Library System and The Polytechnics' Learning Environment in A Developing Nation

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ABSTRACT

The Library system in any teaching, learning and research environment is an inseparable system in the activities as regard teaching, learning and research. This work examined the library system and the polytechnic learning environment in a developing nation. In carrying out the study, a structured questionnaire was designed using the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, Ogun State, Nigeria as a case study. The questionnaire administered for the study includes the 50 Academic and 50 non-academics staff, and 50 students of the polytechnic randomly selected. From the questionnaire analyzed, it was discovered that the library system should be spaced far from the noisy and busy area within the polytechnic to have a conducive reading environment. It was also discovered that the library should be centrally located within the polytechnic in order to have easy accessibility to all users of the library and the nearness to internet facilities. The suggestions, recommendations will create an enabling reading, studying and research environment for the library users.

Keywords: Library Systems, Developing Nation, Environment, Learning, Learners, Students, Lecturers, Nigeria

1. INTRODUCTION

The library system is an integral part to learning environment. It is a building in which collection of books, newspapers, magazines, tapes, computers, e-materials or e-resources are kept for people to read/study or borrowed for self-education and development of knowledge. Hornby (2000) said that the embedded system in learning allows for the act of individual learning aside classroom. Taga (1995) argued that library environment could stimulate reading to be used for solving problem through its provision of information resources and active participation in the learning process of any particular programme. In the process of transforming any society for national development, education must be given the greatest priority and the environment of such educational institution must be conducive to allow for through teaching and learning, in this case, the library as part of the learning environment must be given a considerable placement since it is the basis of learning in that structure. Library is part that should meet the needs of any academic study programme as asserted by Juceviciene and Tautkeviciene 2003. It has the potential to be transformed into multifunctional learning environments as well as to define the aims and objectives for developing participants' information and metal learning competence.

Learning is a relatively permanent change in a behavioral potentiality used to know the difference between learning and performance which also occur as a result of practice that distinguished learning behavior change from those that occur as a biological growth and development. It is chiefly predicted in nature to discover which conditions are conducive for learning environment, learning could be achieved through guided reflection analysis of one's own experience, and we should see learning as a purposeful activities for understanding.

In recent years, learning environment assures high quality learning and deep approach in essence, libraries are to provide free and fair access to information in a print and non- print by acquiring relevant and attractive materials that will suit the purpose of the library users, in this era of technology which can also provide an interactive session through teleconferencing, e-mail, text messages etc. Learning environment is made of wide set of important part that communicate the idea of learning, students can group themselves in a different group within their classroom and outside the school environment for tutorial classes through different learning, this shows how they can interact with one another, lecturers can also organize their classes through different learning materials such as same text book, audio- visual materials for easy assimilation.

Environment represent the totality of the surroundings and condition in which people live that start with the physical space, virtual value or a common space in the library or exact area of interest that will encourage the users without any excitement. Library building should not be placed or sited in a loaming soil area, the management needs to plan the construction of library where there is free of humidity and moisture, heat,water,dust and dirty, it is important to choose the best architectural design for the library building; the planting of trees near the library should be avoided so that its root will not damage the library building foundation to accommodate a change in future. Library materials should not be kept in a dilapidated building because of rodents, termites, cockroaches etc. the materials needs to be properly kept in a fully air conditioned area and users can have a pleasure time to read in the library.

1.1 Objective of the study
The main objective of this study is to examine the library system in relation to the learning environment as regarding academics in a developing nation. While the specific objectives is to find out how lecturers, students and the community are coping with the library system and the polytechnic learning environment.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The library sole aim is to collect, repackage and disseminate information for academic development; at the increase in the application of computers, internet, electronic resources, mobile devices, database and the World Wide Web in all aspects of human activities especially educational sectors which made library system a greater access for teaching, learning and research,the library system should be in tandem with polytechnic enviroment. The library is a service delivery institution, a custodian of knowledge and a center for information dissemination (Ajegbomogun and Ajegbomogun, 2015). According to Obajemo (2002) a good library is indispensable if academic excellence is to be achieved, knowledge preservation and dissemination have rapidly changed the way people seek and use information. The development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) which has not changed the way of being informed have become essential tools for teaching, learning and research work.

