FACTORS DETE RMINING THE USE OF SERIAL PUBLIC A TONS AMONG POLYTECHNIC STUDENTSIN OYO STATE

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The study examined factors determining the use of serial publications among polytechnic students in Oyo State. The study adopted a survey research design. The participants in the study were 200 (male = 92, female = 108) polytechnic students in Cyo state, who were selected using simple random sampling technique. Their age ranged between 16 years and 31 years with mean age of 18.63. Descriptive statistics of frequency counts and simple percentages, mean and standard deviations were used to analyze the data. The result revealed that some of the major factors determining the use of serial publications by polytechnic students in Ovo state were closed access of serial publications, long distance to the library, increased access to Internet and e-resources, ignorance of the existence of the serial publication. Also, the various purpose of use of serial publication included information on minor course work assignments, researching to update their lecture notes, researching for current information on project writing, researching for recreation and pleasure, preparation for examination and test and to seek information for writing seminar and term papers. Some of the serial publications available were bulletins, gazettes, journals, abstracts, and newspapers. Journals, abstracts, gazettes, newspapers, bulletins, news magazines, general magazines and pamphlets were the most frequently used serial publications by Polytechnic students in Oyo state. It was recommended that the polytechnic management should make frantic efforts to provide facilities that would assist in the use of serial such as generator/power plants, electricity supply, ICT managers, funds, Websites, good bandwidth qualitative computers system and CD-ROMs, to increase the use of online that influence the use of serial resources. the therapy as this could delay them to complice that assignment of the pluce and as visitive

Keywords: Serial publications, Use of serial publications, Polytechnic students, Nigeria

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Introduction

Academic libraries are valued for their expertise in providing current information resources such as serials to complement teaching, learning and research (Blackwell, 2014). Polytechnic libraries acquire, organize, store, retrieve and disseminate information contained in serials for researchers, educators, students and other interested persons in their various disciplines. There are many kinds of serials. These include newspapers, magazines, newsletters, accessions, journals, indexes, abstract, reports, proceedings and transactions of societies and so on. Serials are a publication in any medium issued in successive parts bearing numerical or chronological designations and intended to be continued indefinitely. Despite their potential for providing current information to boost empirical research, lack of adequate funds coupled with high subscription rates, and the digital transformation of the scholarly communication process have immensely affected the development of print serial collections in academic libraries globally (Calhoun, 2014; Akinbode, 2011). Previous studies have found compelling evidence of the dwindling patronage of all print resources in academic libraries including print serials. Woodward (2013) affirms that serial publications form the backbone of any academic library because of their nature of informational value for the students. Academic and research libraries acquire, organize, store, retrieve and disseminate information contained in serial publications for researchers, educators, students and other interested persons in their various disciplines.

Due to the nature and process of serial publications, research has shown that there are some factors that determine the use of these serial publications. These factors include; Increased access to Internet and e-resources, long distance to the library, closed access of serial publication, ignorance of the existence of the serial publication, inadequate orientation on how to use serial publication, slow connectivity resulting into failure to open information sites among others (Chitumbo, 2015). Most students do not have access to the use of serial publication in the library simply because they can easily have access to the Internet using their phones at the comfort of their room rather than visiting the school library. Also, sometimes, the Internet connectivity in the library may be slow or not even available for use. This could debar students to have access to serial publications in the library as this could delay them to complete their assignment, preparation for examination and project writing (De Croote and Sandra, 2011). The frequency at which polytechnic students will use serial publication will depend on their need for it. Ajegbomogun and Akintola (2018) affirm that students frequently use serial publication to augment their academic work. Polytechnic students frequently visit the digital libraries to access the serial publications, such as digital journals,

JSTOR among others which provide them with the information to augment their academic work. Manjack and Dangani (2019) found that the frequency of use of serial publication among students in Gombe, Nigeria is low. It was further revealed that students rarely visit the digital library to access some serial publication such as CD-ROMs and DVD, E-journals, E-books and institutional repository, science direct, AGORA, JSTOR, TEEAL and E-magazines. It is against this background that the study examined the awareness and use of serial publications among Polytechnic students in Oyo state.

