

**LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT AND SCHOOL LIBRARY USE BY STUDENTS IN PUBLIC
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Library is established in the different institutions of learning and in organisation to meet the information need of the different groups of users in their organisation. School library is the library established to meet the information need of pupils and students in primary and secondary schools in Lagos State. Library use is referred to as the rate at which information seekers visits the library to search for information in the library to satisfy their information need. It has been observed over the years that some of the libraries in some public secondary schools are positioned in staff offices and for others established separately there are no qualified librarian to manage the resources making access to information resources difficult. The low use and patronage of the school library from observation can be associated with poor library environment with dated resources, poor lighting and unattractive reading space that discourages reading and studying of students in secondary schools. Survey research design was adopted. The study population comprised 16,366 students in public secondary schools in Lagos State. Structured questionnaire was used for the data collection and the Cronbach alpha value ranged from 0.7 to 0.9 which shows that the instrument was valid. The findings revealed that public school libraries were mostly used for certain purposes for improving their reading habits (\bar{x} =3.48), reading (\bar{x} =3.46), assignment (\bar{x} =3.27) and to study (\bar{x} =3.26). While library was minimally used by students to copy notes (\bar{x} =2.98) and to be competitive with other students (\bar{x} =2.78). Participants generally disagreed with the nature of library environment in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria (mean \bar{x} = 2.12, SD = 0.70). Participants strongly agreed that there were challenges mitigating against school library use by students in public secondary schools in lagos state, nigeria (mean \bar{x} = 3.33, SD = 0.76). Library environment has no significance influence on school library use by students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria (R^2 = 0.002, β = 0.045, t = 1.642, p >0.05). Public secondary school library libraries are use despite the library environment which is not encouraging. This study recommends for an improved library environment by the government and library board administrator of the state to increase the budgetary allocation for public secondary school library to purchase library resources

regularly, improve on the lighting and sitting position and have a purpose building specifically for library alone.

Key words: Library, Library Environment, Public School, School Library, School Library Use

Introduction

Libraries in recent times are defined based on the functions they provide to different groups of users. Library is known as a repository of human knowledge existing in print and non-print format. Abolarin and Unegbu (2021) referred to library as the assemblage of human knowledge in all its ramifications acquired, organised, stored, preserved for easy retrieval and dissemination. Library as described by Alabi and Sani (2013) as an instrument of self-education, a means of knowledge and factual information delivery, a centre of intellectual recreations and a beacon of enlightenment that provides accumulated, preserved knowledge of civilization which consequently enriches one's mental vision. Information resources available in the library is meant to meet the current need of the users. There are different types of libraries ranging from the academic libraries, national library, public library, school library, special library, and virtual library. School library is the focus of this study. School libraries are libraries that can be found in nursery, primary and secondary schools.

School libraries like the name are referred to as libraries situated in nursery, primary and secondary schools with the aim of providing information resources suitable to meet their information need. According to Ternenge and Agipu (2019), school libraries in educational institutions such as pre-primary, primary and secondary schools are as important as the life wire required for the functional upbringing of children. School library cannot exist without the school. A school is regarded as a place where learning takes place. The academic foundation of any child begins from the school especially preschool where basic knowledge of the different subject areas is impacted to the students. For Nigeria to excel academically and have her educational sector developed there is a need for the reform of our educational system through adequate provision of functional libraries in primary and secondary schools. Libraries play vital roles in the educational development of a child in his or her early years thereby enabling a complete learning process. The information resources present in the school libraries are expected to contribute immensely to the educational advancement of students when utilised.

The school library provides resources for students in public secondary schools to enhance their learning process and ultimately to be educated. Education according to Naziev (2017), is regarded as a socially organized and regulated process of continuing transference of socially significant experience from the past to the present and coming generations. The transfer of knowledge in education can only be accomplished with the set of information resources present in the school library available to different generations of users without restrictions thus supporting the students' academic goals. Some of the resources present in school libraries are the equipment like the computers and instructional materials to support the school curriculum. As such school library is set out to support the educational activities of students in nursery, primary and secondary schools towards accomplishing a brighter future. Library use is the act of utilizing information resources in the public school libraries in order to satisfy users' information need in doing assignment, reading, studying, relaxing and sometimes preparing for the next class and examination. Secondary school libraries need to be purposefully built to support holistic education and expected use by students. The environment of the library could either attract use or discourage use as such it is important to have school library built purposively.

