



# THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN LIBRARY SYSTEM



**THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...**

*Edited by:*

**Benedict A. Oladele  
Christopher O. Ola**

KENNETH DIKE LIBRARY

DEDICATION

**THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN LIBRARY  
SYSTEM: THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...**

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UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN LIBRARY

# 4

## KENNETH DIKE LIBRARY (KDL) USERS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES: A STATISTICAL STUDY OF USE AND USERS' BEHAVIOUR OVER TIME

*Taiwo Adetoun Akinde, O. Osagie and  
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### **Introduction**

As major infrastructure for impactful research, university libraries are known and accepted as indispensable components of the university systems. While the scholars need access to published materials in their variety, the long-established role of the library has been to expand this access by acquiring published materials and organizing them for appropriate retrieval. University libraries serve as content and knowledge repositories by collecting and providing access to books, journals/periodical/serials, newspapers, government documents, rare manuscripts, maps, technical reports, dissertations, private papers, rare artifacts, and recently, their electronic versions via online databases on Internet and/or offline on CD-ROMs and the bibliographical details needed for their retrieval via the manual Card Catalogue and the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The Library of the University of Ibadan, by acquiring, processing, repackaging and providing access to and disseminating information, ensures that accurate, timely, current and the right information is made available and in the form that patrons can easily retrieve and use.

### **Background Information on the Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan**

The University of Ibadan Library was established in 1948 at the inception of the University, to provide, manage, and disseminate quality information resources to support the teaching, learning, research, and community development activities of the University. The Library, like all the departments and the central administration of the University, operated in a prefabricated wooden building at the Eleyele site in Ibadan from its inception until 1954, when it

moved to its permanent site at Oyo Road, Ibadan. It was among the first buildings to be constructed on the permanent site. Sited in the centre of the university campus, the library building was officially commissioned on the 17th of November, 1954 as the Main Library of Ibadan University.

However, as the University continues to grow in population and in the diversity of its courses, Deans and Heads of Department established libraries which they ran outside the control/management of the Main Library. By the resolution of Senate in 1974 however, these faculty libraries and departmental reading rooms came under the jurisdiction of the Main Library in order to ensure a planned and coordinated development of all library resources and services in the University and to effectively meet the users' information needs while ensuring an easy, speedy and timely retrieval of information (Oduлару 2000). Presently, faculty and departmental libraries total twenty seven (27). The most prominent among them is the E. Latunde Odeku Medical Library, situated at the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan. Notwithstanding, the management, acquisition and sometimes the cataloguing processes are done centrally at the Main Library.

The Library was also fortunate in acquiring in those early years (via gifts/donations, exchanges, bequeaths or purchasing) a number of substantial book collections; these include the 10,000 volumes undergraduate collection of the library of the Higher College Yaba; the Henry Carr Collection, of about 18,000 volumes mainly in arts, law and the sciences; The F. Montague Dyke Collection of 10,000 books, journals, pamphlets and reprints; the Leeds Clergy Library of 1,000 volumes; the Sir Charles Orr Memorial Library of 250 volumes on Nigerian history; Sir Herbert Macaulay Library; Cowan and Cocking Collections and the Libraries of Evelyn Martin; the C.M.S Yoruba Mission Library; the miscellaneous collection of 9,000 volumes given by the British Council and the American Studies Collection, just to mention but a few (The University College Ibadan Report 1955). Also, the Carnegie Institute of Washington gave 131 volumes of their publications and made the Library a Selective Depository. The Library has a collection of the University of Ibadan Staff publications in its Africana collection and was until 1970 the Legal Depository for all Nigerian publications. Under the Publications Ordinance of 1950,

the Library received two copies of every work published in Nigeria, it continues to receive to date, through the National Library of Nigeria, a complimentary copy of all publications produced in the country.

Thus, the library system of the University of Ibadan became one of the largest university libraries in West Africa with a collection which is estimated at well over one million volumes (Oladele 2007), the magnitude and specialty of this collection attracts graduate students from all over the country. As observed by Dow et al. (1995), graduate students are heavy users of library resources that cover the core areas of their field, and the theory of their discipline. The currency and specialty of materials will depend upon the subject and nature of the graduate degree. Hence, the Library of the University of Ibadan is established to set a good, efficient and effective tradition of library services for other academic libraries in Nigeria to follow.

