

Collection Development Policy Reflections of Information Needs of Library Users: A Case of University Libraries in Akwa Ibom State

Ima-M. P. Usoro

Nyong Essien Library,
University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
imampusoro@uniuyo.edu.ng

Abstract

The study investigated the influence of three selected variables of collection development policy (community analysis, budgetary allocation and collection evaluation) on users' information needs university libraries in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The study adopted the survey research design. The sample of the study was 38 academic librarians drawn for two public university libraries in Akwa Ibom State-University of Uyo and Akwa Ibom State University. A researcher-developed questionnaire-Collection Development Policy and Information Needs Questionnaire' (CDPINQ) was used for data collection. Data collected were analysed using Mean and Standard Deviation to answer the research questions and Chi-square (X^2) to test the hypotheses. The findings from data analysis showed that the users' information needs in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State have significant influence on collection development policy variables of community analysis, budgetary allocation and collection evaluation. Consequently, it is recommended among others that university libraries should incorporate user surveys in collection development in order to ensure that the students information needs are adequately met.

Keywords: Collection Development Policy, Community Analysis, Budgetary Allocation, Collection Evaluation, User Information Needs

Introduction

The university library is an indispensable department within the university system that is mandated to support the teaching, learning and research activities of the university community. In championing this cause, the university library engages in the selection, acquisition, organization and management of information resources that are of utmost relevance to the information needs of the university community. The provision of information resources stands as an important function of the university library because without the availability, organization and accessibility of information resources, the mandate thrust upon the university library would continue to be a mirage.

The acquisition of information resources for the use of the library patrons is premised on the ardent knowledge of the information needs of the library. This becomes important because the library does not exist in isolation but in consonance with the aims and objective of the parent institution which is to ensure successful education outcomes. User information need has to do with an understanding of information users in the context of their academic work or social life. This understanding of information users is fundamental to determining their information needs. According to Naumer & Fisher (2010), the concept of information need has a varied meaning based on the perspective from which it is defined but in library and information science, information need is the seeking for information that is relevant to solving a problem that is related on an individual's situation and the most important process of acquiring and selecting relevant information to satisfy the information needs of library users is through collection development.

Collection development in the library is geared towards the satisfaction of users' information needs which are often expressed in their information seeking behaviour. In the view of Horsfall, Orubebe & Nsirim (2020), the information needs of library users could differ based on the particular profile because a particular profile or individual's information needs and seeking behaviour is dynamic and depends on the environment where the information seeker is operational. For example, in the university library environment, the library user are lecturers, students (undergraduate and postgraduate), scholars and researchers as well as non-academic staff and these categories of users may differ in their information needs and it is the duty of the university library to cater for these categories of users in the library collection development policy.

The provision of information resources is done through collection development. According to Deepa (2017), collection development is the central professional function of any library, since the very concept of a library is primarily associated with the idea of a collection. Furthermore, developing library collection is one of the most demanding and challenging professional functions of the university library because it requires a deeper knowledge and understanding of the service community, institutional priorities and information as well as publishing industry. The knowledge and understanding of the service community is fundamental because the selection and acquisition of information resources in the university library is a function that cannot be done indiscriminately and requires a formal policy. This policy is necessary for budget consideration and implementation, monitoring collection development strategies as well as resource sharing with other institutions and this policy document is known as Collection Development Policy (CPD).

Collection Development Policy (CPD) according to Okwu & Echem (2019) is a document that outlines the scope of a library's existing collections, plans for the continuing development of the resources, identifies collection strengths, and outlines the relationship between selection philosophy and the institution's goals, general selection criteria, and intellectual freedom. Furthermore, Collection Development Policy allows for the assessment the existing library holdings and the evaluation of any new title before they are acquired. This is necessary because information resources

are not acquired on the merit of the individual title but on the basis of the individual needs and requirements of the potential users (Umoh, Effiom & Igaja, 2021). Collection development policy outlines the various ways through which a successful exercise of improving and developing the library collection can be ascertained.

Collection development is a process of planning and building a useful and balanced collection of library materials over a period of years, based on an on-going assessment of the information needs of the library's clientele, analysis of usage statistics, demographic projections and budgetary allocations (Reitz, 2013). According to Evans & Saponaro (2012), it is a universal process for libraries and information centres which comprises of six major components, community analysis, selection policies, selection, acquisition, de-selection, and evaluation. Similarly, Johnson (2018) asserted that collection development includes selecting materials, collection development policy, collection maintenance, budget, users' needs assessment, and collection assessment to the process of collection development. Also, Deepa (2017) opined that collection development involves the following process of community analysis, selection and acquisition, collection assessment, weeding, preservation and budget allocation. This crust of this study would be on community analysis, budget allocation and collection evaluation.

