

**INFORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABILITY AND USE BY LEGAL  
PRACTITIONERS IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL  
TERRITORY OF NIGERIA**

**By**

**Ainoko Samson  
Taslim Elias Library  
Nigerian Law School,  
Bwari - Abuja.**

**And**

**Dr. Boman Daniel D.  
Library and Information Science Department  
Faculty of Education  
University, Abuja.**

**ABSTRACT**

In the last two decades, the legal profession and professionals have witnessed proliferation of legal information resources as both primary and secondary sources, aimed at bringing about efficient and effective provision of legal services. It is one thing for information resources to be produced or published; it is another for such resources to be available for use by those whom the resources are meant for. It is against this backdrop that the researcher attempted to verify the various legal information resources available for use by Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory and the extent to which the resources are being put to use by them. The survey research method was used for the study as well as the stratified simple random sampling procedure. Responses were obtained through the use of questionnaire, oral interview and observations from 346 respondents out of the sampled 415 Legal Practitioners.

Major finding of the study among others is that "Law Reports" "Laws" "Statutes" and "Newspapers/Magazines" were the most available and frequently used information resources by Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory. The paper concludes by recommending that Legal Practitioners need to harness resources together for a common website where they could all share information resources, among others.

**INTRODUCTION**

Whereas resource availability and accessibility is a pre-requisite to service delivery, effective and efficient service delivery is the ultimate desire of any

individual or organization seeking for information. The supply of necessary and adequate information resources is important to Legal Practitioners, their Chambers and Offices. This is because adequate availability of resources helps in facilitating quick dispensation of Justice as well as effective provision of legal services.

Legal Information according to Ejimofor (2001) is an embodying, inter-related or structured data used for the practice of law, teaching and study of law as well as for the conduct of legal research. Legal resources are usually classified into primary and secondary sources. Primary sources are the laws as fashioned out by the legislature, which includes Legislations, Decrees, Edicts Statutes, Treaties, Law Reports, ande.t.c.

Secondary sources on the other hand are not the actual law but interpretations of the law or commentary on the law. These include law textbooks, law reference books and law journals.

From the above, it could be said that legal information resources comprise law reports, statutes, standard legal texts, law journals and periodicals, decrees, acts, circulars, information files, code of practice, index to materials, legal databases, etc. The power and role of information in the dispensation of Justice is as strong and important as Justice itself, contends Hamza (2001), who sees information as a tool for power, development and efficiency and that legal profession demand current, factual and up-to-date information as no court of law can dispense a case justly without adequate information on the case or in relation to the case.

Talking about information usage, Malumfashi (2001) asserts that the usage of information to a large extent depends on the efforts put in place by the information scientist in organizing information resources at the right time for the timely use by Judges, Lawyers and their likes.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Many scholars have written on information availability and usage of which some are hereby reviewed. Dada (2001) points out that "Law Libraries are a special hybrid of the art and practice of librarianship". He argues that the uniqueness of Law as a different discipline in the comity of subject groupings is incontrovertible. The acknowledgment of this fact has in itself influenced the studying and teaching of law, the conduct of legal research and the practice of law.

Ukpong (1995) in a study conducted on Taslim Elias law library as a special library grouped their collections into three viz: - primary, secondary and tertiary materials. He summarized these materials to include acts, bibliographies, decrees, gazettes, laws, reports, textbooks and yearbooks.

He did not make reference to electronic information resources, which is a flaw in his work. Moys (1976) in her manual of law librarianship: the use and Organization of legal literature defines law library collection as those materials wholly or mainly containing legal information organized for use.

Eseyin (2001) in his paper "The Challenge of Change: the Impact of the Emerging Communication and Information Technologies on the Law library" posits that Management Information System is the combination of human and Computer-based resources that results in the collection, storage, retrieval, communication and use of data for the purpose of operations. Resources in the case of Law libraries are books, journals, Law Reports and materials that the law librarian is scheduled to manage efficiently. He points out that the librarian must be armed with tools to enable him discharge his duties efficiently, and that the current Information Communication Technology has provided valuable tools for the librarian through the Internet connectivity. He suggests some steps to be taken to revitalize our legal system and concludes that if these steps are taken, information resources would abound and justice will never be denied, as it will not be delayed.