Library environment is the surroundings and conditions in which the library operates in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria. Library environment especially that of public secondary schools encompasses the structure, people and things surrounding the library which invariably have influence on the patronage. According to Ejiroghene (2020), academic library environment encompasses all the circumstances, people, things and events around the library and can have potential effects which could either be positive or negative on the library usage. School library environment includes all the external conditions which surround the library. These external conditions affect such as library facilities, qualified librarians, furniture, school library building, good administrative management, teacher pupil relationship and school library location may affect library use.

School library environment with good learning facilities and space makes students more comfortable and concentrate in their academic activities. The library's physical building and infrastructure also play an important role in how students perceive it and its overall function and role. If students find that the library building and infrastructure does not meet their needs and expectation they may form a negative perception of it without even making use of the actual library services. Obasuyi and Idiioddi (2015) stated that the significance of school library can be assessed by the adequacy of the library's physical facilities and infrastructures, such as library building, sitting capacity, air conditioning system, and lighting situation, and library environment. A conducive library environment will enhance learning process which could attract frequent use to the library.

Some libraries in the secondary schools are suffering from what Uzuegbu and Ibiyemi (2013); Benson, Okorafor and Anyalebechi (2017) called shortage of resources and facilities, absence of trained personnel, poor orientation about the library, inadequate finance, lack of support from Library Associations such Nigerian Library Association (NLA), lack of current and up-to-date information materials, non-proper organisation of library resources, lack of ICT facilities, non-inclusion of use of library in the schools and library building. Oduşina and Oloniruha (2020) found that majority of the public secondary school students' in Lagos State minimally use the library for academic purpose. The minimal use of school library can be as a result of the library environment that assert impact on their mates in school.

The problem aforementioned are some of the major issues affecting the use of a library in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria. Lagos State is one of the most populated and civilized State in Nigeria but library use in public secondary is of great concern to the library administration. Over the years, observation shows that students especially in public secondary schools are not attracted to the library which could have resulted from lack of orientation at early years in school, lack of personnel like school librarian and library environment that is not encompassing in his aesthetic and resources. However, students who does not believe in studying in the library could as well find fault with using the library. Therefore, this study is set out to investigate the influence of library environment on school library use.

Statement of the Problem

Library use is referred to as the rate at which information seekers visits the library to search for information in the library to satisfy their information need. It has been observed over the years that some of the libraries in some public secondary schools are positioned in staff offices and for others established separately there are no qualified librarian to manage the resources making access to information resources difficult. Also, the library environment plays a major in attracting students to the library in situations where there are no recent information resources to advance learning and the environment is not readers friendly as result of poor funding by the government to maintain public secondary school library the patronage invariably is reduced. However, library which is not well equipped and does not meet students' expectations especially in secondary schools will be minimally used for academic purpose. The low use and patronage of the school library from observation can be associated with poor library environment with dated resources, poor lighting and unattractive reading space that discourages reading and studying of students in secondary schools. Therefore, this study is set out to investigate the influence of library environment on school library use by students in Public Secondary Schools in Lagos State.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the research is to investigate the influence of library environment on school library use by students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Determine the purpose of school library use by students in public secondary schools in Lagos State
2. Examine nature of library environment in public secondary schools in Lagos State.
3. Find out the influence of library environment on school library use among students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria.

4. Identify the challenges facing school library use in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What is the purpose of school library use by students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria?
2. What is the nature of library environment in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria?
3. What are the challenges facing school library use by students of public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria?

Research Hypothesis

The null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance

Ho1: Library environment has no significant influence on school library use among students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

School Library Use

In order to operationalize the definition of school library it can be defined as libraries established in public junior and senior secondary schools to meet the information needs of pupils, students and staff of the school. School libraries are established with the main objective of satisfying the learning and teaching needs of students and teachers in public secondary schools. School library caters for children who are eager to read and also for backward children who read with difficulty and who require visual aids and all kinds of incentives to study (Uzuegbu & Ibiyemi, 2013). The resources are provided in school libraries to enhance learning as such difficult subjects are represented in pictorial or graphical form to allow for quick understanding of each subject with sufficient illustration. School libraries are established with the objective of promoting and encouraging reading habits of the students and to become independent learner (Ogbuyi, 2021). In addition, school libraries are established to allow for easy access to textbooks on the subjects taught in the school and to familiarize the students with relevant textbook that will aid assignment.

