AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SERVICES OF THE SHARI'AH COURT LIBRARIES IN THE STATES OF NORTHERN NIGERIA

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis has been written by me and it is a record of my own research work. It has not previously presented either wholly or partly for any degree and is not being currently submitted for any other degree. All quotations are indicated and sources of information are specifically acknowledged by means of reference

…….. ……..

Abubakar Aliyu Date

CERTIFICATION

This thesis entitled "Availability and utilization of information resources and services of the shari'ah court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria Meets the regulations governing the award of the degree of master of library science of Ahmadu Bello University. It is hereby approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the memory of my late beloved mother, malama Halimah, (Dubu) and my ever caring Grand mother, Hajiya Maimunah.

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Praise is to Almighty Allah for His wisdom, mercy and for making this programme a success. May His blessings be upon His noble prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.).

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ABSTRACT

This study is based on the availability and utilization of information resources and services of the shari'ah court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria. The survey research method was adopted for the conduct of the study for which questionnaires, interviews and observation were used to collect data. It was discovered however, that most of the libraries investigated depended on purchase as means of acquiring information resources. This consequently, led to the inadequate provision of relevant information resources which resulted in the provision of ineffective services, expected of a shari'ah court library.

On the basis of these findings, several recommendations aimed at improving the availability and utilization of information resources and services in the shari'ah court libraries of the states of Northern Nigeria have been proposed.

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

The Judiciary is a legal system which comprises of system of law being practiced by a states or a country. The legal system in Nigeria requires a system of processing and dissemination of information to make it effective. The library plays an important role in the courts as it provides support services to the judges and other court officers. Both the judges and the court officers require steady flow of information as input into their activities.

Indeed, legal work can not be performed successfully without the backing of a well equipped and up to date library and information services. Moreover, the recent trends in the states of Northern Nigeria which tend to be towards implementation of the sharia legal system require a system of information dissemination to back it up. The states suppose to make provision for information systems to support the efficient and effective implementation of sharia law. However, there exist libraries in the courts; but the extent of utilization and nature of the services provided by the libraries is not known. Therefore there is the need to determine the availability and utilization of the library and information resources and services among the court officers.

1.1 The concept of shari'a

The term Shari'a is an Arabic word meaning, the path to be followed. Literally, it means the way to a watering place. It is the path not only leading to Allah, the most High, but also a belief by

all Muslims as instructed by Allah, the Creator Himself through His Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The Holy Qur'an states 65:18 that, “We made for you a Law, so follow it and not the fancies of those who have no knowledge”.

Mahmud asserts that (1988:32), Islam is Allah's Sovereign, and it has the right to ordain a path for guidance of mankind. It is only shari’ah that liberates man from servitude of any deity other than Allah. This is one of the reasons why Muslims are obliged to strive for the implementation of the path and that of none other.

Islam is said to be the chosen religion of Allah. It is, therefore, regarded as a complete way and comprehensive system of life, theoretically and also practically. Khafrah (1992:9), remarks that, by the third century after Hijrah, the Islamic system of Law was complete as the laws and guidelines regarding conduct were made complete. The shari’a covered all the areas usually treated by civil law, criminal law, family law, commercial law, International law etc. For instance, in business Islam made significant contribution when it commended the Muslims to write down business agreement and record their business transaction. Qur’an 2:282 stated that, “O ye, who believe, when you deal with one another in fixed periods of time, reduce them to writing. Let a scribe write down faithfully as between the parties”.

Doi (1980:15) remarks that, “One of the main objectives of shari’a is to shape the life style of every mankind, either individually or collectively. Therefore sharia does not change

according to circumstances, or suit the whim and caprices of people; rather, it is the people who must adjust themselves to conform to ideas of the shari'a. Shari'a is the law or command of Allah for those who profess belief in Him. It is the open road on which all those who submit to Him should trend.

Murad (1979), stated that Shari'a is an interpreted homogenous whole. Once one understands its basic concepts, objectives and framework, one cannot but conclude that it is capable of creating the most human and just society; a peace and blessing mankind. Difficulties only arise when critics try to measure the ocean of divine knowledge, wisdom and justice with their thimble of pedestrian criteria and standards.

Justice is a comprehensive term, and may include all the virtues of good behaviors. But the religion of Islam asks for something warmer and more human, the doing of good deeds even where perhaps they are not strictly demanded by justice, such as returning good for ill, or obliging those in worldly language have no claim on you, and of course the fulfilling of the claim of those whose claims are recognized in social life. Similarly the opposites are to be avoided; everything that is recognized as shameful, and everything that is really unjust, and any inward rebellion against Allah's law.

The prophet was asked to tell to people to do justice as Allah the creator has commanded it, "Say: my lord has commanded justice" Qur'an 7:29. The command is repeated in Qur'an 4:58 "Allah commanded you to render back your trusts to

those they are due. And when you judge between man and man, you judge with justice.

Doi (1980:4) maintained that," Justice is Allah's attribute, and to stand for justice is to be a witness to Allah, even if it is detrimental tour own interests or the interests of those who are near and dear to us. According to the Latin saying, ' let justice be done though heaven should fall' ". In Islam justice is something higher than the formal justice in Roman law or any other human law.

The fundamental principles on which rests the Islamic legal system is that the laws of Islam are not passed in a heated assembly by men who ardently desire the legislation in their interest, against men who ardently oppose it in their interest. The laws of Islam are firmly based upon the shari'ah and are therefore, in the interest of the people as whole. They are not the work of warring politicians, but of sober jurists. This is the reason why there is greater stability in shari'ah law mainly due to its Divine origins as compared to any other man-made secular legislation in the world.

1.2 **Shari’ah Courts in Nigeria**

Shariah courts are for all intent and purposes courts that are established to administer the principle of rules and regulations of Islamic law as contained in the well known sources of law in Islam ie; Holy Qur’an, Hadith, Fiqh, Ijma’a and, Qiyas. The by-law of Zamfara state (1999:3) defined sharia court as the courts established to administer sharia law and listed the following courts as the courts to administer sharia laws:

(a) Shari'ah court of Appeal

(b) Upper shari'ah court

(c) Higher shariah court and

(d) Lower Shari'ah court.

The responsibilities of the courts are primarily, to regulate the behavior, activities, and commercial transactions and the entire life of a Muslim living in a given Muslim community. The shari'a courts subject to the provision of the law also have jurisdiction and power over the following persons:-

a) all person professing the Islamic faith, and

b) any other person{s} who do not profess the Islamic faith but who voluntarily consents to the exercise of the jurisdiction of the sharia court under this Law.

In the first republic which started in 1st October, 1960 and terminated in 1966, the country was divided into three regions i.e., Northern region, Eastern region, and Western region. There was one sharia court of appeal for the whole of Northern region, under one Grand khadi. As stated in the laws of Northern region {1963}. "There shall be a court for the hearing of appeals from native court in respect of cases involving questions regarding Muslims' personal laws. The jurisdiction of the court was also stated as follows: Subject as otherwise provided in this law the court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals in respect of regional matters in cases involving questions regarding Muslims' personal law from any decision of:

a} a grade "A" Native court.

b} a Grade " B" limited Native court

c} a provincial court.

However, the 1979 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria states that state governments are allowed to establish individual shariah courts of appeal for any state that requires it. (Section 275) “There shall be for any state that requires it, shariah court of appeal for that state”. The jurisdiction of the shari'ah court of each state is like that of 1st republic i.e. to hear and determine cases involving issues regarding Muslim personal laws. Each state has its own Grand khadi who is mandated to hear appeal cases from lower shari'ah courts. But with reintroduction 0f shari'ah in Northern Nigeria in 1999, the shari'ah courts started implementing the “Hudud” aspect of shari'ah. For instance, Nkiechim (2000) reported that, the hand of a cow thief was amputated in Zamfara state. The recent Hadd sentence was also pronounced by a private shari'ah implementation initiative of Oyo State, as reported by some media houses. “A 29 year old bachelor, Sulaiman Shittu confessed to committing fornication and insisted on being punished in accordance with shari'ah. He was given 100 strokes of the cane at Oja-Oba central mosque, where the Oyo state independent shari'ah panel (ISP) sits.

1.3 Library and information resources in the legal system

Information resources are the procedures, the equipment, and facilities, software and data which are designed, built, operated, and maintained to collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display and transmit information. According to Osborn (1979), library and information resources include such materials

as books, periodical and audio visual materials that are provided for use of people. These materials are usually housed in a building systematically arranged for easy retrieval. Libraries all over the world regardless of type public, academic and special are considered to be store of knowledge in form of published and unpublished information resources that are basic to continued survival, development and progress of mankind. Example of published information resources includes books, journals, news magazines and newspapers, while the unpublished materials includes projects, Thesis, conference papers, workshop papers, and seminar papers. There is hardly any possible development of knowledge in the field of human endeavor today without library books and various types of information materials which exist in the libraries as an information resource.

Muhammad (1980) remarks that, “One of greatest assets of mankind is information and one of man’s unique assets is the ability to assimilate and make use of information.” Information has been found to be very important in the being of man and his environment." Knowledge comes into existence as a result of man’s efforts to cope with his environment. The accumulation of knowledge brought innovation and changes which has led to a wider recognition or the role of information in societies. As society changes, prompt supply of better information is needed in order to cope with trends and events.

Edward (1983) maintained that, Information in itself will be valueless, unless it is put to use. It is an item of knowledge

which can be communicated concerning some particular fact, subject or event. Information is knowledge which is transfer from one person to another to encourage action or decision making. It is a fact, that human beings whether at home or place of work, need information for survival within the environment in which they live or work. Hardly can organization survive without the free flow of information in order to carry out its work. Information is very important for personal and materials development. UNESCO (1977) identified Information to be an essential part of a nation's resources and access to it is one of the basic human rights. Information is not only a national resource vital for scientific and economic progress, but is also a medium for social communication. The importance and need for information are crucial functions in communication. Therefore, the economic and social value of libraries and other information system can not be under estimated.

Fleming (1990) added that, libraries and other information system should be designed to serve actual needs as well as anticipated of its user. Also, Fleming maintained that, in order to render effectives services to meet these actual needs, libraries specialist must be technically and professional trained". Information therefore, is an important ingredient in all human endeavors and for human survival in any society. Information today is a commodity, packaged and sold at obtainable price. It is regarded as vital resources that must be managed to achieve organization goals and management option in survival technique there cannot be an effective research without proper information.

The non-Book materials in the libraries include the projector, micro-film, reader, Cassette, micro fiche reader, audio cassette, radio, TV, Dices, C.D. etc.

There is the need for libraries to have relevant information resources that can serve the needs of the parent institution in which the library is located. Aguda (1999) remarks that, The University, College or polytechnic libraries must possess a number of books and current periodicals, in addition to other types of information resources in certain subjects to be able to satisfy the basic information and bibliographic needs of the institutions".

The objective of the library is to maximize the exposure of the users to the resources. Ray (1982), remarks that, "The library should be organized to minimize the effort required by users to access the needed information materials as soon as possible when the need arises". The identification of what is needed by reader at all levels and getting the materials needed to the shelves are the major problems in developing library as well as the library resources of any type of library be it public, special or academic. Regardless of users of a particular library, the main focus of a library services is the provision of information resources. This is more pronounced in academic libraries where the purpose of library is defined. The library too, offer services and the quality of such services are dependent upon the resources and its appropriateness.

