

Extent of Audio-Visual Resources Utilization by Librarians in Madonna University Library, Okija Campus Anambra State Nigeria

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Abstract

The article work was on extent of audio-visual utilization by librarians in Madonna University Library Okija Campus). The instrument for data collection is questionnaire, thirty-four (34) questionnaires which the total number of librarians, para-professionals and supporting staff in the library were distributed to staff in library, and twenty(20) were duly returned. The descriptive survey research design methods was used, and Questionnaire was only instrument used to collect data. The instrument was analyzed with simple percent statistic. The library has more para-professional and supporting staff than professionals' librarians that supposed to do professional duties in the library for the member of the community. A finding shows that televisions, DSTV, Satellite were always used by librarians and supporting staff of the library 10(50%), while computer usage is not frequent 7(35%). Conclusively DVD usage is very low extent among staff in the library. Findings shows that 8(40%) of the respondents use of AV to a high extent, very high extent 8(40%), and very low extent 4(20%). This indicates that college of education library staff knows how to use AV materials to a large extent. Another findings shows that the staff of the library agreed they are a lot of challenges in using AV resources this showed as follows: lack of power supply 12(60%), lack of skills to operates the equipments 5(25%) and not available of AV materials 3(15%). Based on the findings of the study, recommendations were made higher institution libraries in Nigeria.

Keywords: Audio-Visual, Library, Librarians, Use, and Non-Print Materials,

Introduction

The terms non-print, non-book and audiovisual materials or resources are used interchangeably in library and information science profession. In line with this statement Nathan (2010) stated that audiovisual materials are usually described as “non-print” documents, in the sense also been called “non-boook” or “special formats” and sometimes require equipment to use. It is for this reason that audiovisual materials are sometimes classified into two groups – “projected materials” and non- projected materials”. Audiovisual materials include sound recordings, film and video, graphic materials, three dimensional objects, maps, and microforms etc. An ever-increasing amount of information – covering educational and recreational interests as well as information needs – is being produced in a wide range of audiovisual and electronic formats (CDs &DVD). Access to these materials should be as open and as free as access to print-based materials. Audiovisual media are part of our cultural heritage, carrying a huge amount of information that needs to be preserved for future use. The rich variety of media expressions in society should be reflected in the services offered to users by the libraries. (Ekaette, 2004).

All over the world, nations are increasingly becoming aware of the role played by audiovisual materials or resources. The value of audiovisual materials was perhaps clearly stated by the International Federation of Library Associations and institutions (2003) cited in Nathan (2010: 2)stated that:

In no circumstances should audiovisual (AV) materials be regarded as additional luxury materials but rather they should be considered as necessary components in a fully integrated library service... In developing countries

the provision of AV materials and their associated equipment might be regarded as of greater importance than the printed word because the level of literacy is such that oral and visual communication is essential for the purposes of communication.

Despite the fact that audiovisual or non- print materials play a vital role in the preservation of cultural heritage, they are very often neglected. According to Madu (2000) opined that Librarians, as information providers, should be concerned with the provision of information in the formats most suited to the differing needs of various types of user, each of which must be clearly differentiated. While Obanya (2002) said that a library exists to serve its community and consequently the needs of all members of that community must be accommodated – the old and the young, the able and the disabled, the gifted and the backward members of the society. Non-print materials can reach out to sections of the public for whom the traditional print-based materials have little impact, e.g. to those who are reluctant to use the printed word, and to those with visual and other handicaps.

He moved further, in developing countries the provision of non-book materials and their associated equipment might be regarded as of greater importance than the printed word because the level of literacy is such that oral and visual expressions are essential for the purposes of communication. The need for still images, films and sound on the more traditional non-electronic audiovisual carriers still exists alongside the growing possibilities of the Internet. Multimedia and computer based information have contributed to a great explosion of audiovisual materials in libraries. Almost every library user or visitor is a potential user of audiovisual and multimedia materials as well as of print. (Omekwu, 2002).

Furthermore, despite the advantages of non- print materials in our libraries, especially in information centres like television stations in Nigeria and other parts of the world, there are still some challenges facing the organization and utilization of these non-print materials in our society. Research had shown that method used to organize these information materials, - catalogue and classified system used are not proper. Thus, when the need arises for the materials to be retrieved, they cannot locate it as a result of poor arrangement. According to Adeyemi (1991) also attributes the problem of organization of non- book materials due to lack of experts. He further stated that the staff lack ‘technical know how’ that would hinder the effective and efficiency of the job. Based on these challenges facing many libraries in Nigeria, the researchers want to know whether still applicable to Madonna University Library, Nigeria.