Review of Related Literature

Serials include publications of indefinite duration which appear in series or regularly. As the name implies it is a publication that is constituted by appearing regularly with distinctive title and issued in successive parts, bearing numerical or chronological designation and intended to be continued indefinitely. However, serials are known to be direct and accurate in dealing with any subject area designed purely for teaching, learning and research. Most serials indicate the subject coverage of the document with dates and numbers. According to Adio (2005), serials are publications in any medium, issued in successive parts, carrying numerical or chronological designations and intended to be continued indefinitely. Foreign and local serials are relevant and vital to academic excellence. The use of serials in research work or writing is inevitable. Serials are known to be direct and accurate in dealing with any subject of the area designed purely for teaching, learning and research. Most serials indicate their subject coverage with dates and numbers. Serials publications represent an important source of information and knowledge for all categories of users (Ajala, 2008).

Ogunniyi, Akerele and Afolabi (2011) affirmed that one of the factors that could inhibit serial publication is slow Internet connectivity. Slow connectivity resulting into failure to open information sites. This discourages most users to search the Internet for relevant journals. Some of the libraries in higher institutions in Nigeria are faced with slow or unavailability of the Internet where students and other users could have access to retrieve materials that could be used to augment their research work. This slow connection to the Internet could make students and other users not to visit the library as they may spend the whole day on the Internet without getting the serials publications they needed. Serial publications are available and accessible for use locally and could be ordered overseas (Okeh and Onanuga, 2009). It is not again saying that scholarly journals occupied important position in the extension of knowledge and they are considered as principal medium for disseminating knowledge Aina (1995) remarked that "several studies have

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Agbaje (2012) in his study reported that long distances to the library from some schools could inhibit the use of serial publications. The author further stated that there are some polytechnics where the library is far to the faculties and/or halls of residences of the students, this could make the students to find it difficult to visit the library to access serial publication. Also, since students want to avoid trekking due to long distance to the school let alone to the library, they may decide to stay back in their various halls. Salam and Opeke (2009) who reported that lack of skills on how to retrieve specific information from journals make the information retrieval process cumbersome, time-consuming and sometimes unfruitful. The author stated further that this dearth of skill could debar students from getting relevant materials to augment their project work.

Olanlokun and Salisu (2005) maintained that students need the serials collections because it provides latest information on various subjects and not only that it also serve as immediate avenue for the provision of up to date bibliographic data on given specialized area of knowledge. In a study conducted by Owolabi, Aderibighe and Ibrahim (2012) on the purpose and use of serial collections by students in Nigerian universities. Simple random sampling technique was used to select six hundred and sixty nine post graduate students from four universities in the country. The finding revealed that the major purposes for using serials are for research purposes, for employment opportunity, reading, current information and to borrow serials materials. The researchers recommended that there is a need for proper mentations on the use of serial collections particularly for students. Ornekwu and tunmo (2008) pointed out that journals are the most current vehicles of viewing ideals, knowledge and breakthrough in scientific development. They further stated that journals are primary sources of information and they are very popular among researchers and scholars. For that notion, they are to be consulted first and foremost by scientists or researchers eagerly in need of contemporary issues by trends in their areas of research. Woodward (2009) emphasized that the signing and guiding of the serials collection must be of high standard to enable the students to locate materials quickly and easily. Serials are for in-library use only. But, the students; who are users in an academic library could request and be allowed to photocopy serials in the library's photocopying centre, anoits ildury alares and

Hammed and Osunrinade (2010) also found out that 64.8% of students who responded in their study prefer to use text books against 22.1% who used journal. This implies that students perceive textbook and online search engines as the best

options to access information for their research work. Farrington (2007) conducted a study on the use of serials resources by students for new discoveries and thesis writing at that level. The study revealed that use of serials publication was quite the norm and the difficulties encountered were lack of time; dissatisfaction with the software available, copyright issues and power failure.

