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Promotional Strategies for Effective Students' Utilisation of Library Resources in Kwara State Government-Owned Colleges of Education, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study investigates promotional strategies to enhance effective utilisation of library resources in "government-owned" colleges of education in Kwara State of Nigeria. It assessed resource availability and student usage and identified challenges such as limited awareness and insufficient facilities. A survey design was used, with 33 out of 47 participants sampled. Findings reveal adequate resources, but usage is mostly during examinations. Recommendations include raising awareness and increasing funding to improve library services and meet financial needs.

Keywords: Promotional Strategies, Effective Utilisation, Library Resources, Government, Colleges of Education.

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Introduction

Academic libraries are crucial for higher education institutions, serving faculty, staff, researchers, and the community. They play a vital role in government-owned Colleges of Education, supporting teaching, learning, and research. The main objective of the academic library is to support the institution's goals of upholding teaching, learning, and research activities. Ani (2022) opined that the significance of college libraries lies in their role as repositories of knowledge, providing the vital underpinning for national development. The primary purpose of academic libraries is to support their parent institutions in achieving their goals by serving as auxiliaries (Onwudinjo, 2015). An academic community's library is a valuable intellectual resource because it supports study and research and helps the institution meet curriculum requirements. It is important to emphasise the role of the academic library as a learning centre for students by providing the resources needed to better understand all course outlines, including standard books and other informational materials.

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Bhar et al. (2018) define a library as an institution supporting education and research by providing relevant information to users. The college library is a vital component of the educational programs offered by colleges of education. It can assist students in developing their intellectual capital by providing fresh perspectives and ideas and equipping them to become more capable educators. The foundation of any educational institution is its library. It serves as a tool for solving problems and is crucial to the exchange of knowledge.

By offering organised collections that complement the institution's curriculum, libraries can enhance the educational programmes of colleges of education. Libraries are required in all educational establishments and are crucial for encouraging reading habits. In this information age, proficient librarians working in colleges of education libraries are always involved in gathering, organising, and sharing information resources to support research and educational activities. There are print and internet versions of these resources. For this reason, academic staff members at educational institutions are fully recognised as librarians (Akinola, 2019). College libraries are equipped with information that both lecturers and students can utilise to obtain information. In the meantime, using the library at educational institutions improves students' performance by helping them gain the knowledge needed to adapt to ever-changing conditions. Wong and Webb (2014) support this, stating that using academic libraries improves students' academic performance and teachers' ability to provide services. For students to become contributing members of society, they should regard academic libraries as more than places to study or find literature relevant to their courses. In addition, they should see it as a place to expand on what they learn in class and as a peaceful, comfortable place to study.

Lecturers must encourage students to use library resources to expand their understanding, in addition to focusing on classroom instruction. According to Bassey (2016), an academic library serves as a source of knowledge even though book storage is its primary function. Nevertheless, some kids still want to engage in activities other than reading at the library. In the meantime, students who use the library become great people and build great nations. A library program may be used to further the dwindling culture of reading. By offering a vast array of reading and recreational resources, the library can promote independent study among education college students and encourage them to read for pleasure.

It is disheartening that library usage is declining worldwide; consequently, library use in higher institutions is low, and students in Kwara State Colleges of Education are no exception. This global occurrence has been observed and requires urgent attention. There is, therefore, a need for continuous review of library services and the library's overall functioning to ensure it remains a place of interest to users. The college library should adopt marketing strategies to motivate students and staff to use the library's resources. According to Kiilu and Otike (2016), many students do not make good use of the library, as evidenced by their information-seeking behaviour. Even though higher institutions have well-stocked libraries, very few students actually utilise them. Indicatively, they have poor information-seeking habits.

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It is heartbreaking to see the negative attitude of students in higher institutions towards the exploitation of library resources. Libraries, irrespective of type, have the mission of meeting their patrons' information needs by providing resources they can rely on to make effective decisions (Emasealu, 2021). Therefore, the college library is an essential resource for students' healthy intellectual development in colleges of education, as it instils values that enable them to comprehend what they are taught in the classroom progressively. Additionally, using a library is essential for achieving both practical efficiency and healthy intellectual progress. The amount of reading material a person reads, and the intensity of their desire to continue reading, will affect their interest in using the library's services (Chettri & Rout, 2013). Apart from that, reading speed, fluency, vocabulary, general knowledge and academic achievement can be developed through regular use of the library resources.

It is concerning that these resources and facilities are not being used to their full potential despite the TETFUND Intervention, which aimed to provide higher education libraries with up-to-date, sufficient information resources and facilities for students and education colleges. Therefore, for the library to remain a place patrons are interested in, it is necessary to regularly assess the services offered and how the library operates as a whole. This is because, as better services quickly become the standard and the bare minimum expected, the bar is constantly raised. To satisfy users' constantly shifting preferences and expectations, services must continually be improved. According to Kiilu and Otike (2016), the majority of undergraduate students do not make good use of the library, as evidenced by their information-seeking behaviour. Therefore, it is essential to implement a marketing plan that attracts and encourages college students to use the library.

