

## Demographic Characteristics and Accessibility as Determinants of Use of Library Resources by Students in Two Federal Colleges of Agriculture in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

The paper examined demographic factors and accessibility as determinants of use of library resources by students of Federal College of Animal Health Production and Federal College of Agriculture and Technology, Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design with the aid of questionnaire was employed to elicit response from the respondents. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the sample size of this work. Data was analysed with the use of descriptive statistics facilitated by the Statistical Software for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Results were presented in frequencies, percentages, correlation and multiple regressions on tables. From the findings, library resources that were very readily available were indicated. The prominent challenges affecting the use of library resources as indicated by most of the respondents were highlighted. Recommendations were also made based on the findings.

**Keywords:** College Libraries, Federal Colleges of Agriculture, Nigeria, Demographic factors, Library, Ibadan, Resources, Accessibility and Use,

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nigerian tertiary educational institutions are established with the aim of giving any student who enrolls a very sound and qualitative education, to be able to function effectively in any environment in which he/she may find him/herself; so as to become more productive, self-fulfilling and attain self actualisation (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2004; Aluede, *et al*, 2005).

Higher education comprises all post-secondary education, training and research guidance at education institutions such as universities that are authorised as institutions of higher education by state authorities. It includes all the activities a given country deems to be higher education not only those that take place within ordinary universities and graduate schools, but shorter term education and training courses (polytechnics, junior colleges, and various forms of technical specialty schools) that are 2-3 years in length, and even correspondence courses that make use of information technology and are targeted at a broad population of students. Federal College of Animal Health Production and Federal College of Agriculture and Technology in Ibadan, Oyo state Nigeria are one of the Nigerian tertiary educational institutions established to cater for higher education of the citizen in the field of Animal Health production, Agriculture and Technology.

To this end, college students require information to satisfy their needs to promote and enhance their academic pursuit during their course of study. The mandate of college library is therefore to provide adequate and relevant information resources for users of the library for the achievement of their academic pursuit. Thus, colleges' libraries were purposely attached to the colleges in order to meet the objectives of the institutions by providing them with the relevant information resources that can support teaching, learning and research process.

Libraries globally are known as the collection of information resources which are systematically organised by the library professionals, processed, preserved and disseminated to users in order to meet their information, recreation, educational, research needs (Akinlubi, 2015). Opeke (2006) pointed out that a library could be a collector of relevant and organised resources stored in a retrievable manner and made accessible to users or information seekers. While Opara (2001) posits that the library stands in the same relationship to the society as the memory of an individual by making available and accessible to its users information required for teaching and independent study.

According to Emwanta and Nwalo (2013), an academic library is the most important resource centre of the parent institution. In a university environment for instance, the library, a major information providing system, supports teaching, learning and research with information materials of various types (Anunobi and Edoke, 2010). The academic library is the nerve centre or the hub around which scholarship revolves. It is an indispensable instrument for intellectual development. A well stocked academic library is a storehouse of information, or a record of human experience to which users may turn to for data or information. The main purpose of an academic library as stated by Aina (2004) is to support the objectives of an academic environment in the areas of learning, teaching, research, and service.

Despite the availability of library services and their benefits to students, their effective use in school environment may be hampered by demographic factors. Studies have revealed that these factors include age, gender, marital status, religion, course of study, religion, income level, level of education and so on. Velnampy, (2006) pointed out that demographic factors have been observed to have significant correlation with library resources in the academic institutions Age as a demographic variable has been found to correlate with the use of library resources by students.

Mufutau et al. (2012) examined the influence of demographic factors on the use of digital library services by the students in private universities in Nigeria, and found that the level of income of students' brought about significant difference in relation to the use of digital library services and resources by the students in private universities.