Community analysis is an important aspect of collection development because it is through community analyses that university libraries can assess the information needs of their communities and work towards achieving it. It involves the analysis of the size and structure of the community, user characteristics, user needs and trends. According to Edem & Atanda (2018), community analysis is needed for effective collection development process because it helps university libraries to ascertain the information needs of the various user groups in the library as well as determining the strength and weakness of the library collection as it relates to different user groups. In a similar vein, Forest (2013) asserted that community analysis is a vital process in collection development through which the identification of the major groups within the library community is ascertained and the analysis and understanding of the needs of each group undertaken in order to provide a direction towards the satisfaction of the information needs of the various groups of users. When the analysis of the community is completed, it leads to the next phase which is the acquisition of information resources.

Budgetary allocation is an important aspect of collection development because it has to do with the amount of funds earmarked for the acquisition of information resources. According to Nwosu & Udo-Anyanwu (2015), the availability of adequate budgetary allocation would necessitate the purchase of information resources for the library. The selection of information resources that are in tandem with the information needs of the library clientele can be concretised when such information resources are made available in the library by way of purchase. Furthermore, the availability of adequate budgetary allocation is synonymous with the growth of any library's collections. According to Deepa (2017), finance is the most important factor in the development and progress of any library because adequate budgetary allocation is needed for procurement of books, journals, online resources and other library needs. The ability

of the university library to provide access to scholarly literature and manage digital collections is premised on the adequacy of budgetary allocation to the library.

Collection evaluation is the assessment of the library collection in relation the library objectives. According to Johnson (2018), collection evaluation is to measure the utility of the library's collection. Utility of the library collection has to do with the capacity and capability with which the library collection supports the goals, needs, and mission of the library or parent organization. Furthermore, it involves knowing the strengths and weaknesses of a collection with respect to the impact of the collection on the user community. Similarly, Khan (2015) opined that assessment and evaluation of collection is necessary to find out if the library is collecting materials required by its clients and to gather data which will remedy deficiencies and improve collections. This involves analysis of how well the information resources are currently meeting needs and how likely they will continue meeting the needs of current and future users.

The study investigated collection development policy reflections of information needs of library users in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was determining the influence of users' information needs on collection development policy in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

The specific objectives were to:

1. Determine the influence of users' information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.
2. Investigate the influence of users' information needs on budgetary allocation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.
3. Determine the influence of users' information needs on collection evaluation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to direct the study.

1. What is the influence of users' information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State?
2. What is the influence of users' information needs on budgetary allocation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State?
3. What is the influence of users' information needs on collection evaluation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study

1. There is no significant influence of users' information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.
2. There is no significant influence of users' information needs on budgetary allocation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.
3. There is no significant influence of users' information needs on collection evaluation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Literature Review

The core mandate of the library is to acquire information resources that would meet the information needs of the users and as such collection development becomes a fundamental aspect of library service. Umoh, Effiom and Igaja (2021) asserted that collection development is one of the fundamental functions of the library and information profession which involves the practice of selecting and acquiring information materials that will enable librarians and information specialists to perform various functions to the users. Excellent service delivery according to Nwosu and Udo-Anyanwu (2015) cannot be given in the absence of collection in the library as such the collections, composed of the information resources, constitutes the basic instrument of service delivery in the library. The significance of the above submission is that the satisfaction of users' information needs in the library is premised on the availability of an adequate library collection thus necessitating the importance of collection development.

Collection development is a universal process in the library world in which the library professional assembles a variety of materials in order to satisfy the demands of the users through a dynamic and constant cycle which involves six elements- user study, policies, selection, acquisition, weeding and evaluation. It is based on this that Ali (2020) asserted that collection development is considered a critical factor in the provision of adequate and relevant information resources in the library and it is important for libraries to formulate and implement a collection development policy in order to ensure a balanced and unbiased collection that would serve the interest of the entire library clientele. According to Emasealu (2021), collection development cannot be effective without the provision of a collection development policy, serving as guide to the entire collection development processes. It is simply a written document that provides a framework for coordinated collection development programmes throughout academic libraries. In the view of Akinola (2019), collection development policy establishes ground rules for planning, budgeting, selecting, and acquiring information resources. Furthermore, collection development policy helps university libraries to better serve the academic communities not only in making routine selections, but also making approval plan profiles and gift acceptance decisions thereby helping university libraries to work with greater consistency towards defined goals.