Brief History of Madonna University Nigeria

Madonna University is located at Okija as take-off, a few kilometers from the commercial and industrial town of Onitsha in the South-East zone of Nigeria. Presently, the main campus is located at Elele campus in Rivers State and additional campus at Akpugo in Enugu State of Nigeria. Because of the license secured from Nigeria's National Universities Commission (NUC) on 10th May1999 and established by Very Fr. Prof. E.M.P. Edeh CSSP, OFR. Madonna University was the country's first private university and the first Catholic University in Sub-Saharan Africa. Madonna University Nigeria is the only private university with three functional campuses located in different state in Nigeria. Madonna University also has twenty-seven functional departmental libraries and nine faculties' libraries, with the central library still at Okija campus. The Madonna University Library System (MULS) was established at the inception of the university. The MULS has been a part of the massive expansion and development of academic and infrastructure facilities of the university. Thus, the university library was also established to meet the user's needs for: Information, knowledge, education, research, recreation, aesthetic appreciation and cultural enjoyment. The MULS presently has a three branches with a combined collection of 98,828 volumes, located at Okija, Elele and Akpugo campuses.

The branches of MULS include:

- The main library with a total collection of 85,243 monographs, 3,889 periodical titles (7, 514 volumes). It has a seating capacity of 716 readers and a floor space of 185.55 square meters with digital library upstairs.
- The Law Library has a total of 11,777 law books, 3,000 non-law books, and 3,997 volumes of 1,999 periodical titles. The seating capacity is 716 readers and the floor area is 280 square meters.
- The Medical Library holds about 10,903 medical texts and 1700 volumes of 609 journal titles. The library has a seating capacity of 88 readers and a floor space of 442.26 square meters.
- The Library and Information Science Departmental Library has 250 monographs, 87 journals, 8 reading spaces, and a floor area of 4.4592 square meters.

In addition to those branches on the main campus at Okija, the campus library in different departmental libraries at Elele has a collection of 17286 books, 4669 volumes of 2261 titles of medical journals and 3070 volumes of

1400 titles of non-medical journals. The library accommodates about 253 readers in a useable floor area of 442.25 square meters. In addition, other departments has their own departmental library with massive collections. One of the good things in Madonna University Nigeria, all the departmental library has mini digital library.

Statement of the Problem

All over the world there has been significant development in communication of information in different formats to the society. Information is being packaged and repackaged in print, electronic and non- print formats to people in needs. Nathan, (2010) opined that despite the fact that audiovisual materials play a vital role in the preservation of cultural heritage, they are very neglected). The organization and utilization of non- print materials in many electronic media libraries are the major challenges facing the staff (Madu and Adeniran,2005).

It is important that library staff realize the potential of the non- print resources in the library and efforts should be made to incorporate them into their collection, get them organized and utilize properly by users. In the view this, the present study will investigated on extent of audio-visual utilization by librarians in Madonna University Library, Anambra State, Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of this study is to extent of audio-visual utilization by Librarians in Madonna University Library, Anambra State, Nigeria.

Specifically purpose includes:

- i. Determine the various types of Audio-visual resources stocked in Madonna University Library, Anambra State, Nigeria
- ii. To know the various ranges of Audiovisual resources stocked in Madonna University Library, Anambra State, Nigeria
- iii. Find out the roles play by management to actualize proper organization and utilization of audiovisual materials
- iv. ii. To identify the problems faced by students in utilizing non- book materials

Literature Review

It is evident from literature that in this digital age, any users at higher level who intends to better achieve and go further in academics should have ability to explore books, non-print and electronic materials effectively. As earlier explained by Nathan (2010) stated that audiovisual materials are usually described as “non-print” documents, in the sense also been called “non-book” or “special formats” and sometimes require equipment to use. It is for this reason that audiovisual materials are sometimes classified into two groups – “projected materials” and non- projected materials”. Audiovisual materials include sound recordings, film and video, graphic materials, three dimensional objects, maps, and microforms etc. According to library glossary online (2014) defined non-print or audiovisual materials, as items in formats other images or words printed on paper. Examples include films, slides, audiotapes, CDs videocassettes, and computer software. Edmondson (2004) cited in Nathan (2010) proposes wider definition of audiovisual heritage which he suggests ought to include:

- a. Recorded sound, radio, television, video or other productions comprising moving images and /or recorded sounds, whether or not primarily intended for distribution to the public.
- b. Objects, materials, works and intangibles relating to audiovisual documents, whether seen from technical, industrial, cultural, historical or other viewpoint, this shall include materials relating to film, broadcasting and recording industries, such as literature, scripts, stills, posters, advertising materials, manuscripts, and artefacts such as technical equipment or costumes.
- c. Concepts such as the perpetuation of obsolescent skills and environments associated with the reproduction and presentation of this media;

d. Non-literary or graphical material such as photographs, maps, manuscripts, slides, and other visual works selected in their own right.

As can be seen from the above definition, audiovisual materials encompass different materials. Generally, audiovisual materials may be divided into four major groupings: (i) visual materials (still and motion picture); (ii) audio materials (discs and tape recordings); (iii) objects and manipulative materials (realia and game models); and (iv) machine readable data files (magnetic tapes, punched cards and aperture cards). (Nathan, 2010). According to Agbanu, Ofordile, Okeji, and Ogwu (2010) AV non-print materials are those materials which do not depend solely upon reading to convey meaning. They may present information through the sense of hearing: audio resources, or through the sense of sight: visual resources, or through combination of senses. The term AV material encompasses all those information media that convey their messages without the mediation of the written word. They can be viewed and / or listed to. (Agbanu et al, 2010). Furthermore, Madu and Adeniran (2005) defined Audio-visual materials as a combination of audio and visual materials, which are used in the instructional/learning process to facilitate teaching and learning processes. AV could also mean something that is related to sound and visual or light.

Zinyengere (2008) cited by Nathan (2010) avers that “audiovisual records are vital elements of our collection memory, determining our achievements over the years, documenting our past, present and determining our future”. They are information carriers comparable to books and other well known archival documents. Materials such as audiotapes, compact discs, videos, films etc are very useful for entertainment purposes. Some of these materials are readily found in homes and social centres where communities often gather to enjoy listening to them. Others are used purely for educational and research purposes.

According to online definition of audiovisual materials [http://www. answer.com](http://www.answer.com) audiovisual materials are both audible and visible which relating to materials, such as tape recordings, that present information in audible and pictorial form or an aid other than printed matter, that uses sight or to present information: language tapes, video cassettes, and other audio-visuals. While business dictionary online defined audiovisual as non- print educational or promotional such as cassettes, CDs, DVDs, videotape etc. According to Edoke (2000) defined non- print or non- book materials as formats are also known in the past or whole as audio-visual aids, non-book media and new media. Udensi (2004), non-print or audio-visual materials are those materials used by teachers or instructors to illustrate the information contained by students. They are information bearing media that are not printed form. While Ikegbune (2003) is of the view that non-print materials as those library materials which do not come within the definition for book, periodical or pamphlet and which requires special handling e.g audio-visual materials, vertical files materials and similar items.

Methodology

The instrument for data collection was questionnaire, thirty-four (34) questionnaires which the total number of professional librarians, para-professionals and supporting staff in the library were distributed to staff in library, and twenty(20) were duly returned. The descriptive survey research design method was used. The instrument was analyzed with simple percent statistic. The entire population was used due to small number of the librarians in the library. Hence, there is no sampling of the population. Simple random sampling technique was adopted for the study.

Data Analysis

Table 1 : Madonna University Library Staff

Library staff	Response	Percentage (%)
Librarians	2	10
Para- professionals	8	40
Supporting staff	10	50
Total	20	100%

The table 1 shows that librarians in the Madonna University Library were 2(10%) professional librarians, para-professionals are 8(40%) while supporting staff are 10(50%). From the analyses the researchers concludes that professional librarians are lacking in the library. This will affect library services greatly.

Table 2 : Awareness of the concept of Audio-visual materials

Awareness of A.V resources	Response	Percentage (%)
Yes	20	100
NO	Nil	-
Total	20	100

The table shows that all the respondents agreed that they are aware of the concept Audio-Visual (AV). Meaning that concept of AV materials in the library is no longer new to staff of the library.

Table 3 : Advantages of AV materials in Libraries

Awareness of A.V resources	Response	Percentage (%)
Yes	20	100
NO	Nil	-
Total	20	100

This table shows that 20(100%) of the staff agreed on AV materials advantages due to the benefits they will benefits would be advantage to the services rendering in the library.

