

Availability and Usage of Library School Resources as Predictors of Reading and Study Habits among Faculty and College Students

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Abstract: *This research investigates the significant role of the availability and usage of library school resources in shaping the reading and study habits of faculty and college students. The respondents of the study are full-time faculty and two hundred eighteen information technology students at National University Bulacan, Academic Year 2022 – 2023. The students' ages from 18 – 25 years old. The researcher chose this university to be the research locale because this is the university where she is teaching. The study would run from November 2022 – March 2023. The study reveals a strong positive correlation between the accessibility and utilization of library resources and the development of reading and study habits among faculty and college students. The findings highlight the importance of optimizing resource availability, promoting digital transformation, fostering collaboration, and offering training. By doing so, educational institutions can create an environment that empowers both faculty and students to excel academically, thus enriching the overall learning experience. This research contributes valuable insights into the knowledge of academic support and underscores the role of libraries in enhancing educational outcomes.*

Keywords: Availability and Usage of Library School Resources, Reading and Study Habits

Introduction. The effectiveness of a library's operations and services determines the effectiveness of a learning institution. Academic libraries should play a significant part in the teaching, learning, and research processes. The term "school library resources" refers to both people and material (print and nonprint) availability that supports the curricular and individual needs of library users. The librarian, books, magazines, DVDs, audiotapes, movies, and newspapers are some examples of resources. The foundation of a high-quality education are school libraries in educational institutions like secondary, primary, and pre-primary schools. Academic excellence may not be attained without school libraries, and school libraries are also important for other reasons. vital to the social, economic, literacy, and cultural development of a country.

According to Oyetola (2020), citing Keith (2004), the mission of education can be achieved through a standard library with adequate resources and facilities, and users must be trained to find and use the resources available to meet their information needs. According to DepEd Order No. 6, s 1998 reiteration on the implementation of policies and programs for school library development, the school must emphasize the value of the library and maintain a functional library run by a librarian who is qualified or designated by the librarian who would be in charge of the library. This library would meet the needs of the students and teachers by providing them with accurate and timely information.

This School Year 2022 – 2023 since the launching of face-to-face classes, the availability and usage of library resources is very important to teachers and students. However, it is noted and observed that few teachers and students visit and use the library. If the school library is not included in the implementation of the educational program, it would not be

able to fully achieve its goals and objectives in primary schools. This study is to evaluate the existing availability and usage of library resources as predictors and study habits among faculty and college students.

Moruf (2015) researched students' use of secondary school libraries in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State, and the findings revealed that while some schools, particularly fee-paying non-public schools, have libraries, the majority of the libraries are not operational. She also stated that state-funded school libraries are underutilized due to a lack of staffing, with more library assistants/attendants than professional librarians, and with insufficient library resources. In a similar vein, Ronald and Frankwell (2014) reported that secondary school students in Morogoro Municipality in Tanzania face numerous challenges when using the school library, including a lack of modern/current reading materials, a lack of sitting facilities, limited reading hours, and a lack of Librarians/information professionals to prepare materials. Odeh (2014) investigated the availability, sufficiency, and utilization of school library resources by secondary school students in Oju Local Government Area, Benue State, and discovered that there were no advanced instructional materials, computer-aided programs, or electronic resources. In addition to TV and radio lessons in school, the examination revealed that textbooks were available but insufficient.

This study was to evaluate the existing availability and usage of library resources as predictors and study habits among faculty and college students. Specifically, it aims to answer the following:

What is the status of the existing available library at National University Bulacan?

How may the usage resources of the library be described in terms of:

- 2.1 textbooks;
- 2.2 periodicals;
- 2.3 newspaper;
- 2.4 technical manuals;
- 2.5 reference resources;
- 2.6 pamphlets;
- 2.7 A/V materials;
- 2.8 e-library?

What program can be crafted to increase the number of teachers and students users and usage resources of library?

Significance of the Study

Availability and usage of library resources are very important factors in achieving teachers' and students' excellent performance. This gives an idea of the instructional aspects that need innovation, intervention, and reforms.

To the school administrators, the result of the study would help them identify the strengths and weaknesses of the teachers and students. The findings would serve as a springboard for the improvement of the teaching and learning process to map out plans, strategies, and activities such as conducting.

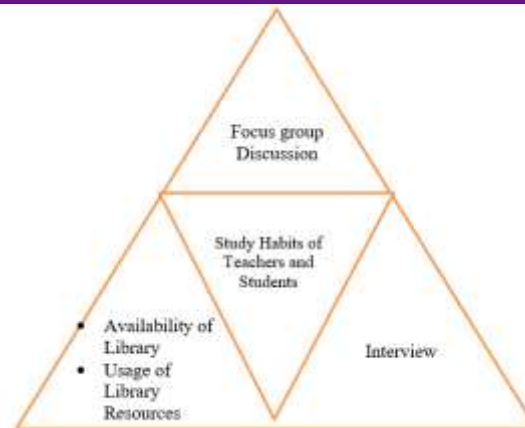
To the Teachers, this would provide them with feedback on aspects that would encourage them to use the library to design strategies, instructional materials, classroom activities, and other assessment tools.