The Library, which seats about 1,250 readers in addition to staff offices and space for the collections (University of Ibadan Calendar 2010), has a commercialized bindery for book repair, reprographic section for document delivery, a digitization chamber for conservation, preservation (of important, fragile and old documents that are rare or not easy to replace) and delivery of a virtual library service and a cybercafé which offers Internet browsing services at moderate charges. The Library opens by 8.00 am every day of the week and in and out of academic sessions, but remains closed on national holidays, the notices of which are given in advance.

In 1988, the Main Library was renamed Kenneth Dike Library (KDL) in honour of the first indigenous Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Kenneth Onwuka Dike.

### **The Role of Users in the Establishment and Development of Libraries: A Particular Reference to KDL**

The components of any library include physical infrastructure, staff, resources (material and electronic) and very importantly, the users. Without users, to whom will services be rendered? This means there cannot be any library without users. The relevance of a library is measured mainly through the quality of services and the satisfaction of its users. Fundamentally, libraries are established to



meet the informational need of users and to promote intellectual freedom. In other words, library provides access to all sources of information in order to meet the needs of an often diverse and complex group of users who sometimes have a variety of special interests and demands that should be met. According to Ajidahun (2004), the mission statement of any library is the provision of information services to the users. The fact that the user remains the focal point of any information system and that he is the very reason for the existence, growth and expansion and the continuing sustenance of libraries and information centres can never be overemphasized.

In order to ensure effective information service delivery by libraries however, the information users, their information needs, and their approaches to the information available for use i.e. their information seeking behaviour and search patterns should be studied, assessed and evaluated in order to provide relevant and timely information for them. This is because in establishing a library, the needs of the people to whom the library is obliged to render services are of utmost importance and without the knowledge of which information is needed, when and why it is needed, the growth of the library and the continued patronage of the clientele cannot be guaranteed. In this regard, in KDL, over the years, the characteristics of the users play a major role in collection selection, acquisition and development, in determining library service policies and in restructuring the library building to allow for growth. Also, users' statistics help the library to better understand the reasons, seasons, trends and dynamics of use which can be of great help to library management in drafting new policies, reviewing old policies, planning, forecasting, for research and development, and for problem-solving and decision making.

The KDL users over time include undergraduates, graduate students, academic and non-academic staff, other members of the university community (e.g. senior staff of the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, and Alumni/Alumnae of the University), students and staff of other institutions of higher learning in and outside the country who are specially introduced by their librarians and in fact, any researcher with serious reasons for using the

library for study and reference. In all cases, the claims of scholarship and research are always given the first consideration (University of Ibadan Library System 2007).

The main thrust of this chapter is to investigate the KDL users' behaviour with regards to the frequency of their library visits for the purpose of study, learning, reading, research, and sometimes, recreation, relaxation, socialization, etc. and to ascertain the growth and expansion or otherwise of users' population over the years.

### **Research Questions**

In the light of the above stated general objective, this chapter intends to find answers to the following questions:

- (1) Who are the actual users of the KDL?
- (2) How frequent are the users using the KDL and is the use of KDL increasing or decreasing over time?
- (3) What are the factors responsible for the increase/decrease in the use of KDL?
- (4) How can we enhance the use of KDL?

### **Research Methodology**

Survey research design was used in the work in order to study the characteristics of the KDL users' group 'as they are' without any control or manipulation after which conclusions and generalizations are made based on the research findings. Secondary data from the KDL Users' Statistics Register was collected from the Circulation Section of the Reader Services Division of the Library. However, the data made available by the Circulation Section only covers the period between 2002 to 2010 academic years. The target population of the study is the library actual users and the sample size consists of the total users' actual visits to the Library, and because the data is already generated, no sampling technique was required. The data was purposively used as generated. The register, which is the main instrument, consists of data generated twice daily by Library Assistants' physical headcounts of users found on the three (3) floors of the Circulating Collection. This daily data on users' visits was summed up to get

the weekly, monthly and annual statistics of the users' actual patronage of the Library. As staff in the Library, the researchers were able to approach the Head of the Circulation Section and some other staff on the Circulation and Reference desks for documentary sources and further clarifications on the users' data supplied. The data so collected were descriptively analyzed to answer the research questions via frequency counts displayed on tables, simple percentages, bar and pie charts.

