



## Promotional Strategies for Effective Utilisation of Library Resources in Government Owned Colleges of Education in Kwara State

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### Abstract

Libraries in Nigerian colleges of education play a crucial role in supporting education, especially in teaching and learning. This study investigates promotional strategies for effective library resource utilization in government owned colleges of education in Kwara State. Objectives include assessing resource availability, usage by students, and identifying challenges such as limited awareness and insufficient facilities. A survey design was used, with 33 out of 47 participants sampled. Findings reveal adequate resources, but usage is mostly during exams. Recommendations include raising awareness and increasing funding to improve library services and meet financial needs.

**Keywords:** Promotional Strategies, Effective Utilization, Library Resources, Government, Colleges Education

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### Introduction

Every higher institution of education must have an academic library for the purpose of serving the information demands of its faculty, staff, researchers, as well as other community members. The essential roles of promotional strategies, effective utilization, and library resources within government owned Colleges of Education cannot be overemphasized, no wonder library is referred to be the lifeblood of educational establishments. The main objective of the academic library is to support the goals of the institution, which is to uphold teaching, learning and research activities in the institution. Ani (2022) <sup>[4]</sup> opined that the significance of college libraries lies on the fact that they are repositories of knowledge that provide the vital underpinning for national development. Academic libraries primary purpose is to support their parent institutions in achieving their goals by acting as an auxiliary (Onwudinjo 2015). An academic community's library is a valuable intellectual resource since it supports study and research while assisting the institution in meeting curriculum requirements. It is important to emphasize the role academic library as a learning center for students by making provision of required resources for better understanding all course outlines through standard books and other information items.

According to Bhar *et al.* (2018) <sup>[7]</sup>, a library is any type of establishment that is connected to or associated with an educational institution with the mission of advancing education, enriching instructors, researchers, and students in their academic endeavors, and helping them find answers to their questions by delivering pertinent information or documents to the right user at the right time. The college library is a vital component of the educational programs offered by education colleges. It can assist students in developing their own intellectual capital by providing them with fresh perspectives and ideas, as well as equipping them to become more capable educators. The foundation of any educational institution is its library. It serves as a tool for solving problems and is crucial to the exchange of knowledge.

By offering organized collections that complement the institution's educational curriculum, libraries can enhance the educational programs offered by colleges of education. A library is a requirement for all education establishments, and libraries are crucial for encouraging reading habits. In this information age, proficient librarians working in colleges of education libraries always involved with gathering, organizing, as well as sharing of information resources to support research and education activities. There are print and internet versions of these resources. For this reason, academic staff members at institutions of education are fully acknowledged as librarians (Akinola 2019) <sup>[2]</sup>. College library equipped with the information that both lecturers and students can utilize to obtain information.

In the meantime, using the library at educational institutions improves students' performance by assisting them in gaining the knowledge needed to adjust to ever-changing conditions. Wong and Webb (2014) support this, stating that using academic libraries improves students' academic performance and teachers' ability to provide services. In order for students to become contributing members of society, they should regard academic libraries as more than just a location to study or locate literature relevant to their course of study. In addition, it should be seen by them as a location to expand on the knowledge they learn in class and as a peaceful and comfortable place to study.

It is essential that lecturers encourage students to exploit library resources to expand their understanding in addition to the concentration on instruction in the classroom. According to Bassey (2016), an academic library serves as a source of knowledge even though book storage is its primary function. Nevertheless, some kids still would to engage in activities other than reading at the library. In the meantime, students who use the library become great people and build great nations. A library program may be used to further the dwindling culture of reading. By offering a vast array of reading and recreational resources, the library can promote independent study among education college students and encourage them to read for pleasure.

It is disheartened that there is a relinquishing trend on library usage all over the world hence, there is low turn-out in the use of libraries in higher institution which students in Kwara State Colleges of Education is not exceptional. This global occurrence has been observed and requires urgent attention. There is, therefore, need for continuous review of library services and the overall functioning of the library for it to remain a place of interest to users. College library should adopt some marketing strategies that can motivate the students and the staff of the college towards the use of the library resources. According to Kiilu and Otiike (2016)<sup>[15]</sup>, the majority of students do not make good use of the library based on their information-seeking behavior. Despite the fact that higher institutions have well-stocked libraries, it was noted that very few students actually utilizing them. This indicates that they had poor information-seeking habits.