Lambado and Condic (2001) stated that library must be a comfortable place if not users can decide to use alternative ways to get their information through internet, e-mail, text messages etc. It is important for the library to provide information communication technology (ICT) facilities services to their users such as computer, CD-ROM, telefascimile etc. and printed materials like textbook, journals, magazines, etc. in which individual can learn and stand on their own.

2.1 **Library Environment**

Terhile and Anthanisus (2013) affirmed that library environment are known as a social area that motivate the reading habit of the learners most especially users and lecturers in academic environment, they further asserted that library environment need to make provision for relevant materials in print and non-print form needed by the library users by creating awareness through posters, library exhibition, displaying of newly acquired materials that have being purchased and processed in the library which also provide for information learning and research in academic environment

Edward and Fisher (2002) observed that library environment should be naturally ventilated with fresh air and lightning, the library must be of good looking to the users and attractive and aesthetic in general atmosphere to attract users to be conducive and comfortable enough, clean environment with full facilities that will motivate the readers to work conveniently.

3. METHODOLOGY

The staff and students of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro were examined through questionnaire irrespective of their department. 150 respondents were examined which includes the academic staff (50), non-academic staff (50) and students (50) on library system and learning environment in a developing nation. A structured questionnaire was designed to be answered by the selected staff and students. The questionnaire gave room for the collection and analysis of data based on the Library system and the polytechnic learning environment.

3.1 Research Questions
The following research questions will guide this research:

a) I Is your library purposely built/ How will you describe your library
b) II Is the library well equipped with the required furniture to attract readability?/is your library centrally located
c) III Does the library has enough studying, learning and research resources to meet the needs of the patrons?
d) IV Does the library to a greater extent support the school curriculum?
e) V What are the other learning materials available in the library apart from books?
f) VI Is the library accessible at night for studying, learning and research?
g) VII If accessible at night, is it well illuminated to aid studying, learning and research?
h) VIII Is the library ICT based?
i) Ix If yes, from your experience, do you think the library is well equipped to help you acquire the ICT skills aid studying, learning and research?

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Find below the result of data analysis from the research

4.1 Results

Table 1: Questionnaire Respondent Table

No	Academic Staff 50		Non-Academic Staff (50)			Students 50		
	Yes	No	Yes	No	I don't know	Yes	No	I don't know
1			40	8	2	42	6	2
2			20	26	4	30	10	10
3			15	32	3	35	10	5
4			30	15	5	10	10	30
5			25	20	5	35	12	3

Table 2: Combination of All Respondents

Questionnaire No	RESPONDENT (Student, Academic and Non Academic) = 150		
	Yes	No	I don't know
1.	126	17	7
2.	75	44	20
3.	90	48	12
4.	82	28	40
5.	108	32	10
6.	0	150	0
7.	0	150	0
8.	38	102	10
9.	140	3	7

Table 3: Table 2 in terms of Percentage

Questionnaire No	RESPONDENT PERCENTAGE (100%)		
	Yes	No	I don't know
1	84	11	5
2	57	29	14
3	60	29	11
4	55	19	26
5	72	21	7
6	0	100	0
7	0	100	0
8	25	68	7
9	93	2	5

4.2 Discussion
Table 1 is summarized in table 2, while table 2 given in terms of percentage in table 3. This (table3) gives the phase of the library system in the federal Polytechnic Ilaro, Ogun State Nigeria.

Here, apart from question 6, 7, and 8 which do not show the effectiveness of the use of the library system, all others (questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9) gave a very high percentage to back the library system. This effectiveness is shown especially in question 1 and 3, which shows the use of library system in such a learning environment; and could be generalized for all learning environments.

5. CONCLUSION

Library system as a place or room which supports learning in any environment must be well kept in order to give ultimate support to the learning process. The required books and other learning materials must be provided, including its inner and outward environment for enabling and conducive learning that could attribute to the development of a nation and World at large.

Library as an integral part of educational attainment in any learning environment should be given the ultimate support to achieve its goal.

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