However, due to time constraints, the researchers could not cover the users of the Computer Laboratory and the Research Library of the KDL. The study covers only the users found in the seating/reading space in the environment of the book stacks in the Open Access collections on the three floors of the library building.

### **Analysis of Data and Discussions of Findings**

#### ***Research Question 1: Who are the actual users of the KDL?***

The answer to this question can be deduced from table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: 2002/2003 to 2008/2009 KDL Users' Sessional Statistics**

<b>KDL USERS</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>2005-2006</b>	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>Cummulative frequency</b>
<b>(A) SENIOR STAFF TOTAL</b>	68	6	9	95	-	49	24	251
ACADEMIC STAFF	62	4	8	22	-	41	13	150
NON-ACADEMIC STAFF	6	2	1	73	-	8	11	101
<b>(B) STUDENTS - TOTAL</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>3,006</b>	<b>5,334</b>	<b>6,020</b>	-	<b>7,532</b>	<b>6,527</b>	<b>29,172</b>
POSTGRADUATE	411	1,567	3,788	2,595	-	3,038	1,950	13,349
UNDERGRADUATE	255	1,356	1,463	3,171	-	2,467	4,023	12,735
DISTANCE LEARNING	87	83	83	254	-	1,792	388	2,687
SPECIAL READERS	-	-	-	-	-	235	166	401
<b>TOTAL KDL USERS</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>3,012</b>	<b>5,343</b>	<b>6,115</b>	-	<b>7,581</b>	<b>6,551</b>	-

Source: Circulation Section of the Readers' Services Unit of the KDL (January, 2011).

From table 4.1, it can be seen in the aggregate that students (especially postgraduate) are the major users of the KDL, and that in the years under review the Library was patronized mostly in the 2007/2008 academic session after a year of clamp-down on the Circulation Section by the University in the 2006/2007 academic year.

**Finding:** Staff, especially non-academic, did not make good use of the KDL in the years under review.

**Research Question 2:** How frequent are the users using the KDL and is the use of KDL increasing or decreasing over time?

Answers to this question are provided in table 4.2.

**Table 4.2: Frequency Table of Users' Use of KDL**

Academic Session	Frequency counts of users using the Library	Percentage (%)
2002/2003	56, 225	10.18
2003/2004	99, 280	17.97
2004/2005	102, 621	18.58
2005/2006	69, 625	12.60
2006/2007	Session cancelled by the University	0
2007/2008	89, 748	16.25
2008/2009	69, 052	12.50
2009/2010	65, 842	11.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>552,393</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Circulation Section of the Readers' Services Unit of the KDL (January, 2011)

In table 4.2, and figures 4.1-4.3 (i.e. the pie and bar charts), the use of KDL increased drastically between 2002-2005 after which it fell in the 2005/2006 session sharply by more than 6% of what it was in the previous year. However, due to the cancellation of the 2006/2007 academic year by the University Authority, data on users activities during that year were non-existent in the Circulation Section that takes and records users' statistics in the KDL (with the exemption of the statistics of users of the Computer Laboratory and the Research Library). Though, an appreciable number of users (89,748) was recorded in the following 2007/2008

academic session, the users' patronage of the Library fell in the 2008/2009 session and continues to fall till date.

**Finding:** Users were increasingly patronising the KDL but of recent the patronage is falling.

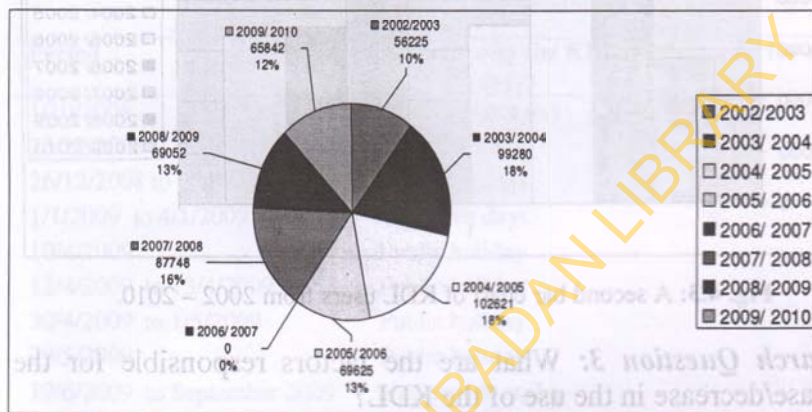


Fig. 4.1: Pie chart of users' use of KDL.