It is heartbreaking on the negative attitude of students in higher institution towards the exploit of the library resources. Libraries irrespective of the type, has the mission to gratify its patrons of information resources needs upon which they can rely on for effective decision making (Emasealu 2021)<sup>[14]</sup>. Therefore, college library is essential resources for students' healthy intellectual development in the colleges of education since it gives them a sense of values that enable them progressively develop the ability to comprehend what they taught in the classroom. Additionally, using a library is essential for achieving both practical efficiency and healthy intellectual progress. The amount of reading material a person will read and the intensity with which they desire to continue reading will impact how interested they are in using the library's services (Chettri & Rout, 2013)<sup>[9]</sup>. Apart from that, reading speed, fluency, vocabulary, general knowledge and academic achievement can be developed through regular use of the library resources.

It is concerning that these resources and facilities are not being used to their full potential despite the TETFUND Intervention, which aimed to provide higher education libraries with up-to-date, sufficient information resources and facilities for students and education colleges. Therefore, in

order for the library to continue to be a location where patrons are interested, it is necessary to regularly assess the services offered and the way the library operates as a whole. This is due to the fact that as better services quickly become the standard and the least that can be anticipated, the bar is constantly lifted. In order to satisfy users' constantly shifting preferences and expectations, services need always be improved. According to Kiilu and Otiike (2016)<sup>[15]</sup>, the majority of undergraduate students do not make good use of the library based on their information seeking behavior. Therefore, it is essential to implement a marketing plan that would draw in and encourage college students to use the library.

### Statement of the Problem

Existing literature has shown that academic libraries in developing countries, Nigeria inclusive are not doing enough in promoting utilisation of library resources. Nigeria students most especially in the Colleges of Education find the use of the library resources arduous, wasting of time and energy since there are better things to do such as hustling (Danladi & Yohanna 2018). Despite the benefits in the use of library resources, it has become obvious that students in the higher institution in Nigeria most especially in college of education are no longer read. They only engage in reading when they have examination to write, outside that, reading has no meaning to them, (Ossai-Onah, Anyanwu, & Obichere, 2012)<sup>[20]</sup>. The debased interest in the exploitation of library resources among the students in the colleges of education has become a cause for alarm among scholars and educationist. Library utilisation has been suffering and adversely affecting the educational development of the nation. This arduous of library resources by students in Colleges of Education could lead them to engaging in examination malpractice.

The decline in library utilisation in Nigerian colleges of education has caused librarians to investigate how libraries can revive utilization among students in the institutions. This decline may be due to the impression of some students that the colleges of education libraries are not well equipped, the advent of electronic search engine, and lack of skill to navigate information resources. It is ideal therefore; that more research should be conducted to show how colleges of education libraries can promote the utilization of library resources through sensitization and promotional strategies that can get the students in colleges of education aware and motivate the utilization of library resources. This will motivate students to patronize and read materials that interest them. It is against this backdrop that the researcher set out to investigate Promotional Strategies for the effective of utilization of library resources in the Kwara State College of Education Ilorin.

### Objectives of the Study

1. Find out level of the availability of relevant library resources in government owned colleges of Education in Kwara State.
2. Determine the extent of utilisation of library resources among students in government owned colleges of education library in kwara State.
3. Identify the challenges facing the students on the utilization of library resources in government owned colleges of education library in kwara State.
4. Establish the strategies that could be adopted to improve the utilization of library resources by the students in the

government owned colleges of education library in kwara State.

### Research Questions

- ❖ What is the level of relevant materials available in the government owned colleges of education library in kwara State?
- ❖ What is the level of the utilisation of library resources among the students in government owned colleges of education library in kwara State?
- ❖ What are the challenges facing the students on the utilization of library resources in government owned colleges of education library in kwara State?
- ❖ What are the strategies that could be adopted to improve the utilization of library resources by the students in the government owned colleges of education library in kwara State?

### Literature Review

One of the most fundamental services provided by any higher education institution, including colleges of education, is the library. In order to meet the goals and objectives of education, students can expedite the implementation of educational programs by taking advantage of the libraries found at college of education libraries. Joshua and Michael (2020) defined library is an institution, where information resources are systematically processed and stored, properly preserved and made easily available to users when needed without loss of time. Having a functioning library in colleges of education gives the students more reading possibilities, which enhances their knowledge, intellectual capabilities, writing abilities, reading abilities, and clarity of expression. American Library Association (2019) <sup>[3]</sup> defined library is a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is, organized by information professionals or other experts who, provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic or intellectual access and offer targeted services and programs with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audience and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole.

