IMPACT OF LIBRARY STATISTICAL RECORDS ON MANAGEMENT OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study investigated the impact of library statistical records on the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Some of the objectives of the study are to ascertain the impact of library statistical records on the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria, identify the methods employed by university libraries for generating library statistical records in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study adopted a survey design. The population of the study comprised 169 library staff in the three 3 university libraries studied. The study adopted a total enumeration sampling. Hence, 169 library staff constituted the sample size. A total of 158 (90%) copies of the questionnaire were filled and returned. The instruments used for data collection were a structured questionnaire, and the data collected were analyzed using frequency and percentages to answer the research questions. While chi-square was used to test the two null hypotheses. Findings revealed that library statistical records have a high impact on the management of university libraries studied. Both manual and electronic methods are employed in generating library statistical records. Library statistical records are utilized to a high extent in the management of university libraries studied. Based on the available literature and from the findings of this study, library statistical records have been veritable tools for efficient and effective management of university libraries in Nigeria and the world at large. The study has established that library statistical records have significantly impacted the ten managerial items highlighted in the study. Several methods, such as manual, electronic combination of manual and electronic methods, were employed in generating library statistical records for the management of the university studied. Some recommendations have been made in order to enhance the effective use of statistical records for the management of university libraries in the universities studied. Based on the findings, the study recommends the statistical-driven management of universities and the need to have a backup of records in order to guard against natural and manmade disasters.

Key words: Impact, Library Statistics, Records, Management, University Libraries

Introduction

Globally, library Statistical records have been a veritable tool for managing university libraries. Library statistics involve the collections, classification, tabulation, presentation, and established relationship of records of services (routing activities) in the university libraries so that the pre-determined aims may be achieved. Library statistical records are a compilation of routine activities in the library in textual or numerical form. Statistical records provide objective data, which can serve as hard evidence of the operation, efficiency, and accomplishments of institutional objectives (Ugah, 2016).

Specifically, library statistical records stand the test of evidence in providing effective management in university libraries. In other words, library statistics are records of library services generated, maintained, or managed through the daily operations of the library, through which appropriate decisions can be taken for effective library service delivery that will enhance the management of university libraries. Buttressing the importance of library statistical records, Uwakwe and Onyeneke (2018) stress that "library statistics are effective tools for management appraisal of library services and activities, usually in numeric form, on events that take place in the library to ensure proper management".

Library statistics have been used as a medium for supporting the management of libraries by providing sufficient information for decision-making. Thus, the university library is a basic tool that helps towards academic attainment of students, scholars, and researchers of any knowledge-giving industries, because it is set with the responsibilities of collecting, processing, storing, and disseminating information and information resources to the user community. Okiki (2013) posit that "the library is a vital facility for enhancing learning, teaching and research. Therefore, library enhanced learning, teaching and research through accessibility and usability of its resources and services to the user community under the control of good management.

Management is the art of bringing together human and material resources through planning, organizing, controlling, directing and coordinating the library service delivery towards accomplishing its institutional goal. Hymavathi (2016) viewed "management as the use of statistical sampling and combinatorial optimization methods to solve problems in quality control, allocation of resources, logistics, project scheduling, labor and machine scheduling, to assembly line balancing".

Management is the process of bringing together human and material resources for effective service delivery to achieve the library objectives. No meaningful results can be achieved from the records of statistics of university library that are not properly planned, organized, directed or controlled by professionals like cataloguers, classifiers, computer analysts, reference or serial librarians, and seasoned administrators. When statistical records are properly generated, coordinated, controlled and managed by professionals, authorities of university libraries will confidently be used in presentations in managing the entire university libraries.