Afolabi (1997) stated that, "The information resources are the nerve center of any library services, an effective

management of the resources should therefore, be of more concern to the librarian". The librarian should be able to establish the needs and patterns of needs, and use of library resources. He should know almost precisely, what to buy. He should know everything about the kind of sources need for his readers, existing resources, in the subject areas and what gaps needed to be filled, how the resources has been useful in the past, and what is required presently. Librarian should be able to see his resources in it's entirely, and also in relation to the needs of all segments of the public for whom he selects resources. The major problem is the adequacy, relevance or otherwise of the information resources. The main objective of a library is to cover for the information requirement of its users providing adequate and suitable information resources.

Suitable and adequate information resources for learning provided fact that forms the basis for clear thinking. There is therefore, need to know the amount, type and quality of information resources available in sharia court libraries. In addition to books, non book materials contain tremendous amount of information. Audio visual and computer information resources properly applied in the library can make unique contribution to the development of educational opportunities and standard.

Libraries should be involved in the provision of audio visual information resources for the use of their clients because the resources play a vital role in the transmission of knowledge. Media technology is the best way through which knowledge

could be imparted because it is a way of providing the user with a total information environment. With the development of science and technology, the record of man's achievement come in a wide variety of forms, each equally varied, each capable of giving information in its own unique way and even complementing the other.

A library being an organized medium for obtaining information must acquire information materials regardless of format or form for presentation. Normally, it is information that the library clients look for and not the format libraries exist to provide as sources of information to those who use the information resources. Information, according to Edward (1995), "Is the name for the convert of what is exchanged with the outside world when we adjust to it and make our adjustment felt upon it. To live effectively is to live with information." In his contributions, John (1990) stated that, "The use of media materials by library clients stimulate and increase interest in learning." Therefore, information resources in our libraries may be in books and non - book materials provided they are adequate and up to date.

1.4 Library and information service in the judiciary

According to A L. A. (1980) definition a service is a product of data resulting from processing of data. This means that the products which are the information resources acquired by the library must be relevant so as to be processed as useful information. If an information product is not relevant to the needs of the users certainly it will not be utilized. Therefore, court

libraries must acquired resources which are relevant to the user community.

Brown (1980) emphasized accessed to relevant information in deterring library services. Therefore, access to needed information is considered as the most important requirement for library services. Indeed if users can not access given information system the system can not be useful to them. Whereas the library is suppose to be utilized hence why it is provided in the first place.

In the case of this study information service is viewed as any activity performed to aid access and to improve utilization of the Information resources within the library. There are many types of information services being provided by a library. These services usually depend on the level of funding of the library, the information resources available in the library and quality of the library staff. The utilization of any service usually depends on choice or performance of the users. Library users may have preference on the form they wish information to be presented to them. Perhaps the court officers too have preference as other library users.

Therefore, law libraries must have or cultivate fertile imagination to pilot continuously the development of their information resources in order to improve on their services towards achieving and maintaining rule of law in the country for the general happiness of the people.

1.5 **Library Use**

Library use refers to the extent to which users make use of the resources of a library to decide on a case before them. However, the type and nature of information use among the judges is one of the focuses of this study which is yet, to be determined.

Burns (1978) Identified use as an activity which measure the worth of an item to a library or information system. Use is the single criterion which could be used to determine the reason for retaining a document within the collection of a library, and use is essential in guiding the collection development efforts of a library. The use of a library can be obtained from the demand of its items. Therefore, if users have no demand for the resources of a library it means that the library does not have what they want. In this case it will record low patronage. He maintained that, "Use study to be concern with discovering, articulating, understanding, influencing, and when appropriate the elimination or at least minimization of those obstacles between a user and his information goals." The library user may encounter problems due to certain things such as lack of knowledge in the use of the library problem could also arise when the library try to meet the needs of the user, the user may not be satisfied with the Output he is getting from the system. Finally, the package or item provided to the user may not satisfy his needs. All these are possible problems that could arise from the use of a library. But it is the aim of a use assessment to address them.

1.6 **Acquisition of information resources**

Information resources can be acquired either automated or non-automated means of acquiring information resources in a library. Non-automatic is the application of non data processing machines (computers) to perform the traditional library work of acquiring materials to a library. Such method is used in order to acquire information resources in a law library. And by automated or library automation is according to Daniel (1987:2) is the application of automatic and semi-automatic data processing machines (computers) to perform traditional library house – keeping activities of acquisition etc. In other words, it is the use of computers and related technology in performing every routine in library for instance acquisition.

Computers according to Harande (1988:93) had a great impact an acquisition process in libraries and in some developing countries globally. For example, a book in print is now available not only on microfiche but also on line. Similarly many publishers' catalogues and bibliographies can be accessed via the on-lie computers, this is also applicable to law information resources.

1.7 Organization of law information resources

Information resources were organized traditionally. However, with development of computers traditional book catalogue has given way to machine Readable catalogue (MARC) which was introduced by the library of congress in the 60s as means of reducing the cost and size of cataloguing and catalogue. The catalogue was reduced to microfilm ie microfiche

or microfilm and this require microreaders in accessing their contents.

Rowley (1980:30) Observed that, "MARC data bases which we created with introduction of MARC are rather a specialized type of bibliography data base In that their use in the library tends to be large in the contest of house keeping routines rather than information retrieval" Similarly, with on-line facilities, bibliographic utilities were established to solve cataloguing problems for libraries, for instance, in North America, there are four (4) or such services which are making great impact on all types of libraries. They are on-line computers library center (OCLC) in Ohio, Washington Library Network (WLN), University of Toronto Library Automation Services (UTLAS) and Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) for organized information resources. Rowley (1980:63) as cited by Salisu (2005:11) outlined the benefit derived by the participating libraries as "On demand use of resources diversity in subject coverage available only in computer format, and the lost effectiveness through centralization". It should be noted, that in on-line catalogue, multi-access points are provided.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Shari'a legal system is like any other legal profession. It requires library services and relevant library collection to operate effectively. Gates (1989:12) remarks that, "The basic function of all libraries is to aid the parent institutions in carrying out its objectives". Libraries contribute to the realization of this objective and support the total programme by acquiring and making

available the information resources and services which are needed.

Shari'a court library is supposed to have good accommodation, enough professional staff, paraprofessional and junior staff to manage the library effectively. The information resources such as books, periodicals, reference materials and audio visual materials must be adequate and up to date. In this regard Muhammad (1987:21) remarks that, "For library to be effective, it has to have adequate and up to date information resources, with qualified staff and good accommodation". If the staff, information resources and services in the shari'a court libraries are not adequate and up to date, the libraries will of course fail to give their full potential benefits to the Grand Khadis, Khadis, lawyers and other judicial staff of shari'a court. They could even be harmful instruments, which will affect the administration of justice in the shari'a courts in Nigeria.

The present situation in the states of Northern Nigeria, with shari'a implementation, requires a functional library and information services with adequate resources for the Grand khadis, Khadis, Lawyers and other judicial staff of the shari'a courts so as to facilitate the administration of justice. Therefore, the central focus of this study is to assess, the extent to which libraries are influencing the duties and responsibilities of the judges in the shari'a courts with regard to resources and services rendered by the libraries.

Shari'a court judges like any other legal worker, equally use information contained in books and other information resources

to discharge their duties. This can be seen in their work especially in legal drafting, citing of cases, making decisions and citing authority to buttress a point of decisions, Moreover, judges have been trained to be conscious of the legal implication in books to defend their actions. Blunt (1976:55) asserted that dependence on books by judges and lawyers is important to achieve coherence in law, and consistency in dispensation of duties. But the level of implementation of shari'a court library services in the states of Northern Nigeria is not fully known. Perhaps study on it will reveal the extent to which the libraries influence the judges in their duties, nature of resources and services and the problems confronting the libraries.

1.3 Research questions

In this study, answers shall be provided to the following questions.

(a) How is the information resources acquired in the sharia court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria

(b) What types of information resources are available in the shari'ah court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria?

(c) What types of information services are provided in the sharia court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria?

(d) How is information resources processed and organized?

(e) To what extent are the patrons of the shari'a court libraries are satisfied with the information resources and services provided in the libraries?

1.4 Objectives of the study

The main objectives of this study are:-

(a) To assess the methods used by shari'ah court libraries to acquire Information resources.

(b) To find out the availability of information resources in the shari'a court libraries.

(c) To identify the type of services provided in the shari'a court libraries.

(d) To find out how the information resources are process and organized.

(e) To find out the level of satisfaction with information resources in shari'ah court libraries.

1.5 Assumption of the study

The researcher had the following assumptions:-

a) That there is availability of information resources in shari'a court libraries.

b) That the information resources and services are relevant to the needs of the shari'a court libraries users.

c) That the information services provided in the shari'a court libraries satisfy the needs of its users.

d) That the information resources in the shari'a court libraries are well organized and utilized.

1.6 Significance of the study

The study is considered significance in the sense that it will help to make known to the intellectual world particularly, those interested in shari'ah court libraries in Northern Nigeria. It will make known to librarians and others interested in the subject

the availability of resources and their use in sharia court libraries in Northern Nigeria.

From this study, it is hoped that scholars, researchers, lawyers, khadis, Grand khadis and library managers will be repositioned to place the sharia court libraries in their right place for proper service to the users. It is also hoped that the findings and recommendations of this study will contribute to the existing knowledge in the field, ie law information service.

1.7 Scope of the study

This study covered the shari'ah court libraries of all the ten states of Northern Nigeria (viz Abuja, Bauchi, Borno, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kogi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara). It covered only the area of availability and utilization of information resources and services in the libraries

Operational definition of terms

The concepts are defined within the context of their use in the study.

Shari'ah law or Islamic law: For Muslim, God's law as revealed through the Prophet Mohammed (SAW). The Arabic word "shari'ah" refers in an Islamic context, as to that govern the conduct of individual and the community.

Ijma'a: The consensus of opinion of Islamic scholars. If the scholars agree on a particular practice or doctrine, even if there is no explicit justification for it in the Qur'an and hadith, it is legitimate.

Qiyas: Analogical deductions, as a tool to draw comparisons between precedent and unprecedented cases.

Information Resources: These refer to both human and material that resources, for materials it denotes any materials that contain information in the library while human resources includes the personal working in the library under investigation, such as Holy Qur'an, Hadith, law report, journals Gazette, court proceedings, official publication, law related periodical etc.

Information: Product of data resulting from the processing of data

Use of information resources: The record of information resources Consulted in the Library.

Information service: Is a product of data resulting from processing of data or a knowledge which is transferred

from a person to store of knowledge to another person as to encourage action by the recipient.

Hadd: Capital punishment under Islamic Law

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CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 **Introduction**

Literature review is aimed at examining earlier works or investigations carried out by researchers in areas related to the study. The rationale for this is that a review will help in determining what contribution this study can make in terms of adding new knowledge to the already existing. The review was made under the following sub-headings:-

a) Shari'ah the Islamic Law

b) Availability of library resources in courts

c) Library and Information services

d) Use of Library in legal system

e) Satisfaction of users

f) Summary of the review

2.1 **Shari'ah the islamic law**

Shari'a originated from the direct Commandment of Allah, but there is the provision or power given to interpret and expand the Divine commandment by means of analogical deductions and through other process such as ijma'a, Istihisan etc. Unlike the Roman law which developed from the action or English common law which developed from the writs, the sources of shari'a is the Holy Quran, the second source is Hadith, followed by Ijma'a and Qiyas. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) once explained that, "I leave two things for you and you will never go astray while holding them firmly: "the book of Allah and my practice".