Ternenge and Agipu (2019) referred to school library resources as the equipment and other instructional and study materials in the school library meant for teaching and learning. There are different resources available in the library such as maps, charts, atlas, textbooks and periodicals in the form of newspapers and magazines. In addition, instructional materials include books, the literature for children, young people and adults, films, printed materials, recording latest media adopted for learning and development. The information resources available in public libraries are meant to be utilised by the different categories of user in public secondary schools and to solve the menace of poor reading culture in our environment. There are different purpose for utilising information resources in school library such as to promote the development of reading skills and encouraged long term planning habits through reading, listening to and viewing a range of learning materials (Benard & Dulle, 2014). Other researchers also expressed their views on the purpose of school library use. According to Arua and Chinaka (2011), school library information resources are all inputs which are used in the library in order to provide a suitable learning environment for students and teachers to achieve educational goals. Other researchers in past like Erdamar and Demirel, (2009) have shown that students make use of the library for its quietness, to study, research, and for acquiring knowledge. Ashioya (2012) noted that most secondary schools do not prioritize libraries as an important component in the educational system thus, neglecting the school libraries continuously resulting in low utilization of the information sources in teaching and learning process. However, low attention is given to providing financial support of the school library, as such limiting the functionality of school libraries that will allow for the maintenance of the physical space and material resources in teaching and learning process as required by teachers and students. Karimi (2011) underscores that well-equipped libraries and well utilised information sources from the library help to improve student's academic performance by providing reading materials to the students. Library services should be a matter of priority in all educational institutions right from elementary to higher levels.

According to the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) (2011), report emphasized that school library can provide ways for learners to gather and share information, use tools, and display knowledge through the website. A website in the school library may be used as tool in guiding learners towards how they can view, use, and assess information as they create products that are authentic and relate to a real-world context. The challenges often faced by most secondary school students especially in public secondary schools as observed in Lagos State public secondary school libraries are the issues of inadequate library equipment, outdated instructional materials, poor library infrastructure, non-conducive library environment and internet infrastructure the limits the use of public secondary school libraries among some of the users. In some other instances there seem to be shortage of professionals in the school library to manage the information resources thus limiting the goal of establishing the libraries. Research has shown that library which is not well equipped does not meet students' expectations. Also, Odusina and Oloniruha (2020) found that majority of the public secondary school students' in Lagos State minimally use the library for academic purpose. The minimal use of school library can be as a result of the library environment that assert impact on their mates in school.

Library Environment

Environment can be regarded as the place or surrounding of a person that has direct or indirect influence on the individual progress. Fareo (2019) defined environment as a system within which living organisms interacts with the physical element while education environment is a learning place where the learner learns and interact with learning facilities in order to be socialized and face the challenges in the society. Library environment encompasses all the circumstances, people, things, and events around the library that can have effects, that could either be positive or negative on library use (Amusa & Iyoro, 2013). School library environment includes all the external condition and influences in the school library that affects the academic achievement of the student such as library facilities, qualified librarians, furniture, school library building, good administrative management, teacher pupil relationship and school library location among others source. Good ventilation is an environmental factor necessary for a conducive atmosphere that can encourage students to visit the library and stay for long periods. For effective learning to take place, a conducive atmosphere is highly required. Conducive library environment is required for learning by secondary school students and teachers. Library environment encompasses of the building, personnel, resources with the rules and regulation guiding the library use.

Library building can be referred to as a repository of knowledge where different information resources are housed. Library building can be looked at from the aspect of the physical house or space where collections are kept for people to access when they have the need of it. The library environment is made up of the physical space, sitting position, lighting, internet connectivity and everything including collections and personnel the makes the building complete. Library is regularly changing to meet the changing demand of the society. Awala-Ale (2012) affirmed that library building has changed over centuries in response to five major influences: the form in which information is recorded, the nature of library uses and readership, technological development in both architecture and librarianship, the availability of funds and recognition of traditional architecture as part of the cultural heritage. Libraries cannot exist without a purposeful building to accommodate library resources which can be demanding and require funding because library building when erected is permanent except in the instances of renovation.

Thus, conducive atmosphere includes excellent lighting system, temperature, sound and noise control environment is not properly incorporated into a university library design, this would negatively affect the users and deter learning. Also, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has observed that the planning and design of educational facilities for schools, colleges and universities has an impact on educational outcomes (Fabiya & Uzoka, 2007). Concerning the adequacy of facility in the school library Adetoro (2006) observes that adequate and modern school library facilities help in delivering library services, thus school library should be well built, furnished with relevant materials as well as captivating interior decoration and conducive environment. Thus, library environment should be conducive and be well planned for reasonable reading and learning to take place. A study was conducted among public secondary students on the assessment of quality of school and library spaces and the findings showed that

there were some levels of inadequacies of leaning spaces in most of the public schools in Lagos State (Alabi & Makinde, 2021). Libraries can function with the availability of personnel to assist in carrying out the functions of the library.