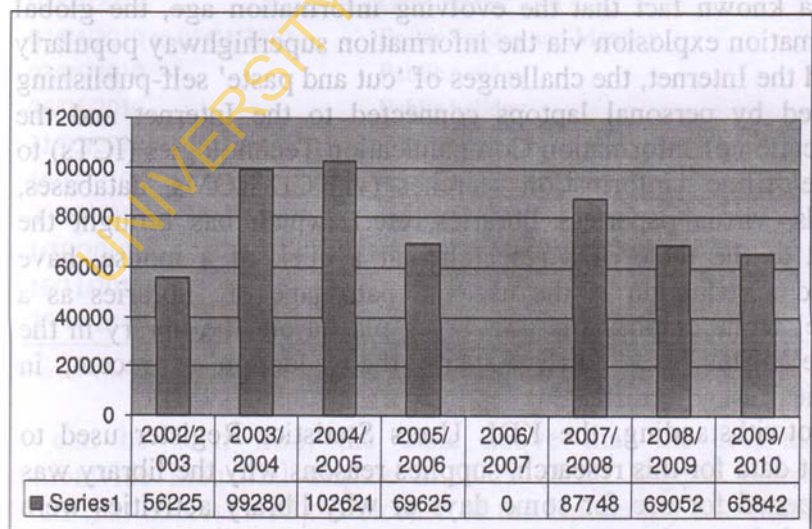


Fig. 4.2: Bar chart of KDL users from 2002 – 2010.

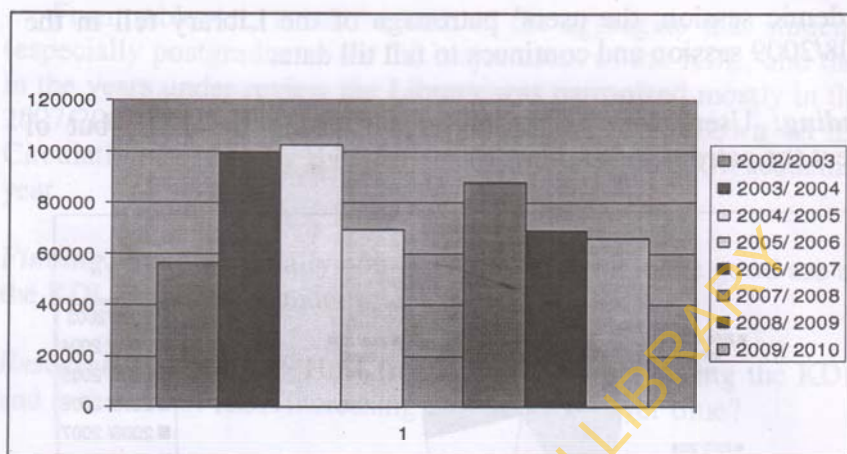


Fig. 4.3: A second bar chart of KDL users from 2002 – 2010.

**Research Question 3:** What are the factors responsible for the increase/decrease in the use of the KDL?

While it is obvious from the analysis and findings above that the use of KDL is recently decreasing (i.e. between 2008 to 2010), it is a known fact that the evolving information age, the global information explosion via the information superhighway popularly called the Internet, the challenges of 'cut and paste' self-publishing enabled by personal laptops connected to the Internet and the application of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) to online/offline information searches (via CD-ROMs, databases, portals, virtual/paperless libraries, etc.), which has brought the world to the table of a researcher at a click of a mouse, have caused a reduction in the use and patronage of libraries as a 'place' while emphasis is now being placed on 'the library in the 'space'' This may partly explain the reduction of recent, in libraries' usage statistics.

Notwithstanding, the KDL Users Statistics Register used to collect data for this research, supplies reasons why the library was not opened for use for some days or why library activities were suspended or why users were not sometimes admitted into the library during the period 2008 to 2010. Chief among these reasons

is the nationwide strike that started on the 19th of June, 2009 which extended to September of the same year. Other reasons are as shown in table 4.3.