The central notion of justice in the shari'a is based on mutual respect for human being by another. A just society in Islam is defined as the society that secures and maintains respect for person through various social arrangements that are in the common interest of all members. In the words of Sulaiman (1981:9) "What is required by shari'a is the equal integrity of each person in the society and his loyalty to the country concerned which in turn will make it the duty of the society to provide equity for each person's pursuit of happiness".

Shari'a itself is the criterion of justice and mercy and ought not to be seen as measures against changing human standards. In the Qur'an it has been reported that Allah says "perfect are the words of your lord in truthfulness and justice. His words cannot be changed. He is the All-hearing, all knowing". (Q 6:11). In his remarks Suleiman (2000:1) stated that, "Justice, in Islam lends meaning and color to all human endeavor both on individual level and as social ideal extending from now to eternity". Shari'a serves as the ultimate criterion for the internal ordering of the soul and the external regulations of relationship. The Qur'an emphasized that wrong doing has no place in Islam.

Murad, K., (1979:5), Stated that, "Man's quest for justice without recourse to Devine help, and failure to find it, is the most persistent and tragic theme of human history. For justice, an ideal deeply cherished, ardently desired and ceaseless pursued by mankind from the very first day of its existence on this planet, can never be truly conceptualized nor practiced unless it is rooted in the belief in one God". God in His infinitely merciful and

absolutely just, has created everything with a purpose and in perfect harmony and balance. He has also guided every creation so that it fulfils that purpose. The whole universe and all creation are sustained on this foundation. Justice for man therefore, lies in obeying God by doing what He has laid down as "right" and avoiding what He has laid down as "wrong".

Sulaiman I., (2000:19), Remarks that, "It is only God who can establish the intricate network of interrelationship and roles, mutual rights and obligations and consequent rewards and punishments on the basis of absolute standards of justice." The holy Qur'an frequently called divine guidance as the balance (Q. 55:1-9). Other sources of knowledge and modes of determining scientific enquiry based on reasoning suffer from one deficiency or another and are characterized by and rooted in human imperfection.

Doi I. A., (1985:13), stated that," Justice is the supreme purpose of the shari'ah. It provides the framework for the entire corpus of Islam, shaping and molding its beautiful configurations". The purpose for which the prophets were sent and struggle all their lives was to guide man to achieve justice. Qur'an 57:25 stated that, We sent our messengers with clear signs, and sent down with them the Book and the balance so that men may conduct themselves with justice. This is also the ideal for which the community of Islam, the Ummah, exists as a separate entity. In another verse Qur'an stated that," Thus we made you a just community, that you be witness to mankind" 2:143.

Therefore, a crime is essentially an act of injustice to one's own self, a sin against God. It can be wiped away only by God, that He does when a person turns to Him, truly repentant and seeking forgiveness. Between man and God, the total emphasis is on repentance, and punishment can be no substitute for it. In this regard Murad K., (1979:15), maintained that, "A crime is also an act against the social order and in this sphere mere repentance cannot be a substitute for punishment which is a means of protecting and strengthening society.

Muslim societies are not model they are infested with ills and evils yet the comparatively stable family life, absence of delinquency, low crime rates, much greater freedom from drugs and alcoholism, warmth of brotherhood, generosity and mutual aid and help all these are the legacies of that divinely given code of life, the to justice, which once they used to adhere to, and yearn to have the chance to return to the sharia

2.2 **Availability of library resources**

This simply refers to the probability that a copy of a given book is available on the shelf when sought. Geohlert (1975) stated that, “Book availability is an indicator of stock effectiveness”. Libraries consider their task to be that of collecting, storing, and measuring books. Most Libraries consider it also their task to make these books available to their users. Buckland (1975:1) remarks that, “The logistical problem of making Books physically available in the courts when wanted by library users is central to librarianship”. The cardinal rule of library stock control is that both the information resources and

the acquisition policy should be related to the level of demand for the items. Acquisition policy should help a library to decide on what to buy where and when; in order to increase accessibility to needed information resources.

The problem of managing the physical resources of a court library depends on the availability of the resources. Bukland(1978) remarks that, “availability requires workable performance measures to back it up even if the ultimate benefit to the individual user and to the community is difficult to access. Access to the resources of library is also a factor of availability for without the physical presence of a document a user can not access anything. Therefore, the effectiveness of any library is best measured in terms of access and demands of its resources and services. A study such as this will provide data and information on accessibility of the resources of court libraries and use of the resources based on perceived needs of the users.

The availability of books is clearly central to library provision in courts and it is used as measure of library performance. Buckland(1976) stated that, “ The acquisition, discarding, binding, lending and duplication policies were all evaluated principally, though not exclusively, in terms of book availability, in terms of the probability that the users will find what they seek when they seek it “. The pursuit of maximum book availability is likely in practice, to be mitigated by the pursuit of additional objective, such as achieving comprehensiveness in the collection in some subject areas. Robert (1978) stated that,

“The immediate availability is a useful measure of library performance

The intellectual access to available information has, since properly, been a major preoccupation of librarians. Its importance has been reflected in the efforts devoted to the design and creation of bibliographies, catalogues, classification scheme, and other devices that help establish the existence of individual documents and their relevance to specific enquiries.

However, intellectual access needs to be accompanied by physical access if the e documents are to be used. Buckland (1975:3) stated that, "the provision and use of information resources have grown to be both a political and social responsibility. It appears that this responsibility will continue to grow with increases in the production of information and the number of its users." The daily growth of information first, brings about problem of location, acquisition, organization, and dissemination. Secondly, the growths bring about problem of making, easily, available to potential users the right type of information at the right time. Robort (1978), remarks that, immediate availability is an important but limited concept. As a standard of library services it is rather one dimension since, it reflect the library capability to satisfy a demand at one discreet moment in time, not as a continuous process. In that sense the concept of immediate availability is misleading, for it project s the image of a library as a mere warehouse in which materials are either available on demand or not."

The main cause of immediate unavailability is waiting for recalled book to be returned. Change in loan policies and acquisition of multiple copies are two important methods for improving availability of information resources. Robort (1978:371) revealed that "loan policies affect availability and can be adjusted to improve availability. Availability of books is lowered by patrons who violate loan policies. What is often overlooked is that it is necessary to enforce loan policies." Library service can be improved by ensuring that delays are not needlessly prolonged, as may happen when shelving becomes severally backlogged. Immediate availability is a useful measure of library performance, but it must also be realized that delays will never be entirely eradicated. Determining the causes of delay and the working to reduce them is an enormous task. He further remarked that "a perfect immediate availability is an ideal worth striving for, but it is important not to loose sight of differences between unnecessary and justifiable delay."

The applications of book availability have contributed greatly to the knowledge of library functions. For instance, indexing is measuring increases over time. Buckland (1975:5) stated that research on book availability has emphasized immediate availability. Defining availability in terms of immediacy is useful as an indictor of library service, since a perfect immediate availability rate is ideal, a situation in which all requests are immediately satisfied'.

Akinola (1985:235) stated that, "The collection of each law library especially the academic libraries, moved from handful

collection of Government publication and gazette to various publication on all law related subjects". Lawyers are requested to present written brief in appeal cases. More over, there are new kinds of books and even new branches of law hence the emergence of such classifications as labor law, energy law etc. The combination of these changes results in to new directive in law libraries collection, especially court library which now collects various books on many subjects beyond their former practice that was limited to more or less reference sources. For instance, law libraries can purchase books on other subjects such as English, Religious books etc., in order to prepare the judges and other staff of the judiciary for the challenges ahead. The information resources in the law libraries include the following:

a) Audio visual materials such as cassettes of both Video and Audio, projector, etc.

b) Government publication especially Gazette Books and monographs on all subjects of law emanating from different parts of the country.

c) Law reports from common Wealth countries and United State of America

d) Law reports published in the country and judgment of the supreme courts

e) Law reviews, journal and other law related periodicals

f) Official publications

h) Publication of international organization

i) Foreign law

j) Religious law

K) Roman law etc.

Jigede (1986) remarks that, “practicing firms of lawyers buy non-legal materials such as basic volume in Engineering, medicine, etc. to acquire knowledge of the subject to handle their cases better”. Also, academic and research law libraries acquire non legal information resources to support changes in curricula of the law schools. The resources are acquired by Government and sometimes by donations by individual and organizations and process and manage by the librarians.

2.3 Library and information services

Peter (1974), defined information as, “Knowledge which is transferred from a persons' store of knowledge to another person in such a way as to encourage action by the recipient. The information and means to communicating it in order to enhance social interaction has been of long standing interest to man over several generations. It is through information that man can effectively interact with one another as well as interact with his environment for economic and political survival. For instance, business companies and individual advertise their business in media houses such as Radio stations, TV stations and Newspapers, so that general public can be informed about the said business. Also, politicians use information media in order to sell their candidacy to general public. Inadequate proper information about the re-introduction of shari’a in the states of Northern Nigeria could be said to have been responsible for its

misconception as political shari'a. For example, Adesina (2000), Warns that, "Shari'a should not be mixed with politics".

The importance and need for information services as a social function in communication is becoming more fundamental. The economics and social value of libraries/ information centers and other information systems can not be under- estimated. In this regard, libraries and other information systems should be solely designed to serve actual needs as well as anticipated demands to its users. It should not be assumed that users' be trained to fit the system, rather a system be designed to fit and satisfy users needs. A user is interested in a system that is accurate, dependable and above all, responsive to his needs. In order to render effective services to meet these actual needs, a librarian must be technically and professionally trained.

The traditional role of a Librarian had been the provision of services to the clientele law librarianship is not an exception. This age-long emphasis, was on the doctrine of service has meant that Librarianship was destined to meet the needs of or perform any of the function auxiliary to a main function, hence, it could be said that law librarianship, for instance, was designed to provide for the needs of the legal profession. The concept of services ordinarily encompasses the collection of materials and the organization of the materials for effective use. In another breath, the idea of services is capable of being given different interpretation to meet different situations. Domine Switzer (1986,1-2) has identified the term "services" as one of those nebulous words, which imply a lot but have different meaning to

different people." According to her, it could mean an ethical commitment to do the best you can or do as much as you can to help anyone who needs your expertise among other thing.

If the concept of services is the pivot upon which librarianship and most importantly law librarianship is hinged. It then stands to reason to regard the provision of services as one of the most important professional responsibilities of a law librarian. Services in a law library setting are synonymous with skill and professional competence. Ajomo (1989: 255) – Remarks that "law librarian in the discharge of his responsibilities should be a master of his collection. He should possess adequate knowledge of the basic legal sources and the salient component of his collection in order to be able to foster autonomy and confidence, both of which are essential attributes of a given profession.

Effective services in any type of library are judged by the result in both quality and time factor. Akinla (1985:247) stated that, The quality refers to accuracy, currency and completeness of answers given to library user's inquiry and time factor relates to the speed with which the answer gets to the inquirer: law libraries all over the world are known for the provision of effective services and have always been guided by the principle of the right book or information to the right reader and at the right time.

