THE EFFECT OF PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES ON COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY, ABRAKA, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examined the effect of photocopying services on copyright infringement: A case study of Library and Information Science undergraduate students of Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to determine the extent of photocopying activities among students in Delta state university Abraka, find out how knowledgeable are the students of copyright laws infringement and investigate the information resources are prone to photocopying by the students. The research adopted the descriptive survey design and questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. A population of 544 students from 100-400 level students of the LIS Department, Delta State University, Abraka in the 2018/2019 Session were used for the study. From this, 141 (400 level) students were sampled. The data were analyzed using descriptive (frequencies). Findings revealed that majority of the respondents made thousands of copies of published work in a session without taking cognizance of the copyright law placed on the materials. Also, the students had knowledge of copyright law infringement through photocopying services. They were aware that stealing materials from another source and passing it off as one's own, copying a whole paper from a source text without proper acknowledement, submitting a paper written by someone else and passing it off as one's own, supplying proper documentation but leaving out quotation mark and copying sections of material from one or more source texts are infringements on copyright law. Yet another finding revealed that almost all of the students were indulged in the act of copyright infringement through phtocopying of research materials such as lecture notes, handouts and textbooks. In conclusion, photocopying services had become an indispensable tool in the generation and dissemination of information in different organisations and institutions of learning. However, librarians need to

be pro-active and educate the users more on copyright law in other to monitor the limits to photocopying activities within the library. It is therefore recommended that libraries should derive a better means of effecting copyright law in the tertiary institutions and makes laws to limit the number of copies of photocopied materials in the libraries.

Key Words: Copyright infringement, Copyright law, Nigeria, Photocopying services, University Libraries

Introduction

Copyright is an authorized term used to designate the privileges of creators over their literary and creative works. Literary and creative works include technical drawings, music, paintings, films, computer programs, sculpture and books (World Intellectual Property Organisation, 2014) Copyright therefore, could be seen as a set of exclusive right of a creator to reproduce, prepare unoriginal works, distribute, implement, show, sell, lend or lease their creations (Isiakpona, 2012). Copyright means anything that is created is an extension of "oneself" and it ought to be safeguarded from being used by anyone. Copyright is useful for the continual growth of writings and performances. Therefore, copyright protection provides stimulus or incentive for authors to produce anything, just like others would do (Cornish, 2004).

The origin of copyright laws can be traced to the European invention in the 15th century, precisely, the world's first copyright law was the statute of Anne, which was enacted in England in 1710. The advent of copyright and information policy by authors within the tertiary institutions was devised to encourage creative people to produce works to expand knowledge and to provide inducements for the effective dissemination of these works. Copyright exceptions and information policies are the major mechanism for ensuring a fair balance between authors and user's interest (Nicholson & Schönwetter, 2008). Word-for-word uses of someone else work without authorization is referred to as plagiarism (Aina, 2002). The efforts of the writers/authors and publishers have been rendered useless by copyright violators who has made their work a profitless venture through photocopying services.

Copyright infringement is the abuse and violation, piracy or theft of a copyright holder's exclusive rights through an unauthorized usage of copyrighted materials (United States Copyright Office, 2012). The need to safeguard the creativity and scholarship of our great thickers and intellectuals from the disgusting activities of pirates, the Federal Government of Nigeria promulgated various Decrees which

served as permissible instruments to control various concerns concerning copyright in Nigeria. The Decrees were: Decree 61 of 1970; and Copyright Decree No. 47 of 1988 which gave birth to the creation of the Nigerian Copyright Commission. The Commission was charged with the management, safety and implementation of rights matters in the country.

Libraries are knowledge industry that acquire, organize, retrieve and disseminate educational information to the users (Sambo, Ahutu & Nafsat, 2016). This can be achieved through photocopying services. The presence of photocopying machines in the library for photocopying purposes is to enable users have access to materials that the y cannot ordinarily acquire or purdase and to prevent the mutilation and theft of books, hence, there is need to raise the level of awareness of people about photocopying services in the library. The term photocopy refers to an adaption of photography whereby copies can be made directly from the originals without the need for recreation of the image, either by typing, to make a master for subsequent reproduction.

The commonest reprographic method through which copyright crime is committed in Nigeria tertiary institutions is photocopy. Aboyade, Aboyade and Ajala (2015) noted that Nigeria of today, appears to be an evolving tradition of photocopy of materials on under copyright without taking into cognizance of the ethical and monetary benefits to writers. Most undergraduate students of Delta State University, just like other undergraduate students of Nigerian universities.

In the Nigerian educational system, photocopying of library resources is supports information distribution on a large scale among students, lecturers and researchers institutions of higher learning (Ajegbomogun, 2011). Preliminary investigation into the photocopying activities in the tertiary schools, especially universities in Nigeria revealed indiscriminate and wanton photocopy activities among the students and the educators alke. This development is believed to have had an undesirable impression on the ethical and monetary benefits of the authors of intellectual works culminating in the abuse of copyright statute. It is against this backdrop that this study is set out to investigate the effects of photocopying services on copyright infringement.

