



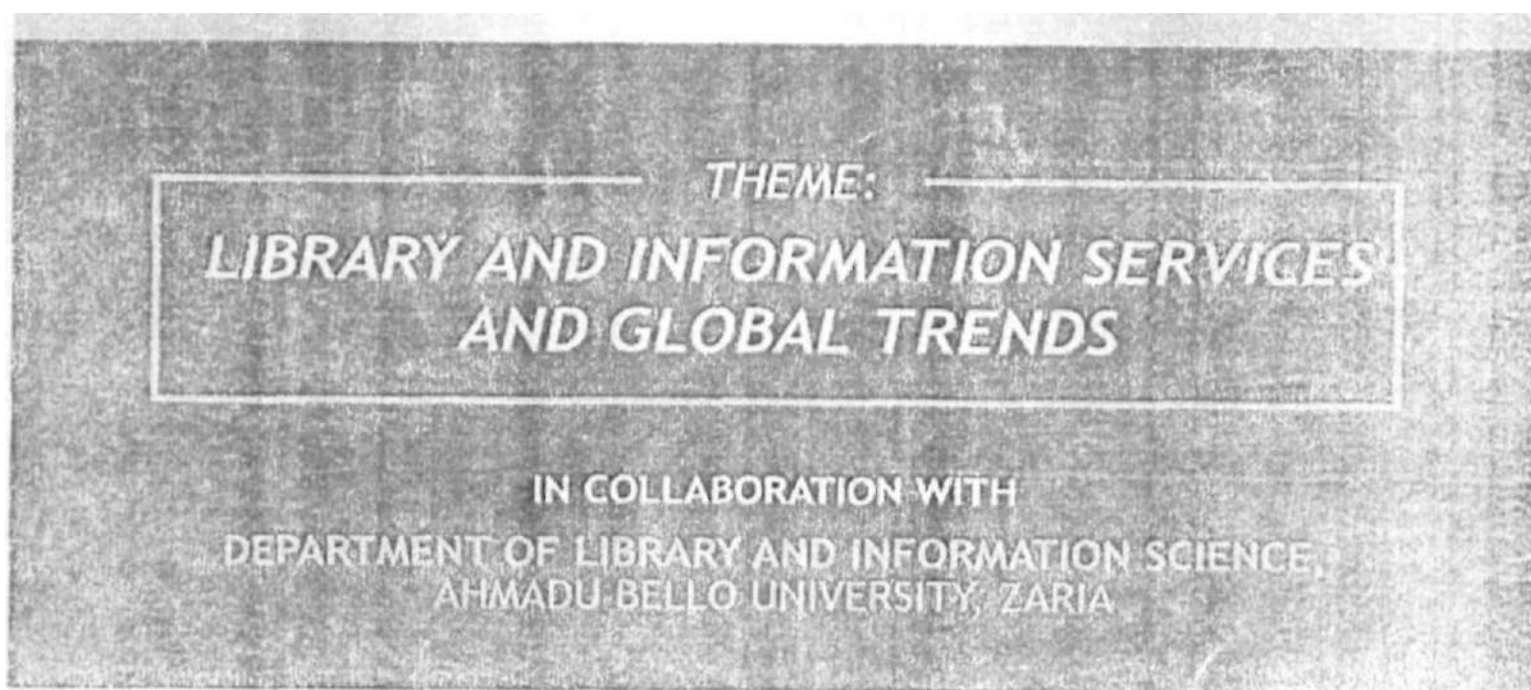
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AWARENESS AND USE OF ANTI - PLAGIARISM DETECTION SOFTWARE
AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA

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Abstract

The study was conducted to find out the level of awareness and use of Anti Plagiarism Detecting Software by the Academic Librarians of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. The study was guided by three research questions; what is the level of awareness with the Academic Librarians with the use of Anti-Plagiarism Detecting Software, at what level does the Academic Librarians are using the Software and what is their opinion in making effort to eradicate plagiarism in Academic institutions. Survey design method was employed in collecting data for the study and questionnaire was used as an instrument for the collection of data. The data collected were quantified and analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, tables and discussion. Some findings from the analysis revealed that the Academic Librarians of the University are aware of the anti-plagiarism detecting software and the information source for the awareness is from their organization. It was reported that the Academic Librarian are of the opinion of training and teaching as an effort to eradicate plagiarism in Academic institutions. At the end some recommendations were proffered as organizing workshops, symposiums and trainings on the use of anti- plagiarism software for staff and students of the university, re-introduction of information literacy course in the university and subscription of the anti- plagiarism software for the faculty members and students.