Statement of the Problem

Due to their peculiar nature, serial publications are usually expensive both in terms of subscription and maintenance cost. Polytechnic libaries commit a most subtantial percentage of their annual buckets to journal subcription. In spite of the unique value of serials and the very important roles they play in the operations of Polytechnic libraries, serial publications are of most significance to libraries in academic world, while general interest periodical which are most commonly found in various libraries are expected to grow, an even greater rate of growth can be predicated for specialized periodicals. As part of the major operations for making print serials available and accessible is processing, every academic library in Nigerian Polytechnics accessed by the students gives access to this important research materials. Despite the fact that Polytechnic libraries make s ri k publications available for the students, there are some factors that could debar students from making use of these publications. These include poor Internet connection in the library, lack of serial materials, lack of guide on their use, erratic power supply among others. These factors could however imping on the ability of students to lay their hands on the serial publications they may need to augment their school work. It is therefore necessary to pay special attention on how these inhibiting factors could be solved so that students could use serial publications to the greatest benefit of their studies now and in the future. It is against this backdrop that this study will investigate awareness and use of serial publications among Polytechnic students in Oyo state

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to examine the factors determining the use of serial publications among Polytechnic students in Oyo state. The specific objectives of the study are to;

- i. Identify various types of serial publications available to Polytechnic Students in Oyo State;
- ii. Identify the purposes of use of serial publication by polytechnic students in Oyo state;

iii. Establish the factors determining the use of serial publications by polytechnic students in Oyo state; and

iv. Find out the frequency of use of serial publications by Polytechnic students in Oyo State;

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

- What are the various types of serial publications available to Polytechnic students in Oyo State?
- ii. What are the various purposes of use of serial publications by Polytechnic students in Oyo State?
- iii. What are the factors determining the use of serial publications by polytechnic students in Oyo State?
- iv. What is the frequency of use of serial publications by Polytechnic students in Oyo State?

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted a survey research design in order to examine the factors determining the use of serial publications among polytechnic students in Oyo State. According to Popoola (2016), a descriptive survey design describes a condition or phenomenon as it exists naturally without manipulations. It requires systematic and scientific collection of data or information from the population or sample of the population, through the use of personal interview or scale opinion questionnaire. This method is desirable because it is found useful in the collection of data on phenomena that cannot be directly observed.

Participants

The population of the study comprised Polytechnic students in Oyo State. This includes; The Polytechnic Ibadan, the Ibarapa polytechnic, Eruwa and The Oke-Ogun Polytechnic, Saki. The total population of the students in the three polytechnic is 43,271. These polytechnics were selected because they are government owned and they are believed to have well-equipped libraries. Four

faculties were used which included Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Financial Management Science and Faculty of Business and Communication Science. Two departments were selected from each faculty by using stratified random sampling technique. In the eight selected departments, the total number of the students is three thousand one hundred and forty-four (3,144). Owing to the large number of students in the selected departments, a sam ding fraction of 20% was drawn from the total number of students in the selected departments to ensure a representative sample refecting the selected departments and faculties. This gives a sample size of two hundred (200) (See Table 1). Nwana (1981) posits that if a population is a few thousands, 10% sample size selection is adequate. Thus, based on the foregoing recommendation, the researcher considered 20% of the sample size appropriate for the large population of the present study. A total of 200 Polytechnic students that consisted of (males = 92 (46%) and females = 108 (54%) were randomly selected from three polytechnics in Oyo state, Nigeria.