Salman, Mostert and Mugwisi (2014) were of the view that no matter how big or large the school library is, there should be qualified library personnel to manage the library resources for effective and efficient use among students in secondary schools. Professional staff should be recruited to the library, which should be headed by the school librarian to run the day-to-day activities of the library. Ejiroghene (2020) affirmed that library personnel attitudes also count as they will make library services to users either comfortable or awkward. The personnel attending to users in school library should be user friendly with good communication skills so as to relate effectively and efficiently with users. School library can be used where there are adequate information resources to meet the users need.

Library resources can be in print and in non-print format to serve the need of students and staff. School libraries contain different information resources that are relevant to the student curriculum thus enabling students to learn and teachers develop their lesson note. Adeoye and Popoola (2011) added that library information resources appears in both printed and electronic formats including textbooks, journals, indexes, abstracts, newspapers, magazines, reports, CD-ROM databases, internet, email, video tapes/cassettes, diskettes, computers and microforms. There are information resources common among secondary school students which include textbooks, maps, atlas, globe, cartoon, comics and pictures to provide relevant information resources required by the users. Electronic resources are also required for use in secondary school libraries thus, Ezeala and Yusuff (2011) outlined the different electronic resources as functional computers, photocopying machines, CD-ROM, microforms, microform readers, fax machines, internet, local area network, radio messages, telephone, lighting and computer workstations for library users which must have to be measured periodically by librarians to ensure that the resources and services of their libraries as a way of ensuring that they are meeting the set objectives of the library. School libraries should have rules and regulation guiding the activities that is being carried out on a daily basis.

Library rules and regulations are the guiding principles or instruction that direct school library users towards the effective and efficient use of library resources. Library instruction is required to teach users the abilities needed to use library resources effectively in order to encourage the complete exploitation of library resources and generate consciousness for the subsequent use of library resources (Ejiroghene, 2020). Every library is expected to have rules and regulation guiding the library use like eating, stealing (theft), mutilation, noise making with dog erring of information resources is prohibited. In order to serve school users aright there should be rules and regulations to guide users' activities and to protect against deviant users. The availability of rules and regulations adequately hanged in strategic location of the library will enable users have a fore knowledge of what is expected of each user.

Emperical Review of Library Ednvironment and School Library Use

Clee, Maguire and Suchi (2018) conducted a study to find out the effects of the environment on library use. These results showed that the perception of the total library environment impacts on library use than that of individual factors. The authors recommended better lighting, suitable seating arrangement, and a more serene library. The authors noted that lighting is one of the most important subjective factors that could determine the 'warmth' and 'atmosphere' in a library. Quality of lighting can affect motivation, emotion, and even physical health. Seasonal affective disorder is currently treated with light therapy; one may conjecture that proper lighting in libraries can enhance learning and motivation. Full-spectrum lighting can even affect melatonin levels in the human body, affecting a person's energy level. Another research conducted by Isiaka and Olaide (2014) to assess the influence of library environment on library use by students in Nigeria reveals that all the library environments studied were below the expectations of the respondents. Student in public secondary schools have their expectations each time they visit the library but when the expectations are not met they tend to withdraw as such result in low patronage by students.

Amusa and Iyoro (2014) conducted a study on the influence of library environment, instructional programmes, and user librarian collaboration on library use by undergraduate students in Nigeria and found that academic libraries are less utilised because of the availability of alternative information system such as

internet, reading rooms in residence halls and apartment. in addition, poor library environment, inadequate user education programs, and absence of formal user-librarian collaboration programs. In another study conducted by Desta (2020) on practices and challenges of in secondary schools of Wolita Zone showed that secondary school materials were inadequate, relatively irrelevant, and the students extent of using practice was moderately low. Also, the study verified students low interest of using library resources, teachers insufficient encouragement, physical furniture, inconvenient plan, of program and student reading habit, low attention towards reading materials, shortage of reference materials, low follow up school backward handling system influenced by the practice of library usage.