Readers' service in law libraries is one of the important functions of any law library. Other services rendered in law libraries include:-

(a) Selective Dissemination of Information: Law libraries practice selective Dissemination of Information (SDI). This type of services requires the library user to give the library the parameter of his interest and his research area. The library on its part select new materials as they received and sends them continuously on the basis of library user's needs until the library user informs the library of subsequent changes. This (SDI) is a method of bringing the library collection to the user's table in his own home of office.

The level of reference services provided is very high and personalized and varies from giving factual answer to direct questions, locating specific facts or to searching the literature available which may result in compiling a list of everything written on a given subject of law.

(b) Indexing and abstracting services, Akinola (1985: 240) stated that " in order to assists the user in getting the maximum benefit from library bulletins annotations or abstract from each item in the bulletin are included. This is an expensive in house routing and most libraries resort to commercial abstracting service. Law libraries, however, are noted for producing a variety of indexes to their collection as in house routine. These indexes are of immense help to lawyers in locating authorities to citation, etc.

(c) Index to law reports Law reports and their indexes are so vital to legal practice and to the practice of rule of law that it is felt that they deserve special mention. Akinola

(1985:241) remarks that, "lack of general or subject indexes to the law reports reduces their utility. It is only recently that law libraries have started to compile indexes to some of these reports, One important such index is the All Nigeria law reports, 1961-1970 index published by Sweet and Maxwell, London, in 1982 "One thing common to all the law reports is that they are published irregularly after the initial few publications. It is hoped that many law libraries will consider the subject approach in compilation of indexes to the reports

(d) Indexing of judgments of the superior court, the indexing of judgments of the superior courts deserves a separate treatment because of its important. It is a law library service evolved by the institute library, the idea of which it is trying hard to sell to other law libraries in the hope that they will accept it as a continuous house routine job to enhance legal research.

Akinola (1985:242) stated that," The reasons for undertaking the indexing of the judgment of the superior court are as follows:-

(a) The state of law reporting in the country leaves much to be desired. The law reported is published irregularly and not all the judgments are reported whereas some of the proportion of unreported judgments cited in the book entitled law and social change in Nigeria is very high when compared with the number of reported judgments in all the various law reports cited in the same book.

(b) To provide access to the mass judgments emanating from the superior courts received by the institute library for the benefit of legal profession as a whole.

(e) Compilation of bibliographies and reading list. Bibliographies may be compiled on a topical issue as at the time of compilation, or, at the request of library users, or as supportive service; or as a means of focusing attention on any area of the library collection.

Bibliographies are published in different forms for instance, on geographical area, on general subject area of learning, and useful records of what has been written on their subjects and at the same they show which area of the subjects that have not received adequate share of documentation.

At the opening of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal studies in March 1979, Professor Sir Roy Mashall, said, in his inaugural lectures cited by Ajomo (1988:243) "It is extremely difficult to establish what has been published and thereafter to obtain the requisite materials, since short runs often fail to meet demand. The degree to which these problems are overcome varied from library to library, but the institute library would perform an immense service for all Nigeria. Law libraries if it were to establish a bibliographical unit from an early stage of its development. By preparing and publishing bibliographies and check lists such a unit would facilitate the work of law libraries, legal scholars and practitioners

(f) Reserved collection, the reserved stock this library consist mainly of out--print books, books which are single

copies and books of popular demand with few copies. In order for this collection to serve everybody, they are housed in a locked up cupboard in the Librarian's office. Lending of this stock – depends on the description of the Librarian. It is stated that these books can of course be borrowed and used within the library.

(g) Reference services, the library is well equipped with adequate and up-to-date reference materials. These include among other thing judicial and other Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Year Books and similar books of concise and summarized reference work. It should be noted that reference books may not be borrowed.

(g)Photocopying machine, this machine exists to photo start important official documents and information from rare books that cannot be borrowed out. The machine serves the needs of all the staff in the library.

The above listed services formed the core of librarianship anywhere. Therefore, it is relevant to review the existing services in shari'a courts with a view to determine how they are being used and their relevance in the present condition of judicial services.

2.4 Library collection and use among court officers.

The term "Use" is defined as an analysis of the interaction between the users and the working collection of the library represented by the circulating books in the library. The goal of use study has been the discovery and articulation, understanding, influencing and when appropriate, the elimination

of the obstacle that hinders the users from achieving their information goals. These obstacles could be found in the social, institutional, geographical and procedural spheres the use from the information that could best satisfy his needs.

Hodowanec (1980) maintained that use in the library is an elusive action which may mean several things. For instance, when counting circulation materials stolen books or misplaced books could all be considered as having been charged out from the library for home use. Use study is important in dealing with the problem of utilization of the resources in a library, especially when planning to prune and evaluate library collections. Data obtain from use study could be used in decision making regarding the collection. Also, Evans (1979), maintained that books use study is the least method that has the greatest potential as valid measures of the collection in a library.

The assumption of most use studies in university Libraries have been that the adequacy of the book stock is directly related to its use by students and the teaching staff; further more, the circulation record of books withdrawn for home use provide a reasonable representative picture of use made of the library. He added that use study provide objective data to evaluate the collection of a library. However, in applying the term “use” it has to be clearly defined to avoid ambiguity. At the end of every successful use study the result should be compiled and made available at the library. This could possibly help in the future replication of the study and subsequently guide the future effort to improve the use of the collection.

According to Buck (1964) the library is the heart of any organization furthermore, every organization which hope to advance has to depend on the resources of the library. In large extent the degree of the advance usually goes proportionately with the potential the library can respond. In fact, the essence of the library in the court is to respond to the information needs of the judges. The production and dissemination of knowledge must operate from a base backed by strong and adequate library collections. The library has been the heart of many activities in the courts that provision of justice would have been impossible without quality library collection.

It must be noted that textbooks in judicial services only offer guidance. The library is vital to the proper exploitation of the intellectual resources and is essential to maintenance of free access to ideas within the society. However, for the library to play its role effectively, it must support intellectualism and direct the growth of its collection and services to the needs of the users.

Vickery, (1991) noted that, “Once the collection of a library has been established it need to be properly managed in order to improve its use. Collection management strategies need to be employed in the library taking in to consideration, both the use of the resources and access to alternative sources of information to the users. The book is an important element in the integrated provision of information to readers in any organization. Other elements include use of appropriate technique in collection management to enhance the use of the

collection. In addition also, a quantifiable base needs to be obtained from measurement and evaluation of the collection for overall management decision regarding the collection of the library Jenkins and Morle (1990), noted that collection management responds to the realism of libraries. They maintained that collection management is the realities of libraries in information provision as the collection grow bigger.

Mosher (1982) remarks that collection management is a systematic, efficient and economic stewardship of library resources. It is systematic as is analytical and programmatic, which deals with the functional programme that follows institutional objectives. He noted that collection management is the prepositional science of librarianship which deals with the elements of knowing in the collection development and acquisition spheres pasterns of need for and use of library materials. It is an efficient and economic way of seeking to the urgency in need for part of the collection in the library and considered the relationship of means to ends of the library. Collection management always attempt to demonstrate that small could be better than large; it proportionate to demand and users. Thus maintaining small collection of items that will be used is always more beneficial than large collection that will not be used.

In another study, Mosher (1980) stated that, use study is a method of collection management activities in the library. He pointed that, use study measure the adequacy of the collection by measuring an in-house use of library materials. Use study is

conducted in the library especially, when the library is contemplating pruning its collection and also in evaluating the utility of the collection to the users. The result of collection use study usually indicates the areas of the collection that is receiving little or no use, which suggest changes in collection development policy or acquisition patterns. Heavy use always suggests the desirability of higher duplication rates for most items.

2.5 Special Libraries

It can be said that the true librarianship is an amalgamated of scholarly background, technical, proficiency, broad humanism and adaptability to changing conditions, Ndakotsu (1997.13). This may account for the fact that when on July, 1909 a group of 26 librarians met together at Bretton woods, New Hampshire in the U.S. to simply discuss a new form of library that had appeared on the American scene, do comets were seen nor earth quakes felt. But at the end of that discussion, a new form appeared, the "special Library." With this designation, the distinction was established between this new form and the other three that become so similar with library personnel from studies through assistants to the hard core professional (public, academic and school).

The question then follow: what makes a special library? Is it the collection, or the readers and or tshe physical facilities? The librarian? May be a little of each. The special library serves as special public, using special materials and methods. The collections cover almost all subjects but tend to concentrate on

science, technology, and business; and the group served is usually small as it concentrates its services on the needs of the research staff of the particular business or industry.

Several attempts, through the years, to define special libraries has depended on subject specialization or limited clientele or both. Thus there are several definitions leaving one way or the other. Ashworth (1979) sees it "as one which is established to obtain an exploit specialized information for the private advantage of the organization which provides its financial support, then its character " Ndakotsu (1988) on his own part, stated thus, one of the greatest glories of special librarianship, one of the things that make it special, is that each special librarian create his own organization of information- he functions as creator of special system for his own special purpose." Mukherjee (1969) observed that expression special library means a library which concern, almost exclusively with literature of specification; subject or group of subjects…. it also includes libraries which are exceptions of a particular form of materials. It was observed according Ndakotsu (1988), special libraries serve organization with a definite defined group policy and members of the group have indicated their acceptance of this policy….."

Special library deal exclusively with the literature of a particular subject or group of subject. It caters to the need of group united by a common purpose that are specialist leaders, or serve the technical information needs of such clientele. Taken in a wider scope, this will include also libraries having exclusive collections of particular forms of non-basic materials

such as films record, etc. to bring within its foreign the special collection in public libraries in University libraries. The resources are specialized and the users specialists. The striking differences between general library and special libraries lies in the nature of clientele and the materials and the documents served.

It can be said that, the special library is a direct product of scientific and technological research and industrial development. Little wonder then than they are mostly identified with such organization. A simplistic way of looking at special library is through what it is not i.e it is not academic, national, or public. It is intended to serve the need of a portion of community requiring detailed information respecting a limited subject field. From the above mentioned law libraries are undoubtedly special libraries.

2.6 User satisfaction

American Heritage Dictionary defined satisfaction as, fulfillment or gratification of a desired. Through day to day interaction with users, librarians can informally evaluate how well the library is meeting the information needs of the users and thereby adjust services to meet changing needs. Encyclopedia of library and information science (1980), states that, Formal user survey are undertaken from time to time, such survey may be conducted by the library itself, management, or outside consultant. Using personal interviews or questionnaires. A typical survey covers services used and satisfaction with quality, relevance and promptness of the services.

Users satisfaction with services and resources of a library is refer to the level to which the information resources and services are meeting needs of the users. This can qualitative or quantitative. Qualitative means the authoritativeness and quality of the information resources which can be obtained from an examination of the resources or from the users. Qualititative means the number of items require to satisfy a given information services, Therefore, for the user of shari'ah court library to be satisfied with the services of their library measures of quality and quantity must be satisfied.

It is also stated in the encyclopedia that Survey of user attitude combined with selected use statistics as the most common method used by librarian to evaluate the effectiveness of library services and to demonstrate level of satisfaction of the information requirement of the users. Salisu I. M., (2005:99), remarks that, "Satisfaction is qualitative measure of performance as defined by users, which meet their basic requirement and standards. Client satisfaction is the highest priority of business for a library.