Wali (1992) asserts that large number of organizations/agencies and people are involved in generating a lot of information today. Consequently, information resources is being produced in a variety of formats which therefore calls for effective planning and coordination of information management which should recognize the relevance of information technology. Establishing an effective information services therefore requires the "creation of infrastructures as well as integrating a wide range of information handling activities and technology"

Ekuoye (2000) emphasizes the importance of a library and legal collections to a Lawyer in the performance of his duties as well as the role of the librarian in getting information from various sources. He points out that law on the pages of papers has remained a difficult challenge to most Legal Practitioners seeking legal authorities anywhere in the world. Nigerian Legal Practitioners today have to contend with both foreign and local publications which is a serious problem given the exponential growth of knowledge and proliferation of law literature. He concludes that in the light of this, private law firms in Nigeria should exploit the services of a Librarian as well as modern Information Communication Technology facilities as a way of boosting acquisition of resources, as well as facilitating research undermining cost and paucity of their resources.

Haruna et al (2000) who carried out a study on Professional Effectiveness Attributes of Legal Practitioners as Correlates of Information Utilization in Lagos, Nigeria investigated the relationship between information resources

utilization and professional effectiveness attributes of legal practitioners in Lagos, Nigeria. The study highlights the heavy dependence of legal practice on utilization of relevant and timely information. By inference, legal practitioners who patronize libraries and utilize current information are more effective in their profession than those who do not. Their ability to acquire and utilize a nugget of relevant, precise and timely information has been responsible for their effectiveness in the various spheres. This finding has implications for effective legal practice in Lagos State and possibly throughout Nigeria. The paper concludes by recommending acquisition of relevant, current and adequate legal materials to enhance effective and efficient legal practice and the employment of more Law librarians in order to provide quality service to Legal Practitioners.

Tion (2000) conducted a study on legal information services and user perception in the Benue State House of Assembly. The concern of the study was to investigate the provision of legal information services to the honourable members of the Benue State Legislature and how such services meet their needs as Lawmakers. Data for this study was collected through the administration of questionnaire. The analysis of the result indicated that the Benue State House of Assembly Library was discovered to be satisfying users effectively because its resources and services were found to be adequate in spite of some problems discovered in some service operations. Recommendations were made as to how to build upon their existing structures and facilities. Ojo (1980) in a study of information needs and the use of information by Medical Doctors in Nigeria intended to identify the variety of information systems and channels these Doctors use to find information and to test the relationship of selected variable and use of information system by the Doctors. The Doctors tested three personal variables of doctors for their relationship to the use of the medical library. Data collected through personal interview with sixty eight (68) Doctors in four Nigerian hospitals and a medical research institute, were analyzed. Certain important conclusions were reached among which includes the need for various types of information systems, e.t.c.

Nkereuwem (1984) generated seven different hypotheses to guide a study conducted on information use by Scientists and Engineers from three locations of petroleum industry concentrations in Nigeria, namely, Port Harcourt, Warri and Eket. The responses received included the various information sources which respondents used, in the cause of their professional duties, to meet their information needs.

The study concluded that: there was no significant difference between the Scientists and Engineers in the frequency of use of published information sources, but that Engineers use more interpersonal sources than Scientists.

## METHODOLOGY

The survey method was used in the conduct of this study as it is considered to be the most suitable for this kind of study as the respondents are scattered all over the Federal Capital Territory, with questionnaire as the instrument for gathering of data. The questionnaire administered was in two parts with the first covering the personal characteristics of the respondents as well as their employment status and experience. The second part is concerned with discovering the kind of information resources that are available, and the extent to which these resources are being put to use by the Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. The questionnaire were distributed to the Legal Practitioners at the venue of their monthly meetings as well as through the secretariat of the Nigerian Bar Association (FCT Chapter).

## POPULATION OF THE STUDY AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE.

The population of the study comprise all registered Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory. This includes Judges, State Counsels (Attorneys), Private Legal Practitioners, Company Secretaries (Legal Advisers) and Law Teachers (Academics) in the University of Abuja and Nigerian Law School Abuja.

The enrolment figure of Legal practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory as indicated in the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Directory of Lawyers, as at 31st January 2006 is one thousand, three hundred and eighty three (1383).

Afolabi (1998) observes, "If carefully selected, a population sample can save the time, energy and expenses of the researcher". In drawing sample for this study, the researcher used the stratified random sampling procedure of 30% of the population of Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory.