Collection development policy according to Obiano (2021) provide guidance for university library in selecting, weeding, and preserving materials, as well as other collection development and management activities, in order to ensure continuity and balance in collection growth. It is an important guide that gives librarians the opportunity to map a course for the future while providing for consistent collection development strategies. The advantages are premised on its ability to assist librarians to identify the long and short term needs of users as well as establish priorities for allocating funds; assure that the library will commit itself to serving all parts of the community, both present, and future; set standards for the selection and weeding of materials. Furthermore, it helps librarians to minimize personal bias in selecting information resources as well highlight imbalance in selection criteria; serves as an in

service training tool for new staff; helps assure continuity in collection development; provides a means of staff self-evaluation, or for evaluation by outsider; help demonstrate that the library is running a business like operation; provides information to assist in budget allocations; contributes to operational efficiency in terms of routine decisions, which helps junior staff and finally serves as a tool for complaint handling with regard to inclusions or exclusions (Obiano, 2021).

Users' Information Needs on Community Analysis

In the university environment, users' information need is the epicenter of library resources and services. This is so because the university library serves a community which is clearly structured, more definable, consciously and constantly dependent on the library. The academic community plays a great role in the formulation and implementation of library policies both in collection development and in the establishment of new library service. In essence, users' information need is the basis for community analysis. Community analysis according to Forest (2013), are the ways through which libraries can assess the information needs of their communities. Community analysis is synonymous with user analysis and represent the first step in collection development. This is so because collection development is premised on the adequate understanding of the user community. Also, Srirahayu (2019) asserts that community analysis serves as an important tool for collection development because it provides information that allows the university library to make informed decisions regarding the collections whether a collection should be purchased or not.

There is a long standing history of community analysis which was recorded by Charles Evans in 1976 that defined community analysis as nothing more than the division of a community into its components, but such analysis is of little real value unless the peculiar characteristics of the community and of each of its constituent elements-including characteristic needs and behavior are identified and their significance established. In essence, library community analysis, therefore, embraces the study of two elements: community characteristics, and the significance of these characteristics (Evans cited in Forest, 2013). In view of the above, Chow (2017) asserts that community analysis is basically user centered and serves as a medium through which pertinent information are gotten about the user community. An important element of community analysis is information gathering as Srirahayu (2019) opines that the more information gained from library users would translate into better provision of resources and services that are tailored to their information needs. This becomes a necessity because building a collection that fails to satisfy the information needs of users would be an exercise in futility and as such it is essential to ascertain such needs continuously and to anticipate future user needs. In community analysis, it is not only the stated needs that are important but it is equally important to investigate the normative needs especially in a culturally diverse group. These needs must then be weighed up against an understanding of what would be realistic expectations for resources to meet these needs.

It is in view of this that Adams *et al.* (2014) report that libraries cannot effectively satisfy the information need of the user communities without community analysis that pays detailed attention to the particular needs of individual library users and these can be holistically generated through quantitative and qualitative information gathering through review of existing data, community research, surveys, interviews and observations. Essentially, community analysis is necessary to the fulfillment of user information need by ensuring that information resources purchased by the library are in tandem with the implied and explicit need of library users and it should be done from time to time because information needs of the library users are constantly changing and libraries must also evolve to meet these changes. Adriaanse (2015) carried out a study to examine the responsiveness of collection development initiatives and processes to the needs of communities served by the City of Cape Town Library and Information Services and reported that community analysis is a significant factor that would ensure that information resources in the library are in line with the information needs of library users. Also, Oleh & Grema (2020) carried out a study on the relationship between utilization of collection development process and building library collections in federal university libraries in North-Eastern Nigeria and reported that collection development would not be very effective in tackling information needs of library users without putting community analysis into consideration.