To the Students, this study would increase students' users of the library. The actions to be undertaken would arouse their interest in using the different library resources, and it is hoped that they would have better academic performance.

This study is theoretically anchored on the principle of Library Resources Theory. The theory provides a framework for schools to lead those who engage in teaching and learning with different qualification levels, experiences, and cultures using library resources (Atsebeha, 2016).

Figure 1 presents the triangulation model used to determine the study habits of teachers and students. The model shows the relationship between the study variables: the context, the input, the process, and the output.

The figure shows the conceptual paradigm used in the study. The STUDY HABITS OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS variables are categorized into the following: availability of library, and usage of library resources.



A concurrent triangulation strategy would be used by the researcher to collect data from the expert person. A concurrent triangulation design, as defined by Terrel (2017), is one in which quantitative and qualitative data are gathered simultaneously. The phases of data collection include both qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

The qualitative data is to interview the student respondents about the frequency number of users as to how to encourage them to use the library during their available time and schedule in the school. The quantitative is the adopted survey questionnaire to be answered by the respondents of the study. The respondents of the study are full-time faculty and two hundred eighteen information technology students at National University Bulacan, Academic Year 2022 – 2023. The students' ages from 18 – 25 years old. The researcher chose this university to be the research locale because this is the university where she is teaching. The study would run from November 2022 – March 2023.

Usage of library resources survey questionnaire would be adopted by the study of Esan, A. O., and Akporhonor, B.A. (2021) Availability and Usage of Library School Resources in Oredo Local Government, Edo State, Nigeria, Record and Library Journal.

The mode of data gathering would be the questionnaire method. Each of the respondents would be given a well-structured, well-instructed, and standardized set of questions. In gathering the data, the researcher would carry out the following procedure:

A letter would be sent to the academic director, librarian, dean, and program chair to ask permission in the conduct of proposed study.

The researcher would convert the adopted survey questionnaire on Usage of Library Resources to a Microsoft Form for an online interaction with the target teachers-respondents, this data would be Form Part 1 of the survey form.

Online survey instrument would be sent to the target respondents using their email or Facebook messenger so they can easily access the document once they are connected to the

internet. According to Schel (2020), this app is one of the most significant apps brands use to connect with people around the world because of its accessibility, resulting in the recording of 20 billion messages with people and the preference of 64% of people across age groups for messaging over phone calls and emails. The researcher complied with the key clauses of Republic Act 10173, also known as the 2012 Data Privacy Act, which generally promotes the "free flow of information to foster innovation and growth" while upholding users' basic privacy rights.

Following the confidentiality, risks, and benefits ethical considerations of the research committee, an online questionnaire would be made available.

The data obtained for the analysis would be aided by data analysis software, and the researcher would seek assistance from a statistician in the statistical treatment of the data.

Recommendation:

Based on the findings of this research, we recommend that educational institutions should focus on optimizing the availability and accessibility of library resources for both faculty and college students. This can be achieved through several measures, including:

1. Digital Transformation: Invest in digitalization and online access to library resources, ensuring that faculty and students can access materials remotely, promoting convenience and flexibility.
2. Promotion and Training: Actively promote and provide training on how to effectively use library resources. Many students and faculty may not be aware of the full range of resources available or how to use them efficiently.
3. Collaboration: Encourage collaboration between faculty and students in utilizing library resources. Faculty members can recommend specific resources to students, creating a culture of information sharing.
4. Feedback Mechanisms: Establish feedback mechanisms to continually improve the library's resource offerings based on the needs and preferences of both faculty and students.

Findings:

The findings of this research suggest that there is a significant positive correlation between the availability and usage of library school resources and the reading and study habits of faculty and college students. Some key findings include:

1. Faculty members who had access to a wider range of library resources tended to have more diverse and comprehensive reading habits.
2. College students who actively used library resources for their studies reported better academic performance and more disciplined study habits.

3. Availability of digital resources correlated with increased usage, particularly among the younger college student population.

4. Inadequate access to library resources resulted in limited engagement with academic materials, impacting both faculty and student reading and study habits.

Conclusions:

In conclusion, the availability and usage of library school resources are indeed predictors of reading and study habits among faculty and college students. These resources serve as vital tools in enhancing academic engagement, research, and overall learning outcomes. To support the development of strong reading and study habits, institutions should invest in expanding and promoting the use of library resources while adapting to the changing digital landscape. By doing so, educational institutions can empower faculty and students to excel academically, foster a culture of continuous learning, and ultimately contribute to the success of the entire academic community.

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