

CITED AGRICULTURAL CORE JOURNALS IN AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY: AN APPRAISAL

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the continued availability or otherwise of the cited agricultural periodical titles of a previous study (Okanlawon 1989) in the holdings of the Ahmadu Bello University Agricultural Library. The aim of the study is to investigate if these titles are still on the subscription list of the Library and how much of progress or stagnation has occurred in the acquisition of these journals ten-year after. Thirty-two (32) periodical titles were identified as core in the previous study and these were made up of 2582 (50.6%) of the total literature cited. Ten years, after the previous study, this follow-up research has revealed that twenty nine (29) (90.6%) of the thirty-two core journal titles investigated are still on the subscription list of the Agricultural Library. The research reveals however that Seventeen (17) new titles have been added, to collection.

The study concludes that there has been relative stability in maintaining the core journal titles on the library subscription list and a modest addition of titles in spite of the high exchange rates and dwindling funds.

Introduction

The Agricultural Library, Ahmadu Bello University, grew as an Information Resource Centre to the Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR) which itself was established in 1924 as a Research Station. It has grown to full Agricultural Research Institute and is central to the study of some key crops in the savannah area of Nigeria.

Libraries all over the world have become handicapped by various limitations including funds, the exponential growth in number of periodicals, subject coverage, high exchange rate especially in developing countries like Nigeria where the exchange rate is one hundred and forty one naira forty one kobo (N149.41 a dollar (1\$) (Daily Sun (2010). This makes it difficult for the library to subscribe to a good number of titles. The subscription now is to only a limited number.

There is therefore the need to identify particular user needs and use in their research as well as to evaluate what is available to them in their immediate environment. In doing this, libraries have often used the ranked list of journals to identify core cited journals for acquisition and least cited journals for possible weeding. Such core cited journal list when checked against the holdings of a library helps to show if and how well the library has stocked journals. This research is therefore a follow up research of an earlier study conducted by the author to investigate continued availability or otherwise of the cited agricultural periodical titles in the holding of the A.B.U. Agricultural Library.

Review of Related Literature

It is worthy to say that much attention is being paid to problems scientific methods in research all over the world. There are new approaches to settle scientific models, looking for new research prospect to earn it a theoretical maturity.

Bibliometric investigation which is a scientific method of measuring citation/scientific productivity has been a research focus in information retrieval.

Line and Sandison (1975) identified journals as mostly commonly considered in citation and library use studies. This method involves counting the frequencies of use or citation, calculating obsolescence rates, ranking title in order of citations received. This method is considered as of immense use in guiding librarians as to what to buy and what to discard. Subramanyam (1980) pointed out that the largest number of citation studies have concentrated on the identification of core journals in the various scientific and technical disciplines.

Pan (1978) argued that the ranked lists of journals based on citations are reliable indicators of journal usage in libraries. Line (1978) disagreeing with Pan says that no measure of journal use other than one derived from local use study is of any significant and of practical value to libraries.

Hua (2005) examined 1454 papers with 33,517 references from eleven journals in tropical medicine in 2004. The analysis of the articles, editorials, review, corrections letters, biographies and news publications in the journals showed 87.89% of the citation were from periodicals.

Gooden (2001) analyzed dissertations submitted between 1996-2000. Thirty dissertations generated 3,704 citations. He found journal articles as the most frequently cited (85.8%).

Swygart-Hobaugh (2004) examined the quantitative/qualitative methods debate's reflection in sociology research. Citation analysis revealed that qualitative articles were more likely to cite journal articles than monographs while quantitative articles were more likely to cite monographs than journals.

Dulle (2004) opined that the notion which we retain of core is that which is successfully and conjointly validated by the experts and by the major databases representative of the field.

Gao (2005) noted the citations in journals articles published by Faculty staff in the Departments of Surveying and Mapping of Wuhan University between 1994 and 2003 were counted and analyzed to form several available citation lists. The study showed importance of journal material and interdisciplinary journal to the field and is used for guiding collection development decisions.

Aina (1983) applying the citation analysis techniques to the Nigerian Agricultural Journal and the Samaru Agricultural Newsletter found that agriculturists in Nigeria use almost as many journals 516 citations and 427 monographs citations.

Okanlawon (2007) examined the literature used by Postgraduate Agricultural Students of Ahmadu Bello University, to identify core journals they used. One hundred theses were randomly picked and the citations in the theses were analyzed. Thirty two (32) periodicals were identified as core and these have a total of 2582 (50.645%) of periodicals cited.

METHODOLOGY

A list of the thirty - two journals identified as core in the preview study was made. The list was checked against the holdings of the Agricultural Library of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Out of the thirty two core journals, that produced 258(50.64%)of literatures cited as revealed in the previous study twenty nine (90.6%) core journals that produced 2579(50.58%) citations are still available on subscription list.