Users' Information Needs on Budgetary Allocation

The information needs of the library community to a great extent determine the budgetary allocation for information resources. This is so because the information needs of library users are diverse and the understanding of this diverse needs of library users would help in the budgetary planning for selection and acquisition of information resources. In relation to collection development, budget allocation is a necessity as libraries cannot develop their collection without proper budget. It is the life wire of all library activities, as all financial engagement of the library will be incorporated in the budget. According to Gregory (2011), the library budget is a tool for turning library dreams into reality as the long-standing budget determines the services that will be offered by the library and the resources devoted to each library program. Gregory further states that a budget is a financial expression of the library's plan and objectives and as such must be formulated in line with the goals and objectives of the library with the support and involvement of the community of users. In the view of Ali (2015), finance is the most important factor in the development and progress of any library because libraries need funds for services, and these services must be budgeted for. There is need for adequate funds to procure books, journals, online resources and to meet various other expenses as adequate funding helps to enhance the library's role in providing access to scholarly literature as well as developing library collections. According to Umar (2018), libraries must be adequately funded for the purpose of obtaining, organising and making readily available, information which may be in a variety of formats. The amount of funding that a library receives greatly influences the quality of its collection.

Although libraries are service-oriented and have little or no revenue-generating motives or objectives, they still obviously require a budget. This is important because according to Ntui & Wiche (2015), the university libraries help the university community to fulfil its mandate of teaching, learning, research, cultural development through collections, visual materials, print, non-print materials and computer databases that are tailored to the information needs of the community of users. In order to for a university library to remain relevant, it must be stocked with current and relevant information resources to meet the needs of the host institution and other information seekers and these require a budget. Ntui & Wiche (2015) opine that adequate budgetary allocation has the capacity to bring about renewal, maintenance, and sustenance, nourishment, durability of university libraries. However, the library is invariably a part of a wider university and its budget is negotiated with its parent organization. The parent body is therefore the proprietor that takes full responsibility for its funding. Academic libraries are financed from the budgets of their parent institutions. These funds usually cover only the current expenditure and usually ever enough to cater for the information needs of library users.

Users' Information Needs on Collection Evaluation

University libraries are established to provide for the specific information needs of their parent institutions especially as it relates to the academic programmes offered by the university. This means that all the programmes ran by the institution must be reflective of the information needs of library patrons as well as a deciding factor in the collection development pattern of the university library so as to ensure effective teaching, learning and research. In view of this, collection evaluation becomes a necessity to ensuring efficient, effective and usable collection. According to Nwalo as cited in Okpokwasili & Blakes (2014), library collection evaluation is the quantification and comparison with laid down standards of library provisions and services. In simple terms, library collection evaluation is carried out to check and balance library activities within its mandate. This helps to see how the library is meeting its users' needs and also what decision to take and those to be revised. In a similar vein, Harande (2013) opines that collection evaluation is a continuing formal process for systematically analyzing and describing the condition of a library's collections and to indicate areas needing improvement. This means that collection evaluation is concerned with determining the strength and weaknesses of a collection of library materials in terms of the level of intrinsic quality, the extent to which that collection supports and furthers the library's missions and goals, and the value of that collection to the library's users and potential users.

Collection evaluation is carried out periodically to ascertain the collection's validity in relation to the library's objectives. This follows the view of Ifidon as cited in Nwosu and Udo-Anyanwu (2015) that collection evaluation is done to determine the scope, depth and usefulness of the collection, test the effectiveness, the utility and practical applicability of the written collection development policy, assess the collection's

adequacy and thus, highlight collection inadequacies so as to strategize to identify areas to be improved upon as well as areas where weeding is required. In the same vein, according to Deepa (2017), collection evaluation is done using two techniques of use and user-centred approach and collection centred approach. The user and user centred approach emphasis is on the individual user as the unit of analysis and it is quantitative in nature. The clients centred methods among others include using citations/bibliographic references in articles and other scientific works as indicators of use or influence assuming that more frequently cited publications are more valuable; Circulation studies: Using circulation reports, which resources are mostly used and less used, compare use patterns in select subject areas, type of materials etc. and user surveys are conducted to find out whether the collections meet the users' needs and requirements qualitatively and quantitatively. The results identify user groups that require better service, improve public relations, receive feedback on drawbacks and successes and find out changing trends.

On the other hand, the collection centred approach is where collection is examined against an external standard or the holdings of other libraries that are comprehensive in the relevant area and it is qualitative in nature.