In this way, a sample of 415 was determined, made up as follows:-

|                                      |   |     |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----|
| Judges                               | = | 24  |
| Attorneys (State Counsels)           | = | 48  |
| Private Legal Practitioners          | = | 204 |
| Legal Advisers (Company Secretaries) | = | 120 |
| Law Teachers                         | = | 19  |

From the strata given above, a total number of Legal Practitioners covered which is four hundred and fifteen (415), represents subjects from the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Private legal Practitioners, Company Secretaries and Law Teachers. This is with the aim of having fair representation of all categories of legal practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory. With this, a sample of four hundred and fifteen (415) Legal Practitioners was determined.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The discussion that follows in this section is concerned with the presentation, analysis and interpretation of data collected for the study. The data analyzed were presented in tabular format using percentages.

### RESPONSE RATE

A total of 415 copies of questionnaire were administered to the five categories of Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory. 346 representing 83.37% copies were filled, returned and found useable for the analysis.

**TABLE 1: RESPONSE RATE**

| CATEGORIES OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS    | QUESTIONNAIRE ADMINISTERED | QUESTIONNAIRE RETRIEVED | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
|                                      | F                          | F                       | %          |
| PRIVATE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS          | 204                        | 186                     | 44.81      |
| STATE COUNSELS (ATTORNEYS)           | 48                         | 31                      | 7.47       |
| JUDGES                               | 24                         | 19                      | 4.58       |
| LEGAL ADVISERS (COMPANY SECRETARIES) | 120                        | 93                      | 22.41      |
| ACADEMIC LEGAL PRACTITIONERS         | 19                         | 17                      | 4.10       |
| TOTAL                                | 415                        | 346                     | 83.37      |

From the data presented in table 4:1, it is clear that from the 415 Questionnaires distributed, 346(83.37%) were filled and returned, with the private Legal practitioners having 186 (44.81%), State Counsels were 31 (8.96%). There are 19(5.49%) Judges from the Court of Appeal, Customary Courts, High Courts of the Federal Capital Territory, Federal High Courts, Industrial Court and the Magistrate Courts that responded.

From the category of Legal Advisers (Company Secretaries), 93 (26.87%) responded while Academic Legal practitioner constituted 17 (4.91%) respondents.

From the above table, there are 415 Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory comprising of Private Legal Practitioners, State Counsels, Judges, Legal Advisers and Academic Legal Practitioners out of which 346 completed and returned the questionnaire administered on them.

The analysis of the respondents showed that there are 187 females and 159 male Legal Practitioners that serve as the respondents.

**TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS BY AREA COUNCILS**

| AREA COUNCILS   | PRIVATE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS |       | STATE COUNSELS |      | JUDGES |      | LEGAL ADVISERS |       | ACADEMIC LAWYERS |      | TOTAL |       |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------|----------------|------|--------|------|----------------|-------|------------------|------|-------|-------|
|                 | F                           | %     | F              | %    | F      | %    | F              | %     | F                | %    | F     | %     |
| ABAJI           | 14                          | 4.04  | 3              | 0.86 | 2      | 0.58 | 5              | 1.44  | 0                | 0    | 24    | 6.94  |
| ABUJA MUNICIPAL | 94                          | 27.16 | 14             | 4.04 | 9      | 2.60 | 64             | 18.50 | 0                | 0    | 181   | 52.31 |
| BWARI           | 20                          | 5.78  | 4              | 1.16 | 3      | 0.86 | 6              | 1.73  | 10               | 2.89 | 43    | 12.43 |
| GWAGWALADA      | 32                          | 9.25  | 5              | 1.44 | 3      | 0.86 | 8              | 2.31  | 7                | 2.02 | 55    | 15.89 |
| KUJE            | 15                          | 4.33  | 3              | 0.86 | 1      | 0.28 | 6              | 1.73  | 0                | 0    | 25    | 7.23  |
| KWALI           | 11                          | 3.18  | 2              | 0.58 | 1      | 0.28 | 4              | 1.16  | 0                | 0    | 18    | 5.20  |
|                 |                             |       |                |      |        |      |                |       |                  |      | 346   | 100   |

Table 4:2 and figure 1 shows the distribution of respondents from the various groups of Legal Practitioners in the six Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory. The analysis shows that Abuja Municipal Council has the highest concentration of Legal practitioners in the entire strata. For instance, in the stratum of Private Legal Practitioners, the Abuja Municipal Council has 94 (27.16%) respondents. Similarly, in the group of Legal Advisers, the Abuja Municipal Council has a total of sixty 64 (18.50%) respondents.