Problem Statement

Existing literature has shown that academic libraries in developing countries, Nigeria inclusive, are not doing enough to promote the utilisation of library resources. Nigerian students, especially in the Colleges of Education, find using library resources arduous and a waste of time and energy, since there are better things to do, such as hustling (Danladi & Yohanna, 2018). Despite the benefits of using library resources, it has become obvious that students in higher institutions in Nigeria, most especially in colleges of education, are no longer reading. They only engage in reading when they have an examination to write; outside that, reading has no meaning to them (Ossai-Onah, Anyanwu, & Obichere, 2012). The debased interest in the exploitation of library resources among students in colleges of education has become a cause for alarm among scholars and educationists. Library utilisation has been declining, adversely affecting the nation's educational development. This abuse of library resources by students in Colleges of Education could lead them to engage in examination malpractice.

The decline in library utilisation in Nigerian colleges of education has prompted librarians to investigate how libraries can revive utilisation among students in these institutions. This decline may be due to the impression among some students that the colleges of education



libraries are not well-equipped, the advent of electronic search engines, and a lack of skills in navigating information resources. It is therefore ideal that more research be conducted to demonstrate how colleges of education libraries can promote the utilisation of library resources through sensitisation and promotional strategies that raise students' awareness and motivate their use. This will motivate students to patronise and read materials that interest them. It is against this backdrop that the researcher set out to investigate Promotional Strategies for the effective utilisation of library resources in the Kwara State College of Education, Ilorin.

Research Objectives and Questions

As such, the study set out to find out the level of availability of relevant library resources in government-owned colleges of Education in Kwara State; determine the extent of utilisation of library resources among students in government-owned colleges of education libraries; identify the challenges facing the students in the utilisation of library resources in government-owned colleges of education libraries; and Establish strategies to improve students' utilisation of library resources in the government-owned colleges of education library in Kwara State.

Based on the specific objectives, the study sought answers to the following research questions: i) What is the level of relevant materials available in the government-owned colleges of education library in Kwara State? ii) What is the level of utilisation of library resources among the students in the government-owned colleges of education library in Kwara State? iii) What are the challenges facing the students in the utilisation of library resources in government-owned colleges of education libraries in Kwara State? and iv) What are the strategies that could be adopted to improve the utilisation of library resources by the students in the government-owned colleges of education library in Kwara State?

Literature Review

One of the most fundamental services provided by any higher education institution, including colleges of education, is the library. To meet the goals and objectives of education, students can expedite the implementation of educational programs by leveraging the libraries at colleges of education. Joshua and Michael (2020) defined a library as an institution where information resources are systematically processed and stored, properly preserved, and made easily available to users when needed, without delay. Having a functioning library in colleges of education gives the students more reading possibilities, which enhances their knowledge, intellectual capabilities, writing abilities, reading abilities, and clarity of expression. American Library Association (2019) defined a library is a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is, organized by information professionals or other experts who, provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic or intellectual access and offer targeted services and programs with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audience and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole.

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Meanwhile, the type of library in colleges of education is called an academic library, whose aim and objectives are to provide information resources to support teaching and research in the institution. According to Bhar et al. (2018), an academic library is any library connected to or associated with a learning institution to advance education, supporting instructors, researchers, and students in their academic endeavours, and helping them find answers to their questions by giving the appropriate information or materials to the appropriate user at the appropriate time. Libraries in colleges of education are called "College Library", which are libraries attached to colleges of education that are responsible for providing library resources and services to support the teaching, learning, and research needs of students, staff, and other clientele of their institutions. Umoh (2017) highlighted the services provided by an academic Library as: Circulation/borrowing services, Reference services, Bibliographic verification services, Current Awareness Services (CAS), Reprographic services, Extension/community services, Technical Services, and Inter-Library Co-operation. Resources in the Library can be grouped into two categories: hardcopy (print) and softcopy (electronic). Library resources are information materials found in the Library, including books, journals, newspapers, magazines, theses, reports, and government publications, among others. These resources are available in either print or electronic format (Odu, 2017).

Also, Adegoke (2015) stated that print resources are the traditional resources that are found in the Library, which include: books, journals, newspapers, magazines and pamphlets; bound copies of e-journals; documents generated within the college of education (Local Contents); proceedings of government and its parastatals; and documents on Africa and America. Non-Print Resources, known as electronic resources or audiovisual materials, are soft copies of information that can only be viewed using compatible hardware or applications on Information and Communication Technology devices. Electronic resources can be found in slides, CD-ROMs, microforms, the Internet, audio cassettes, video cassettes, and other storage devices. These resources are called e-books, e-journals, e-magazines, e-documents, microfilms, and reference databases (Adegoke, 2015).