Statement of the Problem

Photocopying services academic activities among students in tertiary institutions has been on the increase on daily basis. In the today's environment, photocopying services has become obvious in meeting student's information needs. It is a service

that all students of a tertiary institutions should benefit from, thus, enabling them to access and read materials at their convenience.

The copyright Act of today specifies certain number of pages of a book to be photocopied. However, observations by the researcher have shown that students photocopy the whole text of a book or a substantial part of the text is photocopied due to inadequate knowledge of copyright infringement thereby infringing on the author's right answerable for the intellectual document. Therefore, this study is set to investigate photocopy activities by students and its effect on copyright infringement.

Research Questions

The following research questions were postulated for the study:

- i. What is the extent of photocopying activities among students in Delta state university Abraka?
- ii. How knowledgeable are the students of copyright laws infringement?
- iii. Which information resources are prone to photocopying by the students?

Literature Review

Extent of Photocopying Activities among Students

Photocopying service is very prevalent among scholars because it is possible to conveniently make copies of any material, instead of going through the pains of copying whatever they need by hand whenever they visit the library (Igbeneghu, 2009). In Nigeria, there are paucity of needed reading materials to sustain literacy. About 80% of books used in tertiary schools are imported from overseas and this has made it almost impossible for indigenous publishers to meet the growing demand for books by its populace (Oyinloye, 2000). Adusei, Anyimadu-Antwi and Halm (2010) found out that in universities, photocopying activities exceed the limits allowed under formal copyright law, the justification being that there are inadequate textbooks in the university libraries to support the large students population.

A study conducted by the Reproduction Right Society of Nigeria (REPRONIG), from July to September 2004 in selected Nigerian Universities revealed that textbooks, journals, newspapers, magazines and encyclopedias were most significantly photocopied and originated from Nigeria, United States of America,

Britain, and France. According to Noel and Breau (2005), students are taught the value of original thinking and the importance of not copying theliterary works of others both in the libraries and other information centers. Therefore, the library slould be able to set up a functioning copyright law and every defaulter should be solved punished. It is therefore obvious that students engage in wanton photocopying of information resources that are copyrighted.

Awareness of Copyright Law among Students

In many parts of Africa, copyright law has not received much attention of scholarship. A significant portion of literature available on the subject is scanty to even non-existent (Kawooya, 2007). Awareness is defined as the capability to recognize, know or the state of being conscious (Wikipedia, 2014). Copyright awareness is recognizing, knowing and being cognizant that copyright exists in all forms of recognition, knowledge and cognizance. Awareness mean having mindful knowledge about copyright in an apparent manner. According to Darkey and Akussah (2008), academic libraries facilitate research, teaching, and learning because they are important components of the universities. Consequently, since the library is a place where users access a collection of other people's works, awareness is necessary to improve the users' quotation and citation methods to escape materials from being plagiarized. This create more room for creativity needed for the authorship.

A body known as the Nigeria Copyright Council was established to see to the administration of copyright laws. By looking at the various instances of copyright infringement as reported by Bretag and Mahmud (2009), there is a clear thread to suggest that copyright infringement is committed with clear intent and there are those that are committed with no clear intent. Madray (2007) noted that contention of unintended copyright infringement seems highly subjective and this it has being a common misunderstanding about copyright infringement within the academics. Furthermore, the students unintentionally infringed on copyright because they may not know how to paraphrase, summarize or quote sources correctly. Isiakpona (2012) noted that in an academic environment, an understanding of copyright is important. It should be noted that undergraduates may infringe on copyright laws in various ways. It may take place with different intent and it can range from thoughtful fraud to laxity or unintentional failure to acknowledge sources when parap hrasing from original sources.

In Nigeria, Ogunrombi and beilo (1599) affirmed that about 5% of higher institutions students can affor to purchase textbooks needed for learning and research. This makes them to engage it the act of photocopying, thereby infringing

on the copyright of the author. Batane (2010) found in her study that, out of 272 students surveyed, only 6.7% of them attributed lack of skills as a reason for plagiarism. This implies that majority of them deliberately indulge in the act. Similarly, Isiakpona (2012) noted that majority of students were awareness of copyright laws (85%) but the knowledge on the provisions of the copyright laws on the use of printed/literary materials was low. Also, majority of undergraduates infringe on copyright laws mostly through photocopying. The major reason given was high cost of purchasing books and other information materials/resources.

Extent of Copyright Infringement through Photocopying Services

Copyright infringement is a federal, civil cause of action. According to Osman (2010), copyright infringement is the illegal use of a copyrighted work in such a manner that that the copyright holders' exclusive rights is violated. Williams (2005) believed that copyright is infringed by any person who, without the license or authorization of the copyright owner. Therefore, anybody including students doing any of the above without permission or license is infringing copyright. It is therefore evident that the extent in which students engage in copyright infringement through photocopying services is high, especially among undergraduates in Universities.