Table 1: Population of the Study

Faculties	Departments	Population	Sample (20%)	size
Faculty of Engineering	Civil Engineering	556	28	
	Mechanical Engineering	417	24	
	Science Laboratory Technology	469	23	
	Computer Science	519	26	
Faculty of Financial Management	Accounting	531	27	
Science	Business Administration	468	24	
Faculty of Business and	Mass Communication	563	2.8	
Communication Science	Public Administration	411	21	
Total		3, 144	200	

Instrument

The research instrument that was employed for this study was a self-structured questionnaire developed by the researcher. The questionnaire is divided into two sections A and B. Section A of the instrument captured the demographic information which includes name of school, age, gender and level. Section B consisted of questions on each of the research questions developed by the researcher.

Procedure

All the participants for the study were administered the instrument in their respective institutions by the researcher with the help of a trained research assistant. The respondents were given ample time to complete the items in the questionnaire as their identity were withheld.

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using frequency counts and simple percentages, mean and standard deviation.

Results

Research question 1: What are the various types of serial publications available to Polytechnic students in Oyo State?

Table 1: Summary of the Various Types of Serial Publications Available to

Polytechnic Students

S/N	Items	Yes	No	S.D
1	Gazettes	111'(55.5%)	89 (45.5%)	1.41 0.59
2.	Proceedings of Professional/ Academic Societies	63 (31.5%)	137(68.5%)	0.37 0.57
3	Bulletins	121 (60.5%)	79 (39.5%)	1.43 0.55
4	Annual Reports	57 (28.5%)	143(71.5%)	0.41 0.58
5	Pamphlets	67 (33.5%)	133(66.5%)	1.34 0.64
6	Journals	(63%)	74 (37%)	1.40 0.66
7	GeneralMagazines	86 (43%)	114 (57%)	1.26 0.62
8	News Papers	132 (66%)	68 (34%)	i.30 0.60
9	News Magazines	72 (36%)	128 (64%)	0.28 0.56
10	Abstracts	116 (58%)	84 (42%)	1.33 0.58
	Weighted mean: 0.9			

Table 1 shows the various types of serial publications available to Polytechnic students in Oyo State. Some of the serial publications that were available included bulletins 1.43), gazettes 1.41), journals 1.41), abstracts 1.33) and newspapers 1.30).

Research question 2: What are the various purposes of use of serial publications by Polytechnic students in Oyo State?

Table 2: Summary of Various Purposes of Use of Serial Publications

	Items	Yes	No	S.D
	Researching for current information on project writing	164 (82%)	36 (18%)	1.090.78
2	Preparation for examination and test	183 (91.5%)	17 (8.5%)	1.060.78
3	For information on minor course work assignment	158 (79%)	42 (21%)	1.400.64
4	Researching to update their lecture note	16i (80.5%)	39 (19.5%)	1.360.55
5	To seek in for writing seminar and term paper	148 (74%)	52 (26%)	1.050.26
6	Researching for recreation and pleasure	137 ()8.5%	63 (31.5%)	1.070.57
	Weighted mean: 1.06			

Table 2 shows the various purposes of use of serial publication by polytechnic students in Oyo state. It shows that for information on minor course work assignment 1.40) ranked highest by the mean score rating and was followed in succession by researching to update their lecture note 1.36), researching for current information on project writing 1.09), Researching for recreation and pleasure 1.07), Preparation for examination and test 1.06) and lastly to seek in for writing seminar and term paper 1.06). It could be inferred that the various purpose of use of serial publications by polytechnic students in Oyo state were for information on minor course work assignment, researching to update their lecture note, researching for current information on project writing, researching for recreation and pleasure, preparation for examination and test and to seek in for writing seminar and term papers.

Research question 3: What are the factors determining the use of serial publications by polytechnic students in Oyo State?