Contributing to the utilization of library resources, Oyediran (2004) observed that there is a low use of the library by secondary students which can be attributed to the expressed unavailability of the desired and facilities that will make reading interesting in the school library. Ajanyi and Akinnuyi (2004) also observed that there is frustration among students because of their inability of the library to provide materials that suit their ways of learning. Also, the use of school libraries depends on the availability, accessibility and utilization of the users desired information sources. Ugah (2008) in confirmation of the above assertion, stated that the use of school library has an approximately 80% dependence on the availability of the school library resources. Brainol (2000) informs that the serious debasement of the quality of education, which may consequently have a negative effect on performing students. The author further stressed that the initiatives and competence to conduct viable school research to solve any problems may be inhibited because of failure to use the school library resources.

Methodology

Survey research design was adopted for the study. This design allowed the researcher investigate the influence of library environment on school library use by students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria. Population of the study comprised 16,366 public secondary school students in Lagos State, Nigeria. The population was made of Junior Secondary School 3 (JSS 3) and Senior Secondary School 3 (SS3) secondary school students that was drawn from 20 public secondary schools in the 20 local government areas (LGA) in Lagos State Nigeria. The study population was derived from Lagos State, Ministry of Education in the year 2021. The sample size of 1,448 was derived from Krejcie and Morgan's sampling technique table to arrive at a sample size of 1,448 students at 0.025 margin of error at 95% confidence interval. The instrument for data collection was a validated questionnaire. A stratified random sampling technique was used in selecting 20 public secondary schools from 20 local government areas in Lagos State, Nigeria. The choice of one public secondary school with the highest population in each local government area is to help in generalizing the findings.

Data Analysis, Results and Discussion of Findings

This section reports the findings on library environment on school library use by students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria. Descriptive and inferential analyses were used to analyse the research questions and hypothesis in tabular forms.

Table 1 Purpose of School Library Use

| <i>I use the Library for the following Purposes</i> | SA Freq. (%) | A Freq. (%) | D Freq. (%) | SD Freq. (%) | Mean (\bar{x}) | Standard Deviation (SD) |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Improving my reading habits | 875 (66.1) | 206 (15.6) | 240 (18.1) | 2 (0.2) | 3.48 | 0.79 |
| Reading | 938 (70.9) | 62 (4.7) | 317 (24) | 6 (0.5) | 3.46 | 0.87 |
| Assignment | 662 (50) | 368 (27.8) | 279 (21.1) | 14 (1.1) | 3.27 | 0.83 |
| To study | 669 (50.6) | 333 (25.2) | 312 (23.6) | 9 (0.7) | 3.26 | 0.84 |
| In preparation for examination | 602 (45.5) | 424 (32) | 296 (22.4) | 1 (0.1) | 3.23 | 0.79 |
| To socialise with friends | 564 (42.6) | 507 (38.3) | 38 (2.9) | 214 (16.2) | 3.07 | 1.05 |
| To be ahead in class | 629 (47.5) | 367 (27.7) | 112 (8.5) | 215 (16.3) | 3.07 | 1.10 |
| To while away time | 170 (12.8) | 1089 (82.3) | 37 (2.8) | 27 (2.0) | 3.06 | 0.48 |
| Copying of notes | 368 (27.8) | 750 (56.7) | 18 (1.4) | 187 (14.1) | 2.98 | 0.93 |
| to be competitive with other students in my class | 238 (18) | 671 (50.7) | 302 (22.8) | 112 (8.5) | 2.78 | 0.84 |
| Average Overall Mean | | | | | 3.17 | 0.85 |

Source: Field Survey 2021; **Note:** Freq.= Frequency

KEY: SA=Strongly Agree, A= Agree, D=Disagree, SD=Strongly Disagree*****Decision Rule if mean is 1 to 1.74=Strongly Disagree; 1.75 to 2.49 = Disagree; 2.5 to 3.24 =Agree; 3.25 to 4= Strongly Agree**

Table 1 shows that generally, students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria, agreed that they used the school library for certain purposes (\bar{x} =3.17). Students specifically strongly agreed that they used school library for the following purposes: improving their reading habits (\bar{x} =3.48), reading (\bar{x} =3.46), assignment (\bar{x} =3.27) and to study (\bar{x} =3.26). Participants also agreed they used school library for the following purposes: in preparation for exams (\bar{x} =3.23), to socialise with friends (\bar{x} =3.07), to be ahead in class (\bar{x} =3.07), to while away time (\bar{x} =3.06) to copy notes (\bar{x} =2.98) and in order to be competitive with other students (\bar{x} =2.78). This analysis implies that students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, used the school library for different purposes. They used school libraries more for improving their reading habits, reading, assignment and to study. This suggests that students in public secondary schools in Lagos State also used school libraries while in preparation for exams, to socialise with friends, to be ahead in class, to while away time to copy notes and in order to be competitive with other students.