Keywords: Plagiarism, Awareness, Anti-plagiarism Software, Learning and Unethical

Introduction

The introduction of anti-plagiarism detection software, known as text matching software is great to the development of knowledge and scholarship, creativity and innovation for development. This could be seen as a result of changes, ideas, and ways of thought for humanity to developed and progress. The process of change from whatever perspective of life is known as revival, it only occurred and became reality through critical thinking and sense making, after making a lot of efforts.

Anti –plagiarism detection software was perceived by many scholars that it is employed to serve in a punitive capacity for detecting plagiarism among students’ assignments. But from the perspective of this study, anti- plagiarism software was understood as a tool for learning for both students and teachers in order to avoid plagiarism and maintained sanity in the knowledge and scholarship production industry. Stappenbelt and Rowles (2010) submit that online plagiarism detection software was adopted as a learning tool for students. Prior to the use of plagiarism detection software as a learning tool, efforts to instruct students regarding proper referencing and paraphrasing did not result in commensurate decreases in the level of plagiarism detected.

As part of trial, an experiment was conducted at the University of Western Australia, in the Professional Development Degree Unit of Engineering. The students were given individual access to the software for self-assessment of their works as often as required before submission; it was found that the trial was accompanied by a dramatic incidence of decrease in plagiarism in the students’ work.

Base on Stappenbelt and Rowles (2010), findings and considering some peculiarities in Nigeria, it can be deduced and agree that, lack of proper skills in reading and writings as the major causes of plagiarism among our students, lecturers and researchers. This made plagiarism to be

part and parcel of so many students, teachers and researchers whereby is seen to others as a right or way out for them to excel in their profession. The problem of poor skills in in reading and writing coupled with the poor attitude of getting things done quickly and easily have caused and posed a lot of challenges and allegations over our intellectual outputs, in the world of scholarship. These include among others such as ingenuity, falsification, dishonest, unethical, and immoral as well thievery in our intellectual inputs. It is a well-known phenomenon in our context and the world over, that dependency in scholarship is not new and it is not a crime rather the foundation of scholarship. In the process of teaching and learning scholars built their ideas, thoughts, theories, formulas, from the work of one another. But, as a result of matured wisdom in scholarship with our scholars, when they consult other scholars work, is a pride and respect for them to acknowledge and accredit the work to the original author.

Testimony to this assertion, one can refer to our enormous intellectual resources produced by our past scholars in form of Arabic and Ajami manuscripts abound in different Archives, Museums, Historical Documentation Centres, Libraries and in private hands throughout the country. Gwandu (2010) they are veritable source of information on the history of Nigerian regions, intellectual outputs which to their subject content dealt with economic, socio – cultures of the area. They also contained the summary of the past generations and their contributions to development.

This study aimed at the awareness and use of anti- plagiarism detection software among academic librarians is within the paradigm of enlightenment and education, rather diffusion of innovation, in order to meet up with global trends in the provision of information services. It is our understanding out of critical observation of the situation at hand, that many of our academicians are not aware of the anti – plagiarism detection software. The study sampled librarians to collect

data on awareness and use of anti- plagiarism software because of their central role in information management and champions in the provision information resources and sources, information literacy and trainings. By implication librarians are having big challenge in the war against plagiarism through their various information activities and services.

Problem Statement

Plagiarism is described as one of the greatest problem which associated with various crimes in academic, is the act of deliberate claim to someone else's ideas, documents, works and information etc., without due acknowledgement or proper citation of source. The problem of plagiarism is associated to so many reasons such as improper teaching methods on how students go about with references, paraphrasing and acknowledging sources in their writings. Then there is issue of selfishness by students, researchers and authors looking for soft landing in their research and recognized as being the best. Shahabuddin (2009) plagiarism is a misconduct considered to be unethical and immoral regardless of who commits it, people risk getting caught for plagiarism, because if they get away with it, plagiarism can have many rewards. The plagiarists might benefit from the expense of the original author in form of public recognition, promotion, salary, grants or patents.