The analysis also reveals that Academic Legal Practitioners are located only in Bwari and Gwagwalada Area Councils, with 10 (2.89%) and 7 (2.02%) of the total respondents. This is probably because of the location of the Nigerian Law School and the University of Abuja Law Faculty. The finding of Abuja Municipal Area Council with highest concentration of Legal Practitioners in the entire strata is as a result of the fact that this Area Council comprises the major districts that constitute the city centre where most Government Ministries, Parastatals and other Government agencies are located while other areas are the satellite towns. The Legal Practitioners therefore want to be closer to the centre of business for quick access to their clients.

#### **AVAILABLE INFORMATION RESOURCES TO LEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY.**

The supply of necessary and adequate information resources is important to law Chambers and offices. This is because adequate availability of resources helps in facilitating quick dispensation of Justice as well as effective and efficient provision of legal services.

The next table shows the breakdown of the various types of Information resources available for use by Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory, as one question sought to know the kind of Information Resources that are available for use by Legal Practitioners in the Federal capital Territory.

**TABLE 3: INFORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABILITY**

| TYPES OF INFORMATION RESOURCES | PRIVATE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS |       | STATE COUNSELS |      | JUDGES |      | LEGAL ADVISERS |       | ACADEMIC LEGAL PRACTITIONERS |      | TOTAL |       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|----------------|------|--------|------|----------------|-------|------------------------------|------|-------|-------|
|                                | F                           | %     | F              | %    | F      | %    | F              | %     | F                            | %    | F     | %     |
| LAWS                           | 186                         | 53.6  | 31             | 8.96 | 19     | 4.59 | 93             | 26.01 | 17                           | 4.91 | 346   | 100   |
| LAW REPORTS                    | 186                         | 53.6  | 31             | 8.96 | 19     | 4.59 | 93             | 26.01 | 17                           | 4.91 | 346   | 100   |
| LAW JOURNALS                   | 98                          | 28.32 | 22             | 6.35 | 12     | 3.47 | 27             | 7.80  | 17                           | 4.91 | 176   | 50.87 |
| ENCYCLOPAEDIAS                 | 92                          | 26.58 | 14             | 4.05 | 8      | 2.31 | 31             | 8.96  | 16                           | 4.62 | 161   | 46.54 |
| STATUTES                       | 107                         | 30.92 | 28             | 8.10 | 14     | 4.05 | 72             | 20.81 | 14                           | 4.05 | 235   | 67.92 |
| GAZETTES                       | 83                          | 23.98 | 26             | 7.51 | 14     | 4.05 | 68             | 19.65 | 12                           | 3.47 | 203   | 58.67 |
| DICTIONARIES                   | 186                         | 53.76 | 31             | 8.96 | 19     | 5.49 | 93             | 26.91 | 17                           | 4.91 | 346   | 100   |
| MAGAZINE/NEWSPAPERS            | 182                         | 52.60 | 31             | 8.96 | 19     | 5.49 | 87             | 25.14 | 10                           | 2.89 | 329   | 95.08 |
| ELECTRONIC RESOURCES/INTERNET  | 74                          | 21.39 | 23             | 7.22 | 10     | 2.89 | 18             | 5.20  | 17                           | 4.91 | 144   | 41.61 |
| LAW TEXT BOOKS                 | 63                          | 18.21 | 22             | 6.35 | 8      | 2.31 | 34             | 9.83  | 17                           | 4.91 | 144   | 41.62 |

From table 4 above, it is obvious that "Laws" which comprises the Laws of the Federation and those of the various Regions and States; "Law Reports" and "Dictionaries" as information resources are all available in the Chambers/Offices of all Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory, irrespective of their categories. All the 186 Private Legal Practitioners that responded, as well as all the 19 respondents in the category of Judges, 93 in the group of Legal Advisers, 31 from the State Counsel category and the 17 from the Academic Legal Practitioner group indicated the availability of these resources in their various Chambers/Offices.

Similarly, 329 (95.08%) respondents indicated the availability of Magazines/Newspapers in their Chambers/Offices. It is equally discovered that almost all the Academic Legal Practitioners have all the listed information resources available in their Offices, with exception of a few. This is because of their peculiar nature of services, which is teaching and research.

Electronic Resources/Internet facilities appears to be the least available information resources with only 144 (41.61%) from the total respondents of 346 that indicated the availability of the facility in their Chambers/Offices. The implications of these findings are as follows:

That no Legal practitioner in the Federal Capital Territory can do without "Laws" "Law Reports" and "Dictionaries" in the cause of services they offer, hence the stocking of these resources by them. Magazines/Newspapers are equally of significance to Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory in carrying out their services.