2.7 Summary of the review.

From the above literature reviewed it has been established that information service has influence on implementations of sharia law in Northern Nigeria. The review revealed that the concept of availability of information resources and utilization of the materials related to the demand of the services of information materials.

The reviewed also revealed that information resources and services affect the efficiency and effectiveness of Law officers in dispensation of justice. The library provide support services which are vital in law this is to ensured providing necessary plat form for a coordinated effort towards the provision of justice.

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CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This study examined the availability, use of information resources and services of ten shari'a court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria. The purpose of this chapter is to explain the research method adopted the population and its sample, instrument for collecting data, procedure for collecting data, and the procedure used in analyzing the data.

3.1 Research method adopted

In this research, survey method was used in gathering data from the research area: Northern states Government owned shari'a court libraries in terms of their availability and utilization of information resources and services. Kurliger (1970) maintained that, "The survey has the advantage of wider application as it allows data to be collected on large population. In survey, subject can also be tested with fewer expenses to obtain the relevant data needed for the study"

3.2 Population of the study

Afolabi (1999) stated that, "A population is a group of subjects possessing common characteristic that is the target of an investigation". The population of this study therefore comprises the libraries from the nineteen Northern states and Abuja. But as the researcher can not obtain any response from a library he needs to ask the staff and the users of the library. Therefore, the staff of the shari'a court libraries and the court officers including the judges who use the libraries were taken as

subjects of the study. A subject possesses the same attribute as the parent population.

3.3 Sample and sampling procedure

At the time of this study, there were nineteen states in Northern Nigeria and Abuja. Ten states were selected randomly as a sample for this study. However, the subjects of the study were drawn from the library staff and users such as lawyers, judges and Khadis in the judiciary. In all, 10 heads of shari'ah court libraries were selected, 50 lawyers, and 90 Khadis were also selected as subjects for the study. Kerlinger (1970) noted that, "If small sample size is taken for a study, it is possible that the study may be biased towards that small group and the study will be prone to error. The error in any scientific investigation refers to sample value that deviate from the population value. But by taking large sample more accurate results may be obtained as chances of error is greatly reduced in the large sample. Bookstein (1983) noted that, the reliability of a scientific investigation lies in the ability of the researcher to select sample that are truly representative of the population of the study. A total of ten shari'a court libraries were selected randomly as sample for this study.

The libraries are shari'a court libraries of Abuja, Bauchi, Borno, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kogi, Sokoto, Yobe, and Zamfara. The clients of these libraries are mostly GrandKhadis Khadis , Judges, Lawyers, researchers, students, Islamic scholars, court registrars, ulama'a, Alkalis etc. Therefore, for the

purpose of this study, the researcher used half of the population of shari'a court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria as sample size.

3.4 Instrument for collecting data

Questionnaires, physical observation and interview were the instruments used for data collection.

Questionnaires were used as instruments in collecting data for this research. This is because it is cheap, quick and suitable for reaching widely dispersed populations, and that it avoids interview bias. The questionnaire was used in order to save cost when the research was conducted. Also it was used for considerable time required to obtain a very large number of views

During the construction of the questionnaires 2 sets of questionnaires were constructed. One for soliciting response of librarians; while the other soliciting users responses. The questionnaires for library staff was constructed in five sections; section A asked questions on background information of shari'ah court libraries, section B asked questions on Acquisition of information resources; section C asked questions on accessibility of information resources, section D asked questions on organization and section E asked questions on interblending. The questionnaires for users was constructed in five sections; section A on background information, section B asked questions on Accessibility, section C asked questions on organization, section D asked question on use and section E on satisfaction.

Two styles of questionnaires were used: open and closed ended questions. These were used to obtain different shades of opinion from the respondents, in order to obtain accurate responses to precisely define the situation at hand. Background information to the research was also inserted in the two questionnaires to obtain identity of the respondents. This aided greatly in the obtaining relevant data needed to conclude the study.

Physical observation was carried out during the course of distributing the questionnaires. This aided in obtaining first hand information about the conditions in the libraries.

Interview was conducted in order to clarify questions that could not be answered in the questionnaires. However, the interview did not cover only the library staff but also the students.

3.5 Procedure for collecting data

Questionnaires were taken to each of the shari'ah court libraries. The researcher administered the questionnaires personally, who after some days went round the libraries again to collect the completed questionnaires. The users returned 98 questionnaires while ten questionnaires were completed and returned by the librarians.

3.6 Procedure for data analysis

The data collected for this study were analyzed using descriptive analysis as expressed in percentage and expressed in tabular form.

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CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

4. 0 Introduction

The chapter presents the analyses of the data collected from the subjects of the study. Analyses were made from the responses to questions prepared for the officers in charge (librarians) of the libraries investigated, and their users. These questions were presented in tabular form and also expressed in percentage.

4.1 Response rate of the sampled libraries.

In conducting the research one hundred and fifty (150) Questionnaires were distributed. But one hundred and eight Questionnaires representing (108) 71.9% were returned duly completed

Table 4.1 Response rate of the respondents' library staff and users.

STATE	No. of questionnaires distributed	No. of questionnaires returned	%
Abuja	17	15	10.0
Bauchi	13	9	6.0
Borno	14	11	7.3
Kaduna	20	18	12.0
Kano	21	15	10.0
Katsina	17	10	6.7
Kogi	8	5	3.3
Sokoto	13	9	6.0
Yobe	16	8	5.3
Zamfara	11	8	5.3
Total	**150**	**108**	**71.9**

The above table shows the number of questionnaires retuned from the libraries studied. One hundred and fifty (150)

questionnaires were distributed among the ten shari'ah court libraries. One hundred and eight (108) questionnaires were returned representing 71.9%. The percentage of the response rate is high up to 71.9%, this is because the researcher used to spent two to three days to collect the completed questionnaires after distribution. By seeing the present of the researcher the respondents responded more positively..

4.2 Analysis of data

Data were analyzed based on the responses of the librarians and users of the shari'ah court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria. Figures and table were used to shed more light on the data collected for the study. The analyses were carried out under the following subheadings:-

a) Method of information resources acquisition by Shari'ah court libraries.

b) Types of information resources available in shari'ah court libraries.

c) Organization of information resources in shari'ah court libraries.

d) Types of information services provided by shari'ah court libraries.

e) Purpose of using shari'ah court libraries.

f) Level of satisfaction with information resources in shari'ah court Libraries.

4.3 Method of information resources acquisition

Information resources acquisition connotes how shari'ah court libraries acquire their information resources. Table 4.2

shows the various methods by which information resources are acquired in shari'ah court libraries.

Table 4.2 method of information resources acquisition in shari'ah court libraries.

Name of Library	Method of information resources Acquisition				
	Purchase	Gift	Donation	Solicitation	Exchange
	F	f	f	f	F
Abuja	√	-	-	-	-
Bauchi	√	-	-	-	-
Borno	√	-	-	-	-
Kaduna	√	-	-	-	-
Kano	√	-	-	-	-
Katsina	√	-	-	-	-
Kogi	√	-	-	-	-
Sokoto	√	-	-	-	-
Yobe	√	-	-	-	-
Zamfara	√	-	-	-	-

The table above reveals that all the ten (10) shariah court libraries studied use purchase as a method of acquiring information resources in their libraries. Therefore, this means that the libraries do not receive resources from other means such as gift, donations, etc. The implication of this is that materials for research is acquired based on what the library can afford. This also means that the libraries are missing a lot by not utilizing other means of getting resources free of charge or with less cost.

4.4 Availability of information resources in shari'ah court libraries.

Availability of information refers to the physical presence of information resource within the library. An information resource in this study refers to such items as books, Journals, law reports, dictionaries, encyclopedia, almanacs etc. Library and improvement are central to library services provision and a

measure of library performance. Therefore, the number of information resource in shari'ah court libraries were presented in table 4.3 below

Table 4.3 number of titles available in shari'ah court libraries.

Library	Title
Abuja	2,500
Bauchi	3,000
Borno	
Kaduna	1,500
Kano	2,000
Katsina	2,500
Kogi	1,000
Sokoto	4,290
Yobe	1,580
Zamfara	3,500

Table 4.3 above, the general picture is that all the libraries investigated have collection of 1,000 and above information resources. Sokoto shari'ah court library has the highest (4,290) number of volumes. Followed by Zamfara shari'ah court library which has (3,500) number of volumes. Kogi state shari'ah court has the least number of volumes of information resources which recorded (1,000) volumes.

4.5 Types of information resources available.

Information resources refer to information sources or materials in the library. Availability also refers to the physical presence of the sources of information within the library. The type of information resources available in shari'ah court libraries in Northern Nigeria have been identified by the study as indicated in table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4 types of information resources available in the shari'ah court libraries in the states of northern Nigeria

Types of Information resources	NAME OF LIBRARY									
	Abuja	**Bauchi**	**Borno**	**Kaduna**	**Kano**	**Katsina**	**Kogi**	**Sokoto**	**Yobe**	**Zamfara**
Books 500-1000 1000-1500 1500-2000 Above 2500	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Law reports Less than 500 500 Above 500	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Journals Less than500 500 Above 500	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Gazette Less than 500 500 Above 500	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Table 4.4 above describes the types of information resources available in the shari'ah Court libraries investigated. The results revealed that Kano and Sokoto states shari'ah court libraries have the highest number of books with 2000 volumes of books each. The size of the collection of law reports in the libraries indicated that Abuja, Borno, Kaduna and Kano have the highest number of law reports, more than 500 copies each. The table further revealed that the journal collections in all the libraries are few less than 500 titles. In all the libraries the number of Gazette is also less than 500.

Islamic law resources have been existing in various formats, including electronic format and audio visual materials. Therefore, the implication of the above finding is that the libraries are not adequately provided with modern information resources.

Muhammad (1977), stated that “Islamic law collections were said to be found in the various administrative jurisdiction of

Usman Danfodio. These early court collections were later inherited and adopted for use by some shari'ah courts in the states of Northern Nigeria.

4,6 **Processing and organization of information resources in shari'ah court libraries**.

Organization of knowledge is central to the effective functions of any information service i.e. Organization Sharia information services, as all other library materials, is next stage after its acquisition. This helps in recording its presence in the library where the persons can have access to its information. If the library where to keep a separate catalogue its Shariah information resources, the user would have had a smaller records to wade through. In search of information. From this survey for of the libraries (40%) indicated that they keep a separate catalogue while (60%) do not.

Like other library materials Shariah information resources also need proper organization. From the copies of the questionnaires returned and physical observation of the Shariah information research found out that Shariah information resources and catalogued using Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (AACR I). Bibliographic data included in a descriptive cataloguing of Shariah information resources in Shariah Court libraries in the States of Northern Nigeria are group into eight areas. Title and statement of responsibility area. The major descriptive method used in cataloging of Shariah information resources is the first level description (1.OD) where the rules required a minimum of the following data, title proper, statement

of responsibility, edition statement, place of publication and date of publication, standard number. The main entry is provided then level (1.OD), level description is follow up. Then a paragraph is provided to give the physical description area, where a pagination and illustration is given. The series area is what follows next.(if it is provided). The note area follows next.