The prevalent of plagiarism in our academic institutions is on the high rate among students, lectures and researchers. This academic dishonesty has contributed a lot to lack of confidence among so many researchers, in showcasing their intellectual output to the world. This have conspicuously, deterred our scholars to participate in the production of new ideas, knowledge and promoting world civilization and scholarship, afraid of being caught for plagiarism. This has also contributed to the poor ranking of our universities globally.

The advent of the anti- plagiarism software and its employment as a learning tool and with guidance from librarians through information literacy programmes and other information activities would definitely yield fruitful results in our struggle to sanitize ourselves from the menace of plagiarism.

Objective of the Study

1. To determine the level of awareness with the Academic Librarians on anti – plagiarism software in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.
2. To examine the level of use with anti-plagiarism software by Academic Librarians in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.
3. To determine the opinion of the Academic librarians of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in making effort to eradicate plagiarism in academic institutions.

Literature Review

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a crime in academic which its negative impacts continue to cause a lot of setback to the growth and development of education. This is a great challenge to our scholars both at the local and international level. Plagiarism is deliberate claim of someone's ideas, document, creative work and information without due acknowledgement to the credit of the original owner. Maina et al (2013) plagiarism is an act of reproducing another individual's ideas, document or any other form of information without acknowledging the source of that information. The people involved in plagiarism are described as seducers, and some extent plunderers or kidnappers. Adamu and Dan Iya (2020) submit that, plagiarism is heinous act, certainly is synonymous to cheating or corruption. Plagiarism is an unethical and immoral attitude of some scholars and students', copying

the thoughts and words of another author without accrediting the owner of the source. The term plagiarism has been ascribed with so many names and meanings from different perspectives, however, from the perspective of this study, plagiarism is considered as malpractice and breach of academic integrity.

Integrity is crucial to the wellbeing of any society, community and individuals', it consist of a number of norms and standards, which entails; honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility. These qualities are expected to be exhibited by all members of a society, community and profession or trade, irrespective of social, economic, political status of a member. The absence of integrity in any aspect of life is considered as unethical and immoral behavior. International Centre for Academic Integrity, ICAI (2011), in Bretag (2013) asserts that academic integrity involves ensuring that in research, and in teaching and learning, both lecturers and students act in a honest way. Researchers, scholars and students need to acknowledge the intellectual contributions of others; they should be open and accountable for actions, and exhibit fairness and transparency in all aspects of their scholarly endeavor.

The menace of unethical and immoral attitudes among scholars led to academic breaches of academic integrity, which is multifaceted. Cheating in exams, assignments, allocations of high or marks by lecturers to students, in appropriate collusion, theft of other students' work, downloading of whole or part of assignment from the Internet, falsification of data and are all what constitute plagiarism. The Exemplary Academic Integrity Project EAIP (2013) maintained that, academic integrity ensures public trust in the credibility of scholarship at all levels of education including the research process and it outcomes.

In attempt to understand plagiarism and what it entails, Razera (2011) submit that plagiarism came about as a result of some related factors such as poor culture of writing, poor

reading habit with the students since at the grass root, issue scholarship, type of examinations, type of assignments and course structure and information about plagiarism and or the provision of detection software to students. These issues need to be considered as a one way from the foundation, in order to curb plagiarism, form our students at the grassroots. Upon these, students need to be educated about the problems of plagiarism for genuine and honest contribution to knowledge and safe our academic integrity be able to developed and participate in the production of knowledge and ideas at both local and at the global level.

Plagiarism is of different types which are supposed to be known according to Abirami and Kavitha (2019) plagiarism is classified and distributed into four types: Complete plagiarism, Direct plagiarism, Unintentional plagiarism and self-plagiarism.

1. Complete plagiarism: Is the situation whereby a part of work copied totally from one or more sources.
2. Direct plagiarism: Is the situation whereby someone copy and paste off Internet or electronic journal.
3. Unintentional plagiarism: Is the situation where one copied a sentence or paragraph into his project and making modification with in sufficient words this still plagiarism.
4. Self-plagiarism: This is a situation where someone will reclaim his own previous work or data in a new project or thesis and refused to acknowledge properly.

Plagiarisms are of different types depending upon the level of the writers' unethical behavior or attitudes.

