

**AN ANALYSIS OF HIGHER DEGREE THESES/DISSERTATIONS
OUTPUTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
SCIENCE, BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken to determine the productivity rate of Higer Degree research projects Ph.D. (Theses/MLS Dissertations) in the Department of Library and Information Sciences, Bayero University, Kano between 1992 and 2006. List of Theses/Dissertations was consulted and it was discovered that sixty-two (62) Theses/Dissertations were produced, out of which 61(98%) were MLS research projects (Disserations), Ph.D (Thesis) 1 (2%) produced in 1992 and for Pest Products Diploma in Management (PDIM). The highest research projects were produced in 2004. The thesis/dissertations covered various subject areas in librarianship i.e. Information Science (31-50% being the highest), Library resources and Bibliography (14 - 18%), Library Administration 11 (11%). Other areas covered include communication science 4 (6%) and Technical Services 2 (2%). The research projects also covered geographical areas and regions such as: Nigeria 30 (48%), Northern igerian 16 (26%), Kaduna State 3 (5%), North - Western Nigeria 2 (3%) as well as 1 (1.6%) each for Abuja, (FCT), Bauchi, Adamawa and Sudan . On the research methods used in the Thesis/Dissertaions, 56 (90%) used survey method,; 6 (10%) were case studies, whicl none of the thesis/dissertations used experimental, documentary or historical methods.

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Library Science, Bayero University Kano was established in the year 1977 as the third University based Library School in Nigeria. This was after the establishment of Ibadan and Zaria Library Schools in 1960 and 1968 respectively. The BUK Library School was the second library school in Northern Nigeria and third in Nigeria as a whole. It, commenced undergraduate programme with staff loaned from ABU Zaria Library Schools, Auyo,(2004).

After some years, the post-graduate programmes were introduced with areas of specialization leading to the award of MLS.

- Library Administration.
- Information science
- Technical services
- Library resources and bibliography
- communication service

Areas of specialization viz:

- (i) Information science
- (ii) Administration
- (iii) Communication science

The duration of Ph.D programme is a minimum of four years and maximum of seven years; (postgraduate prospective 2001-2002-2002/2003).

Another postgraduate programme called PGDLM (Postgraduate Diploma in Information Management) was introduced in the department. The programme is of one year duration.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The Department of Library and Information Science have been offering Masters and Ph.D programme in library science for two (2) decades now. Researches in the above programmes were documented in the form of Theses/Dissertation with the problem of identifying the number of theses written within a particular period of time. Nature of research used as well as the theses/dissertation output by fields of specializations. This study seeks to rectify the observed problems by consulting the documentary source(s) available in the library school.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Literature on productivity of information sources and higher degree theses/dissertations were consulted and reviewed below:
Writing on "Library portals and ETDs" (Electronic Thesis and Dissertation) Katsina (2006) define ETDs as Theses and Dissertations that are originally produced in electronic format and never in print or a combination of both print and electronic format. ETDs could be seen as Thesis and Dissertations that are originally in print form and later converted to electronic format. ETDs are of two main types; viz there is the one which students are encouraged to develop as "Author-created and submitted work. The other type is the one created by the university library or ICT or a service company staff through scanning through pages of printed/T/DS.

Some of the benefits of ETDs include: originality, increased readership, easy communication of research results, access to university research, enhancing research, collaboration and sharing. In a BLS project work, Goji (2007) compiled an annotated bibliography of BLS projects submitted to the Department of Library and Information Science (University of Maiduguri) between 2000 and 2006. It revealed that 310 entries were made. The problem of this documentary research lies in his inability to provide statistical analysis of the project work. The present study aimed at providing the descriptive analysis of the higher degree theses/dissertations produced in Bayero University library school between 1992 and 2006.