Gender on the other hand is another relevant factor in examining the use of library services by the undergraduates. (Bimber, 2000) asserted that there is a significant influence on course of study on student use of library services and resources. It was discovered that the females are likely to be infrequent users, and more likely to be intermediate users and that females are less intensive library service users than the male users, while Sivathaasan et al, (2013) observed that the male college students are more likely than their female counterparts to use internet service of the library for recreational purposes such as playing games online, visiting adult-only sites, gambling accessing news groups and discussion forums, seeking information for personal use etc. while females are more likely to use the internet service of the library communicate to with family and friends.

Apart for demographic factors, accessibility has also been found as determinants of library resources use by students. Accessibility in general term is used to describe the degree to which a system is useable by a wide range of users as possible. In other words, it is the degree of ease with which it is possible to reach a certain location from other locations. Accessibility can also be viewed as the ability to access the functionality and possible benefit of some system or entity. It is one thing for the resources to be available and it is another thing to be accessible. Whatsoever is available but not accessible is equally useless, only what is accessible that is usable. The accessibility of information resources depends on the ability of the inquirer to make use of the resources affectively. Information therefore is ordinary recorded and stored only when it is judge to have continuing potentials influence. In other worlds intellectual access need to be accompanied by physical access if the facilities are at used.

### 1.1 Statement of the problem

Despite the extent of services being rendered in libraries and information centres, there is still a presumption that students do not access and make use of the library and its resources. College students who are supposed to be acquiring broad based knowledge through the use of library resources to enable them engage in a collaborative learning process towards enhancing their studies at higher levels seem not to be involved in the use of library services. Various reasons have been advanced for this seemingly low patronage of library services by students with regards to their use of library resources.

While some are of the opinion that libraries do not provide the necessary services, others are of the notion that students' use of the library is influenced by their age, marital status, income level, religion, level of education, discipline variation, gender and internet access competence provided for in their various academic libraries. These suggest that demographic factors could have significant influence on utilisation of library resources by the undergraduate students. It is to this end that this paper sets out to investigate the demographic factors and accessibility as determinants of use of library resources by students of college of federal College of Agriculture and Technology and Federal College of Animal Health and Production in Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria.

## 1.2 Research questions

What follows are research questions to guide the research

1. What is the level of accessibility to library resources by students of Federal College of Agriculture and Technology and Federal College of Animal Health and Production, Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria?
2. What are the constraints being faced in the use of library resources by students of Federal College of Agriculture and Technology and Federal college of Animal Health and Production, Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria?
3. What is the relationship between demographic factors and library resources use by students of Federal College of Agriculture and Technology and Federal College of Animal Health and Production, Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria;

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Global concepts of libraries and library resources

A library is set apart for collection of resources, and services, and the structure in which it is housed. Ogbebor (2011) defined library as an “organised collection of books (published, unpublished) books audiovisual materials with the aid of services of staff who are able to provide and interpret such material as required, to meet the informative research, educational and recreational needs of its users”. Other non-printed materials like microforms, films, magnetic tapes, slides, video tapes and data stored in electronic media like discs, CD-ROMs can also be found in libraries. The main purpose of an academic library as stated by Aina (2004) is to support the objectives of an academic environment in the areas of learning, teaching, research, and service. According to Whitmire (2002) academic library resources are considered a good measure of an institution's excellence and quality.

### 2.2 Students and use of library resources globally.

The concept of library utilisation refers to the extent of usage of libraries by patrons. The library is not just a reservoir of knowledge, information and human experiences but it also creates an avenue for accessing this treasure. Many academic libraries are currently caught between pressures of increasing library usage and reduced budget. This is as a result of the ever increasing number of student enrollment in tertiary institutions which invariably increase the client group of academic libraries. It provides both access to information and the information itself. In an academic environment, especially in institutions of higher learning, the library helps the institution to achieve its objective of producing users that are information literate.