Anti - Plagiarism Software and Its Types

Anti- plagiarism detection software is software that works through the content of any intellectual and literary works to identify similarity matches in order avoid plagiarism. There are

different types of anti-plagiarism soft wares today which emerged as a result of the modern technology through information and communication technologies. This is the development of Internet, which gives access to information on variety of subject disciplines and on many different issues of life, based on the information user's desire or need, and at any given time. Ark and Mohindra (2019) advanced in information and communication technologies and the digital revolution together has transformed the availability and access of information, a huge amount of information is easily available on Internet in different formats, thus the risk of stealing of information is increasing day by day in academic field. With this development in technology, some researchers, students and their teachers seems it a right to reproduce other people's ideas and be presenting such ideas as their own. These type of people thought that they can free, it is impossible for them to go free, because at the same time the technology have provided free access of plagiarism tools that will allow e-learning professionals to tackle the menace of plagiarism. Pappas (2021) revealed ten different types of free plagiarism detection soft wares that are on the Internet:

1. Dupli Check: This software is one of the most effective free plagiarism tools on the Internet.
2. CopyLeaks: This cloud –based authentication platform that enable one to track how e-learning content is being used all round the Internet.
3. PaperRater: This is a multi- Purpose free plagiarism tool which currently in used in over 140 countries.
4. Plagiarisma: This type of plagiarism tool is used by students, teachers, writers as well as various members of the literary industry. The tool is virtually all languages are included in it list. Also is having the capability to detect plagiarism from URL, on-line or through file uploaded and it can also be used through copy and paste or typed text.

5. **Plagiarism Checker:** This is also free plagiarism detection tool available in Internet is for ascertaining whether content of a work is plagiarized or not.
6. **Plagium:** It is a free tool with different levels search for plagiarism. It offers quick and deep search and is having the capabilities to prevent plagiarism and or minimizes its effect on academic integrity.
7. **Plagscan:** This type of tool is for both individual and business that checks texts against on-line, scientific journals and user's documents.
8. **PlagTracker:** This type of tool is responsible searching websites and academic data bases by copying and pasting text or file uploading.
9. **Quetext:** This is a basic layout and functional interface that checks with different plagiarism software system with the checker. It has over one million users around the globe and most especially, it has been helping teachers, students, and professional writers on their work.
10. **Plagiarismhunt:** This is an on-line plagiarism checker that checks plagiarism with over five different plagiarism software systems with one checker.

Abirami and Kavitha (2019) identified two categories of anti – plagiarism software, commercial and open access software. The commercial soft wares are: a. Copycatch Gold b. Edu Tie.com c.EVE2 d.Turnitin e. Urkund. While the open access anti-plagiarism soft wares are: a. Dupli checker, b. Grammarly c. Plagiarisma, d. SmallSEO Tools and e.Copyscape.

Among these tools or soft wares of detecting plagiarism TURNITIN is the most popularly known, subscribed and used by Universities and other academic institutions. The purpose of turnitin as any other plagiarism detecting tool is to ensure academic integrity, to account of what students submit, to check similarity of submitted text, to improve teaching and learning, to guide against misuse of online sources in research writing, to help students cite and reference sources

correctly and ensure the originality of research. The Academic savers (2021) posits that the advantage of using plagiarism detection software during studies is that; one can check his work against a wide range of databases. One can also be aware of how much information scanned and recognized if it is duplicated, one can be more confident that all his work is free from plagiarism. However, by the use of anti-plagiarism software a researcher, students and teachers can find more sources to their works and this will improve their paraphrasing abilities.

Reasons for Plagiarism and how to Fight Plagiarism in the Academic Institutions.

Razera (2011) further pointed out that there are several studies in the area of plagiarism that point out reasons for student to plagiarize, such as lack of time, lack of skills, lack of interest, ambition for higher grade, poor assignment design, poor orientation among others. However, Carol (2004) in (Razera (2011) students will be less able to plagiarized if lecturers change the assessment task and change what they ask students to submit for assessment for each of their courses. However, at the school level, if student plagiarizes, the guilty cannot be put exclusively on the students.

In building the community of academic integrity, the anti-plagiarism detection software should be adopted as a learning tool. In the universities and other academic institutions, lecturers, and librarians and other educators should be mandated for giving assistance to the students writing skills. Such tasks are centrally upon the academic librarians through information literacy skill courses and enlightenment for awareness and use anti plagiarism software detection software should be given high priority in our academic institutions.

Addressing issues of plagiarism in our educational institution is great to development of our educational systems. The role of teaching and learning in deterring plagiarism from the grass root most especially from undergraduate level should be given more priority.