Finally, accession number of the material is recorded at the bottom of the card-catalogue. Main entry is provided when describing the Shariah information resources in Shariah Court libraries, in the States of Northern Nigeria. The concept presupposes that one unit entry is made for each item described. And this unit entry is supplemented by added entry. In other words, main entry is complete catalogue of an item is presented in form by which the entry is uniformly identified and cited Salisu,(2005:82). Usually, the main entry may include the tracing of all other headings under which record is to be presented in the catalogue.

Fig. 1 below shows a typical catalogue-card record in the Shariah Court libraries.

Fig. 1 : An Author Catalogue Card

Bp 145
Doi
Doi, Abdurrahman I.
Shari'ah the Islamic Law/ Abdurrahman I:
London: Taha publishers, 1984
Xiii, 484p
ISBN 0907461-38-7
Acc.8551-8552

I. Title II subject

In determining the main entry shariah information resources cataloguing in the shari;ah court in states of Northern Nigeria. The surname of the Author is used as the main entry.

One of the principles of AACR is that one main entry is made for each item described, and this is supplemented by added or secondary entry. It is entry additional to the main entry by which an item is represented a catalogue. Its an additional point of access to an item in a library.

In shari'ah court libraries, using the main entry on unit entry as basic added entry can be easily be made by adding at top of the main entry, the heading for the added entry.

Fig. 2: A title card catalogue.

Bp 145
Doi
SHARI'AH, the Islamic Law/Abdurrahman I. Doi
London: Taha publisher, 1984
Xiii, 484p.
ISBN o-907461-38-7

The shari'ah information resources are arranged according to library of congress (LC) classification scheme. They are then shelves according to subject area. The symbol of each subject is marked on the spine of the books, which helps in positioning those (books) on the shelves according to their corresponding alphabet. These helps readers in the shari'ah court libraries to have access to shari'ah information resources in the libraries and any other library using same scheme. And consequently, it is easy to locate and fetch out materials for research.

80(74.07%) of the copies of the questionnaires returned revealed that, they see the class marks of the materials clearly while 28 (25.93%) they revealed that they do not see it. This is because some faded.

In the overall 50 (46.30%0) acknowledged that the organization of shari'ah information resource is adequate for their need. As such the implication here, is that the shari;ah court libraries are not rendering their effective services of organization of knowledge. Therefore, they can easily drive away their patrons.

4.7. **Information resources used in shari'a court libraries**.

The current research thinking dictates that a Law library should collect those materials which now and futures, will best serve the objective of the court. when a librarian species of 'satisfying current demands" He does not mean primarily the purchase of a book when a user wants it; he means the ability of a library to supply the materials required at a particular point in time. When on the other hand a librarian buys a book without an expressed need, he is buying for the future. this is based on the anticipated demands of users as exemplified by the long term objectives of the court. therefore, on the basis of logic as well as factual evidence it may be said that a good law library should be able to meet the current demands of its clientele, that this can be achieved by acquiring materials of permanent educational value and maximum probable usefulness, and within the limit of its financial resources it should also be guided by the library's strengths and weakness, research trends and court interest.

From the above foregoing the picture of law library is becoming clear. it is not just a mere attached to the in court. It is the custodian of a very vital knowledge. the importance of a law library particularly in the developing part of the world (such as ours), is succinctly to any court is of central importance; to a court in a country if provided with public libraries, collections of books and bookshop, its library exceeds in importance any other of its possessions, judges and lawyers must be very heavily dependent upon it.

The foregoing above shows clearly that conceptions of the court library vary from person to person and from place to place in time. The conceptions of tend to portray societal values of different generations. No doubt social change such as the development of human knowledge influenced the conception of the library. As the scope of the court broadens to embrace a wider range of functions as also do views people have of the library that is attached to it.

As such with an era of financial stringency, libraries should be giving increasing attention to cost-benefit considerations. The questioned is raised; are acquisition justified. The criteria for answering, this question is the use of acquisition. The library collection may have other functions for example in inspirational and media function but if books are not used it is hard to justify their purchase.

Cost-benefit implies quantification of use. There are some obvious problems, however, if in house use and external circulation, each use is counted as one, thus giving equal weight to all users. A book or journal may be picked up and put dawn without being opened. At the other extreme, a book or journal may inspire a new theorem, or an insightful generation.

Moreover, in the case of in house use one can not be sure of the accuracy of one's court. In open stocks the readers may replace material in defiance of signs requesting that material be placed on designated return shelves. There may be several reasons for disobedience. The readers mat not wish to carry the materials over to designated area. They may be uncertain as to

when the book would be shelved, so that if it were needed again shortly they might not be able or sorting shelves.

In discussing library use reference to catalogue is necessary. The catalogue is usually referred to as the key to the library and can say that in ability to use a library catalogue is tantamount to ineffectiveness use of the library Semour (1973:6) Indicated that, study's have shown that the readers approach to finding a desired book more often than not consist of looking on the shelf first, then, sometimes consulting the catalogue' what the writer wanted to find out here was whether or not those working in courts have any idea of what a library catalogue is, ignorance will handicap their use of the library.

Ochai (1977:55) remarked that, science book are borrowed heavily than any other group of books. They constitute nearly a third of all books borrowed in any one day. Books on science (Q) and technology (T) tend to be most heavily used and they constitute the largest part of the collection. This pattern appears broken when one looks at the collection on language /literature (P). Books in this class may constitute a reasonable percent of the total stock of a library and yet borrowing is very low. A reason for the high rate of borrowing of science and technology books could be attributed to the general high cost of science books as compared to books in other areas. Also they become out date much more quickly. The tendency, therefore, is to depend upon the library heavily for books in these areas whereas other students in other field depend less on the library for their books which can be obtained fairly cheaply from the

bookshop. The student of literature, who can buy many cheap paper back books edition of those needed for the course may pay not bother much about the library. However, Kent (1977:228) in a study he conducted on the use of library materials at the University of Pittsburgh he realized that he relative use of class LC shows considerable stability when categories are rendered according to percentage of use. If is seen that P (language and literature) and it (social science) are the leading categories in terms of use.

With regards to use of journals, Ochai (1977:69) stated that journals in certain discipline are used more in the case of undergraduate students than others. It appears that journals are used in the professional discipline more than the subjects that are purely academic in nature. The heavy demand of journals, in discipline like librarianship and engineering as compared, to say political science confirmed this. According to him, these made of journals is influenced by variety of factors like the size of book collection in particular discipline, and the willingness of lecturers to keep up-to-date in their fields. Some hardly ever mention journal titles apart from those they knew in their undergraduate days, these they recommend to their students. In this way, the students hardly ever know of the existence of newer journals not to talk of using them. And Ifidon (1977:144) affirmed more usage of books than periodicals by the postgraduate students in the University libraries he studied. A breakdown of the available citations shows that researchers in he humanities, in general cite reference than those in social sciences. In the humanities the

overall mean of book citations is 136 and of periodicals citations, 72; which in the social sciences the overall mean of book citation is 126 and of periodicals citations35. This is also affirmed by Kent (1972:229), that the general conclusions in usage of periodicals are overall use is low, collection size influences the percentage of use in a negative direction, there is a concentration of use of current journals, borrowing is concentrated on current journals, with older journals being accessed through some type of reference and photocopying of older issues is based on a previous reference.

Finally, some of the law libraries used classification schemes they fill are better for their readers. In terms of the collections, each library has its policy whether or not readers should have open access to them. While most law libraries operate the open shelf system others have the books locked up in cupboards. Analyzing the use of law information resources further, the were asked indicate the resources in the shari'a court libraries.

Table 4.5: Types of information resources used in shari'ah court libraries.

Library and Information Resource	Freq.	%
Holy Qur'an	90	83.3
Hadith	90	83.3
Fiqh	88	81.5
Court proceedings	40	37.0

Law Reports	38	35.2
Journals	35	32.4
Books	33	30.6
Publication of International Law	32	29.6
Foreign Law	32	29.6
Official Publications	20	18.5
Judgment of Supreme Court	20	18.5
Gazette	16	14.8
Ijma'a	16	14.8
Law Related Periodicals	15	13.9
Qiyas	15	13.9
Religious law	14	13.0

Table 4.5 above and figure 3 bellow explain the information resources used in shari'ah court libraries studied. The analysis shows that 90 (83.3%) of the respondents revealed that they use Holy Qur'an and Hadith respectively and 88 (83.5%) of them indicated that they used Fiqh in addition to the sources. This implies that the users have been using Qur'an, Hadith and fiqh as information resources. Therefore, there is no much use such as journals, law related periodicals and gazette, etc. in the libraries.

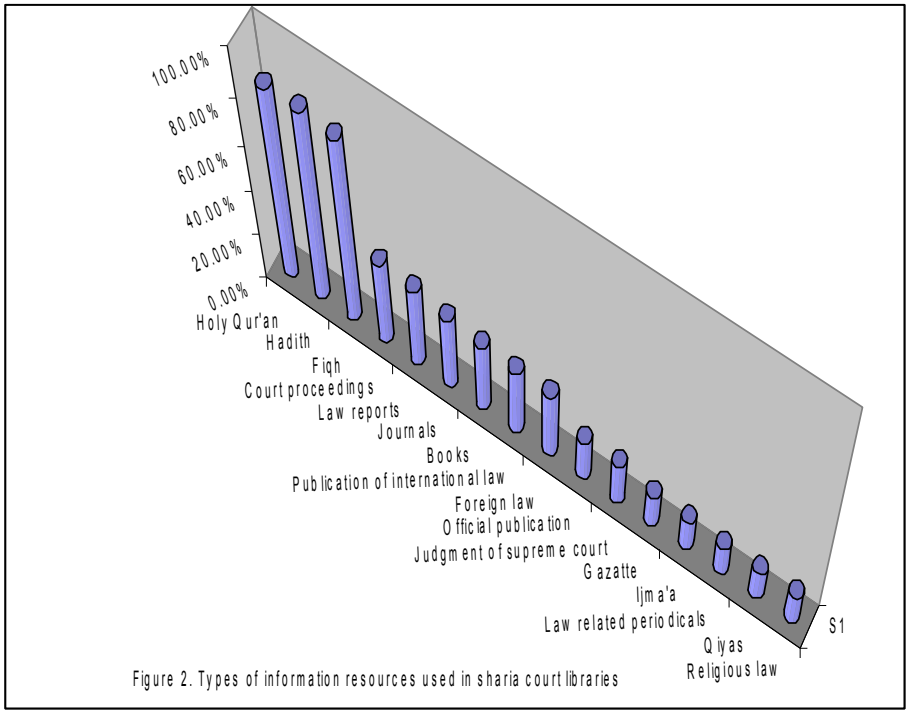


Figure 2. Types of information resources used in sharia court libraries

In the course of interview, the respondent revealed that they use Holy Qur'an, Hadith and Fiqh, because they [provided them with all the relevant information in the aspect of shari'ah law.

In Qur'an 57:25 it was recorded that Allah says, "We sent aforetime our messengers with clear signs and the balance (of right and wrong), that man may stand forth in justice…." Also prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, "I leave for you two things if you hold on to them firmly, you will never go astray i.e the Book of Allah and my Sunnah". Therefore, Qur'an and Hadith are the major information sources in shari'a law.

4.8 Types of information services provided in the shari'ah court libraries.

Information services are an activity carried out by the staff of a library to enable the users get to their information requirement

with less difficulty. The respondents were allowed to choose more than one item in the questionnaires.

Table 4.6 Types of information services in the shari'ah court libraries.