Meanwhile, the type of library in colleges of education is called academic library which the aim and objectives is making provision for information resources to support teaching and research in the institution. According to Bhar *et al.* (2018) <sup>[7]</sup>, an academic library is any kind of library connected to or associated with a learning institution with the purpose of advancing education, supporting instructors, researchers, and students in their academic endeavors, and helping them find answers to their questions by giving the appropriate information or materials to the appropriate user at the appropriate time. Libraries in colleges of education is called "College Library" which is the libraries attached to the colleges of education that are responsible for the provision of library resources and services to support teaching, learning and research needs of students, staff and other clientele of their institutions. Umoh (2017) <sup>[25]</sup> highlighted the services provided by an academic Library as Circulation/borrowing services, Reference services, Bibliographic verification services, Current Awareness Services (CAS), Reprographic services, Extension/ community services, Technical Services, Inter-Library Co-operation. Resources in the Library can be basically grouped into two parts; the hardcopy resources i.e. print resources and the soft copy materials i.e. electronic resources. Library resources are information materials found

in the Library which embody books, journals, newspapers, magazines, theses, reports, government publications among others, these resources manifest either in print or in electronic format (Odu, 2017) <sup>[19]</sup>.

(Adegoke, 2015) <sup>[1]</sup> stated that print resources are the traditional resources that are found in the Library which includes; books, journals, newspapers, magazines and pamphlets, bound copies of e-journals, documents generated within the college of education (Local Contents), proceedings of government and its parastatals, documents on Africa and America. Non-Print Resources, known as electronic resources or audio-visual materials are soft copies of information that can only be viewed through the use of compatible hardware or application of Information and Communication Technology devices. Electronic resources can be found in slides, CD-ROMs, microforms, Internet, audio cassette, video cassette and other storage devices. These resources are called e-books, e-journals, e-magazines, e-documents, microfilms, reference databases (Adegoke, 2015) <sup>[1]</sup>.

College libraries systematically collecting library materials at all level to support educational programs. College libraries are prerequisite for all colleges of educational and it is crucial in encouraging students to develop a love of reading. In this information age, professional librarians working in college libraries have always been involved in the gathering, organizing, and sharing of information resources to aid in research and education. The main reason libraries are established in colleges of education is because they give lecturers, students, researchers, and community services access to the knowledge they need ( Onwubiko & Uzoigwe 2014). College libraries are important because they are knowledge repositories that provide the foundational knowledge required for both staff and student of the institution. For students to be successful in their varied academic activities and become a professionals and qualified teachers, there is need for them to be utilizing information resources and services provided for them by college library. As a result, library in the colleges of education are expected to offer these resources, which when properly utilized by the students and staff of the institution, would result in better instruction and higher-quality output. The utilization of information resources in college of education libraries will enhance the performance of the students.

According to Barfi *et al.* (2018) <sup>[6]</sup>, utilization information resource is the user's practical and optimal use of library resources that they have found and obtained in order to address an issue or reach a certain objective. It is expected of students at the colleges of education to use the library resources to complement their academic work. If students in colleges of education appropriately use the library's information resources effectively, their educational activities will be accomplished on time. Therefore, students cannot benefit from the available resources in the college libraries until they are put to use. The purpose for the establishment of the College Library is to support the academic activities of the institution that established it. According to Momodu (2015) <sup>[17]</sup>, it is imperative for every educational institution to have a library. This clearly shows that the condition and functionality of the library are critical to the success of any given school. College of education libraries are unique libraries located within college of education, with the primary goal of meeting the unique requirements of a specialized or homogeneous clientele. College of education library as

academic library always sees as the heartbeat of the institution establishes it with using the human and material resources at its disposal to support teaching, learning and research objectives of the institution.

The influence of utilisation of library resources by the students in the colleges of education cannot be overemphasized. No academic institution can survive without library. Libraries all over the world either academic, school, public, national, special among others were saddled with the responsibilities of providing library patrons with useful and prompt information resources (print and non-print) as at when dues. Therefore, in order to meet the information/materials needs, academic libraries must be ready to build a sound and robust collection to be able to satisfy the need of their patrons (Ajani *et al* 2022). From the primary school to the tertiary institution library continues to be an important part of educational system simply because the bulk of educational resources on which academic institutions are accommodated and maintained are influenced by it. College libraries should not view as a hub playing only a supportive role to education only but, as well as having a stronger position that library is a centre that inculcate lifelong learning on students.