There are seventeen additional new journals added to the subscription list.

Checking against the holdings of the library reveals that most core journals are still in the holdings of the library. Only 3 are no longer on the subscription list.

Availability of Journals With Dates

1	Agronomy Journal	Vol. 56,2004	available
2	Journal of Animal Science	Vol. 85,2007	available
3	Poultry Science	Vol. 88,20 10	available
4	Journal of Agricultural Science (Cambridge)	Vol. 146, 2008	available
5	Crop Science	Vol. 46, 1993	available
6	Field Crops Abstracts	Vol. 46,1993	Available
7	Australian Journal of Agricultural Research	Vol. 46,1995	available
8	Phytopathology	Vol. 94, 2004	available
9	Australian Journal of Experimental Agricultural and Animal Husbandry	Vol. 23, 1983	available
10	Experimental Agriculture	Vol. 31, 1995	available
11	Soil Science Society of American Journal	Vol. 68,2004	available
12	Soil Science	Vol. 169,2004	
13	British Journal of Nutrition	Vol. 48,1982	
14	Journal of Agricultural Science		(Not available
15	Indian Journal of Agricultural Science	1983,	available
16	Journal of Dairy Science	Vol. 90, 2007	available
17	Plant Disease Reporter	Vol. 80, 1996	available
18	Indian Journal of Agronomy	Vol. 38, 1983	available
19	Weed Abstract	Vol. 42, 1993	available
20	Weeds Science	Vol. 37, 1989	available
21	Review of Plant Pathology	Vol. 74, 1995	available
22	Journal of Nutrition	Vol. 125, 1995	available
23	Agronomy Monographs		(Not available
24	Pest Articles and New Summary	Vol. 14, 1981	available
25	Journal of the British Grassland Society		(Not available
26	Queensland Agricultural Journal	Vol. 112, 1986	available
27	Nigerian Agricultural Journal	Vol. 4, 2000	(available
28	British Poultry Science	Vol. 149, 2008	available
29	Empire Journal of Experimental Agriculture	Vol.	available
30	Journal of Agricultural Research (PAKISTAN)	Vol. 127, 1989	available
31	East African Agricultural Research and Forestry (Journal)	Vol. 59, 1994	available
32	Nature	Vol. 307, 1984	available
33	Nature and Resources (ULOSO)	Vol. 33, 1986-1997	available available

The study reveals that three of the core journal titles that were investigated in the previous study are no more subscribed to. Probed further to know why they are longer subscribed to the

researcher was told that the subscription agents could not furnish the Library with the reasons why the subscription was stopped.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO SUBSCRIPTION AND MOST CONSULTED JOURNALS IN AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

S/N	Title	Vol.	No.	Month	Year
1	Plant Pathology	59	4	August	2010
2	Bulletin of Animal Health and Production in Africa	57	2	June	2009
3	Korean Journal of Crop Science	55	1	March	2010
4	FAQ Desert Locust Bulletin	-	341	March	2007
5	African Study Monographs	26	3	-	2005
6	Rural Sociology	73	1	March	2008
7	Applied Entomology and Phytopathology	72	2	February	2005
8	ACTA Agronomica Ovariensis	50	2	June	2009
9	SPORE :	-	148	August	2010
10	American Horticulturist	12	11	November	1996
11	Journal of Crop science and Biotechnology	12	6	December	2010
12	Agronomy Journal	96	2	Nov-Dec	2004
13	European Review of Agricultural Economic	37	3-4	June	2010
14	GEODERMA (A Global Journal of Soil Science)	153	1	November	2009
15	Poultry Sciences	89	1	January	2010
16	Tropicultura	28	51	-	2010
17	HELIA	32	-	December	2010
18	LANTeal(1993-2008)	-	-	-	2010

DATA BASES ADDED

LAN Teal: The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library is one of the recent data bases added to the collection to update journal titles of the library.

LAN Teal covers disciplines like Agriculture and Agricultural Engineering. The users are orientated on the use of the data base. The library staffs are on ground to direct the users on how this database is used.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that the Agricultural Library of A.B.U has not deteriorated after ten years of the previous study. Core

journals are disseminating the information needs of post -graduate students.

The study reveals that the library has been able to keep a large percentage (90.6%) of the titles identified as core on its subscription list, inspite of dwindling funds. There was also a modest growth. Seventeen (17) new titles were added to the subscription list. There has therefore not been stagnation or retrogression rather there has been some progress. In addition to the progress mentioned above, the library has also been able to add a data base that allows access to a wider world of relevant information.

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