Table 4 : Extent of AV resources in the library

usage of A.V resources	Response	Percentage (%)
High extent	8	40
Very high extent	8	40
Low extent	Nil	-
Very low extent	4	20%
Total	20	100

The table shows that 8(40%) of the respondents use of AV to a high extent, very high extent 8(40%), and very low extent 4(20%). This indicates that Madonna university library staff knows how to use AV materials to a large extent.

Table 5: AV resources use always by Librarians

Types of A.V resources	Response	Percentage (%)
Computer, Projector, CD-Rom, Radio, Cassette,	7	35
Television, DSTV, Satellite, GOtv, Star times etc	10	50
DVD, VCD, Video tapes, slides etc	2	10
Use all the above	1	5
Total	20	100

The table shows that televisions, DSTV, Satellite etc were always used by librarians and supporting staff of the library 10(50%), while computer projector, radio etc usage is not frequent 7(35%). Conclusively DVD, VCD; Video etc usage is very low extent among staff in the library

Table 6: Purpose of AV resources use always by Librarians

Reasons of A.V resources	Response	Percentage (%)
Research	9	45
Entertainment	4	20
Assignment	7	10
Total	20	100

The table indicates that members of the library use AV resources for research 9(45%) for assignment 7(25%) and for entertainment 4(20%).

Table 7: Challenges of AV resources use always by Librarians

problems of A.V resources	Response	Percentage (%)
Lack of power supply	12	60
Lack of skills to operates the equipments	5	25
AV materials are not available	3	15
Total	20	100

The table shows that the staff of the library agreed they are a lot of challenges in using AV resources this showed as follows: lack of power supply 12(60%), lack of skills to operates the equipments 5(25%) and not available of AV materials 3(15%). From the analyses the researcher could inferred that the use of AV materials in the Madonna university library has some problems.

Findings

The table shows that librarians in the Madonna University, Library professional librarians were 2(10%), para- professionals are 8(40%) while supporting staff are 10(50%). From the analyses the researcher concludes that professional librarians are lacking in the library. This will affect library services greatly. Other finding shows that staff of the library agreed they are a lot of challenges in using AV resources this showed as follows: lack of power supply 12(60%), lack of skills to operates the equipments 5(25%) and not available of AV materials 3(15%). From the analyses the researcher could inferred that the use of AV materials in the Madonna university library has some problems. These findings agreed with Adeyemi (1991) also attributes the problem of organization of non- book materials due to lack of experts. He further stated that the staff lack 'technical know how' that would hinder the effective and efficiency of the job.

Another findings shows that 8(40%) of the respondents use of AV to a high extent, very high extent 8(40%), and very low extent 4(20%). This indicates that Madonna university library staff knows how to use AV materials to a large extent. This is in line with Madu (2000) opined that Librarians, as information providers, should be concerned with the provision of information in the formats most suited to the differing needs of various types of user, each of which must be clearly differentiated. While Obanya (2002) supported that a library exists to serve its community and consequently the needs of all members of that community must be accommodated – the old and the young, the able and the disabled, the gifted and the backward members of the society. Non-print materials can reach out to sections of the public for whom the traditional print-based materials have little impact, e.g. to those who are reluctant to use the printed word, and to those with visual and other handicaps.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The article work was on extent of audio-visual utilization by librarians in Madonna University Library Anambra State. Audiovisual materials include sound recordings, film and video, graphic materials, three dimensional objects, maps, and microforms etc. An ever-increasing amount of information – covering educational and recreational interests as well as information needs – is being produced in a wide range of audiovisual and electronic formats (CDs &DVD). Access to these materials should be as open and as free as access to print-based materials. Audiovisual media are part of our cultural heritage, carrying a huge amount of information that needs to be preserved for future use Based on the findings of this study, the researcher wish to make the following recommendations in order to improve the effectiveness of extent of audio-visual utilization by librarians in Madonna University Library Anambra State and other higher institutions in Nigeria:

1. Library should provided a guide for students on how to use AV materials.
2. Library facilities/information materials in all formats should be adequate
3. Digital library services should be provided 24/7 in the higher institution library this enable library provide good services.
4. Trained professional librarians should be placed at circulation, reference and serial sections of the library.
5. Lack of AV materials should look upon by management
6. Staff should be allowed to attend AV materials conferences in both national and international levels.

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