Library and Information serv	Freq.	%
Reference Service	83	76.9
Reserve Services	35	32.4
Information Services	25	23.1
Lending Services	11	10.2
Indexing Services	9	8.3
AudioVisual Services	8	7.4
Student Orientation	7	6.5
Abstracting services	6	5.6
Bibliographical Compilation	4	3.7
Internet Services	3	2.8
Computer services	3	2.8
Photocopying services	2	1.9
Exhibition services	2	1.9

Table 4.6 above and figure4 bellow analyzed the information services provided in the shari'ah court libraries. The analysis shows that, 83 (76.9%) of the respondents indicated that their libraries offer references services to them. Another 35 (32.4%) revealed that the libraries provided them with reserve services. It was revealed by the respondents in the course of interview that the libraries serve as reference libraries and they offer lending services only on special cases.

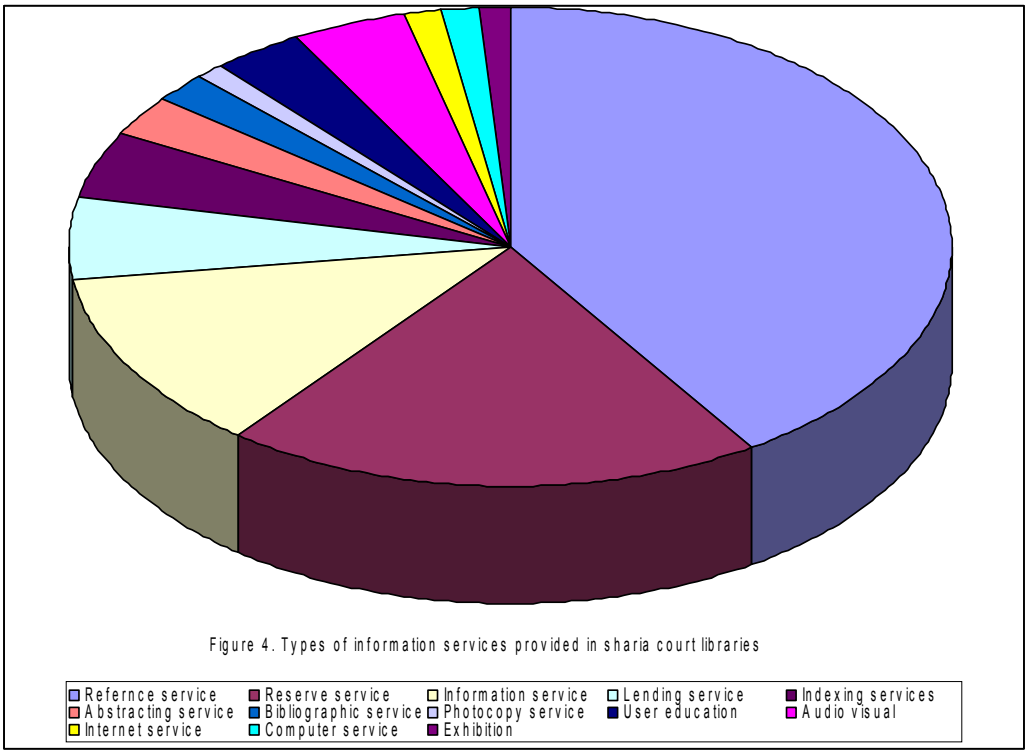


Figure 4. Types of information services provided in sharia court libraries

Figure 4 above revealed that 2 (1.9%) of the respondents indicated that the libraries offer photocopying and exhibition services respectively.

4.9 **Information services utilized by users of shari'ah court libraries.**

Information use refers to the services that satisfied the information requirements of the users of the libraries.

Table 4.7 Information services utilized by users of shari'ah court libraries.

INFORMATION SERVICE	Freq	%
Reference services	88	81.5
Reserve services	35	32.4
Information services	26	24.1
Lending services		9.3
Audiovisual services	8	7.4
Indexing services	7	6.5
Students orientation	6	5.6
Bibliographical compilation	5	4.6

Abstracting services	5	4.6
Photocopying services	5	4.6
Internet service	3	2.8
Computer services	3	2.8
Exhibition services	2	1.9

Table 4.7 above, describes the information services utilized in shari'ah court libraries investigated. The analysis shows that 88(81.5%) of the respondents revealed that they enjoyed reference services in the shari'ah court libraries. Another 35(32.4%) of the respondents indicated that they use reserve services in the libraries studied. The results revealed that 2(1.9%) of the respondents indicated that they enjoyed exhibition services, other 3(2.8%) enjoyed internet and computer services respectively. The respondents were free to choose more than one item in the questionnaires.

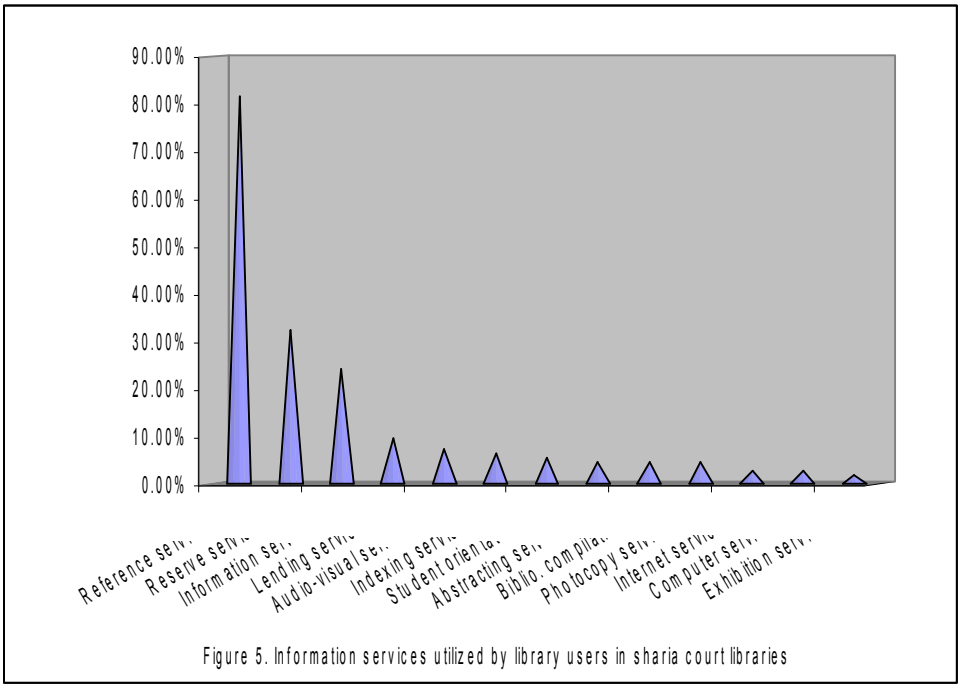


Figure 5. Information services utilized by library users in sharia court libraries

Figure 5 above, sheds more light on the information services used in the shari'a court libraries. In the course of interview, it was revealed that the libraries are facing an acute shortage of staff, hence the provision of reference service only. In some of the libraries, other services are available but there is inadequacy of staff to carry out such services. Aguda (1985) remarks that from the history of law libraries, it can be reasonably stated that the law libraries were more or less store house with clerks or clerical assistants to look after them, often erroneously described as "librarian ". Therefore, such so called "librarians" could only give minimum reference services"

4.10 **Purpose of using shari'ah court libraries**

The users use the library for various reasons as indicated in the table below.

Table 4.8 Purpose of using shari'ah court libraries.

Purpose of use	**Freq.**	**%**
Personal research	70	64.8
Research	62	57.4
Passing judgment	28	25.9
Pleasure	20	18.5

Table 4.8 above and figure 5 bellow explain the purpose for which the respondents use the libraries. The analysis shows

that, 70(57.4%) and 62(57.4%) of the respondents, come to the libraries in order to conduct personal research and research respectively. The results also revealed that 28(25.9%) of the respondents come to the libraries to read for passing judgments. Another 20(18.2%) of the respondents come to the libraries to read for leisure i.e. to read Newspapers and personal books. Figure 5 below sheds more light on the purpose for which the users use the libraries.

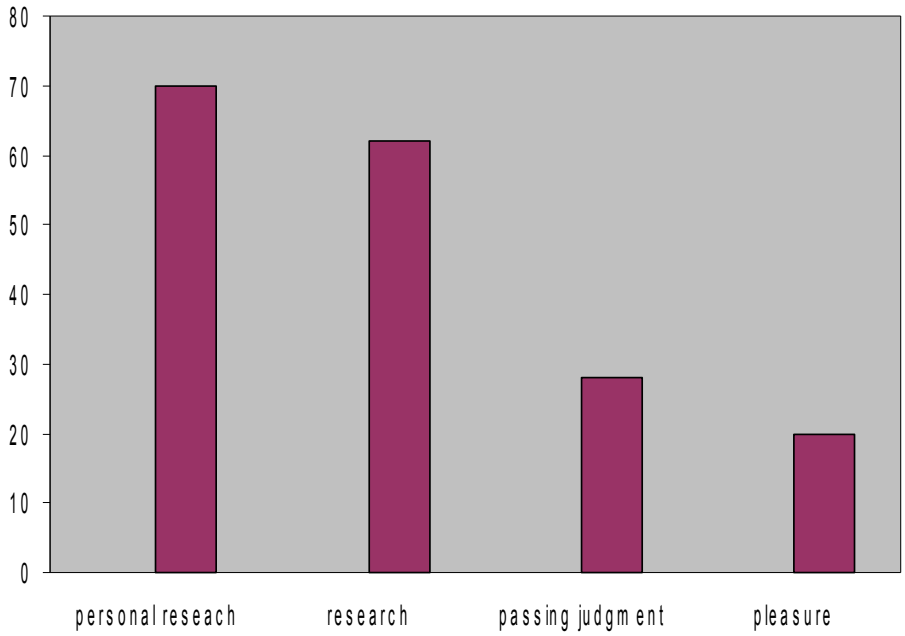


Figure 4:purpose of using the library

1.11 Level of satisfaction with shariah information resources in shari'ah court libraries.

Satisfaction is a qualitative measure of performance as defined by users, which meet their basic requirement and standard. Client satisfaction is the highest priority of business for a library. Every single task of the library is devoted to the client satisfaction. In an effort to find out whether users are really

satisfied with Shariah information resources in Shariah Court libraries under study, the researcher asked a research question on the level of satisfaction. The analysis of the level of satisfaction of the Shariah information resource.

Table 4.9 level of satisfaction with information resources in shari'ah court libraries.