Igbokwe (2020) submitted that one of the major reasons for the persistence of plagiarism in our academic institution is indifference, the fact that some academic and students do not see plagiarism as an ethical problem; secondly ignorance is seen as another reason of concern over its prevalence. This is arguably true as so many students in our universities have little or no knowledge of what plagiarism is all about. At this capacity, it is regrettable to say that plagiarism is part and parcel of our scholars practice.

Carrol and Appleton (2001) suggest that, strategies to deter plagiarism include advice regarding assessment, development of curriculum design and academic skills education. Targeted induction, support and trainings should be advocated to all students and lecturers. In his contribution, Bretag (2013) these deterrence strategies should be in conjunction with detection and appropriate penalties. On the basis of fighting plagiarism among our students and nurture our community with shared academic values of integrity Trounson, A. (2011) maintained that a holistic and multi-stakeholders approach encompassing policy makers in education, senior managers in the academics, advisors, students at all levels, researchers, funding bodies, editors and reviewers' attention is required in the battle.

In attempt for a holistic approach to the problem of plagiarism, Mbilinyi and Msuya (2018) opined that a range of interrelated strategies including awareness creation, curriculum designs, and model of assessing the students, detection, and regulation are recommended. Madray (2007) in Mbilinyi and Msuya (2018) the problem of plagiarism like any other problem, its elimination requires understanding the factors that contribute to its occurrence. Personal knowledge of what plagiarism encompasses is considered a major determinant of fighting the problem.

Igbokwe (2020) proposed that; direct invigilation of the students while given assignment, and or to submit the sources they consulted. Direct conformation of student assignments and research

work with the cited original material. Enlightenment on the awareness of the danger of plagiarism, its moral, social, educational and legal implications should be inculcated into the students' minds. Enforcement of Laws and punitive measures should be enforced against plagiarists, and use of plagiarism detection software for fighting plagiarism. Educating the students on the implications of plagiarism is great in the process of war against plagiarism in our academic institutions. Olatola (2016) in his study titled: towards a more enduring prevention of scholarly plagiarism among university students in Nigeria. Found that the high extent of plagiarism practices among students is attributed to the failure of academics to teach good writing practices to the students and at the same time the problems of plagiarism from both sides, the students and the lecturers, is associated to lack of knowledge of plagiarism.

Based on the literature reviewed, it is worthwhile for our academic institutions to collaborate with their lecturers cooperatively in boosting the students' moral and ethical values in order to uphold academic integrity in the production of knowledge. However, going by what is identified in the reviewed literature; such approach will serve as guiding principles in discouraging our students from plagiarism and other acts of academic corruption.

Methodology

Survey research design was adopted for this study. Survey research is characterized by population and sample size and is used to collect information on attitudes and behaviors. The population of the study comprised of all the academic librarians totaling one hundred and fifteen (115) in the Library Complex of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. The entire population was used as the sample of the study, the decision in using the total population was guided by Bernard (2002) that if a population of a study is less than two hundred (200) the entire population should be used for the study. Questionnaire was used as the instrument for the collection of data for the study. The

derived data from the study were quantified and analyzed using frequency counts, percentages tables, and discussion for each of the objective of the study.

Finding and Discussion

A total of one hundred and fifteen (115) copies of questionnaires were distributed to the respondents and the data for each objective of the research was analyzed accordingly. The total number of questionnaires returned was 75(83%) and were found useful to be analyzed.

Awareness of Anti – Plagiarism Software among the Academic Librarians of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Awareness of any given innovation to the society or community is great to its acceptance or rejection. Awareness is the cognitive ability of a person to discern, decipher and judge a given phenomenon, it could also refer to the gaining knowledge about object, event or any situation or happening within a given time or period of life. In this section the study is with the objective of finding whether the respondents are aware or not aware about anti-plagiarism detection software and their sources of information for the awareness. The table below presented the response of respondents.