According to Sethy (2018) <sup>[24]</sup> when a library has collection of variety of resources such as books, journals, thesis newspapers, magazines, CD(s), DVD(s) etc. in which some resources are in available in print form and some are available in electronic form. Therefore, this is a unique feature of libraries where all resources whether they are in print or electronic are readily available to read in a roof to the users and for their own purposes. When users read these resources to fulfil their information needs then automatic may tell other users about resources available in the library. As such, through providing this platform, a library helps in attracting users to use variety of resources as per user's choice and can be adopted as a strategy for effective utilization of library resources. She stated further the following among the promotional strategies for effective use of library resources; good atmosphere, access to right information and services, reward for best reader, interaction with users, creating effective strategy, encourage users to read widely and deeply encourage users to read and write through social media provision of library hours in curriculums creation of reading groups, use library collection, making effective campaign, publicity and marketing, organizing workshops read what students are reading, reconstruction of services, create and keep record of every user, reading for pleasure.

The management of each Colleges of Education through Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and TETFUND, Library Development Intervention has spent millions of naira on the acquisition of books and library equipment to enhance the utilisation of library resources. Similarly, effort to promote the effective utilisation of library resources in colleges of education lead to engage library professionals to take part in information literacy training that includes lectures, activities, and teaching library use as part of GST 112 courses. The library offers bindery services, Internet, photocopying, current awareness, reference, and literacy training courses. The responsibility for using the library to further their academic endeavors rests with the students, given the resources, facilities, and services available.

Japhet and Peris (2016) opined that changes are made to the services provided to better meet the needs of the students, there's a chance that they will be persuaded to use the library

resources. Building renovations and reorganizations have been found to have an impact on how libraries are used. By adding additional amenities and services, this should be done with the goal of creating a setting that is hospitable and inviting as well as cozy and unwinding. Use of library services could be increase by the students in the Colleges of Education if some measures were put in place to improved facilities such as the layout, quality of natural lighting, quality of user work spaces, and comfortable sitting capacity. Where improvement of library facilities is made, usage has been found to increase as measured by gate counts, in-house collection use, and reference service use and in total circulation.

Academic libraries can use a variety of promotional tools to advertise their resources and services, according to Zhixian (2016). These include digital media, such as the library's website, blogs, online cataloguing, database, podcasts, and email lists; print materials, like placards, handbills, and handouts; events, like library orientation, information literacy, and workshops; and other tools, like library publications, contests, brochures, direct mail, Web 2.0 applications, and library exhibition. Because it serves as a direct conduit between the library and its target audience as well as the services it is trying to promote, a well-designed website facilitates the unique combination of resources and services. Additionally, it offers a means of communication with the intended audience. Certain media can serve several purposes. For instance, conventional marketing tools like flyers, brochures, and posters can be used to advertise programs and events, which are in and of themselves promotional materials. Newsletters can promote existing services and present new ones. Email lists and the Internet make it simple and efficient to target audiences. These services are cost effective, as they require minimal investment in resources and reach the intended patrons directly.

In order to make a successful use of library resources, collection development policy should be spelt out, documented and strictly followed when materials are acquired into the library. Emasealu (2021) <sup>[14]</sup> revealed that collection development policy has a positive impact on the utilization of library resources. Other strategies include building a strong library network supported by equitable book distribution, encouraging reading for pleasure, and promoting the value of reading. A country full of passionate, lifelong readers will be the outcome. Libraries must, therefore, make reading apparent everywhere. Basically, they ought to sing their own praises. Academic libraries must be established in the institution's center and have subsidiaries in each of the departments or schools to ensure that books are accessible to students. This will allow for the sustainable use of library resources by the student body. She said that it would make sense to make books available through libraries to students and staff for little or no additional cost, given the spiralling costs of books and the nation's deteriorating economic conditions.

## Methodology

### Research Design

This research will adopt some promotional strategies such as publicity, distribution of fliers and pasting the photograph of the best users of the library in the three colleges. Meanwhile, the record on the utilisation of the library by the students will be taking by the staff in the circulation section of the library.

Then, the researcher will now employ a descriptive survey methodology to test if the strategies enhance the utilisation of information resources in the area of study.

The population under consideration comprises all students in the three government owned colleges of education in Kwara state. This college encompasses Kwara State College of Education Ilorin, Kwara State college of Education Oro Kwara State college of Education (Technical) Lafiaji.

**Population**

**Table 1:** Population distribution and sample size of the library Staff in government owned Colleges of Education in Kwara state.

| S/N | Name of the Library  | Total Population | Sample size |
|-----|--|------------------|-------------|
| 1   | Kwara State College of Education Ilorin Library            | 19               | 14          |
| 2   | Kwara State College of Education Oro Library               | 17               | 13          |
| 3   | Kwara State College of Education Technical Lafiaji Library | 10               | 06          |
|     | Total  | 47               | 33          |

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

**Sample and Sampling**

In this study, a purposive sampling approach will be employed to select professional and librarians across the three government owned colleges of education in Kwara state.