Table 3: Summary of Factors Determining the Use of Serial Publications by Polytechnic

Students

	Students			
S/I	Items	Yes	NO	S.D
1	Increased access to Internet and e-resources	148 (74%)	52 (26%)	1.370.52
2	Ignorance of the existence of the serial publication	(65.5%)	(34.5%)	1.33 0.63
3	Closed access of serial publication	106 (53%)	94 (47%)	1.420.55
4	Long distance to the library	112 (56%)	88 (46%)	1.410.59
	Lack of skills on how to retrieve specific information from serial publications	128 (64%)	72 (36%)	1.390.51
6	Busy school schedule	103 (51.5%)	97 (48.5%)	0.320.24
1	Most projects do not encourage research that demands the use of journals		81 (40.5%)	1.050.80
A	Lack of knowledge on the importance of using serial publication	121a (60.5%)	79 (39.5%)	0.490.63
9	Inadequate orientation on how to use serial publication	118 (59%)	82 (41%)	1.070.86
10	Slow connectivity resulting into failure to open information sites		33 (16.5%)	1.090.78
	Weighted mean: 1.09			

Table 3 slows the factors determining the use of serial publication by polytechnic students in Oyo state. It shows that closed access of serial publication 1.42) ranked highest by the mean score rating and was followed in succession by long distance to the library 1.41), lack of skills on how to retrieve specific information from serial publications 1.39), increased access to Internet and e-resources 1.37), ignorance of the existence of the serial publication 1.33), slow connectivity resulting into ailure to open information sites 1.09), inadequate orientation on how to use serial publication 1.07), most projects do not encourage research that demands the use of journals 1.05), lack of knowledge on the importance of using serial publication 0.49) and lastly busy school schedule 0.32).

It could be inferred that some of the major factors determining the use of serial publication by polytechnic students in Oyo state are closed access of serial publication, long distance to the library, increased access to Internet and e-resources, ignorance of the existence of the serial publication, lack of skills on how to retrieve specific information from serial publications, slow connectivity resulting into failure to open information sites and inadquate orientation on how to use serial publication.

Research question 4: What is the frequency of use of serial publications by Polytechnic students in Oyo State?

Table 4: Summary of Frequency of Use of Serial Publications by Polytechnic Students

S/N	Items	Daily	Once a week	Monthly	Once in a while	Never	S.D
	Gazettes	(21%)	(9%)	(31.5)	48 (24%)	2.9 (14.5%)	3.270.59
2.	Proceedings of Professional/ Academic Societies	22 (11%)	47 (23.5%)	(32.5%)	55 (27.5%)	11 (5.5%)	2.160.73
3	Bulletins	40 (20%)	46 (23%)	(3.4%)	(18.5%)	(4.5%)	3.020.66
4	Annual Reports	(18%)	37 (18.5%)	(32.5%)	49 (24.5%)	(6.5%)	2.150.69
5	Pamphlets	35 (17.5%)	24 (12%)	(32.5%)	45 (22.5%)	32 (16%)	2.060.75
6	Journals	(28%)	86 (43%)	(17%)	30 (15%)	(10%)	3.480.99
7	General Magazines	(21%)	97 (48.5%)	35 (17.5%)	(8.5%)	(4.5%)	2.340.59
8	Newspapers	(27%)	(32.5%)	(22.5%)	26 (13%)	(5%)	3.180.52
9	News Magazines	49 (24.5%)	74 (37%)	(20.5%)	(13.5%)	(5%)	2.41 0.59
10	Abstracts	46 (23%)	76 (38%)	48	24 (12%)	(3%)	3.370.57
	Weighted mean	1: 3.22					

Table 4 shows the frequency of use of serial publications by Polytechnic students in Oyo state. It shows that journals 4.00) ranked highest by the mean score rating and was followed in succession by abstracts 3.37), gazettes 3.27), newspapers 3.18), bulletins 3.02), news magazines 2.41), general magazines 2.34), proceedings of professional/academic societies 2.16), annual report 2.15), and lastly pamphlet 2.06) respectively. It could be inferred that journals, abstract, gazette, newspaper, bulletin, news magazines, general magazines and pamphlet were the most frequently used serial publications by Polytechnic students in Oyo state.

