

LIBRARY STAFF PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE ADOPTION OF PATRON DRIVEN ACQUISITION METHOD IN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY MINNA, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

Despite the wide adoption of Patron driven acquisition (PDA) method in academic libraries across developed countries as a method that brings return of investment to libraries. Academic libraries across developing countries as slowly adopting the model in order to satisfy the immediate demand of their patrons. Federal University of Technology Minna, Nigeria is not an exception as the research explore the preparedness level of the librarians in terms of their perception towards the adoption of model. The study employed mixed method in collecting data from the university Librarian (interview) and 97 respondents (questionnaire). The findings revealed that majority of the librarians happened to be familiar with the PDA method through article search on the internet as well as discussion with friends. However, the librarians agrees not having knowledge on how the method works. The study also revealed that most of the respondents perceived PDA method as a method that will bring large variety of collection to the library as well as believe that the method will bring return of investment to the library. However, the study further shows that not having practical skills towards adoption, lack of policy formulation as well as inconsistency in the supply of electricity are the major perceived challenges in the studied library.

Keyword: Acquisition, Adoption, Patron Driven Acquisition, Method, Patrons, Perception, Librarian.

Background

Academic libraries are used to acquiring information resources base on the just in case acquisition method. These method involve giving the sole responsibility of selection of collections to librarians in building the collections on the basis of expectation that users might likely demand for the collections. Therefore, the model continue to sustain libraries patron well until recent development as stated by Arougheti (2016) which stress that the failure of the just in case acquisition model was due to the continuous decline in budget allocation to academic libraries as well as technological proliferation and demand for ebooks.

Hence, librarians where face with the situation of searching for alternative model that will continue to meet the demand of library users with their current budget allocation. Therefore, one of the most effective method of acquisition in recent time is the Patron driven acquisition model (PDA). PDA is an automated system that enables users to select and acquired collection that will meet their immediate demand with little resources. The model ensure the building of collection is based on the immediate demand of users through the use of functional catalog (Fulton, 2014).

The adoption of PDA method will enable libraries to save cost as well as avail collections of different variety in vast content. The method also ensure that libraries build collections that are aim in meeting user's immediate demand in terms of access to the collections (Cramer, 2013). Hence, the perception of librarians will contribute to the successful adoption of PDA method that will bring immense benefit to users of academic libraries as well as return of investment. In United Kingdom, a research conducted by Turner (2017) stated that library staff were very happy with the adoption of the PDA. However, the study could not critically explore whether the staff were happy basis on the immense benefit accrue to PDA or the feel the method could actually ease their work as selector as well as subject librarians.

In another research was conducted to determine the perception of Indiana library directors in U.S. The study found out that even though the directors were positive that with the method, patrons are in the best position to select quality materials that will meet their immediate demand. The further revealed that time and lack of staff could possibly be an impending factors towards the adoption (Freeman, Nixon and Ward, 2016).

However, the study could not actually ascertain the perception of library staff who are directly involve in the adoption of PDA method. Similarly research was also conducted in Three University libraries in U.S. The study concluded that ebooks acquired through PDA method are likely to have been used more than once than the once acquired through the traditional just in case model that might likely not to be use even once. These at most case resulted to libraries not having return of investment (Tyler, et.al, 2013).

In developing countries, a study was conducted to determine the awareness of PDA method among librarians in Malaysia. The result of the finding shows that many of the librarians are aware of PDA method and believe in its potential of saving cost. The study also revealed that even though the adoption of the model is slow, libraries are planning to adopt the model as so as possible due to its benefits (Abdullah et. al, 2018). In similar view, a research was conducted to established the perception of medical librarians in India by Shetty and Mallaiah, (2016) argue that librarians believe that the model will enable patrons to build their own independent vast collections in different content that will meet their immediate demand. The study also concluded that there is need to still use the traditional method. However, the study only discuss the perception of medical librarians and could not be used as the general views of librarians towards the adoption of PDA method in India

In Africa, libraries are facing similar issue of budget cut which has affected the subscription of electronic resources due to the continue hike in the price of subscription of package resources. As a result of this, academic libraries are not able to meet with the demand of its patrons (Yusuf et al., 2018). Despite this situation, academic libraries are still using the traditional just in case model. This study aim at determining the perception of Africa librarians most especially in Federal University of Technology Minna library, Nigeria.

Literature Review

There have been perceived rising desires for wide ranges of collections by library users and at the same time, libraries are faced with continuous cut in their budget allocation. Earlier library practice has been collection acquisition just-in-case library users may be in need. Though the improved in technologies and user engagements has forced libraries to acquire resources base on user's needs. The user centered or Demand driven acquisition is a collection development model that enable libraries to grow their collections by allowing users to make decision as it relate to their needs (Brinkman Dzwig, 2013). Adoption of DDA will not only be beneficiary to users in term of fulfilling's their immediate demand but also provide an effective strategies for the continuous building of the collections. This in turn brings return of investment to the libraries as their budget allocation is been able to meet the demand of the users (Schmidt, 2015).