Information resources	Level of satisfaction with information resources							
	Highly satisfied		satisfied		unsatisfied		Uncertain	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	
Holy Qura'an	47	43.5	39	36.1	10	9.3	8	
Hadith	51	47.4	35	32.6	5	4.7	2	1.9
Fiqh	50	46.5	48	44.6	3	2.8	1	0.9
Court proceeding	30	27.9	35	32.6	25	23.3	0	0
Law Reports	50	46.5	25	23.3	11	10.2	20	18.6
Journals	3	2.8	30	27.9	55	51.2	20	18.6
Books	13	12.1	23	21.4	45	41.7	15	14.0
Religious Law	14	13.0	10	9.3	50	46.5	0	0
Publication of International Law	5	407	1	0.9	65	60.5	20	18.6
Foreign Law	6	5.6	10	9.6	75	69.8	15	14.0
Gazette	0	0	2	1.9	85	79.1	15	14.0
Official publication	20	18.6	25	23.3	25	23.3	16	14.9
Law Related Period	20	18.6	30	27.9	10	9.3	2	1.9
Judgments of supreme court	15	14.0	20	18.6	15	14.0	25	23.3
Qiyas	35	32.6	40	37.2	3	2.8	2	1.9
Ijma'a	46	42.8	42	39.1	2	1.9	1	0.9

Table 4.8 above is used to analyze the level of satisfaction with information resources in shari'ah court libraries studied. The analysis shows that, 47 (43.5%), 51 (47.4%) and 50 (46.5%) of the respondents revealed that they were highly satisfied with Holy Qur'an, Hadith and Fiqh respectively. The results also revealed that, 85 (79.1%), 75 (69.8%) and 55 (51.2%) of the respondents indicated dissatisfaction with Gazette, Foreign Law and Journals respectively. The respondents revealed in the course of interview, that they do not need to consult other information resources apart from Holy Qur'an, Hadith and Fiqh for sharia implementation. This implies that they are missing current information about shari'ah most especially through internet and email services. The respondents were allowed to choose more than one item in the questionnaires.

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CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Introduction

The purpose of the chapter is to provide summary of the study, summary of the findings, conclusion and recommendation.

5.1 Summary of the study

The study was conducted to investigate the availability and utilization of information resources and services of the shari'ah court Libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria. Availability refers to the physical presence of information resources in the libraries, while Utilization refers to the records of information resources consulted by the users.

Chapter two of the study reviewed relevant literature on the conceptual and theoretical framework of the problem under study. This has been necessary in order to lay the foundation for the research.

In this study the researcher used staff of shari'ah court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria and the users of the libraries as population sample of 10 shari'ah courts, selected from the shari'ah court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria. Users of the 10 selected shari'ah court libraries were also used as sample. Questionnaires and interviews were used as instruments to collect data. Relevant statistical method was used to interpret and analyze the data collected for the study.

The study is able to make some findings, and passed judgment on the subject under investigation. In the end, it

summarizes the findings of the study and offer important recommendation on the problem investigated.

5.2 Summary of findings

The study is able to make the following findings:

i It was established that shari'ah court libraries depend largely on purchase as a major method of information resources acquisition. Out of the 10 shari'ah court libraries investigated 10 (100%) of them recorded using purchase as major method of information acquisition.

ii The study revealed that, Holy Qur'an Hadith and fiqh are the major information resources in the shari'ah court libraries investigated. The results shows that 90 (83.3%) of the respondents indicated that Holy Qur'an Hadith and Fiqh are available in the libraries investigated.

iii It was established that 90 (83.3%) and 88 (81.5%) users of the shari'ah court libraries used Holy Qur'an, Hadith and Fiqh as their sources of information.

vi The study established that reference service is the major service used by users in the shari'ah court libraries, 83 (76.9%) of the respondents utilized reference service in shari'ah court libraries studied.

v It was found that users of shari'ah court libraries used the Libraries for personal research. This is recorded by 70(64.8%) of the users in the libraries studied.

vi The study recorded that user of shari'ah court libraries are highly Satisfied with fiqh which recorded 50 (46.5%) of the users in the shari'ah court libraries investigated.

vii It was established that users of shari'ah court libraries are highly satisfied with reference services which recorded 63 (58.3%) of the users in the shari'ah court libraries investigated.

53 Conclusion

From the findings of the study, the researcher concludes that shari'ah court libraries in the states of Northern Nigeria mostly use purchase as method of information resources acquisition. The libraries are also stocked with books journals and gazette, and they do not have electronic information resources. This means that the libraries are not moving toward the modern trend information services. Perhaps, this could affect the services rendered and utilized by the libraries. Therefore, the level of satisfaction of the users with resources and services could also be compromised. This is because the information resources and services which could be accessed electronically were not available. Electronic information resources offer greater advantages to the users of the library.

Shari'a implementation in Northern Nigeria may also be compromise because the libraries in the courts are not built in line with modern information services. Whereas, the library suppose to be dynamic to be able to effectively support the courts in judicial activities. It supposes to be stock with the right

kind of materials which could satisfy the information requirements of the judges. If this could be provided the effectiveness of the courts would be enhanced.

5.4 Recommendations

The researcher wishes to make the following recommendations:

1 Shari'ah court libraries use only one method in information resources acquisition where as using more methods such as gift, donations, solicitation and exchange could increase the resources in the libraries.

2 The users use fiqh as source of information where as other sources such as Holy Qur'an Hadith etc are good sources of information. Therefore, Librarians in the shari'ah court libraries should encourage their users to also utilize other sources as provided in the libraries.

3 The users of shari"ah court libraries utilize reference services provided in the libraries. The librarians should encourage them to use other services such as reserve service, computer services, Internet services etc., in order to be current and up to date.

4 Shari'ah court libraries users use the library for personal research. It is recommended that the librarians should encourage them to use the libraries for other reasons such as passing judgment, research, as well as pleasure.

5 It was established that shari'ah court libraries offered lending services on special cases. It is recommended that

shari'ah court libraries should offer full lending services, in order to satisfy the information requirement of their patrons.

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Questionnaires on availability and utilization of information resources in sharia court libraries in northern Nigeria.

TYPE A: FOR USERS OF SHARIA COURT LIBRARIES.

Section A: Background information

1 Name of library,,,

2 Department of user……………………………………

3 Category of user (a) Grand khadi…….. (b) Khadi……… (c) Lawyer,,,,,, (d) Researcher…….. (e) Others, please specify………………

Section B: Accessibility

4 Is the information resources freely accessible? Yes ( ) No ( )

5 Is a printed guide available to you about the arrangement and content of information resources collections, whether intergraded or separated? Yes ( ) No ( )

6 how long does it take you to find and obtain information resources from this section? (a) Negligible delay ( ) b. Up to 2hours ( ) c 2-4 hours ( ) d. More than 4 within same time ( ) e. More than one day ( )

Section C: Organization.

7 Do you consider your library's organization of law information resources adequate for your needs? Yes ( ) No ( )

8 Do you see the class mark of the materials clearly? Yes ( ) No ( )

b. It no, why (please specify) ………………………………

9 How do you trace a material in the shelve?

(a) By going through the shelve ( )

(b) By title/Author's name ( )

© By using the class mark ( )

(d) Others (please specify)……..

Section D: Use

10 What do you use the information resources for? a. Assignment ( ) b. research ( ) c. Personal research ( ) d pleasure ( ) e. Others (please specify)……..

11 If you come for information or materials, is it for; a. Personal use ( ) b. your job ( ) c. Club or committee ( ) d. Course ( ) e. Others (please specify)……

12a Do you find what you want? Yes ( ) No ( )

12b If not was it because:

The unit does not own the book ( )

The book was out ( )

The materials you find are in adequate ( )

The assistance does not find answer to your questions ( )

Others(please specify) ……..

13 Do you receive help in using the resources of the library? yes ( ) No ( )

14 How regularly do you use the library? a. Daily ( ) b. Sometimes a month ( ) c. When required ( ) d. Several time a week ( ) e. Weekly ( ) f. Monthly ( )

Section E: Satisfaction

15a Are you satisfied with the way the library render its services? Yes ( ) No ( )

b. if not, why?.....

16a Are you satisfied with the collection? Highly satisfied ( ) Satisfied ( ) Unsatisfied ( ) Uncertain ( )

b. Can you explain your reasons?.....

17a Are you satisfied with the subject spread of the materials? Highly satisfied ( ) Satisfied ( ) Unsatisfied ( ) Uncertain ( )

18a Are you please with the organization of the materials of the library? Highly satisfied ( ) Satisfied ( ) unsatisfied ( ) Uncertain ( )

b. Can you explain your reasons?.....

19a Do you find the general set off of the unit a. Very boring ( ) b. Boring ( ) c. No feeling either way ( ) d. Interesting ( ) e. Very interesting ( )

b If you can, explain your reasons……

20 Do you find the information needed? a. Always ( ) b. Most of the time ( ) c. Not most of the time ( ) d. Never ( )

21 Are the staff patient preservant, sympathetic and understanding? Yes ( ) No ( )

If no, why?.....

22 How do you rate the staff? a. Rigid ( ) b. Unfriendly ( ) c. Resistant to temptation ( ) d. Tactful ( )

23 Are you satisfied with classification symbol? yes ( ) No ( )

b. If no, why?.....

24 Do you like to make further comment?.....

…….

……..

Questionnaires on availability and utilization of information resources in sharia court libraries in northern Nigeria.

TYPE B: FOR STAFF OF SHARIA COURT LIBRARIES.

Section A: Background information

1 Name of library,,

2 When was the library established?

3 what was the estimated volumes of information resources?

4 how many staff are working in the library?

Professional	Para-professional	others
a. 1-2 ( )	1-2 ( )	1-2 ( )
b 3-5 ( )	3-5 ( )	3-5 ( )
c. above 5 ( )	above 5 ( )	above 5

Section B: Acquisition of information resources.

5 How are the information resources acquired in your library?

a. Purchase ( ) b Gift ( ) c. Donation ( ) d Solicitation ( ) e. exchange ( )

Others (please specify) ……………………………………

6 Has the acquisition of information resources been continued over the period? Yes ( ) No ( )

b. If yes how, often? a. Annually ( ) b. Biannually ( ) d Monthly ( ) others (please specify)…………………………

7 how are information resources for purchase traced?

a From published list and catalogued ( )

b from unpublished ( )

c List and contact ( )

8 From where does your library purchase information resources?

a. Bookshop ( ) b. Local market ( ) c. Foreign vendors ( ) others (please specify)……

9 What percentage of your library's total acquisition of information resources obtained by? a. purchase …% b. Gift…% c. Donation…% d. Solicitation …% e. Exchange…%

10What is the rough estimate of information resources in your library?

a Books 1000-3000 ( ) b. 3100-5000 ( ) c. above 5000 ( )

d Reference materials 1000-3000 ( ) e. 3100-5000 ( ) f. above 5000 ( ) g. Journals 1000- 5000 ( ) h. 3100-5000 ( ) i. above 5000 ( )

Section C: Accessibility of information resources

10 what proportion of information resources collection on open shelves that may be consulted by user without special request? none ( ) Up to 10 % ( ) 11-50 % ( ) 51-75% ( )

11 If not all, what are the reasons for the limitation? a. Space limitation ( ) b. Security consideration ( )

12 If less than 80%, what types of publication are on. a. Reference ( ) b. Reserved ( ) c. Unprocessed ( ) d. Project ( ) e. Others (please specify)……

Section D: Organization.

13 Do you keep separate catalogue for law collection?

14 What code do you use for cataloguing the collection?

15 Where are the catalogue cards kept?

16 what kind of classification do you use? a. Library of congress ( ) b. Dewey decimal ( ) c. Universal decimal ( ) others (please specify)……

17 Do you have any problem in the process of your classification? Yes ( ) No ( )

If yes, please specify ……

Section E: Interblending

18 Are you involved in inter library loan? yes ( ) No ( )

b. if yes, with whom?

19 Do you like to make further comments please?.....…

……

Please return the Questionnaires to the following address:

Abubakar Aliyu

Centre for Islamic Legal Studies

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.