Assessing the bibliographical services in Nigeria between 1962 and 1982, Ikem (1984) as cited by Aguolu (2002) in a tabular form revealed that humanities publication has 26(26.8%) while 28(28.9%) was for social science and science/technology covered 43(44.3%). The table showed that in 1971, 1976, 1977, 1981, and 1982 there were no subject coverage in both humanities, social sciences as well as science and technology. Ndor (2004) writing on database of African thesis and dissertation (DATAD) using University of Jos as a case study lamented that the hardware for the project includes two computers, one scanner, one printer, and two UPS. The software includes procite five, reference web, poster, Xitani HTTP server, Omni page pro II to handle scanning abstracts; corel word perfect 8/MS word and latest version of virus. A sample of University of Jos entry was presented and it author (full name and e-mail), gender, title, degree supervisor(s), town and country, university and department, year of submission. Acronym (UNIJOS); abstract in alternative language. Physical description, language of the thesis/dissertation availability and address, copy right statement abstract; call number and key words.

So far, university of Jos has converted 1,500 thesis and dissertations into electronic format while additional 300 records have been completed. Making a distinction between theses and dissertation Owuji (2005) cited Makrman and Waddel (1971) that in academic circles, dissertations are research projects written by candidates for the award of master's degree. There is no bibliographic control of theses and dissertations in Nigeria and as such Owuji (2005) used "UK and USA to evaluate the Nigeria scene". Thesis control in UK include: "A survey of theses accepted for higher degrees by the universities of Great Britain"..... etc. Thesis control in the US includes "Dissertation Abstracts International etc". However, there is no Nigerian university library that publishes current annual list of thesis/dissertations. An attempt was made by National Library of Nigeria when it published "Theses and Dissertations accepted for Higher Degrees in Nigeria in 1966.

METHODOLOGY

The list of Thesis/dissertation submitted to the Department of Library and Information Science was consulted. Paper slips measuring 7cm x 5cm were used to re-arrange the theses/dissertation titles according to years, fields of specialization, geographical spread of research projects and types of research used. Data were analyzed according to the variables of the study mentioned above involving simple descriptive analysis (frequency tables and percentages).

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Data were analysed into frequency tables by means of descriptive analysis using frequency and percentages. Below are tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 containing data being analyzed and discussed.

Table 1: Productivity of Theses/Dissertations by PG programmes

POSTGRADUATES PROGRAMME	NO OF THESIS/ DISSERTATION	PERCENTAGE (%)
Ph.D Library Science	01	02
Master of Library Science	61	98
Postgraduate Diploma in Information Management		
Total	62	100

The table above revealed the productivity of Theses/Dissertations by postgraduate programmes in the library school. As of now three (3) different postgraduate programmes exist in the library school.

Data shows that out of 62 theses/dissertations produced within the period of 16 years; only 1(2%) theses was available (Ph.D). This is attributed to introduction of the programme at the same time with iMLS programs.

The 61(98%) dissertations were produced by MLS programme. This is a reflection of the emphasis on iMLS programme when compared to Ph.D and PGDIM (Postgraduate Diploma in Information Management). This may be due to the fact that it is a new postgraduate programme in the department. The total number of 62 theses/dissertations were available based on the "list of research projects submitted to the department between 1992 and 2006.

Table 2: Productivity of Thesis/Dissertations by Year (1992-2006)

Year	No of theses/Dissertation produced	Percentage(%)
1992	01	02
1993	01	02
1994	-	-
1995	02	03
1996	02	03
1997	02	03
1998	03	05
1999	-	-
2000	10	16
2001	05	08
2002	06	10
2003	08	13
2004	13	21
2005	04	06
2006	05	08
Total	62	100