Study conducted in Teachers college, Columbia University revealed that the rise of DDA in the studied library has influenced a wide range of areas including library outreach to academic departments, the provision of textbooks and its implication on academic publishing, the appropriateness of ebooks, and the creation of strong collections that may serve a purpose beyond access to materials (Costello, 2021). Similar study was also conducted in Hon Kong University of Science and Technology. The study concluded that the strategic use of DDA programs to supplement standard acquisition models increased the size and use of their ebook collection while also providing ebook content at the point of need (Kwok et al., 2014).

The motivations for implementing an e-book demand-driven acquisitions (DDA) program at the University of Iowa were similar to those at other academic libraries. It presents a cost-effective way to purchase books at the user's point of need in addition to our traditional practice of developing well-balanced collections (Fischer and Diaz, 2013). Similar study conducted among medical librarians in India revealed that the librarians are mostly familiar with the model. However, concerned were raised on the possibility of the PDA method not building balanced collection and will also violate the digital right management (Shetty and Mallaiah, 2016).

PDA method has said to be a method that have brought about inclusive collection building as well as providing high level of satisfaction to users. This is believe to be due to the relevant and wide range of resources providing by the model that bring return of investment to the library (Allison, 2013). In Malaysia,

even though they are yet to adopt the PDA method. The findings of the study conducted that librarians are moving towards the adoption as well as believe that the method will enable users to evaluate resources before purchase, thereby bring return of investment to the libraries (Abdullah et.al, 2017).

Study conducted to determine the perception of library directors toward the PDA method, revealed that more than 80% of the respondents believe that the model will enable patrons to choose quality content of resources to be acquired by the libraries. The study further give reason such as lack of time and inadequate staff as the major problem facing some of the smaller libraries in Indiana toward adoption of the PDA method (Freeman et.al, 2013). The study only caption the feelings that patron will make a good choice in choosing the necessary resources that will meet their demand. The study could not view the perception of the library directors as regards to return of investment to the library as well as perception of other category of staff.

Methodology

The study use mixed method in interrogating respondents in order to determine the perception of librarians in the studied library. Interview is use to interrogate the chief librarian of the studied university in order to determine his level of familiarity as well as his perception towards the adoption of the PDA method in the studied university. Also, the study adopted the entire 97 respondents as the sample size (library assistant, para-professional and professional librarians) and administer questionnaire to them in order to establish their perception level toward the adoption of PDA method. The reason of chosen this categories of respondents is that most of them have ideals on acquisition due to job rotation normally carry out in the studied library. 83 questionnaire were found to be useful and analyzed using statistical percentage count with the help of SPSS.

Objective of the study

1. To determine the familiarity level of librarians towards the adoption of PDA method in the studied library
2. To find out librarians perception towards the adoption of the PDA method in Federal University of Technology Minna library.

Result

Interview with the University librarian of the studied library

What type of Acquisition model do your library practice?

The University librarian indicated that they were using the just in case acquisition model to acquire information resources, but due to the continuous decrease in budget allocation the library decided to adopt a method that involve using of the allocated funds to acquire information resources for only department due for academic accreditation for that session. This method has actually lead to setback for users from the other departments that are not due for academic accreditation.

Are you familiar with PDA as an alternative model of acquisition?

The University librarian agrees to have had about the model and how it has help to solve issues related to funding and bringing return of investment to academic libraries in the developed world through article he has read on the internet. However, he revealed that he does not have knowledge and what is require to adopt the model. But he further said that he will develop interest to learn how the model works.

What is your perception towards adoption of the PDA model in your library?

The university librarians believe that with the adoption of PDA model, users of the library from every department will be able to access information resources that meet with their immediate demand. He also said that the model will even allow the user to choose what will be acquire for then. In his words this model will completely save the library a lot of cost as well as librarians time as selectors of information resources to be acquired.

