positive attitudes towards academic and leisure reading. Most students depend on websites for academic reading and prefer comics, novels and magazines for leisure reading (Ogbomo & Ivwighreghweta, 2020).

Furthermore, a study examined the link between attitudes toward the Use of Library Resources and Academic Performance concerning students' Gender and Locality. The investigator adopted the survey research method for this study. A positive and high correlation between Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources and Academic Performance was found. The study revealed that gender and locality did not affect attitudes towards using library resources and the student's academic performance (Oladapo,2021).

Fasae et.al. (2015) asserted that libraries are collections of information organized to make them accessible to the target audience. The main challenge, however, is students' underutilization of library resources in many learning institutions. This

study was to determine students' attitudes towards using library facilities. The study involved 66 participants, of which 60 were students in different years of study, whereas 6 were library staff at Newcastle University, United Kingdom. The study concluded that the students' attitude towards using library facilities was positive. However, there was a need to implement the proposed recommendations to increase the use of library services.

### Methodology

A descriptive survey research design was used for this study and the population of this study comprised of seven hundred and eighty- six. The population for this study consisted of Theological Institutions owned by certain denominations in Osun State. These Theological Institutions are Christ Apostolic Church Theological Seminary Ile- Ife, The Apostolic Church Nigeria Theological Seminary Ilesha, and the Redeemed College of Missions Ede. The study population was 786 seminarians and the sample size was 260 based on the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table. Two hundred and ten (210) questionnaires were retrieved from the respondents. The data collected was used and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics and the hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

### Result and Discussions

#### Demographic data analysis

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of the Demographic Information**

Socio-Demographic Variables	Options	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Sex	Male	195	92.9
	Female	15	7.1
	Total	210	100
Age	20-24	12	5.7
	25-29	24	11.4
	30-35	45	21.4

	35-39	41	19.5
	40&Above	88	41.9
	Total	210	100
Marital status	Single	64	30.5
	Married	143	68.1
	Others	3	1.4
	Total	210	100
Academic qualification	Diploma	49	23.3
	Undergraduate	101	48.1
	Postgraduate	60	28.6
	Total	210	100

The demographic composition of the respondents shows that male respondents (92.9%) are higher than female respondents (7.1%). The table also shows the age distribution of the respondents in which the respondents aged 40 and above (41.9%) constitute the highest of the population, while respondents aged 20-24(5.7%) constitute the least population and the marital status of the respondent shows that single constitute (30.5%), married constitute (68.1%) while others constitute (1.4%). Lastly, the table shows the academic qualifications of the respondents, with undergraduate respondents (48.1%) constituting the highest population, while diploma (23.3%) has the lowest population.

**Research Question One:** What is the level of library usage of seminarians in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria?

**Table 2: Level of Library Usage of Seminarians in Theological Institutions Osun State, Nigeria.**

S/ N	What is the level of use of the following	Frequency (%)				Mean	SD
		V	H	L	VL		
	<b>Resources and Services Available for Use</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>1</b>	Books	74(35.2)	90(42.9)	35(16.7)	11(5.2)	3.08	0.85
<b>2</b>	Internet services	84(40.4)	69(33.2)	39(18.8)	16(7.7)	3.06	0.95

3	Theses /projects /dissertation	50(23.9)	117(56.0)	35(16.7)	7(3.3)	3.00	0.74
4	Reference materials	55(26.3)	109(52.2)	30(14.4)	15(7.2)	2.98	0.84
5	Online databases	66(31.7)	78(37.5)	45(21.6)	19(9.1)	2.92	0.95
6	Reprography services (photocopy services/lamination/binding)	53(25.6)	89(43.0)	44(21.3)	21(10.1)	2.84	0.92
7	Reference assistance/help desk	3(20.6)	101(48.3)	53(25.4)	12(5.7)	2.84	0.82
8	Current Awareness Services	46(22.0)	97(46.4)	52(24.9)	14(6.7)	2.84	0.85
9	Electronic information resources	56(26.9)	81(38.9)	51(24.3)	20(9.6)	2.83	0.94
10	Newspapers	38(18.2)	59(28.2)	81(38.8)	31(14.8)	2.50	0.96
<b>Overall Mean</b>						<b>2.89</b>	

Table 2 shows the library usage of seminarians in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria with overall mean response of  $\bar{X}=2.89$ , indicating that seminarians have a high level of library usage. The table indicates that books, internet services, theses, projects and dissertations are mostly used by the seminarians. These have mean and deviation of ( $\bar{X}=3.08$ ,  $SD=.85$ ), ( $\bar{X}=3.06$ ,  $SD=.95$ ) and ( $\bar{X}=3.00$ ,  $SD=.7$ )4 respectively. Also, the findings indicate that newspapers, electronic information resources, and current awareness services contributed to the low library usage of the respondents, with mean and standard deviation of ( $\bar{X}=2.50$ ,  $.96$ ), ( $\bar{X}=\bar{2.83}$ ,  $.94$ ), and ( $\bar{X}=2.84$ ,  $.85$ ), respectively. This finding aligns with a study by Celik (2019), which found that students' newspaper reading habits were lower than those of students who read books. The findings of Mwantimwa et al. (2017) also agreed with the above findings, posting

that there is a minimal use of most of the e-resources universities had subscribed to; the use of open access resources, on the other hand, was found to be high. Thus, this disparity was attributable to inadequate information on e-resources available in the library.