**Instrumentation**

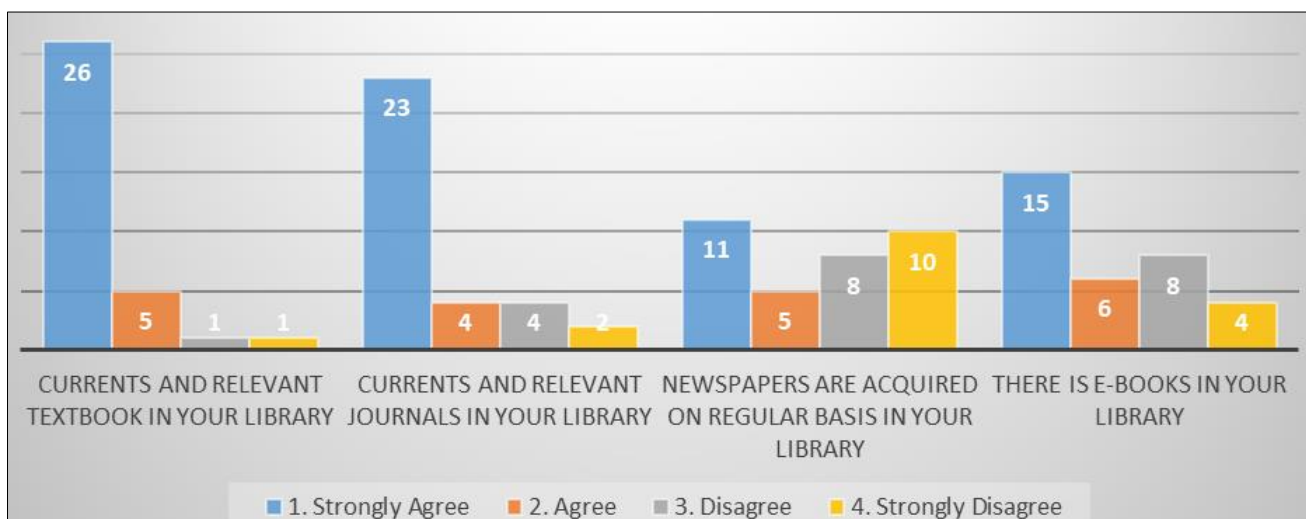
The primary data sources for this study will be questionnaires, structured to collect quantitative data on control environment, control activities, and self-reported instances of dysfunctional behaviour. The questionnaire employed a 5-point Likert scale for measurement.

**Data Analysis**

Simple frequency and percentage techniques will be used for the analyzing of demographic data of respondents gathered in the study. This will help the research to arrive at a logical conclusion based on individual response to each item on the questionnaire. using SPSS version 2.0 will adopt to analyse the questionnaire

**Results and discussion**

**Research Question 1:** What is the level of relevant materials available in the government owned colleges of education library in kwara State?

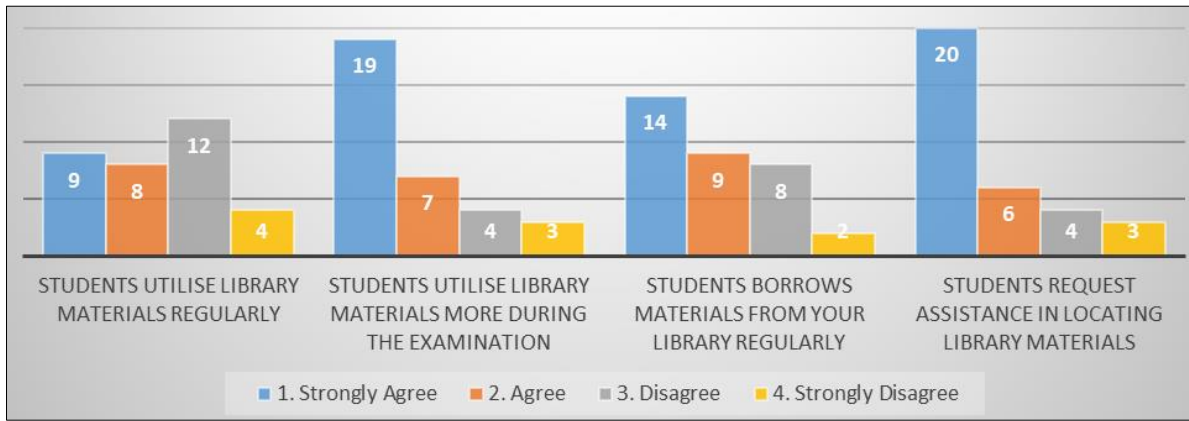


**Fig 1:** Bar Chat Responses of Respondents on Relevant Materials Available in the Government Owned Colleges of Education Library in Kwara State.