University libraries are libraries attached to university, and their main purpose is to support the objectives of the university in the areas of teaching, learning, research, and community services. It is the brain and the center point of intellectual activities in the university community. Mostly, users of the university library are students, researchers, lecturers, non-teaching staff. In effect, university libraries are mandated to support teaching, research, and

publication, conservation of knowledge, and interpretation of knowledge. The services university libraries provide to their users. These services include but not limited to: current awareness services, selective and dissemination of information, acquisition, resource processing, lending, reference, referral, reserved, instructional services, literature search, readers' advisory services, compilation of bibliographies, indexing and abstracting services, and maintenance of the file containing clippings and pamphlets. If all these statistical records are generated for the purpose of managing university libraries.

Statistical records generated are means for effective management in university libraries. Library statistical records is the most common means of evaluating operation and the progress of the library, through analyzing the library's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT analysis) (Ugah, 2006). University libraries are to be managed with a tool for evaluating and enhancing the library's service delivery, such as properly generated library statistical records for decision-making. It is against this backdrop of the important role statistical records play in the management of university libraries in Nasrawa State that the study seeks to find out its impact.

Statement of the Problem

Statistical records are used in university libraries in order to enhance effective and efficient management of library operations and services. Ideally, library statistical records should be the building blocks for planning and execution of policies. However, Scholars have expressed concern over the dearth of statistical records in most university libraries despite their importance.

Based on preliminary observation, there are indications that library statistical records are not adequately utilized for the management of university libraries, resulting to low productivity and poor library services. Despite the observed availability of library statistical records, it seems that many university libraries are without the requisite facilities to generate and manage statistical records that could enhances effective and efficient management of libraries.

Also, experience shown that many university libraries have been battling with array of challenges that hampered effective generation of statistical records. These may include poor record management, inadequate records management facilities, and absence of records management policies. That is why this study seeks to investigate impact of library statistical records on management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The Problem of this study posed as a question is, what is the impact of library statistical records on management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the impact of library statistical records on the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to:

i. Ascertain the impact of library statistical records on the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.
ii. Identify the methods employed by university libraries for generating library statistical records in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.
iii. determine the extent to which library statistical records are generated for the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Hypotheses

Two null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study

Ho1 Methods of generating library statistical records do not significantly influence management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria.
Ho2 Extent of generating library statistical records does not significantly influence management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria.

Literature Review

Library statistics is an evaluation tool for measuring the library strength and weaknesses in terms of resource and services which will help management decision making in university libraries.

Eiriemiokhal, Rhoda, and Ishola, (2016) conducted a study on the Use of Statistical Records for Library Management at the university of Ilorin, the study revealed among others that library statistical records are helpful not only for researchers but also to library administrators in managing the libraries. In the same vein, Salawu (2016) asserted that library statistics is the scientific method of collecting, organizing, summarizing, presenting and analyzing data as well as drawing valid conclusion and making reasonable decision based on such analysis. Library statistics is a scientific method of collecting, data of resources and services collected, presented and analyze the data as well as drawing valid conclusion that will make reasonable decision on management of university libraries. Uwakwe and Njoku (2012) noted that library statistics are a veritable instrument for management used to generate information for decision-making on library issues. Library statistics help in determine library effectiveness in terms of services, resources and sound decision making for managing university libraries.

In addition, Aloysius and Torosco (2022) conducted a study "Library Usage Statistics (2018-2020) the study revealed among others, that library statistical records are generated and utilized for management of library. Similarly, IFLA (2020) affirmed that library statistics are necessary for the effective management of libraries. Library statistics is a tool that measured different resources and services provides by university libraries and identify the categories of its users for proper management.

Moreover, Akporhonor, (2011) conducted a study on the Management of Records in University Libraries in the South-South Zone of Nigeria the pin-point that most created in both state and Federal University libraries for the purpose of management on decision making. The major purpose of computing, analyzing and interpreting statistical records is to take informed decisions on how to improve the services in university libraries. Library statistic is a tool for drawing qualitative records of library operations in the area of technical service, lending service, inter-library loan among others, for management purpose.