Okiy (2002) found that in Delta State University library both the faculty and students were using books more often than any other material, because of dearth of relevant current journals, abstracts and indexes. Marcum and George (2003) revealed in aggregate that electronic information use was substantial and growing in the nation's major universities and liberal arts colleges in USA. Respondents were making their use for research, teaching, and coursework, and have equipped themselves well to do so. As a result of the survey of a Nursing School in Nigeria,

Salaam (2003) concluded that long distance between the campus and town where most of students reside was found as main obstacle in the use of university library. Haruna (2004) found that 40.9% users of a public library were partially satisfied with library material and were using it because they did not have any other alternative. Helen (2005) evaluated the University of Hong Kong libraries and found that majority of the respondents preferred to use online journals than print versions, but on the contrary about 72% users preferred to use printed books over the electronic.

Adikata and Anwar (2006) revealed that teachers played an important role in promoting the use of libraries by students. Lawoe (2006) brought forward during study of serials use at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Library, Kumasi that undergraduates were using journals significantly, as lecturers were recommending them. Kumbar et al. (2007) examined the extent of use of periodical literature by agriculture scientists and found that most of the users considered print journals as better version than electronic journals, as 74.36% chosen print journals and 25.64% opted for electronic version. Lohar and Kumbar (2007) found that 52.25% users spent less than an hour and more than half an hour only in libraries per week. Only a small fraction of users was found familiar with inter library loan service. Sami and Shahida (2007) ascertained that need to use information technology facilities was high for users irrespective of their gender. Users' preference to use computers and related technologies depended up on the cultural, family and the educational background of the users.

Achonna (2008) found that use of e-journal resources was low among students of engineering college. Lack of skills, inadequate provision of computers, power outage etc. were the problems faced in use of resources. Lakan (2008) brought forward that power outages, slow Internet service and insufficient computers were the factors affecting the provision and use of electronic information resources at Ahmadu Bello University. Moghaddam and Talawar (2008) disclosed a growing interest in the use of electronic journals as the users had free access to electronic journals at all hours. Rao and Babu (2008) found that more than three fourth respondents were visiting libraries for research studies and to write research papers, while a few users used e-resources. Harinarayana et al. (2008) ascertained that majority of the users were visiting libraries to study in library and for borrowing books and text book service was the most highly sought after service. Sujatha and Mudhol (2008) depicted that in the college of fisheries, 88.9% users used electronic information sources for thesis/ project work and 87.6% were using for ongoing research work.

Majority of the respondents comprising 79.0% browsed the Internet for subject specific information websites and 75.3% for international/regional institution websites. E-mail was the most frequently used electronic information source followed by web resources. Biradar et al. (2009) as a result of the survey of agriculture Science College found that 72.27% users were using lending service and among them 54.79% were satisfied. The services like SDI, ILL, CD Rom search etc. were fairly used, while non documentary sources were less used. The need was felt to establish e-consortia model among agriculture libraries in India. Gowda and Shivalingaiah (2009) in study of use of library facilities and services of a university library disclosed the significant differences in the satisfaction level of research scholars of different disciplines with facilities and services of libraries. As the result of study of use of information resources in chemistry at Mangalore University library Pushpalatha and Mallaiah (2009) found that Online Public Access Catalogue and assistance of library staff were the primary means to locate needed documents. About 58.92% post graduate students rated library collection as adequate to meet their information needs, whereas 40% research scholars and 83.33% of the teachers considered at partially adequate. Trivedi and Joshi (2009) concluded that there is a growing use of e-journals over print journals but which is preferable over the other is a debatable issue, as study did not show a significant decrease in use of print journals as compared to e-journal for research.

### 2.3 Demographic characteristics and use of library resources

Demographic characteristics are varying characteristics, that is, a vital or social statistic that defines an individual, sample group, or population. Lee, and Schuele, (2010) see demographic variables as independent variables because they cannot be manipulated. Okiki and Asiru (2011) examined the factors that influence the use of electronic information sources among postgraduate students. The results show that males seem to enjoy browsing on the internet for enjoyment while female tend to only use it for work related purpose.