According to Harande (2013) and Makinde, Monu, Okusaga & Ekeh (2022) in their separate studies revealed that collection evaluation provides a better understanding of the scope, depth and accuracy of collections; ascertain whether the collection meets the goals and mission of the library, aids in the preparation of a collection development policy, provides a measure for the effectiveness of the policy, ascertains the quality and adequacy of collections, rectify the inadequacies and improve the collection. Also, Osagie (2016) in the study of the use of faculty opinion for collection evaluation at Redeemer's University Library, Nigeria reported that faculty opinions are used in evaluating information resources so as to keep the library current, relevant and up-to-date. The central idea is to ensure that the library collection continually meets the information needs of library users.

Methods

The descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. A descriptive survey is defined by Igwe, Basse, Uzuegbu & Adebayo (2015) as a non-experimental descriptive research method that is useful when a researcher wants to collect data on phenomenon that cannot be directly observed. It involves a systematic collection of data/information about the opinions, attitudes, and behaviours of individuals on a particular social problem, and the consensus of opinions is expected to provide the solution to the identified problem. This was considered appropriate to investigate the influence of collection development policy on users' information needs in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State because the research aims at getting facts and using these facts as basis for arriving at a conclusion about a phenomenon. The study was delimited to two public university libraries in Akwa Ibom State-University of Uyo and Akwa Ibom State University. The population and sample size of the study was 38

academic librarians using total enumeration technique. An instrument captioned ‘Collection Development Policy and Information Needs Questionnaire’ (CDPINQ) was used for data collection. Mean and Standard Deviation were used to answer the research questions while Chi-square (X^2) was used in testing the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The results of the analyses are presented in Tables 1 - 6.

Results

The influence of users’ information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Table 1: The influence of users’ information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State

S/N	Users’ information needs on Community Analysis	\bar{x}	SD	Remarks
1.	Use of students’ demographic data	3.05	0.90	Agreed
2.	Observation of users in the library	3.24	0.85	Agreed
3.	Library statistics	3.00	0.81	Agreed
4.	Library survey	3.00	0.81	Agreed
5	Recognition of university specialised programme	2.71	0.96	Agreed
6	Staff knowledge	2.92	0.88	Agreed
	Cluster mean	2.99	0.87	Agreed

The result in Table 1 revealed the mean range of the response of academic librarians on influence of users’ information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State. All the items are above the cutoff point of 2.50. this means that university libraries in Akwa Ibom State engaged in the use of students’ demographic data, observation of users in the library, library statistics, recognition of university specialised programme and staff knowledge in showing that users’ information needs are premised on community analysis. Also, the results in Table 1 showed the standard deviation scores which range from 0.81-0.96 which means that the students shared similar views on the items. However, the cluster mean of 2.99 for all the items means that there is high influence of users’ information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

The influence of users’ information needs on budgetary allocation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation scores of the influence of users’ information need on budgetary allocation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State

Users’ information needs on Budgetary Allocation		\bar{x}	SD	Remarks
1.	Users’ information needs are used in deciding subscriptions for online databases with full text articles	2.63	0.97	Agreed
2.	Users’ information needs are used in the acquisition of current journals	3.05	0.77	Agreed
3.	Academic disciplines offered in the university determines the acquisition of textbooks relevant	3.32	0.81	Agreed
4.	The acquisition of current/newer editions of textbooks	2.79	1.07	Agreed
5.	The acquisition of newspapers	2.97	0.94	Agreed
6.	Users’ information needs are used for the acquisition of information resources meant for entertainment/leisure	2.40	1.13	Disagreed
7.	Cluster mean	2.86	1.02	Agreed

The result in Table 2 reveals the mean range of the response of academic librarians on the influence of users’ information needs on budgetary allocation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State. All the items are above the cutoff point of 2.50 except for item 12. This means that users’ information needs decide the budgetary allocation for subscription for online databases with full text articles, acquisition of current journals, acquisition of relevant textbooks, acquisition of current/newer editions of textbooks, acquisition of newspapers. Also, the result showed that users’ information needs does not decide the budgetary allocation for information resources that are for entertainment/leisure in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State. Furthermore, the result showed that the standard deviation scores ranged from 0.77 to 1.13 which means that the respondents shared similar views on all the items. However, the cluster mean of 2.86 for all the items means that there is a high influence of users’ information needs on budgetary allocation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

The influence of users’ information needs on collection evaluation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State

Table 3: Mean and standard deviation scores of the influence of users' information needs on collection evaluation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