Furthermore, Hymavathi, (2016) view management as the use of statistical sampling and combinatorial optimization methods to solve problems in quality control, allocation of resources, logistics, project scheduling, labor and machine scheduling, to assembly line balancing. Management is the process of bringing together human and material resources for effective service delivery to achieve the library objectives. Management is the process of achieving organizational objectives, within a changing environment, by balancing efficiency, effectiveness in an organization including libraries. Hameed (2004) says that management is a

specialized work of planning, organizing, directing, coordinating and controlling activities in order to achieve the desired goals. No meaningful results can be achieved from the records of statistics of a university library that are not properly planned, organizing, directed or controlled by professionals like cataloguers, classifiers, computer analysts, reference or serial librarians, and seasoned administrators.

It is also the process of utilizing material and human resources to accomplish designated objectives, which involve the organization, direction, coordination, and evaluation of people to achieve organizational goals (Afolayan, 2021). Management is the process of utilizing material and human resources to accomplish the university libraries objectives, which involve the organization, direction, coordination, and evaluation of the services provided by the university libraries.

Similarly, IFLA (2020) affirmed that library statistics are necessary for the effective management of libraries. Statistics help to determine the growth of the library by controlling library activities, evaluating staff performance, and planning. They give librarians an idea of how a particular resource is used, what time it is used, and where users prefer to access. Seemingly, libraries have assumed new responsibilities in a changing information world. They need library statistics for managing and promoting these new tasks (IFLA, 2020). Librarians assumed a new trend in developing strategies that will determine the growth of university libraries by controlling library activities, evaluating the staff performance, and planning to enhance the new tasks in a changing information world.

Methodology

Quantitative research method was used, while a survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised 169 library staff in the three 3 university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. A breakdown of the respondents from each of the university libraries under study is presented here in a table.

S/N	Name of University Library	Status	Professional	Non-professional	Total
1.	Federal University of Lafia Library, Lafia	Federal	11	49	**60**
2.	Nasarawa State University Library, Keffi	State	15	53	**68**
3.	Bingham University Library, Karu	Private	9	32	**41**
Total			**33**	**136**	**169**

Nasarawa State University (2024). *Official Bulletin pp 39-41*
Federal University Lafia (2024). *Special Bulletin pp 56-57*
Bingham University Library, Karu (2024). *Special Bulletin pp 36-37*

The entire 169 library staff constituted the sample size for the study. The decision to use the entire population is guided by the position of Bernard (2012), who stated that if the population of the study is less than two hundred (200), the entire population should be used for the study. The questionnaire was the instrument used for the data collection. Mean score, standard deviation, Frequency score, and percentages were used to analyze data related to the research objectives. While chi-square was used to analyze the two null hypotheses formulated to guide the study.

Results and Discussions of Findings

Research Question 1: What is the impact of library statistical records on the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

To answer this research question, data on the impact of library statistical records on the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria, were collected and analyzed using Mean and Standard deviation as presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Mean and Standard deviation of the impact did the library statistical records had on the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Table 1

S/No	Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Continuity and advancement in-service delivery	3.78	0.46	High Impact
2	Actualizing library objectives	3.75	0.53	High Impact
3	Improve productivity	3.79	0.52	High Impact
4	Effective planning	3.82	0.42	High Impact
5	Improve library funding	3.81	0.47	High Impact
6	Prudent financial management	3.84	0.39	High Impact
7	Improve Budgeting performance	3.82	0.52	High Impact
8	Improve research activities	3.85	0.44	High Impact
9	Sublimated institution linkages	3.08	0.80	High Impact
10	Promote Library visibility	3.15	0.81	High Impact
	Cluster Mean	**3.66**	**0.53**	**High Impact**

Key VHI = Very High Impact, HI = High Impact, LI = Low Impact, NI = NO Impact

Table 1 presents findings on the impact of library statistical records on the management of university libraries studied. The findings indicated that statistical records had the highest impact on improving research activities, with a mean score of 3.85%. Thus, it is followed by its impact on prudent financial management with a mean score of 3.84 %. Similarly, the respondents admitted that statistical records had an impact on improving budget performance and effective planning, with the mean rating of 3.82% respectively.