Demographic

Variable	Category	No of respondents	Percentage %
Gender	Male	51	62
	Female	32	38
Age	25-35	23	28
	36-45	39	47
	46-55	4	5
	56-65	17	20
Qualification	Collage	6	7
	Diploma	30	36
	HND	23	28
	Degree	2	2
	Masters	18	22
Year of Experience	PhD	4	5
	1-5	7	9
	6-10	24	29
	11-15	22	26
	16-20	16	19
	21-30	10	12
	32-35	4	5

In terms of Gender, 62% of the respondents are Male while 38% of them are female. 47% of the respondents are in between the ages of 36-45 while 28% of the respondents are between 25-35 years of age. Also, 20% of them are between the ages of 56-65 while 5% of them are between the age of 46-55. The result further shows that 7% of the respondent have collage certificate while 36% of them are Diploma holders as well as 28% of respondents are HND holders. Also. 2% of the respondents are First degree holders and 22% are Masters Holders as well as 5% of then are PhD holders. In terms of Year of experience, 9% of the respondents have experience of between 1-5 years on the job while 29% of the respondents are have between 6-10 years' experience on the job and respondents with experience between 11-15 years are 26%. Also, respondents within 16-20 years' experience are 19% while 12% of the respondents have between 21-30 years working experience as well as respondents between the 32-35 years of experience are just 5%.

Are you familiar with PDA Model?

Respondents	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Yes	32	39
No	51	61
TOTAL	83	100

The table revealed that 32 (39%) of the respondents were familiar with the PDA model as an acquisition method use in academic libraries in developed countries. While, 51(61%) of the respondents are not familiar with PDA as an acquisition model.

The familiarity level of librarians towards the adoption of PDA model in the studied library

Variables	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed
I know of PDA model through professional friends	12 (37%)	10(31%)	6 (19%)	4(13%)
I heard of PDA model from conference attendance	4 (13%)	2 (6%)	15 (47%)	11 (34%)
I know PDA model through research article on internet	20 (62%)	7 (21%)	5 (17%)	0 (0%)
I know how PDA model works	2(6%)	4 (13%)	11(34%)	15 (47%)
I know of PDA model through professional forum	13(41%)	10 (31%)	6(19%)	3(9%)
I have heard of libraries that adopted the model	5(16%)	2(6%)	15(47%)	10(31%)

The table shows that 37% and 31% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed of knowing PDA model through professional friends. While, 19% and 13% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively of knowing the PDA model through professional friends. Also, 47% and 34% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed that they heard of PDA model from conference attendance. While, 13% and 6% of the respondents are strongly agreed and agreed that they heard of PDA model from conference attendance. The table further shows that 62% and 21% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed that they know PDA model through research articles available on internet. While, 17% of the respondents strongly disagreed of knowing PDA model through research article on internet. Also, 34% and 47% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively that they know how PDA model works. While 6% and 13% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that they know how PDA model works. 41% and 31% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that they know of PDA model through professional forum. While 19% and 9% of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed of knowing PDA model through professional forum. 47% and 31% of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed of having heard of libraries that have adopted the model. While, 16% and 6% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that they heard of libraries that have adopted the model. The findings shows that the level of familiarity among librarians in the studied library is high. The also revealed that majority of them are familiar with the PDA model through article search on the internet as well as discussion with friends. However, the librarians agrees not having knowledge on how the model works.

Perceived importance towards the adoption of the PDA model in Federal University of Technology Minna, Library.

Variables	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed
I know PDA method will bring variety of information resources to the library	17 (53%)	11(34%)	4(13%)	0(0%)
I know PDA method will bring return of investment to the library	21(66%)	8 (25%)	3 (9%)	0 (0%)
I know PDA method will provide users with resources that meet their immediate demand	20 (62%)	7 (22%)	2 (6%)	3 (9%)
I know PDA method will create balanced collection building	24(75%)	4 (13%)	2(6%)	2 (6%)
I know PDA method will carry users along in terms of selection of information resources	13(41%)	16 (50%)	0(0%)	3(9%)
I know PDA method will end the era of librarians as information resources selector.	5(16%)	3(9%)	24(75%)	0(0%)

The table shows that 53% and 34% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed of knowing that PDA model will bring variety of information resources to the library. While, 13% of respondents strongly disagreed of knowing the PDA model will bring variety of information resources to the library. Also, 66% and 25% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed of knowing that PDA model will bring return of investment to the library. While, 9% of the respondents strongly disagreed of knowing that PDA model will bring return of investment to the library.

The table further shows that 62% and 7% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed of knowing that PDA model will provide users with resources that meet their immediate demand. While. 6% and 9% of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed of knowing that PDA model will provide users with resources that meet their immediate demand. Also, 75% and 13% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that they know PDA model will create balanced collection building. While 4% of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed that they know PDA model will create balanced collection building. 41% and 50% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that they know PDA model will carry users along in terms of selection of information resources. While, 9% of the respondents disagreed of

knowing PDA model will carry users along in terms of selection of information resources. 75% of the respondents strongly disagreed of knowing that PDA model will end the era of librarians as information resources selector. While, 5% and 3% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that the know PDA model will end the era of librarians as information resources selector. The findings revealed that the perceived important of PDA model by librarians in the studied university library is high. The study further revealed that most of the respondents perceived PDA model as a model that will bring large variety of collection to the library as well as believe that the model will bring return of investment to the library. However, the respondent could not agree with the fact that the model will bring an end to the era of librarians as information resources selector.