Figure 1.2, which shows the availability of varieties library resources such as textbooks, journals, newspapers, and e-books, reveals that 26 respondents strongly agree, and 5 agree, making a total of 31 out of 33 (93.9%) who reported positive feedback on the availability of current and relevant textbooks in their library. For journals, 23 respondents strongly agree, and 4 agree, meaning 27 out of 33 (81.8%) believe journals are available. However, 4 respondents disagree and 2 strongly disagree (18.2%), suggesting that some students feel journal access is limited. Regarding newspapers, only 11 respondents strongly agree, and 5 agree, totaling 16 (48.5%) positive responses, while 8 disagree and

10 strongly disagree, indicating that 18 out of 33 (54.5%) consider newspaper availability inadequate. For e-books, 15 respondents strongly agree, and 6 agree, totaling 21 out of 33 (63.6%) acknowledging their availability. However, 8 respondents disagree and 4 strongly disagree, meaning 12 out of 33 (36.4%) feel that e-books are insufficient, highlighting a moderate level of availability but indicating potential for improvement.

**Research Question 2:** What is the level of the utilisation of library resources among the students in government owned colleges of education library in kwara State?

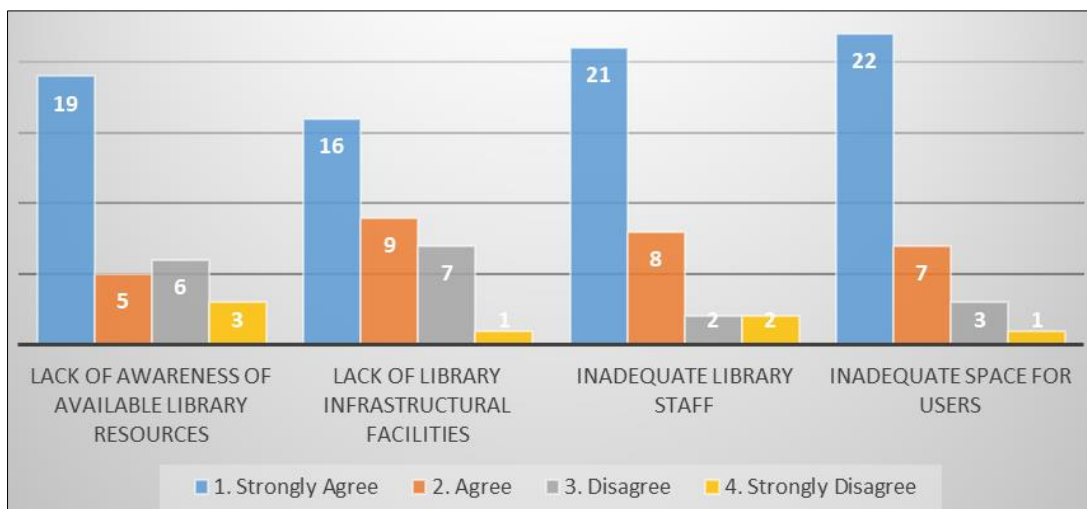


**Fig 2:** Bar Chat Responses of Respondents on the Level of the Utilisation of Library Resources Among the Students in Government Owned Colleges of Education Library in Kwara State.

Figure 1.3, which shows responses regarding how students use library resources, focusing on regular usage, usage during exams, borrowing frequency, and requests for assistance, reveals the level of library resource utilization among students in government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State. It indicates that nine respondents (27.3%) strongly agree, and eight (24.2%) agree, meaning 51.5% of students use the library regularly. However, 12 respondents (36.4%) disagree, and four (12.1%) strongly disagree, indicating that 48.5% do not use the library regularly. Regarding library use during exams, 19 respondents (57.6%) strongly agree, and seven (21.2%) agree, meaning 78.8% believe students use the library more during exams. Only four respondents (12.1%) disagree, and three (9.1%) strongly disagree, showing that most students use the library more during exam periods. Additionally, 14 respondents (42.4%)

strongly agree, and nine (27.3%) agree that students borrow materials regularly from the library, implying that 69.7% borrow materials regularly. However, eight respondents (24.2%) disagree, and two (6.1%) strongly disagree, suggesting that nearly 30% believe students do not frequently borrow library materials. Furthermore, 20 respondents (60.6%) strongly agree, and six (18.2%) agree that students seek help in locating library materials, indicating that 78.8% of students ask for assistance. Only four respondents (12.1%) disagree, and three (9.1%) strongly disagree, showing that most students require help when finding materials.