They also affirmed that statistical records had a significant impact on the other 6 items highlighted, with a mean score ranging from 3.81-3.08. From the findings, the overall cluster mean score of 3.66 and standard deviation of 0.53 indicated that statistical records had a high impact on the management of university libraries in the university libraries studied. The study corroborated with Liu and Douglas (2010) study on the "Use of Library Statistics by Public Library Directors". Who findings, revealed among others that library statistical records are utilized and helpful not only for researchers but also for library administrators in decision-making processes like improving budget performance and effective planning.

Research Questions Two: What are the methods employed in generating library statistical records for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

To answer this research question, data on the methods employed for generating library statistical records for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State were collected and analyzed using Frequency and Percentage, as presented in Table 2

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage of methods employed for generating library statistics records for the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria
Table 2

S/N	Questionnaire Item	M%	E%	M&E%	Remark
1	Book selected Records	21(12.4)	47(27.8)	101(59.8)	M/E
2	Orders placed with the vendors	27(16.0)	55(32.5)	87(51.5)	M/E
3	Books slip prepared, checked, and filled	1(0.6)	94(55.9)	74(43.8)	M/E
4	Billed processed and passed for payment	1(0.6)	60(35.5)	108(63.9)	M/E
5	Book that accession	17(10.1)	82(48.4)	69(40.8)	E
6	Books with catalogue (CIPD)	24(14.2)	90(53.3)	55(32.5)	E
7	Titles of Book classified Records	45(26.6)	76(45.0)	48(28.40	E
8	Books catalogued Records	73(43.2)	32(18.9)	64(37.9)	M
9	Number of catalogued cards filled	54(32.0)	57(33.7)	58(34.3)	M/E
10	Books prepared for processing past due, data book slip, tag, library label	58(34.3)	71(42.0)	40(23.7)	E
11	Books prepared for release/writing call numbers at various places in books and in catalogue cards	35(20.7)	102(60.4)	32(18.9)	E
	Cluster mean	**19.3%**	**41.2%**	**39.5%**	

Key, M = Manual, E = Electronic, M & E = Manual and Electronic
Key: Manual = M, Electronic = E, Manual and Electronic = M&E

Table 2 shows that 2 methods are employed for the generation of the data which are M, E and M&E. M 19.3%, E 41.2% and M&E 39.5%.

Table 2 presents responses on methods employed for the generating library statistical records for management of university libraries in the universities studies. The findings revealed that bill processed and passed for payment is carried out by manual and electronic methods, with the highest frequency score of 108 (63.9). This is followed by book selection records also done both manually and electronically, with a frequency score of 101(59.8). Similarly, the

respondents indicated that order placement with the vendor is also carried out using manual and electronic system with a frequency score of 87(51.1). The findings also revealed that 5 items outlined in the table were carried out using an electronic method with frequency scores ranging from 102(60.4) to 32(18.9). The findings corroborated with Aziagba and Umeozor's (2013) study on "Library Services and Generated Data: Using Available Statistics to Improve the Library Services". Who findings revealed among others that libraries collected data daily in both manual and electronic forms, utilized to improve service delivery.

Research Question Three: What is the extent to which generated library statistical records are utilized for the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

To answer this research question, data on the extent to which generated library statistical records are utilized for management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria, were collected and analyzed using Mean and Standard deviation as presented on Table 3.