Table 2 Nature of Library Environment in Public Secondary Schools

| | SA Freq. (%) | A Freq. (%) | D Freq. (%) | SD Freq. (%) | Mean (\bar{x}) | Standard Deviation (SD) |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Library Resources (Mean = 2.40, SD = 0.75) | | | | | | |
| The books, journals, atlas and maps in my library are defaced | 471 (35.6) | 339 (25.6) | 459 (34.7) | 54 (4.1) | 2.93 | 0.93 |
| My school library has ICT facilities to access eBooks for reading | 318 (24) | 156 (11.8) | 708 (53.5) | 141 (10.7) | 2.49 | 0.97 |
| My school library adequate internet facility to browse for current books in my subject specialisation. | 34 (2.6) | 261 (19.7) | 881 (66.6) | 147 (11.1) | 2.14 | 0.63 |
| There are lots of current books in my school library | 36 (2.7) | 66 (5.0) | 1134 (85.7) | 87 (6.6) | 2.04 | 0.47 |
| Library Rules and Regulations (Mean = 2.30, SD = 0.72) | | | | | | |
| School librarian report defaulting users for disciplinary action. | 92 (7.0) | 817 (61.8) | 348 (26.3) | 66 (5.0) | 2.71 | 0.67 |
| My school library rules and regulations is pasted around the library | 433 (32.7) | 179 (13.5) | 438 (33.1) | 273 (20.6) | 2.58 | 1.15 |
| There is sanction for using the library resources outside the library. | 79 (6.0) | 549 (41.5) | 577 (43.6) | 118 (8.9) | 2.45 | 0.74 |
| There is no penalty on late returning of books makes me to avoid the use of library. | 33 (2.5) | 287 (21.7) | 904 (68.3) | 99 (7.5) | 2.19 | 0.60 |
| School library gives extra time for reading after school hour | 41 (3.1) | 264 (20) | 862 (65.2) | 156 (11.8) | 2.14 | 0.65 |
| I can take books out of the library without any security control | 8 (0.6) | 37 (2.8) | 855 (64.6) | 423 (32) | 1.72 | 0.54 |
| Library Personnel (Mean = 2.07, SD = 0.76) | | | | | | |
| My school library staff attitude towards students is welcoming. | 152 (11.5) | 213 (16.1) | 826 (62.4) | 132 (10) | 2.29 | 0.80 |
| My school librarian always helps in searching for books | 43 (3.3) | 308 (23.3) | 930 (70.3) | 42 (3.2) | 2.27 | 0.57 |
| My school employs professional librarian in the school library | 14 (1.1) | 145 (11) | 933 (70.5) | 231 (17.5) | 1.96 | 0.57 |
| My school library staff direct users on proper use of library materials | 160 (12.1) | 112 (8.5) | 500 (37.8) | 551 (41.6) | 1.91 | 0.99 |
| The Librarian in my school allow access to some library materials and services | 80 (6.0) | 229 (17.3) | 487 (36.8) | 527 (39.8) | 1.90 | 0.90 |
| Library Building (Mean = 1.82, SD = 0.59) | | | | | | |
| My school library building is an old structure | 232 (17.5) | 64 (4.8) | 982 (74.2) | 45 (3.4) | 2.37 | 0.81 |
| Our school library building is well painted | 31 (2.3) | 55 (4.2) | 1207 (91.2) | 30 (2.3) | 2.07 | 0.39 |
| My School library building is situated at a centre of my school. | 14 (1.1) | 51 (3.9) | 1093 (82.6) | 165 (12.5) | 1.93 | 0.45 |
| The lighting in my school library is very adequate for studying | 20 (1.5) | 65 (4.9) | 941 (71.1) | 297 (22.4) | 1.85 | 0.56 |
| My library seats and seating arrangements are conducive for learning | 43 (3.3) | 38 (2.9) | 279 (21.1) | 963 (72.8) | 1.37 | 0.70 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| My school library design motivates me to visit the library frequently | 22 (1.7) | 59 (4.5) | 229 (17.3) | 1013 (76.6) | 1.31 | 0.64 |
| Average Overall Mean | | | | | 2.12 | 0.70 |

Source: Field Survey 2021; **Note:** Freq.= Frequency

KEY: SA=Strongly Agree, A= Agree, D=Disagree, SD=Strongly Disagree*****Decision Rule if mean is 1 to 1.74=Strongly Disagree; 1.75 to 2.49 = Disagree; 2.5 to 3.24 =Agree; 3.25 to 4= Strongly Agree**

Table 2 depicts that participants generally disagreed with the nature of library environment in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria (\bar{x} = 2.12). Respondents in particular disagreed with the following indicators of library environment: library resources (\bar{x} = 2.40), library rules and regulations (\bar{x} = 2.30), library personnel (\bar{x} = 2.07) and library building (\bar{x} = 1.82). This analysis suggests that students in public secondary schools in Lagos State had a negative attitude towards the nature of library environment in public secondary schools in Lagos State in respect of library resources, library rules and regulations, library personnel and library building.