Tenopir (2003) noted that younger users are more enthusiastic adopters of digital resources than are older users. Younger users rely on electronic resources more heavily and rate themselves more expert in using them than do older users. Age is a variable which have been found to correlate with computers and use of electronic resources. According to Islam (2011), the level of education, program of study, age and gender were found to be significant in the effectiveness of digital library on e-learning. However race and marital status were found to have no significant effect on the effectiveness of e-learning system. Therefore it is indicated that respondents with higher level of education may have accepted using e-learning tools, which includes online resources such as library portal as a learning program and therefore contribute to the effectiveness of the e-learning system. Age is a variable which have been found to correlate with computers and use of electronic resources.

The demographic factors and life experiences associated with age-related changes in comprehension (including skill acquisition and development, decline, maintenance, compensation, and improvement) as well as understanding the epidemiology of age-related decline in comprehension. Sturm (2003) suggested that age and gender do indeed affect reading preferences and these preferences change as a child grows older. He asserts further that girls enjoy reading greater than boys and boys tend to hold more negative attitudes towards reading than girls. Hill Strategies Research (2008) carried out research on Canadians on demographic factors in book reading and submits that overall, book reading appears to be an activity that is enjoyed fairly equally by many groups of.

The only demographic factors that have a substantial impact on book reading rates are education and sex. Hill Strategies Research (2008) further expresses that the book reading rate for individuals whose mothers obtained a university degree (79%) is 1.2 times the rate for individuals whose mothers did not obtain a high school diploma (65%). It is interesting to note that the ratio (1.2) is lower than the own-education ratio (1.5) largely because of the relatively high book reading rate for individuals whose mothers received less than a high school education (65%). Women are much more likely than men to read as a leisure activity. In 2005, 75% of women read a book, compared to 58% of men. The female reading rate is 1.3 times the male rate. Also Demographic factors that have either a limited or no impact on book reading include age, income, presence of children, residing in an urban area, language, country of birth and activity limitations.

#### **2.4 Accessibility and use of library resources**

Successful educational system depends exhaustively on the accessibility and utilization of information sources and services. In this regard, academic libraries are providing knowledge and information resources for teaching, learning and research. Regarding the accessibility and utilisation of library resources, authors highlighted that libraries must ensure about the required and relevant resources, adequate storage for the collection, and strategies for accessibility of these resources through classification, cataloguing and other arrangements.

Adeoye and Popoola (2011) explained that, for effective learning process, learners must have access to necessary information materials and resources. These resources might be in tangible (i.e., printed resources) and intangible (i.e., electronic resources) format. They express that librarian is responsible for providing the right information to the right person at the right time. Ajayi and Akinniyi (2004) found frustration among information seekers due to the non-availability of sources, in a study of information needs of library users. The identification and location of information pertinent to the user's inquiry depends upon the availability of effective bibliographic apparatus in general and specialized fields. To facilitate identification and location of information materials in the libraries, the library is expected to provide effective access tools as catalogues, bibliographies, guides, indexes and abstracts.

According to Olorunsola (2008), nothing frustrates a researcher more than trying to retrieve an article, which seems right on target, only to find that the library does not own the journal. Leautier, (2004) opined that for academic communities to realize their development choices, enhancement of their capacity to deliver and cope with societal changes, information accessibility is a critical necessity. Olowu (2004) identified natural and artificial barriers to free access to information. The library's poor reputation was attributed to lack of accessibility of information sources. Iyoro (2004) examined the impact of serial publications in the promotion of educational excellence among information professionals receiving further training at the University of Ibadan. The study looks at the perception of how serial accessibility has contributed to students' learning process. Serials were found to play a significant role in the acquisition of knowledge, because the serial collection was easily and conveniently accessible. In a similar study by Oyediran-Tidings (2004) at Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, low use of the library by students was observed, this was attributed to expressed accessibility problem.