Methods

The research design for this study is descriptive survey. The population of the study was 544 students from 100-400 level students of the Department of Library and Information Science, Delta State University, Abraka in the 2018/2019 Session. The sample for the study was 141 (400 level) students. The other levels have been excluded from the study because as at the time of administration of instrument, they had already gone on break and only the 400 level were on ground because they were carrying out researches for their project and seminar papers. The research instrument adopted for the study is the questionnaire. The data were analyzed using descriptive (frequencies).

Results

Analysis of Bio-data of the Respondents

Table I: Bio-data of respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)			
Male	60	42.6			
Female	81	57.4			
Total	141	100.0			
Age of students	Frequency	Percentage (%)			
15-18yrs	30	21.2			
19-21 yrs	71	50.4			
22 yrs and above	40	28.4			
Total	141	100.0			

Table I presents the number of male and female 400 level students that participated in the study. Sixty (42.6%) of the respondents were male while 81(57.4%) of them were female. Therefore, majority of the students from the Department were male. Also, it shows that 71(50.4%) of them were between the ages of 19–21 years and the remaining 40(28.4%) were 22 years and above. It can be concluded that majority of the students that took part in the study were between the ages of 19-21 years.

Answering of Research Questions

Research question one

What is the extent of photocopying activities among students in Delta state university Abraka?

Table II: Extent of Photocopying activities

Number of copies in a session		Percentage (%)
1-1,500	34	24.11
1,613,000	47	33.33
3,001 and alove	60	42.55
Total	i 41	100.0

Table II revealed that 60(42.55%) students had photocopied 3,001 and above copies in a session. Also, 47(33.33%) of them had photocopied 1,501-3,000 copies, and 34(24.11%) of them that had photocopied 1-1,500 copies. This implies that the extent of photocopying among the students in the Delta State University is high.

Research question two

How knowledgeable are the students of copyright laws infringement?

Table III: Knowledge of Copyright Law

	Agreed		Disagreed		Total	
Statements	Freq.	0/0	Freq.	0/0	Freq.	0/0
Stealing materials from another source and passing it off as your own	1118	83.7	2.3	16.3	141	100
Copying a whole paper from a source text without proper acknowledgement		87.9	17	12.1	141	100
Submitting a paper written by someone else and passing it off as your own		69.5	43	30.5	141	100
Supplying proper documentation but leaving out quotation mark	102	72.3	39	27.7	141	100
Copying sections of material from one or more source texts	87	61.7	54	38.3	141	100

Table III showed that the students knew that copying a whole paper 124(87.9%), stealing materials 118(83.7%) and supplying paper documentation but leaving out citation 102(72.3%) are some of the way copyright law can be infringed. This means that the students were knowledgeable about the various means through which copyright law can be infringed.

Research question three

Which information resources are prone to photocopying by the students?

Information Resources	Agreed		Dîsagreed		Total	
	Freq.	0/0	Freq.	0/0	N	0/0
Project materials	140	95.3	1	0.7	141	100
Lecture notes	128	90.8	13	9.2	141	100
Handouts	89	63.1	52	37.9	141	100
Text books	133	94.3	8	5.7	141	100

Table IV: Materials Prone to Photocopying

Table IV shows that all the information resources such as project materials 140(69.3%), textbooks 133(94.3%), lecture notes 128(90.8%) and handouts 89(63.1%) are prone to photocopying by the students.

Discussion

One of the findings revealed that students make photocopies of information resources to a great extent 60(42.55%). This finding is in line with that of Panethiere (2005) that an infringement of copyright occurs so long as a substantial portion of a work is reproduced or other copyright use is made of it.

On the knowledge of copyright law infringement through photocopying services, all the respondents agreed that they were aware that claiming another person's idea as one's own, copying a whole paper from a source text without proper acknowledgement, submission of the another person's work as one's own, supplying proper documentation but leaving out quotation mark and copying sections of multiple material and merging as one's own are infringements on copyright law. This finding supports that of Isiakpona (2012) that students infringe on copyright through photocopying, piracy and plagiarism.

It also revealed that majority of the respondents were involved in copyright infringement through photocopying of research materials such as project materials 140(99.3%), textbooks 133(94.3%), lecture notes 128(90.8%) and handouts 89(63.1%). This research finding may be that photocopying of texts without regard to copyright law has become a norm among students and staff in institutions of learning.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that photocopying services has become an indispensable tool in the generation and dissemination of information in different Organisations and institution of learning. Therefore, the librarians needs to be pro-active and educate the users more on copyright law in other to monitor the limits to photocopying activities within the library.

Recommendations

Based on the findings gotten in this study, the researcher recommends the following;

- i. That the libraries should derive a better means of effecting copyright law in the tertiary institutions and make regulations to limit the number of copies of photocopied materials in the libraries
- ii. That the Nigerian copyright commission should wake up to the challenge and protect the works of authors from being pirated.
- iii. That adequate measure of penalty should be given to every offender irrespective of status. Thus, copyright law offenders should face criminal charges.
- iv. Courses on copyright should be designed and offered by all undergraduates in a bid to creating enlightenment as this will increase students' awareness of the consequences of infringement on copyrights.

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