Perceived challenge towards the adoption of the PDA method in Federal University of Technology Minna, Library.

Variables	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed
I feel PDA method will take away my job as a selector	12 (37%)	10(31%)	(19%)	4(13%)
I feel I don't have the practical skills towards the adoption of PDA method	15 (47%)	11 (34%)	4 (13%)	2 (6%)
I feel my library does not have financial capability to adopt the method	2 (6%)	7 (21%)	5 (17%)	18(56%)
I feel my library does not have policy toward adoption of the method	17(56%)	11 (34%)	4(13%)	0 (0%)
I feel the adoption of PDA method will provide unbalance resources in the library	0(0%)	3 (9%)	10(31%)	19(60%)
I feel the adoption of PDA will be difficult due to lack of constant power supply	16(50%)	10(31%)	2(6%)	4(13%)

The table shows that 37% and 31% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the feel PDA method will take away my job as a selector. While, 19% and 13% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively that the feel PDA method will take away my job as a selector. Also, 47% and 34% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed that they feel they don't have the practical skills towards the adoption of PDA method While, 13% and 6% of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed that they feel they don't have the practical skills towards the adoption of PDA method. The table further shows that 56% and 17% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed that their library does not have financial capability to adopt the model. While. 21% and 6% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that their library does not have financial capability to adopt the method. Also, 56% and 34% of respondents strongly

agreed and agreed respectively that their library does not have policy toward adoption of the method. While, 13% of the respondents strongly disagreed that their library does not have policy towards the adoption of the model. 9% of the respondents strongly agreed that the adoption of PDA method will provide unbalance resources in the library. While 60% and 31% of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed that the method will provide unbalance resources in the library. 50% and 31% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the adoption of method will be difficult due to lack of constant power supply. While, 13% and 6% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed that they adoption of PDA will be difficult due to lack of constant power supply. The findings shows that not having practical skills towards adoption, lack of policy formulation as well as inconsistency in the supply of electricity are the major perceived challenges in the studied library. The study further revealed that financial capability and provision of unbalanced information resources where not issues that librarians perceived to be a challenge towards the adoption of the model in the studied library.

Discussion

The interview shows that the University librarian is familiar with the PDA method and believe that the adoption of the model will assist the studied library in having return of investment as well as meeting the demand of immediate users. The above finding disagree with the study conducted on perception of library directors toward the PDA method in Indiana. The findings revealed that more than 80% of the library director believe that the method will enable patrons to choose quality content of resources to be acquired by the libraries (Freeman et.al, 2013). The findings of both studies were genuine. However, the adoption of PDA method is not restricted to choosing quality content for library to acquire but also ensure that it meet the demand of the users as well as bring return of investment to the library despite the little available fund.

The findings shows that the level of familiarity of PDA method among library staff in the studied is high. The also revealed that majority of them are familiar with the PDA method through article search on the internet as well as discussion with friends. However, the librarians agrees not having knowledge on how the method works. The above findings collaborate with the study titled Patron-driven acquisition (PDA) method in academic libraries, Sweden. The findings revealed that the librarians are very familiar with the method but lack of knowledge towards the adoption of the method leads to its late adoption (Byström, Johansson, Perols and Tengstam, 2012). This shows that been familiar with the method does not mean that librarians have knowledge on how the method works. Hence, knowledge of how the PDA method works will enable the librarians to successfully adopt the method in the studied library.

The findings revealed that the perceived important of PDA method by librarians in the studied university library is high. The study further revealed that most of the respondents perceived PDA method will bring large variety of collection to the library as well as believe that the model will bring return of investment to the library. However, the respondent could not agree with the fact that the method will bring an end to the era of librarians as information resources selector. In United Kingdom, a research conducted by Turner (2017) stated that library staff were very happy with the adoption of the PDA method and believe that the adoption of the method will bring return of investment.

Conclusion

The study concluded that the familiarity level of PDA method among library staff is high. Although, most of the staff were of the opinion that they are not familiar with the way the method works which could possibly affect the adoption of the method in the studied library. Further conclusion also shows high level of perceive important in most areas of PDA method except in the area of return of investment which means that the staff lack knowledge in terms of PDA objective. This is because one of the main objective of adopting PDA method is to bring return of investment to the library.

Recommendations

1. It is important to create PDA method awareness in order for library staff to be well acquainted of the method.
2. Library management should endeavour to train staff in order to have requisite knowledge of PDA method
3. Library staff should have positive perceive important on all PDA activities in order to successfully adopt the method

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