**Research Question 3:** What are the challenges facing the students on the utilization of library resources in government owned colleges of education library in kwara State?



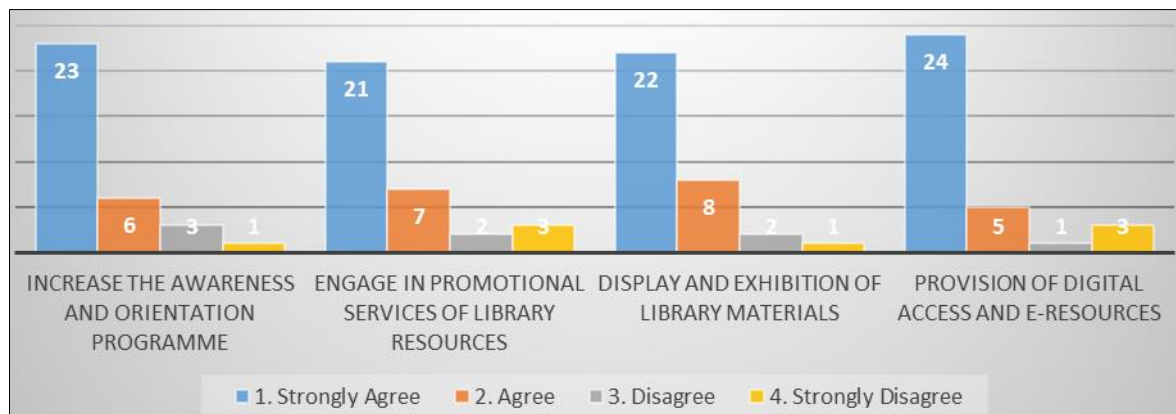
**Fig 3:** Bar Chat Responses of Respondents on Challenges Facing the Students towards the Utilization of Library Resources in Government Owned Colleges of Education Library in Kwara State.

Figure 1.4 highlights the challenges hindering the effective use of library resources in government-owned Colleges of Education in Kwara State. A total of 19 respondents (57.6%) strongly agree, and 5 (15.2%) agree, accounting for 72.8%, believe that a lack of awareness about available library resources affects their usage. On the other hand, 6 respondents (18.2%) disagree, and 3 (9.1%) strongly disagree, indicating that a minority do not see awareness as a significant issue. Regarding the shortage of library infrastructure, 16 respondents (48.5%) strongly agree, and 9

(27.3%) agree, totaling 75.8%, offering positive responses, while 7 respondents (21.2%) disagree, and 1 (3.0%) strongly disagree, suggesting that some do not view infrastructure as a major concern. Similarly, 21 respondents (63.6%) strongly agree, and 8 (24.2%) agree, making 87.8%, believe that insufficient library staff is a challenge affecting resource utilization, with only 2 respondents (6.1%) disagreeing and 2 (6.1%) strongly disagreeing, indicating minimal disagreement. Additionally, 22 respondents (66.7%) strongly agree, and 7 (21.2%) agree, totaling 87.9%, report that

limited space for users is an issue, while only 3 respondents (9.1%) disagree, and 1 (3.0%) strongly disagree, suggesting very few think the space is adequate.

**Research Question 4:** What are the strategies that could be adopted to improve the utilization of library resources by the students in the government owned colleges of education library in kwara State?



**Fig 3:** Bar Chart Responses of Respondents on Strategies that could be Adopted to Improve the Utilization of Library Resources by the Students in the Government Owned Colleges of Education Library in Kwara State.

Figure 1.5 illustrates the respondents' opinions on various strategies to improve the effective use of library resources in government-owned Colleges of Education in Kwara State. A total of 23 respondents (69.7%) strongly agree, and 6 (18.2%) agree, making up 87.9%, express positive responses regarding the increase of awareness and orientation programs, while 3 respondents (9.1%) disagree and 1 (3.0%) strongly disagree, indicating only 12.1% resistance. Similarly, 21 respondents (63.6%) strongly agree, and 7 (21.2%) agree, totaling 84.8%, show support for promoting library resources, while 2 respondents (6.1%) disagree and 3 (9.1%) strongly disagree, meaning 15.2% do not consider promotional services essential. Furthermore, 22 respondents (66.7%) strongly agree, and 8 (24.2%) agree, totaling 90.9%, express positive responses toward displaying and exhibiting library materials, while 2 respondents (6.1%) disagree and 1 (3.0%) strongly disagree, indicating 9.1% do not believe this is necessary. Additionally, 24 respondents (72.7%) strongly agree, and 5 (15.2%) agree, making up 87.9%, support the provision of digital access and e-resources, while 1 respondent (3.0%) disagrees and 3 (9.1%) strongly disagree, showing 12.1% opposition.