## 2.5 Challenges Being Faced in the Use of Library Resources by College Students

Several factors negatively affect the ability of libraries to provide access to resources. Inconsistent power for instance is a disturbing problem in the use of electronic resources in some university libraries. Lombardi (2000) noted that users will prefer more computer content digitalised finding aids, digital repositories of articles, online access to newspapers etc. Libraries also struggle with how, when, who and where to begin digitalization efforts, while keeping in mind that hesitation in the digitalisation of institutional archives will result in relinquishing the function to another institutional repository host.

The consequence is the repositioning of academic libraries resources, operations, services and skills possessed by professionals in these libraries to reflect that trend. Nwalo (2003) emphasised some problems that also negatively affect the use of resources in libraries; for example insufficient fund. The library is not a profit oriented organisation and so depends on whatever fund is allocated to them by the government and/or the parent organization. A report by Odusanya and Osinulu (2004) on the state of university library in Nigeria lamented about the gross under-funding and its adverse effects on the growth of library collection and services, with the entire library system suffering from large-scale decadence and neglect. The general poor state of funding libraries in Nigeria and subsequent inadequate provision of library resources and services is a great handicap towards effective use of libraries.

Rapid changes in technology: Constant upgrading and technological changes of resources pose a problem to the library (Watson, 2005). They are financially unable to entertain such changes; this often hinders access to the most recent release of products. Access to spare parts is also problematic. Maintaining equipment in good running condition can be challenging due to the cost of parts, obsolescence of equipment owned and difficulties in sourcing vendors of replacement parts. Repair and maintenance issues are also affected by the lack of skilled personnel in the maintenance of a particular technology. According to Vashishth (2011), the main problems in building collection in e-environment are quotation system, cost factor, rate of library discount, unorganised book trade and reminder books. He also pointed out that lack of ICT infrastructure, inadequate collection, and lack of mechanism for training library personnel are other major problems being faced by librarians in the discharge of their duties of making provisions to the students through available resources in the library collections.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The research design employed for this study was the descriptive survey. The population for this study consist both Ordinary National Diploma (OND) and Higher National Diploma (HND) students in Federal college of Animal Health and Production, and Federal College of Agriculture, both in Apata, Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria. Two hundred and thirty one (231) students were sampled from the population of the selected institutions which comprise all OND and HND students from three departments. However, two hundred and thirty one (231) copies of the questionnaire were retrieved and found useable which eventually amounted to 93.1% response rate. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency count and percentages

**Table 1: Sample Size of the Study**

Federal college of Animal Health and Production	Level of Study	Number of Students	Sample	Federal College of Agriculture and Technology	Level of Study	Number of Students	Sample
Animal Health	OND	347	83	Agric Extension	HND	84	34
Science Laboratory Technology	OND	123	30	Agric Engineering	OND	142	34
Animal Production	HND	130	31	Farm Power	HND	79	19
<b>Total</b>		<b>600</b>	<b>144</b>			<b>305</b>	<b>87</b>

Results: The results of the finding are as presented below.

#### Answers to research questions

**What is the level of accessibility to library resources by students of Federal College of Animal Health Production and Federal College of Agriculture and Technology Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria use library resources?**

The level of accessibility of library resources to the students of the colleges of agriculture was captured in Table 2. Findings showed that close to three-fifths of the respondents 128 (59.5%) noted that computers were very readily accessible to them. Other library resources that were very readily accessible were abstracts/indexes, magazines and periodicals as observed by a significant number of the students in the colleges of agriculture 97 (45.1%), 96 (44.7%) and 91 (42.3%).

Results also showed that internet resources and atlases/maps were readily accessible as observed by majority of the respondents 130 (60.5%) and 123 (57.2%), While serials and CD-ROM databases were occasionally accessible as noted by the respondents 120 (51.8%) and 104 (48.4%). This result reveals that most of the library resources were accessible to majority of the students in the libraries of the colleges of agriculture.