In the aspect of library resources, respondents disagreed that their school library had: ICT facilities to access eBooks for reading (\bar{x} = 2.49), adequate Internet facility to browse for current books (\bar{x} = 2.14) and that there were lots of current books in their school library (\bar{x} = 2.04). For library personnel, participants disagreed with the following items, that: their school library staff attitude towards students was welcoming (\bar{x} = 2.29), their school librarian always helped in searching for books (\bar{x} = 2.27) and that their school library staff directed users on proper use of library materials (\bar{x} = 1.96). Respondents disagreed with the following items under library building, that: their school library building was situated at a centre of their school (\bar{x} = 1.93) and that the lighting in their school library was very adequate for studying (\bar{x} = 1.85). They also strongly disagreed that: their library seats and seating arrangements were conducive for learning (\bar{x} = 1.37) and that their school library design motivated them to visit the library frequently (\bar{x} = 1.31).

Challenges Militating against School Library Use by Students in Public Secondary Schools

| <i>I encountered the following challenges</i> | SA Freq. (%) | A Freq. (%) | D Freq. (%) | SD Freq. (%) | Mean (\bar{x}) | Standard Deviation (SD) |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lack of resident librarian to open the library at the right time | 806 (60.9) | 383 (28.9) | 110 (8.3) | 24 (1.8) | 3.49 | 0.73 |
| Unconducive reading space that discourages the use of library | 750 (56.7) | 499 (37.7) | 30 (2.3) | 44 (3.3) | 3.48 | 0.70 |
| Poor lighting of the library reading space | 767 (58) | 452 (34.2) | 61 (4.6) | 43 (3.3) | 3.47 | 0.73 |
| Outdated information resources not relevant for my school curriculum discourages me from using the library | 746 (56.4) | 446 (33.7) | 110 (8.3) | 21 (1.6) | 3.45 | 0.71 |
| My friends make fun of me whenever I visit the school library | 686 (51.9) | 447 (33.8) | 107 (8.1) | 83 (6.3) | 3.31 | 0.87 |
| My friends discourage me from reading in the school library | 681 (51.5) | 380 (28.7) | 222 (16.8) | 40 (3.0) | 3.29 | 0.85 |
| Poor reading habit of my friends discourages me from using the library | 544 (41.1) | 627 (47.4) | 131 (9.9) | 21 (1.6) | 3.28 | 0.70 |
| Lack of professional school librarian to provide users education | 505 (38.2) | 667 (50.4) | 130 (9.8) | 21 (1.6) | 3.25 | 0.69 |
| Poor reading space that discourage me from using the library to study | 514 (38.9) | 665 (50.3) | 82 (6.2) | 62 (4.7) | 3.23 | 0.76 |
| Whenever we visit the school library my friends sneak out to play. | 418 (31.6) | 691 (52.2) | 125 (9.4) | 89 (6.7) | 3.09 | 0.82 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Average Overall Mean | 3.33 | 0.76 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|

Source: Field Survey 2021; **Note:** Freq.= Frequency

KEY: SA=Strongly Agree, A= Agree, D=Disagree, SD=Strongly Disagree*****Decision Rule if mean is 1 to 1.74=Strongly Disagree; 1.75 to 2.49 = Disagree; 2.5 to 3.24 =Agree; 3.25 to 4= Strongly Agree**

Table 3 indicates that participants strongly agreed that there were challenges mitigating against school library use by students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria (\bar{x} = 3.33). Respondents strongly agreed they encountered the following challenges: lack of resident librarian to open the library at the right time (\bar{x} = 3.49), unconducive reading space (\bar{x} = 3.48), poor lighting of the library reading space (\bar{x} = 3.47), outdated information resources not relevant for their school curriculum (\bar{x} = 3.45) and lack of professional school librarian to provide user education (\bar{x} = 3.25). Participants also agreed they encountered the challenge of poor reading space while using the school library (\bar{x} = 3.23). This analysis implies that students in public secondary schools in Lagos State encountered challenges in the use of school libraries. These challenges were lack of resident librarian to open the library at the right time, unconducive reading space, poor lighting of the library reading space, outdated information resources not relevant for my school curriculum, lack of professional school librarian to provide user education and poor reading space.