**Table 4.3: Periods when the KDL Closed during 2008/2009 to 2009/2010 Academic Sessions**

Period	Reasons why the KDL did not open for use or admit users
1/10/2008	Independence day
25/12/2008	Christmas day
26/12/2008 to 28/12/2008	Workfree days
1/1/2009 to 4/1/2009	Workfree days
10/4/2009	Public holiday
12/4/2009 to 13/4/2009	Public holiday
30/4/2009 to 1/5/2009	Public holiday
29/5/2009	Public holiday
19/6/2009 to September 2009	Nationwide strike
24/12/2009 to 27/12/2009	Workfree days
1/1/2010 to 3/1/2010	New year workfree day
26/2/2010	Public holiday
02/04/2010	Good Friday
04/04/2010 to 05/04/2010	Easter Sunday and Monday
03/05/2010	Public holiday
06/05/2010	Public holiday
31/05/2010	Workers' day
16/8/2010	Workfree day
09/09/2010 to 12/09/2010	Ramadan day
1/10/2010 to 03/10/10	Nigeria at fifty (Public holiday)
16/11/2010 to 17/11/2010	Salah day
25/12/2010 to 28/12/2010	Christmas holiday

Source: The Circulation Section of the Reader Services Unit of the KDL (January, 2011)

It can be seen from the table above that the four-months nationwide industrial dispute in 2009 of all Nigeria University Staff that necessitated the closure of the University and hence the Library, and other types of public holidays/work-free days partly explains why library users' statistics fell during that period.



**Findings:** The observance of various types of public holidays/workfree days and the four-months nationwide industrial dispute in 2009 of all Nigeria University Staff, partly explains why library users' statistics fell during the 2008/2009 to 2009/2010 academic sessions.

**Research Question 4:** How can we enhance the use of the KDL? The answers to this question have been integrated into the recommendations proffered by the study.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

As stated earlier, this chapter is an attempt at investigating the KDL users' behaviour with regards to the frequency of their library visits for the purpose of study, learning, reading, research, and sometimes, recreation, relaxation, socialization, etc. and to ascertain the growth and expansion or otherwise of users' population over the years. In the light of the findings of the study therefore, the following conclusions were derived:

- (1) Students are the main users of the KDL; Staff, especially non-teaching, are not patronizing the library as they ought to;
- (2) The KDL Users' statistics which was on the increase in some years past, is of recent decreasing, in other words, the users' patronage of KDL is in recent times falling;
- (3) The observance of various types of public holidays/work-free days and the four-months nationwide industrial dispute in 2009 of all Nigeria University Staff, partly explains why library users' statistics fell during the 2008/2009 to 2009/2010 academic sessions without prejudice to the increasing applications of information communication technologies to information searches, retrieval, packaging and dissemination by the 'hitherto library users'. The increasing availability and affordability of personal laptop computers with connections to the Internet, the library of libraries, has made possible a world of printed and ready information at a click of a mouse. In other words, when the user is able to get what he is 'looking for' from the library in the 'space', the use of library as a 'place' becomes less.

Arising from the above conclusions, the researchers recommend that:

- Staff, especially non-teaching, should be encouraged to use the library for self- and career development and for continuing education or life-long learning;
- Users should be motivated by the KDL to make greater use of the library via adequate publicity of its activities and new accessions; users profiling and selective dissemination of information and users' studies that will investigate users' needs, evaluate library current services and identify strengths can be sustained, and weaknesses can be improved upon;
- Work-free days and holiday periods should be monetized for library staff that may be willing to come to work at such periods. Some staff can, with the promise of a reward, come around to open the library at such holiday periods, so that the Library can remain open all the year round to offer its services unhindered.
- To enhance the use of the KDL therefore, more computer systems should be acquired and made more accessible to the users to provide an electronic library/cybrary environment; also, more staff should be employed to offer an adequate and unrelenting service; a library bus should be acquired to shuttle between the KDL and staff homes during evening and/or night duties and more library staff should be accommodated in the Staff housing quarters situated in the Campus in order to be able to provide a 24/7 library service!

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