**Table 2: Accessibility of library resources**

Library Resources	VRA		RA		OA		NA		Mean	SD
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Abstracts/Indexes	97	45.1	53	24.7	56	26.0	9	4.2	3.13	0.93
Atlases/Maps	28	13.0	123	57.2	54	25.1	10	4.7	2.79	0.72
CD-ROM Databases	32	14.9	66	30.7	104	48.4	13	6.0	2.54	0.82
E- resources	128	59.5	51	23.7	32	14.9	4	1.9	3.41	0.81
Dictionaries/Encyclopaedias	64	29.8	58	27.0	86	40.0	7	3.3	2.83	0.90
Internet Resources	44	20.5	130	60.5	34	15.8	7	3.3	2.98	0.70
Journals	36	16.7	117	54.4	46	21.4	16	7.4	2.80	0.80
Magazines	96	44.7	50	23.3	54	25.1	15	7.0	3.06	0.99
Newspaper	40	18.6	116	54.0	39	18.1	20	9.3	2.82	0.84
Periodicals	91	42.3	54	25.1	54	25.1	16	7.4	3.02	0.99
Serials	25	11.6	55	25.6	120	55.8	15	7.0	2.42	0.79
Textbooks	90	41.9	100	46.5	21	9.8	4	1.9	3.28	0.72
Theses/Dissertations	39	18.1	112	52.1	43	20.0	21	9.8	2.79	0.85

Key: Very readily accessible (VRA), Readily accessible (RA), Occasionally available (OA) and Not accessible (NA)

**Research question two: What are the constraints being faced in the use of library resources by students of Federal College of Animal Health Production and Federal College of Agriculture and Technology Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria?**

Table 3. revealed that majority of the respondents 130 (60.5%), 127 (59.1%) and 122 (56.7%) strongly agreed that improper maintenance, inadequate finance/fund and inconsistent power supply were challenges affecting their use of library resources. It is also noteworthy to highlight that a significant number of the students of the colleges of agriculture 122 (56.7%) and 121 (56.3%) agreed that lack of current materials and low level of awareness were also challenges. However, little above half of the respondents 109 (50.7%) disagreed that their libraries lacked trained personnel. It can be concluded based on the results that the use of library resources by most of the students of the colleges of agriculture was affected by quite a number of challenges.

**Table 3: Challenges of the use of library resources**

Challenges	SA		A		D		SD		Mean	SD
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Improper Maintenance	130	60.5	38	17.7	34	15.8	13	6.0	3.33	0.95
Inadequate Collections	65	30.2	48	22.3	94	43.7	8	3.7	2.79	0.92
Inadequate Finance/Fund	127	59.1	55	25.6	21	9.8	12	5.6	3.38	0.88
Inadequate Government Support	59	27.4	59	27.4	85	39.5	12	5.6	2.77	0.92
Inconsistent Power Supply	122	56.7	64	29.8	20	9.3	9	4.2	3.39	0.82
Insufficient ICTs infrastructure	68	31.6	109	50.7	19	8.8	19	8.8	3.05	0.87
Lack of Current materials	53	24.7	122	56.7	18	8.4	22	10.2	2.96	0.86
Lack of Recognition by the School Management	112	52.1	52	24.2	32	14.9	19	8.8	3.20	0.99
Lack of Trained Personnel	29	13.5	48	22.3	109	50.7	29	13.5	2.36	0.88
Lack of User Education	93	43.3	61	28.4	41	19.1	20	9.3	3.06	0.99
Low Level of Awareness	38	17.7	121	56.3	33	15.3	23	10.7	2.81	0.85
Low Patronage	29	13.5	91	42.3	76	35.3	19	8.8	2.60	0.83

**Table 4: Relationship between demographic factors and use of library resources by students of Federal College of Animal Health Production and Federal College of Agriculture and Technology Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria**

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	R	Df	Sig. (P)	Remarks
Demographic factors	10.89	1.287	215	.068	214	.000	Not Sig.
Use of library resources	42.14	9.400					