Table 1: Extent of Awareness of Anti-Plagiarism Detection Software among Academic Librarians

S/No	Extent of awareness	Frequency	Percentage
1	Very much aware	53	70.7
2	Aware	22	29.3
3	Not aware	0	0
4	Total	75	100

Table 1 provides the extent of the academic librarians' awareness of the anti-plagiarism detection software. The table revealed that the academic librarians are very much aware with anti-plagiarism software at the rate of 53(70.7%). Furthermore, the table revealed that those that are

just aware with software are at the rate of 22(29.3%) of the total respondents in the study. The implication of these findings is that, the academic librarians in Ahmadu Bello University are aware of the anti-plagiarism detection software. These findings is in line with the result of the study conducted by Abirami and Kavitha (2019) on research scholars awareness on the plagiarism detection tools and impact in the Periyar University, Tamil Nadu. The study found that all the research scholars were aware of the anti-plagiarism detection soft and is used by more than fifty percent of the scholars.

Librarians' level of Utilization with the Anti-Plagiarism Detection Software in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Understanding level of utilization of any object or frequency of patronage of any phenomenon that provides goods or services is great to the satisfaction of needs individually or collectively.

It is the objective of this section to find out the level of use of the anti-plagiarism detection software among the academic librarians of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Table 3 below present the response of the respondents on the use of the anti-plagiarism detection software.

Table 2: Level of utilization of anti-plagiarism software among academic librarians in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

S/No	Level of use	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Very high	15	20
2	High level	13	17.3
3	Low	35	46.7
4	Not at all	12	16
5	Total	75	100

Table 3 revealed the level of utilization of the anti-plagiarism detection software among the academic librarians in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. From the response of the respondents those that are using the software at low rate are 35(46.7%), 15(20%) of the respondents are using the software at very high rate, 13(17.3%) at high level rate, while 12(16%) are not using the

software at all. The implication of these findings is that the academic librarians in Ahmadu Bello University are using anti-plagiarism detection software at average level.

Opinion of Academic Librarians in Ahmadu Bello University Zaria on How to eradicate Plagiarism in Academic Institutions.

Exploring different individuals' opinion and view with the intent of having solution to any given identified problem within phenomenon, it is a prospect towards success for a final solution. It is the objective of this study in this section to know the opinion of the academic librarians on how to eradicate plagiarism in academic institutions. Table 5 below presented different opinion of the academic librarians on how to eradicate plagiarism.

Table 3: Opinion of academic librarians on how to eradicate plagiarism

S/No	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Teaching students writing practice	21	28
2	Training on the use of the software	29	38.7
3	Taking punitive measures	15	20
4	Enlightenment on danger	10	13.3
5	Total	75	100

Table 5 above revealed the opinions of academic librarians of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, on how to eradicate plagiarism in academic institutions. From the table we can see that training on the use of anti-plagiarism detection software is having the highest respondents of 29(38.7%) as a means of eradicating plagiarism. Teaching students writing practice became second with 21(28%), taking punitive measures by the school authority is having 15(10%) while enlightenment goes with 10(13.3%) as one of the measures to eradicate plagiarism in our academic institutions.

The implication of this finding is that all of these opinions identified by the librarians are worthwhile in making effort to eradicate the menace of plagiarism in academic institutions. This

finding is in line with studies conducted by Mbilinyi and Msuya (2018) which found that orientation, seminars and teaching communication skills as the most recommended strategies for eradicating plagiarism in academic institutions. All these are equal to teaching the students writing practice, training on plagiarism soft wares and enlightenment.

Conclusion

For Nigeria to fully participate in the globalized economy, wide distribution of quality knowledge and intellectual capital assets, must protect the integrity of her intellectual output base. This could only be possible when strategic perspectives are put in place for fighting plagiarism in all academic institutions. This study has shown the level of efforts the Academic librarians are making towards enhancing their services through which they are fighting against plagiarism through provision of desired information and services in detecting plagiarism from their users' works. Plagiarism undermines the integrity of our education and it occurs in all levels of scholarship, and a great challenge to the perfection and broadening our existing knowledge, its generating, organization, sharing and utilization. Any intellectual output with plagiarism is less helpful in addressing important complex work and novel challenges that requires new approaches. Plagiarism is misleading and it will never allow us to have the opportunity to fully participate in the International competition for production of knowledge and ideas for sophisticated goods and services.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the following recommendations were made:

1. The Ahmadu Bello University management through its institute of Computing and Information and Communication Technology, and Kashim Ibrahim Library, to be

organizing workshops, symposiums and training on the anti- plagiarism software for staff and students of the university.

2. The University management should make mandatory for students and faculty members to run their works into plagiarism tools for checking of plagiarism.
3. The University management should re-introduce information literacy course for teaching students on how to go about with writing skills and use of information.

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