**Research Question Two:** What is the attitude of seminarians towards library usage in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria?

**Table 3: Attitude of Seminarians Towards Library Usage in Theological Institutions in Osun State, Nigeria.**

S/ N	Statements	Frequency (%)				Mean	SD
		SA	A	D	SD		
	<b>Affective and Behavioural Attitude</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		
1	I feel satisfied when I can find what I need in the library	102(50.5)	77(38.1)	21(10.4)	2(1.0)	3.38	0.71
2	I feel that using the library will enhance my academic performance	95(47.0)	89(44.1)	15(7.4)	3(1.4)	3.37	0.69
3	I feel excited using the library's resources and services.	70(34.7)	114(56.4)	13(6.4)	5(2.5)	3.23	0.68
4	I have a great feeling using the library	106(52.5)	69(34.2)	24(11.9)	3(1.5)	3.19	0.70
5	I find visiting the library to be an enjoyable experience.	61(30.2)	110(54.5)	26(12.9)	5(2.5)	3.12	0.72
6	I encourage my friends and colleagues to use the library's resources.	60(29.9)	111(55.2)	23(11.4)	7(3.5)	3.11	0.74
7	I find it easy to understand	52(25.7)	118(58.4)	26(12.9)	6(3.0)	3.07	0.71

	the library.						
8	I have the skills to use the library effectively	52(25.9)	112(55.7)	36(17.9)	1(0.5)	3.07	0.68
9	I rarely ask librarians for help in finding information.	43(21.3)	109(54.0)	44(21.8)	6(3.0)	2.94	0.74
10	I regularly visit the library to borrow books or other materials.	45(22.3)	87(43.1)	55(27.2)	15(7.4)	2.80	0.87
<b>Overall Mean</b>						<b>3.12</b>	

Table 3 shows the attitude of seminarians towards library usage in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria, with an overall mean response of  $\bar{X}=3.12$ , indicating a positive attitude of seminarians towards library usage. The findings of the study showed that statements such as I feel satisfied when I can find what I need in the library, I feel that using the library will enhance my academic performance and I feel excited using the library's resources and services indicates a positive attitude from the seminarians towards library usage. These have mean and deviation of ( $\bar{X}=3.38$ ,  $SD=.71$ ), ( $\bar{X}=3.37$ ,  $SD=.69$ ) and ( $\bar{X}=3.23$ ,  $SD=.68$ ) respectively. This implies that most of the respondents are not only familiar with the library but also recognize the relevance of the library to their academic performances. However, there is a further need to update library resources and make them indispensable to improve seminarians' attitudes towards library usage. However, Sembiring (2025) noted that the relationship between students' attitudes and their use of the university's traditional library is a vital aspect of understanding how students engage with library resources.

Attitudes refer to students' perceptions, feelings, and beliefs about the library, which can significantly influence their behaviour and usage patterns. When students hold positive attitudes toward the library, they are more likely to visit frequently and utilize its resources effectively. Conversely, negative perceptions can lead to decreased interest and avoidance of the library space.

### Test of Hypothesis

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Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	16.31	1	16.31	113.53	0.00
Residual	29.88 208		0.14		
Total	46.20 209				

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The table above presents the analysis of variance in the influence of attitude among seminarians on library usage in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria. The values presented in the table show that Attitude towards library usage has a significant influence on library usage in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria ( $F(1,209) = 113.53$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.00 \leq 0.05$ ).

The analysis of the hypothesis with the result ( $R^2=0.59$ ,  $F(1,209) = 113.53$ ,  $p = 0.00$ ) shows that attitude towards library usage significantly influences library usage in theological institutions in Osun State, Nigeria. This means that seminarians' attitudes towards library usage effectively predict their library usage. Also, the study reveals a significant positive relationship between the attitude of seminarians towards library usage and library usage in theological

institutions in Osun State, Nigeria. This indicates that any significant change in the attitude of seminarians will lead to a significant change in library usage.

### **Recommendations**

1. The library should have convenient hours and location. The library must regulate its schedule to accommodate more users by extending operating hours and considering easy access to information resources.
2. Resources that can promote library usage among seminarians, such as online resources and theological databases, must be made readily available to provide access to academic theological journals, research databases, and educational materials.
3. There is a need to partner with departments in theological institutions to promote library services. Library services can be included as part of the orientation for new theological students, and this can serve as a way to promote the resources and services available in the library and make the information circulate easily.

### **Conclusion**

The results of this study revealed that, despite existing measures and factors driving library usage, there is considerable room for improvement in the conditions that can shape attitudes of the seminarians toward library usage, to further promote significant library usage. It also reveals that attitudes towards library usage significantly predict seminarians' library usage in theological institutions in Osun State.

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