### Discussion of the Major Finding

The findings and discussions in this study show that the libraries in government owned colleges of education in Kwara state has adequate library resources. It is indicated in the finding that the libraries in the government owned colleges of education in Kwara state acquired current and relevant textbooks, current and relevant journals and availability of e-books newspaper acquisition. The only problem about the availability of various library resources is subscribing to newspaper. The library may not be consistently acquiring newspapers, or access to them is limited. The implication is that students who rely on current affairs for research and knowledge will not have access to their desired information. It is therefore, the view of the researcher that newspapers should be procured regularly to make them available in the college libraries.

The findings and discussions on the level of utilization of library resources in the libraries in government owned colleges of education in Kwara state shows that students

utilise the college libraries on regular basis, during exams, borrowing frequency, and request for assistance. The students utilise the college libraries regularly, borrowing library materials and request for assistance from the staff. Though they utilise the college libraries most during examination. The implication of this is that library usage is significantly higher during exams, suggesting that students rely on it primarily for last-minute studying rather than regular academic engagement.

The finding on the challenges affecting the effective utilization of library resources in government-owned Colleges of Education in Kwara State revealed that limited awareness of available library resources along with insufficient infrastructural facilities, inadequate library staff and space for users affect the utilization of library materials. The implication is that once there is lack of awareness of library resources and infrastructure as well as inadequate staff and space in the library, the student will not be motivated towards the frequent utilisation of library resource.

The findings on effective strategies to enhance the utilization of library resources in government-owned colleges of education in Kwara state indicated that increase awareness and orientation programs, engage in promotional services of library resources, display and exhibition of library materials, provision of digital access and e-resources could enhance the utilisation of library resources by the students. The implication of these findings is that students needs library so well for their academic activities to realize good academic achievement. Regularly showcasing available books, journals, and digital materials, along with promotional efforts like newsletters, announcements, and interactive events, can increase student engagement and exploration of library resources, while digital resources support remote learning,

### Summary of the Major Findings

Based on the data presented and analysis, the findings could be summarized as follows:

- ❖ There are adequate library resources in the government owned colleges of education library in Kwara State. The staff in college libraries revealed that their library is well-stocked with textbooks and has a good supply of journals and e-books, but newspaper acquisition is a

major concern.

- ❖ The usage distribution of information sources by library staff indicated that library usage is not consistent, with most students relying on it mainly during exams. Borrowing rates are moderate but required more improvement with better policies and awareness. Many students struggle to locate materials, indicating a need for better cataloguing to navigate library resources.
- ❖ The library staff of government owned colleges of education in Kwara State were of the view that the major impediment to the utilisation of library resources was inadequate space, insufficient staff, deficient infrastructure and low level of awareness.
- ❖ Several suggestions were put forward by the library staff improving the utilisation of college library by the students but the most prominent suggestions were increase awareness, engage in more orientation programs and promotional services for library resources as well as display and exhibition of library materials.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings from this research work, the following recommendations were proposed to enhance the utilisation of library resources in the Colleges of Education.

- Current and relevant information resources particularly books and journals should be acquired. Multiple copies of heavily used books should be acquired to allow the existence of such title in the library.
- Strengthen the acquisition of newspaper by subscribing to both print and digital format to ensure regular access. If print newspapers are costly, the library can provide online news subscriptions for users
- Regular library usage should be encouraged through promotional strategies such as study workshops, reading competitions, and awareness campaigns to boost regular utilisation of library resources by the students.
- Adequate Librarians, library officers and supporting staff library should be employed by the respective College libraries. The staff found in the college libraries as at the time of research was few and insufficient.
- Funding should be allocated to the college libraries under study. This will enable those libraries to meet all its financial obligations.
- Library Promotion programs for the awareness of available resources and services through workshops, campaigns, visual displays and exhibitions to showcase available materials.
- Expand digital library services with e-books, databases, and online access. Encourage interactive promotional activities like book fairs and academic contests
- Library infrastructure should be improved through upgrading furniture, lighting, the air-conditioning system and install more computers for digital research for the convenience of the students while utilising the library.

### Conclusion

This study explored strategies for improving library resource utilization in government-owned Colleges of Education in Kwara State. Key objectives included assessing resource availability, usage, challenges, and strategies for improvement. A descriptive survey method was used, with 33 library staff sampled. Findings show adequate library

resources, but students primarily use the library during exams. Challenges include inadequate space, insufficient staff, poor infrastructure, and low awareness. Recommendations include acquiring up-to-date resources and implementing promotional strategies to enhance library utilization.

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