Table 3: Mean and Standard deviation of extent to which generated library statistical records are utilized for the management of university libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Table 3

S/No	Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Book selected Records	2.82	0.78	High extent
2	Orders placed with the vendors	3.32	0.66	VHE
3	Books slip prepared, checked and filled	2.80	1.00	High extent
4	Billed processed and pass for payment	3.02	0.99	VHE
5	Book that accession	2.84	0.76	High extent
6	Books with catalogue (CIPD)	2.78	1.00	High extent
7	Titles of Book classified Records	3.14	0.81	VHE
8	Books catalogued Records	2.93	0.99	High extent
9	Number of catalogued cards filled	2.69	0.96	High extent
10	Books prepared for processing past due, data book slip, tag, library label	2.27	0.83	High extent
11	Books prepared for release/writing call members at various places in books and in catalogue cards	3.27	0.27	VHE
	Cluster Mean	**2.98**	**0.82**	**High extent**

Key VHE = Very High Extent, HE = High Extent, LE = Low Extent, VLE = Very Low Extent

Table 3 highlighted the extent to which generated library statistical records are utilized for management of university libraries in the universities studied. The findings revealed library statistical records are utilized the most in order placed with vendors with, mean scores of 3.32% and standard deviation of 0.66%. Furthermore, the findings indicated library statistical records are utilized to a very high extent in preparing books for release/writing call numbers at various places in books and in catalogue cards with a mean score of 3.27% and standard deviation of 0.2.

This is followed by the use of library statistical records for title of books classified having a mean score of 3.14 and standard deviation of 0.81. From the findings, library statistical records are utilized the least in processing past due date, book slips, tag, library label with mean score of 2.27% and standard deviation of 0.2. With cluster mean score of 2.98% and standard deviation of 0.8. The respondents agreed that to a high extent the generated library statistical records are utilized for management of university libraries in the universities studied. This finding corroborated with Aloysius and Torosco (2022) study on "Library Usage Statistics (2018-2020): A Prerequisite for Evaluating Information Service Delivery in Nyong Essien Library, University of Uyo, Nigeria. Findings of the study revealed among others, that library statistical records are generated and utilized.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis Ho1: Methods of generating library statistical records do not significantly influence management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria.

Table 4: **chi-square test of significance of Methods of generating library statistical records on management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria.**

Table 9

	Df	x^2	P	Sig level	Decision
Chi-square	2	336.69	0.00	0.05	Rejected
No valid Cases	169				

P<0.05

Table 4 shows that the P- value of 0.00 is less than alpha-value of 0.05 (P<0.05) at df =2. Therefore, the null hypothesis, which states that Methods of generating library statistical records do not significantly influence management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria, is therefore rejected.

Ho2: Extent of generating library statistical records does not significantly influence management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria.

Table 5: **chi-square test of significance of extent of generating library statistical records on management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria.**

Table 4

	Df	x^2	P	Sig level	Decision
Chi-square	3	211.165	0.00	0.05	Rejected
No valid Cases	169				

P<0.05

Table 5 shows that the P- value of 0.00 is less than alpha-value of 0.05 (P<0.05) at df =3. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that Extent of generating library statistical records does not significantly influence management of university libraries in Nasarawa state Nigeria is therefore rejected.

Conclusion

Based on the available literatures and from the findings of this study, library statistical records have been veritable tools for efficient and effective management of university libraries in Nigeria and the world at large. Therefore, library statistical records are useful tools for planning and management of university libraries. The study has established that library statistical records have significantly impacted the ten managerial items highlighted in the study. Several methods such as manual, electronic combination of manual and electronic methods were employed in generating library statistical records for management of university studied. The study further established that library statistical records generated are to a high extent utilized for the management of university libraries studied. Some recommendations have been made in order to enhance the effective use of statistical records for the management of university libraries in the universities studied.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Research activities, financial management, budget implementation, library funding, and effective planning in the university libraries studied should be carried out based on statistical records generated.
2. Back up of library statistical records generated either manually, electronically or both manually and electronically (hybrid) should be well archived using the latest and state-of-the-art storage facilities in order to guard against natural or man-made disasters.
3. The management of the university libraries studied should sustain the utilization of library statistical records generated from an array of services outlined in order to enhance effective and efficient management.
4. Types of statistical records generated should be as guide in order to improve library service delivery
5. It should be encouraged to emphasis on generating statistical records that has impact and direct bearing to managing of university libraries for effective service delivery.

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