Another implication as to why "Laws" "Law Reports" and "Dictionaries" are available in the Chambers/Offices of every Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory is that the stocking of these resources is a pre-requisite to the establishment of Law Chambers/Offices.



The low level availability of Electronic Resources/Internet Services in their Chambers/Offices as indicated above is not to say that they are not interested in such facilities, rather it is due to lack of fund as pointed out by many of them in their responses as to why such facilities are not available in their Chambers/Offices.

These facts are corroborated with my physical observation of available resources in some Chambers/Offices in the cause of my visitations during my questionnaire administration.

#### FREQUENCY OF USE OF LEGAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

To ascertain the frequency of use of available information resources in the Chambers/Offices of Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory, a question was asked, "How often do they consult these materials?" Their responses as obtained and collated are given in table 5 below.

**TABLE 4: FREQUENCY OF USAGE OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION RESOURCES.**

| TYPES OF INFORMATION RESOURCES | ALWAYS |       | OFTEN |       | OCCASIONALLY |       | TOTAL |     |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-----|
|                                | F      | %     | F     | %     | F            | %     | F     | %   |
| LAWS                           | 278    | 80.35 | 68    | 19.65 | 0            | 0     | 346   | 100 |
| LAW REPORTS                    | 302    | 87.28 | 44    | 12.73 | 0            | 0     | 346   | 100 |
| LAW JOURNALS                   | 175    | 50.58 | 102   | 29.48 | 69           | 19.94 | 346   | 100 |
| STATUTES                       | 294    | 84.97 | 44    | 12.72 | 8            | 2.31  | 346   | 100 |
| GAZETTES                       | 182    | 52.60 | 113   | 32.66 | 51           | 14.74 | 346   | 100 |
| ENCYCLOPAEDIAS                 | 23     | 6.65  | 108   | 31.21 | 215          | 62.14 | 346   | 100 |
| DICTIONARIES                   | 189    | 54.62 | 146   | 42.20 | 11           | 3.18  | 346   | 100 |
| LAW TEXTBOOKS                  | 106    | 30.64 | 199   | 57.51 | 41           | 11.85 | 346   | 100 |
| NEWSPAPERS/MAGAZINES           | 114    | 32.95 | 128   | 36.99 | 104          | 30.06 | 346   | 100 |
| ELECTRONIC RESOURCES           | 106    | 30.64 | 199   | 57.51 | 41           | 11.85 | 346   | 100 |

From the table 5 above, there is an indication that "Law Reports" "Statutes" and "Laws" are most frequently used information resources than others by Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory, with 302 (87.28%); 294(84.97%) and 278(80.35%) respondents respectively, that reported the use of these resources "always".

On the other hand, 215(62.14%) of the respondents reported the use of Encyclopedia "occasionally" meaning that the use of Encyclopedia for legal services is of little consequence to Legal Practitioners in the Federal capital Territory. No single respondent reported the use of "Law Reports" and "Laws" "occasionally". The implication of the indication of 0(0%) respondents to the non-use of "Law Reports" and "Laws" "occasionally" shows the indispensability of these resources to Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory in the services they provide. That is to say that Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital territory rely heavily on "Law Reports" and "Laws" in the services they offer.

## PURPOSES OF USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES BY LEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY.

Whereas resources availability and accessibility is a sine qua non to effective service delivery, effective service delivery is the ultimate desire of an individual or organization seeking for information. Therefore the question on what the Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory use available information resources for has the following responses given by the various strata of the Legal practitioners.

**TABLE 5: PURPOSES OF USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES**

| PURPOSES OF USAGE        | PRIVATE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS |       | STATE COUNSELS |      | JUDGES |      | LEGAL ADVISERS |       | ACADEMIC LEGAL PRACTITIONERS |      | TOTAL |       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|----------------|------|--------|------|----------------|-------|------------------------------|------|-------|-------|
|                          | F                           | %     | F              | %    | F      | %    | F              | %     | F                            | %    | F     | %     |
| ARBITRATION              | 21                          | 6.06  | 2              | 0.87 | 14     | 40.1 | 38             | 85.20 | 0                            | 0    | 55    | 12.94 |
| LITIGATION               | 109                         | 31.50 | 19             | 5.29 | 0      | 0    | 2              | 5.22  | 2                            | 0.86 | 130   | 30.71 |
| LEGAL DRAFTING           | 4                           | 1.12  | 4              | 1.15 | 6      | 17.3 | 13             | 3.75  | 8                            | 2.31 | 35    | 8.12  |
| TEACHING/RESEARCH        | 0                           | 0     | 0              | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0              | 0     | 17                           | 4.9  | 17    | 4.00  |
| LEGAL ADVICE/CONSULTANCY | 67                          | 19.36 | 5              | 1.44 | 12     | 3.46 | 32             | 9.24  | 4                            | 1.15 | 120   | 28.23 |
| TOTAL                    | 243                         |       | 30             |      | 32     |      | 88             |       | 32                           |      | 425   | 100   |