The table above revealed that 62 theses/dissertations were produced within 15 years and were available in a documented source in the postgraduate office of the department. In the year 1994 and 1999, record shows that there were no thesis/dissertations which could be attributed to either non-retention of copies in the department or that there were no students that graduated in 1994 and 1999. This therefore implies that 62 theses/dissertations were produced within 13 years and that 13(21%) thesis/dissertations were produced in the year 2004 which was also the highest number of dissertations. This may be attributed to the seriousness on the part of supervisors and students as well. This was followed by 10(16%) in the year 2000 and 2003 produces 8(13%) dissertations; 6(10%) dissertations were produced in 2002, while 5(8%) dissertations were produced in 2001 and 2006. In 2005, 4(6%) dissertations were produced. The productivity of theses/dissertations were in ascending order between 1992 and 1998 hence in 1992 and 1993 each produces 1(2%) Ph.D theses/MLS dissertations, while in 1995, 1996 and 1997, each produces 2(3%)/dissertations.

Table 3: Productivity of Theses/Dissertations by Fields of Specializations

	Fields of specialization	No of theses/ dissertations	Percentages(%)
1.	Communication science	04	06
2.	Information science	31	50
3.	Library administration	11	11
4.	Library resources & bibliography	14	18
5.	Technical service	02	02

The MLS programme comprised specialization areas such as library administration, information science, technical service, library resources and bibliography as well as communication service. The Ph.D programme comprised three (3) main areas of specializations viz: information science, administration and communication science. As contained in the above table, the library school's postgraduate programme consists of five (5) main areas of specialization and the popular area where students specialize most was information science with 31(50%) postgraduate students writing their theses/dissertations. Information science comprises information need; resources utilization, information technology, information networks, library automation; media technologies etc. It is not surprising that more postgraduate students specialize in this field due to the fact that information is the driving force of our society today. Very far from information science was the area of library resources and bibliography with 14(23%) dissertations; thus libraries would be meaningless if there are no resources being stocked in them for maximum utilization. This area comprises resources in science and technology, humanities, social sciences, oriental and African Bibliography as well as Library Services for young people; (Prospectus 2002/2003).

Further analyses reveals that 11(18%) dissertations were produced in the area of Library Administration which includes "leadership style and staff performance, comparative study of job performance, personal requirements in libraries/management of government document etc. Productivity of thesis/dissertations in the areas of communication science and technical services were very few in number as 4(6%) were produced in the area of communication and publication output. E.g. one of the dissertations was written on "the effect of SAP on private book publishing in Nigeria".

The second area of specialization with low dissertations output was technical services with 2(3%) in "Cataloguing and classification practices

and use" and "Catalogue use in the retrieval of library resources..." This shows that graduates from the Library School do not write/specialize in the area of cataloguing and classification which may be attributed to its tedious nature.

Table 4: Productivity of theses/ dissertations by geographical Areas in Ranked order

S/No	Study/geographical area	No of theses\ dissertations	Percentages(%)
1.	Nigeria	30	48
2.	Northern Nigeria	16	26
3.	Kaduna State	03	05
4.	North-Western Nigeria	02	03
5.	Abuja (FCT)	01	1.6
6.	Adamawa State	01	1.6
7.	Bauchi State	01	1.6
8.	Kano State	01	1.6
9.	Kebbi State	01	1.6
10.	Kogi State	01	1.6
11.	Niger State	01	1.6
12.	Ogun State	01	1.6
13.	River State	01	1.6
14.	South-Western Nigeria	01	1.6
15.	Sudan	01	1.6
	Total	62	100

Table 4 provides analysis of theses/dissertations by study areas in terms of countries, regions/states in Nigeria. The table reveals that between 1992 and 2006, Library School in Bayero University Kano produces 62 higher degree thesis/dissertations with 30(48%) on studies on Nigeria which signifies that higher degree researches in Kano Library School were centred on Nigeria than regions or states.

This also shows that majority of thesis/ dissertations were of survey type e.g. "Co-operation among Polytechnic Libraries in Nigeria", Weeding Practices in Selected Nigerian University Libraries; A Study of the Resources Organization and services of Anglican Theological College Libraries in Nigeria" etc. Next to this was 16(26%) dissertations on Northern Nigeria which may be attributed to the location of the library school in Northern part of Nigeria; hence higher degree researches focused on Northern States.