H₀₁: Library environment has no significant influence on school library use among students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Table 4 Influence of Library Environment on School Library Use among Students in Public Secondary Schools

| Variable | B | Std. Error | Beta (β) | T | p | R ² |
|---------------------|--------|------------|------------------|--------|-------|----------------|
| (Constant) | 58.592 | 1.899 | | 30.858 | 0.000 | 0.002 |
| Library Environment | 0.069 | 0.042 | 0.045 | 1.642 | 0.101 | |

Dependent Variable: School Library Use

Source: Field Survey 2021, **Note:** significant at 0.05

Table 4 depicts that library environment has no significance influence on school library use among students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria (R^2 = 0.002, β = 0.045, t = 1.642, p > 0.05). Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that library environment has no significant influence on school library use among students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria was accepted. The implication of this analysis is that library environment does not seem to improve or reduce school library use among students in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Discussion of the Findings

The participants of this study generally disagreed with the nature of library environment in public secondary schools in Lagos State, Nigeria. the library environment did not influence library use despite the fact that the environment was not conducive for learning users still make use of the library. Cleo, Maguire and Suchi (2018) reported that the perception of the total library environment impacts on library use than that of individual factors. Isiaka and Olaide (2014) also found that all the library environments studied were below the expectations of the students; hence they tend to withdraw as such result in low patronage by students. This study found that the resources available in the library were not current neither was the lighting in the library building the problem encountered in Edo State and other part of the country is similar to this study. Owate and Okpa (2013) also reported that out of the eight secondary schools investigated, only one had adequate school library office accommodation and none had accommodation for a librarian's office, which affected library use. Conversely, Umannakwe, Opara, Okoye and Mbagwu (2018) found out that majority of the need an environment with computer access, space to spread out, quiet place, physical comfort, proper room temperature colorful surrounding, art on walls and view of nature as it helps them to achieve high level of knowledge acquisition while studying.

The findings of this study negates the findings of Amusa and Iyoro (2014) that conducted a study on the influence of library environment, instructional programmes, and user librarian collaboration on library use by undergraduate students in Nigeria and found that academic libraries are less utilised because of the

availability of alternative information system such as internet, reading rooms in residence halls and apartment. in addition, poor library environment, inadequate user education programs, and absence of formal user-librarian collaboration programs. This study findings aligns to some extent with Desta (2020) study conducted on practices and challenges of secondary schools of Wolita Zone showed that secondary school materials were inadequate, relatively irrelevant, and the students extent of using practice was moderately low. Also, the study verified students low interest of using library resources, teachers insufficient encouragement, physical furniture, inconvenient plan, of program and student reading habit, low attention towards reading materials, shortage of reference materials, low follow up school backward handling system influenced by the practice of library usage. In this study the library environment did not determine the school library use. The students in public secondary schools in Lagos State used school library despite the inadequate library resources, library personnel, library building and library rules and regulations.

Conclusion

In conclusion it was found that school library was generally used twice a week among the students in the public secondary schools. In addition, school libraries were used daily in order to enable students in public secondary schools to study and perform well in their studies. Further findings showed that school libraries were used twice a week in order to occupy themselves when there was no teacher in class, avoid being bored, distract them from youthful exuberances, enable them develop good reading habit, socialise with friends, do their assignment, reduce time spent in playing games, study the subject taught in class and to have easy access to current textbooks. Library environment in this study did not influence library use but the school library need is used just twice as agreed by all the respondents which could be daily use if the library environment had the right infrastructure, information resources, library personnel and the rules and regulations guiding its use.

Recommendation

School library management board in Lagos State, Nigeria should collaborate with Lagos State ministry of education to ensure that there is sufficient budgetary allocation for the maintainance of public library buildings, purchase of current information resources for the students and employment of school librarian. This study also recommends that the public school administration in Lagos State should have a purpose built library in the centre of the school conducive and attractive for learning. Students should not be left at the mercy of dated information resources for learning, therefore a school librarian in public secondary schools in Lagos State should be employed to attend to users and acquire information resources as expected to satisfy the curriculum need of the students. The library was used by public secondary school students in SSS 3 and JSS 3 at least twice in a week which could be due to poor nature of the library environment. However, it is believed that when the public secondary school management board in Lagos State invest more in the library environment it is possible that the use of school library will increase.

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