S/N	Users' Information Needs on Collection Evaluation	\bar{x}	SD	Remarks
1.	User surveys	2.40	0.76	Disagreed
2.	Circulation studies/library statistics	2.71	0.73	Agreed
3.	Expert opinion especially from lecturers/subject experts	2.61	0.89	Agreed
4.	Shelf scanning/ direct collection analysis	3.05	0.84	Agreed
5.	The application of collection standards developed by professional bodies/accreditation agencies (National University Commission, Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Nigerian Dental and Medical Council etc)	2.84	0.92	Agreed
	Cluster Mean	2.72	0.83	Agreed

The result in Table 3 reveals the mean range of the response of academic librarians on the influence of collection evaluation on users' information needs university libraries in Akwa Ibom State. All the items are above the cutoff point of 2.50 except for item 13. This means that university libraries in Akwa Ibom State do not evaluate collections through user surveys but engage in the use of circulation studies/library statistics, expert opinion especially from lecturers/subject experts, shelf scanning/ direct collection analysis and the application of collection standards developed by professional bodies/accreditation agencies. Furthermore, the result showed that the standard deviation scores ranged from 0.73 to 0.92 which means that the respondents share similar views on the items. However, the cluster mean of 2.72 for all the items means that there is a high influence of users' information needs on collection evaluation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

There is no significant influence of users’ information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State

Table 4.4: Chi-square test (X^2) of the influence of on users’ information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State

		COLUMN				Total	Cal X^2	Df	Crit X^2	
		SA	A	D	SD					
ROW	Item 1	Count	14	14	8	2	38	37.11	15	24.996
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Item 2	Count	17	15	4	2	38			
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Item 3	Count	10	20	6	2	38			
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Item 4	Count	10	20	6	2	38			
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Item 5	Count	9	13	12	4	38			
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Item 6	Count	9	21	4	4	38			
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
Total	Count	69	103	40	16	228				
	Expected Count	69.0	103.0	40.0	16.0	228.0				

The result in Table 4 shows the calculated Chi-square (X^2) value of 37.11 is greater than the critical Chi-square (X^2) value of 24.996 at .05 alpha level and at 15 degrees of freedom. With this result the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is significant influence of users’ information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Hypothesis two

There is no significant influence of community analysis on users' information needs in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State

Table 4.4: Chi-square test (X^2) of the influence of community analysis on users' information needs in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State

		COLUMN				Total	Cal X^2	Df	Crit X^2	
		SA	A	D	SD					
ROW	Item 1	Count	14	14	8	2	38	37.11	15	24.996
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Item 2	Count	17	15	4	2	38			
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Item 3	Count	10	20	6	2	38			
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Item 4	Count	10	20	6	2	38			
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Item 5	Count	9	13	12	4	38			
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Item 6	Count	9	21	4	4	38			
		Expected Count	11.5	17.2	6.7	2.7	38.0			
	Total	Count	69	103	40	16	228			
		Expected Count	69.0	103.0	40.0	16.0	228.0			

The result in Table 4 shows the calculated Chi-square (X^2) value of 37.11 is greater than the critical Chi-square (X^2) value of 24.996 at .05 alpha level and at 15 degrees of freedom. With this result the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is significant influence of community analysis on users' information needs in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant influence of budgetary allocation on users' information needs in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Table 5: Chi-square test (X^2) of the influence of budgetary allocation on users' information needs

		COLUMN				Total	Cal X^2	Df	Crit X^2	
		SA	A	D	SD					
ROW	Item 7	Count	8	13	12	5	38	32.92	15	24.996
		Expected Count	11.7	14.0	7.7	4.7	38.0			
	Item 8	Count	11	19	7	1	38			
		Expected Count	11.7	14.0	7.7	4.7	38.0			
	Item 9	Count	18	16	2	2	38			
		Expected Count	11.7	14.0	7.7	4.7	38.0			
	Item 10	Count	12	12	8	6	38			
		Expected Count	11.7	14.0	7.7	4.7	38.0			
	Item 11	Count	12	17	5	4	38			
		Expected Count	11.7	14.0	7.7	4.7	38.0			
	Item 12	Count	9	7	12	10	38			
		Expected Count	11.7	14.0	7.7	4.7	38.0			
	Total	Count	70	84	46	28	228			
		Expected Count	70.0	84.0	46.0	28.0	228.0			

The result in Table 5 shows the calculated Chi-square (X^2) value of 32.92 is greater than the critical Chi-square (X^2) value of 24.996 at .05 alpha level and at 15 degrees of freedom. With this result the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is significant influence of budgetary allocation on users' information needs in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Hypothesis Three