E.g. "An evaluative study of circulation procedures and services in three Academic Public Libraries by Urban and Rural Communities in three (3) Northern States of Nigeria". The third in ranked order was Kaduna State as a study area with 3(5%) dissertations specifically on the "Application of Information Technology in Research Institute Libraries in Kaduna State; Information Needs and Resource Utilization by Rural Dwellers in Selected Local Govt. Area of Kaduna State; as well as Information Services Delivery in a Research and Documentation agency: A case study of the Library and Archival Services of Arewa House Kaduna.

The North Western Nigeria was the thin ranked order with 2(3%) dissertations which include "Utilization of Information Resources and Services by Post-primary School students in selected public libraries in North Western zone of Nigeria.

Others include some states and a region in Nigeria; Abuja (FCT) as well as Sudan (as a country) each with 1(1.6%) dissertations. This means that Abuja (FCT), Bauchi, Adamawa, Kano, Kebbi, Kogi, Niger, Rivers and as well as South, Western Nigeria each has 1(1.6%) dissertations.

It should be noted however, that the studied/geographical areas were derived from the title of the thesis/dissertation.

Table 5: Dissertations productivity by Research Methods

	No of Theses/ Dissertations	Percentages(%)
1. Case study	06	10
2. Documentary	-	-
3. Experimental	-	-
4. Historical	-	-
5. Survey	56	90
Total	62	100

Data on the above table reveals the types of methods used in the course of carrying out a research which was geared towards producing a piece of report. Mere look at the table shows that survey research was the popular method postgraduate students used. The second research method was the case method dealing with an in-depth study of an organization. Only 6(10%) dissertations produced were case study type. A thorough analysis of the bibliography of the thesis/dissertations shows that there was none on documentary, experimental or historical.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RESEARCH FINDINGS

- (i) The total number of Thesis/Dissertations produced and available in the Department of Library and Information Science, Bayero University Kano was 62. These cover the period of 15 years with non-availability of Thesis/Dissertations in 1994 and 1999. The highest number of dissertations was recorded in 2004, while the lowest number was recorded in 1992 and 1993.
- (ii) The highest number of thesis/dissertations was produced in the field of Information Science with 31(50%). This means that 50% of the post graduate students specialize in the information field which may be attributed to the present trends of information age. This was followed by productivity of thesis/dissertations in the field of "Library Resources and Bibliography while few dissertations were produced in other areas of specializations.
- (iii) Thesis/Dissertations were based survey research with little attention paid to case study while there were none on historical, experimental and documentary methods.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings; it was concluded that:-

- 1. The non-availability of research products for the years 1994 and 1999 may be attributed to either non-graduation of postgraduate students or non-deposit of copies in the department;
- 2. Emphasis was placed on information science field at the expense of other field of specialization; Research projects focused more on Nigeria than regions or states.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the discussion, findings and conclusion, recommendations are hereby proffered:

- (1) There should be yearly and comprehensive list of higher degree research projects in the library School, while soft copies of the research work should be submitted to the PG coordinator in the department;
- (2) Post graduate students be should encouraged to specialize in the various fields of Librarianship since no knowledge is a waste;
- (3) Postgraduate researches in librarianship should not only be National but they should also focus on also on region and states;

- (4) Other methods of research (Historical, experimental and documentary) be encouraged so as to locate a lot of opportunities for graduates of librarianship as Archivist etc.
- (5) It was discovered from the study that 30(48%) Thesis/Dissertations were National, while 16(25%) focus on Northern Nigeria with few on North West and South West Nigeria. This shows that researches in the field of librarianship as regard other regions are not accorded equal attention; (6) Out of the 62 dissertations produced, it was discovered that large percentage 56(90%) were written/undertaking using survey method with 6(10%) using case study; while other methods were not used.

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