In order to establish the contribution of each demographic factor to use of library resources by students of Federal College of Animal Health Production and Federal College of Agriculture and Technology Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, correlation matrix table is presented (Table 3):

- There is no significant relationship between level and use of library resources ( $r=.025$ ;  $N=215$ ;  $p<0.05$ )
- There is no significant relationship between age and use of library resources ( $r=.122$ ;  $N=215$ ;  $p<0.05$ )
- There is no significant relationship between gender and use of library resources ( $r=.025$ ;  $N=215$ ;  $p<0.05$ )

There is a negative relationship between religion and use of library resources ( $r=-.049$ ;  $N=215$ ;  $p<0.01$ )

**Table 5. Relationship between demographic factors and use of library resources**

Demographic factors	L	2	3	4	5	
Level	Pearson Correlation	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)					
	N	215				
Age	Pearson Correlation	.064	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.354				
	N	215	215			
Gender	Pearson Correlation	-.133	-.344**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.052	.000			
	N	215	215	215		
Religion	Pearson Correlation	.140*	-.031	-.297**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.041	.656	.000		
	N	215	215	215	215	
Use of library resources	Pearson Correlation	.025	.122	.025	-.049	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.719	.075	.711	.472	
	N	215	215	215	215	215

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

#### 4. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Results showed that the students of the colleges of agriculture noted that the library resources that were very readily accessible to majority of the respondents were e- resources, abstracts/indexes, magazines and periodicals, as internet resources were readily accessible as well as serials and CD-ROM databases were occasionally accessible. Thus, the fact that most of students in the colleges of agriculture indicated that a substantial number of library resources were accessible is a pointer that the management of the libraries want students to utilise the available resources. This finding is supported by Adeoye and Popoola (2011) who opined that, for effective learning process, learners must have access to necessary information materials and resources. These resources might be in tangible (i.e., printed resources) and intangible (i.e., electronic resources) format. They further expressed that the librarian is responsible for providing the right information to the right person at the right time.

The study also revealed that the challenges affecting the use of library resources as indicated by most of the respondents were improper maintenance, inadequate finance/fund, and inconsistent power supply, lack of current materials and low level of awareness. These are challenges that are not only bedeviling libraries attached to colleges of agriculture but most of the libraries owned by the government, both federal and state. There is no doubt that these inhibitors have discouraged some potential users to be apathetic in the use of the library and in effect seek alternative information sources like the search engines. This result is at variance with the views of Vashishth (2011) that state that the main problems in building collection in e-environment are quotation system, cost factor, rate of library discount, unorganised book trade and reminder books. He also pointed out that lack of ICT infrastructure, inadequate collection, and lack of mechanism for training library personnel are other major problems being faced by librarians in the discharge of their duties of making provisions to the students through available resources in the library collections.

There was no significant relationship between demographic factors and use of library resources by the respondents. This implies that the diversities of the demographic factors in this study are not substantially responsible for stimulating increased use of library resources by the students. This is similar in the issue of age, students of all ages use the library and its resources. As for religion, the library does not discriminate. However, when it comes to the use of electronic information resources and systems, demographic factors could be significant. . This finding contradicts the finding of Islam (2011) that states that the level of education, program of study, age and gender were found to be significant in the effectiveness of digital library on e-learning.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The results of this study indicated that there was no significant relationship between demographic factors and use of library resources by the respondents. In this wise, initiatives such as library orientation, user education, current awareness services, digitization of library resources as well as the subscription of electronic databases are possibilities that can help enhance library system and create awareness for library patrons irrespective of their demographic characteristics. The websites of the colleges should have a visible library presence and the notice boards within the colleges can be used through the pasting of notices that will state the statistics of the library conspicuously. Library should at all cost make the resources accessible to patrons and ensure that students of different levels, age group, gender, religion etc are not hindered from using them for learning and research.

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