There is no significant influence of collection evaluation on users' information needs in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State

Table 6: Chi-square test (X^2) of the influence of collection evaluation on users' information needs in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State

		COLUMN				Total	Cal X^2	Df	Crit X^2	
		SA	A	D	SD					
ROW	Item 13	Count	3	12	20	3	29.62	12	21.026	
		Expected Count	6.8	16.8	11.4	3.0				38.0
	Item 14	Count	5	18	14	1				38
		Expected Count	6.8	16.8	11.4	3.0				38.0
	Item 15	Count	5	18	10	5				38
		Expected Count	6.8	16.8	11.4	3.0				38.0
	Item 16	Count	13	15	9	1				38
		Expected Count	6.8	16.8	11.4	3.0				38.0
	Item 17	Count	8	21	4	5				38
		Expected Count	6.8	16.8	11.4	3.0				38.0
	Total	Count	34	84	57	15				190
		Expected Count	34.0	84.0	57.0	15.0				190.0

The result in Table 6 shows the calculated Chi-square (X^2) value of 22.62 is greater than the critical Chi-square (X^2) value of 21.026 at .05 alpha level and at 12 degrees of freedom. With this result the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is significant influence of users' information needs on collection evaluation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Discussion of Findings

Influence of users' information needs on community analysis in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State

Findings from the study show that in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State users' information needs are premised on community analysis. The libraries take cognisance of students' demographic data, observation of users in the library, library statistics, recognition of university specialised programme and staff knowledge in showing for collection development. The finding of this study agrees with that of Adriaanse (2015) that users' information needs is determined by community analysis because community analysis is an important determinant of the kinds and format of information resources that would be acquired by the library. Also, the finding from this study is in agreement with that of Oleh and Grema (2020) that reported that community analysis influences collection building as it helps the library collections to reflect the information needs of the university community.

Chi-square (X^2) test of hypotheses was significantly positive thereby implying that there is significant influence of users' information needs on community analysis for collection development in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

The influence of users' information needs on budgetary allocation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Findings show users' information needs are used to determine the budgetary allocation for subscription for online databases with full text articles, acquisition of current journals, acquisition of relevant textbooks, acquisition of current/newer editions of textbooks, acquisition of newspapers. However, the result showed that users' information needs does not decide the budgetary allocation for information resources that are for entertainment/leisure in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State. The finding of this study is in agreement with that of Adekanmbi and Boadi (2008) information needs of library users influences the budgetary allocation for collections development. Also, the finding of this study supports that of Sasikala, Nagaratnamani and Dhanraju (2014). that the information needs of library users helps university library in planning the budgetary allocation budgetary allocation for the acquisition of books, journals and other information resources in various format both electronic and print.

Chi-square (X^2) test of hypotheses was significantly positive thereby implying that there is significant influence of users' information needs on budgetary allocation for resource acquisitions in on in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

The influence of users' information needs on collection evaluation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Findings show users' information needs are used to determine collection evaluation through the use of circulation studies/library statistics, expert opinion especially from lecturers/subject experts, shelf scanning/ direct collection analysis and the application of collection standards developed by professional bodies/accreditation agencies. However, university libraries in Akwa Ibom State do not evaluate collections through user surveys. The finding of this study is in line with Harande (2013), Makinde, Monu, Okusaga and Ekeh (2022) and Osagie (2016) that users information needs influence collection evaluation as it helps in providing better understanding of the scope, depth and accuracy of collections in line with the information needs of library users.

Chi-square (X^2) test of hypotheses was significantly positive thereby implying that there is significant influence users' information needs is on of collection evaluation in university libraries in Akwa Ibom State.

Recommendation

Consequent upon the findings from this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. University libraries should incorporate user surveys in their community analysis in order to ensure that the students are part of the process to ensure that every library user is considered in the scheme of things
2. The acquisition of information resources for entertainment and leisure should be reflective of the information needs of library users.
3. University libraries should ensure that they prepare separate budget for all the various information needs so as to ensure that these budgetary allocations are directed to the exact information resources budgeted.
4. University management should allocate funds to the university library for the acquisition of the needed information resources so that the collections of the library would reflect the information needs of users especially for leisure and entertainment.

Conclusion

Based on the findings from this study, it is concluded that users' information needs have a significant impact on the collection development policy of university libraries in Akwa Ibom State as university libraries based their acquisition intentions on the users' information needs.

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