Discussion

Results on the various types of serial publications available to polytechnic students in Oyo state showed that bulletins, gazettes, journals, abstracts and newspapers were the serial publications available to students. The finding supports that of Omekwu and Atinmo (2003) who reported that journals are the most current

vehicles of view ideals, knowledge and breakthrough in scientific development. They further stated that journals are primary sources of information and they are very popular among researcher and scholars. For that notion they are to be consulted first and foremost by scientists or researchers eagerly in needs of contemporary issues by trends in their areas of research. The finding also agrees with that of Woodward (2009) who reported that the arrangement of the serials collection must be of high standard to enable the students to locate materials quickly and easily. Serials are for in-library use only. But, the students; who are users in an academic library could request and be allowed to photocopy serials in the library's photocopying centre.

Results on the various purposes of the use of serial publication revealed that students use serial publications for information on minor course work assignment, researching to update their lecture note, researching for current information on project writing, researching for recreation and pleasure, preparation for examination and test and to seek in for writing seminar and term paper. The finding is in line with that of Olanlokun and Salisu (2005) who reported that students need the serials collections because they provide latest information on various subjects and not only that it also serve as immediate avenue for the provision of up to date bibliographic data on given specialized area of knowledge. The finding also corroborates that of Owolabi, Aceribigbe and Ibrahim (2012) who reported that the major purposes for using serials are for research purposes, for employment opportunity, reading, current information and to borrow serials materials. The researchers recommended that there is a need for proper orientations on the use of serial collections particularly students.

Results on the factors determining the use of serial publication by polytechnic students in Oyo State revealed the following: closed access of serial publication, long distance to the library, increased access to Internet and e-resources, ignorance of the existence of the serial publications, lack of skills on how to retrieve specific information from serial publications, slow connectivity resulting into failure to open information sites and inadequate orientation on how to use serial publications. The finding supports that of Agbaje (2012) who reported that long distances to the library from some schools could inhibit the use of serial publications. The author further stated that there are some polytechnics where the library is far to the faculties and/or halls of residences of the students, this could make the students to find it difficult to visit the library to access serial publication. Also, since students want to avoid trekking due to long distance to the school let aione to the library, they may decide to stat back in their various halls. Not having access to these publications, may have affect on their school work. The finding

also lends credence to that of Salam and Opeke (2009) who reported that lack of skills on how to retrieve specific information from journals make the information retrieval process cumbersome, time-consuming and sometimes unfruitful. The author stated further that this dearth of skill could debar students from getting relevant materials to augment their project work

Result on the frequency of use of serial publication revealed that journals, abstracts, gazettes, newspapers, bulletins, news magazines, general magazines, and pamphlets were the most frequently used serial publications. The finding corroborates that of Lawal (2002) who reported that students use journals, bulletins, newspapers frequently to augment their academic work. The finding also goes in line with that of Hammed and Osunrinade (2010) who reported that students frequently perceive textbook and online search engines as the best options to access information for their research work. The finding also goes in line with that of Farrington (2007) who reported that students use serial publications such as journal, bulletin, magazine more frequently to augment their academic work.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study revealed that lack of skills to retrieve specific information from serial publications, slow connectivity of the Internet, lack of knowledge on the importance of using serial publication, busy school schedule among others were some of the factor that determine the use of serial publications among polytechnic students in Oyo state. It was also found that the various purpose of use of serial publications by polytechnic students in Oyo state were for information on minor course work assignment, researching to update their lecture note, researching for current information on project writing, researching for recreation and pleasure, preparation for examination and test and to seek in for writing seminar and term papers. Consequently, it could be deduced that lack of access to serial publications could imping on academic activities such that students would have challenges in their examination, test, term papers, project among others. It could be recommended that Polytechnic Management should make adequate provision of ICT facilities to enhance the accessibility of serials by polytechnic students and other library users. The Polytechnic Management should make efforts to provide to facilities that would assist in the use of serial such as like generator/power plant, electricity supply ICT manager, funds, Website, good bandwidth qualitative computers system and CD-ROMs, to increase the use of online that influence the use of serial resources.

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