From the results shown in table 4:9 and fig 6, the number of respondents from the various Strata using various information resources for one legal purpose or the other appear to be higher than the total number of respondents. This is because some respondents use particular information Resources for various purposes or services, hence their ticking of two or more options.

Generally, the Private Legal Practitioners using information resources for Litigation dominate others, with 109(31.50%), followed closely by the same group using the resources for Legal advise/consultancy. This implies that most of the Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory are into private practice using legal information resources for Litigation and Consultancy.

It is worthy of note that services offered by private Legal practitioners, State Counsels and Legal Advisers are interwoven as these three groups all provide services of Litigations, Legal Drafting and Legal advise/consultancy, hence their usage of various types of legal information resources. All the 17 Academic Legal Practitioners that responded use the available legal information resources for Teaching and Research as well as for other related services as Litigation, Legal Drafting and Legal advice/consultancy. The implication here is that Academic Legal practitioners are allowed by law to carry out private practice as that equip them more with the court principles and procedures which is what they are expected to teach their students.

## **FINDINGS**

From the findings of this study, it is established that:

Majority of the respondents in this study comprise the Private Legal practitioners (186) 44.81%, followed by the legal Advisers (93) 22.41%, State Counsels (31) 7.47%, Judges (19) 4.58% and the Academic Legal Practitioners (17) 4.10%.

Abuja Municipal Area Council had the highest concentration of Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory with (181) 52.31%, Bwari and Gwagwalada Area Councils have the highest concentration of Academic Legal Practitioners.

In the area of availability of information resources in the Chambers/Offices of Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory, "Laws", "Law Reports" "Dictionaries" and Newspapers/Magazines were discovered to be the most available resources.

In terms of availability of Information Communication Technology (ICT) facilities for automation, Computer/CD-ROMS are more available than other facilities in the Chambers/Offices of Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory with 211 (70.57%) score. Lack of fund is said to be responsible for the low level availability of Internet services among Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory.

On the usage of information resources, it was discovered that Law Reports, Laws and Statutes and Newspapers are the most frequently used information resources with 302 (87.28%); 294 (84.96%) and 278(80.35%) respectively. These Legal Information resources are indispensable to the Legal Practitioners as they rely heavily on these resources. This is equally confirmed from their usage of these resources in the Law School Library as well.

Civil servant, Businessmen and even Law Students were discovered to be other users of information resources in the Chambers/Offices of Legal Practitioners.

Legal information resources were discovered to be in use for various legal services especially Litigation and Legal Advice/Consultancy.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Arising from the finding of this study as given above, it can be concluded that all Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory from the bar bench and academics place high premium on such resources as "Laws", "Law Reports" "Dictionaries" and "Statutes" to get required information for services they offer.

These resources are discovered to be indispensable to Legal Practitioners and legal practice generally.

Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory irrespective of their categories, require different types of legal information resources for different services.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY**

Based on the findings of the study, and in order to ensure effective and efficient Information resources available to the Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory in particular and in Nigeria as a whole, it is recommended that:

1. The stocking of information resources as "Laws", Law Reports" and "Statutes" should serve as a pre-requisite for establishment of Law Chambers/Offices by Legal Practitioners in view of the importance attached to these resources.
2. The National Library of Nigeria, which is the nation's apex library, should establish a National Law Library with the stocking of these all important legal information resources, to serve as a national heritage to all Legal Practitioners in the country.
3. The Federal Ministry of Justice should embark on the re-printing of the old Laws of the Federation as well as those of various former regions so as to make such information resources available in large quantities.
4. The Legal Practitioners should harness their resources together to share their Chamber/Offices information resources through the Webs. This is to facilitate an on-line interaction and sharing of information resources among them which in effect will bring about efficient and effective service delivery.
5. Big time Legal Practitioners in Nigeria should endeavor to fund the establishment of a Network of Legal Information Centres for the use of all Legal Practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory and in Nigeria.
6. The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) should serve as a regulatory body especially for the establishment of Law Chambers by Legal Practitioners.

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