College libraries systematically collect library materials at all levels to support educational programs. College libraries are a prerequisite for all colleges of education and are crucial in encouraging students to develop a love of reading. In the information age, professional librarians working in college libraries have always been involved in gathering, organising, and sharing information resources to aid research and education. The main reason libraries are established in colleges of education is that they provide lecturers, students, researchers, and community service workers with access to the knowledge they need (Onwubiko & Uzoigwe, 2014). College libraries are important because they are repositories of knowledge that provide the foundational knowledge required for both the staff and students of the institution. For students to be successful in their varied academic activities and become professionals and qualified teachers, they need to utilise the information resources and services provided by the college library. As a result, libraries in colleges of education are expected to offer these resources, which, when properly utilised by the institution's students



and staff, would result in better instruction and higher-quality output. The utilisation of information resources in college of education libraries will enhance students' performance.

According to Barfi et al. (2018), utilisation of information resources is the user's practical and optimal use of library resources they have found and obtained to address an issue or reach a certain objective. It is expected of students at the colleges of education to use the library resources to complement their academic work. If students in colleges of education use the library's information resources appropriately and effectively, their educational activities will be completed on time. Therefore, students cannot benefit from the available resources in the college libraries until they are put to use. The purpose of the establishment of the College Library is to support the academic activities of the institution that established it. As Momodu (2015) put it, every educational institution must have a library. This clearly shows that the condition and functionality of the library are critical to the success of any given school. College of education libraries are unique libraries located within a college of education, with the primary goal of meeting the unique requirements of a specialised or homogeneous clientele. The College of Education Library, as an academic library, is always seen as the heartbeat of the institution, using the human and material resources at its disposal to support the institution's teaching, learning, and research objectives.

The influence of students' utilisation of library resources in colleges of education cannot be overemphasised. No academic institution can survive without a library. Libraries all over the world, whether academic, school, public, national, special, among others, were saddled with the responsibilities of providing library patrons with useful and prompt information resources (print and non-print) as and when due. Therefore, to meet the information and materials needs of their patrons, academic libraries must be prepared to build a sound, robust collection (Ajani et al., 2022). From primary school to tertiary institutions, the library remains an important part of the educational system because the bulk of the educational resources that academic institutions rely on and maintain are influenced by it. College libraries should be viewed not solely as hubs that support education, but also as centres that inculcate lifelong learning in students.

As (2018) noted, when a library has a collection of various resources such as books, journals, theses, newspapers, magazines, CDs, DVDs, etc., some are available in print and others in electronic form. Therefore, this is a unique feature of libraries, where all resources, whether in print or electronic form, are readily available under one roof for users' purposes. When users read these resources to fulfil their information needs, they may tell other users about resources available in the library. As such, by providing this platform, a library helps attract users to a variety of resources of their choice. It can be adopted as a strategy for the effective utilisation of library resources. She stated further the following among the promotional strategies for effective use of library resources; good atmosphere, access to right information and services, reward for best reader, interaction with users, creating effective strategy, encourage users to read widely and deeply encourage users to read and write through social media provision of library hours in curriculums creation of reading groups, use library

collection, making effective campaign, publicity and marketing, organizing workshops read what students are reading, reconstruction of services, create and keep record of every user, reading for pleasure.

The management of each College of Education, through Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and TETFUND, Library Development Intervention, has spent millions of naira on acquiring books and library equipment to enhance the utilisation of library resources. Similarly, efforts to promote the effective utilisation of library resources in colleges of education led to the engagement of library professionals in information literacy training, including lectures, activities, and the teaching of library use as part of GST 112 courses. The library offers bindery services, Internet access, photocopying, current awareness, reference services, and literacy training courses. The responsibility for using the library to further their academic endeavours rests with the students, given the resources, facilities, and services available.

Japhet and Peris (2016) opined that when services are adjusted to better meet students' needs, students may be more likely to use library resources. Building renovations and reorganisations have been found to affect how libraries are used. When adding amenities and services, the goal should be to create a setting that is hospitable, inviting, cosy, and unwinding. Use of library services could be increased among students in the Colleges of Education if measures were implemented to improve facilities, including layout, natural lighting quality, user workspace quality, and seating capacity. Where library facilities are improved, usage has been found to increase, as measured by gate counts, in-house collection use, reference service use, and total circulation.

Academic libraries can use a variety of promotional tools to advertise their resources and services, according to Zhixian (2016). These include digital media, such as the library's website, blogs, online cataloguing, databases, podcasts, and email lists; print materials, like placards, handbills, and handouts; events, like library orientation, information literacy, and workshops; and other tools, like library publications, contests, brochures, direct mail, Web 2.0 applications, and library exhibitions. Because it serves as a direct conduit between the library, its target audience, and the services it seeks to promote, a well-designed website facilitates the unique combination of resources and services. Additionally, it offers a means of communication with the intended audience. Certain media can serve several purposes. For instance, conventional marketing tools like flyers, brochures, and posters can be used to advertise programs and events, which are themselves promotional materials. Newsletters can promote existing services and present new ones. Email lists and the Internet make it simple and efficient to target audiences. These services are cost-effective, as they require minimal investment in resources and reach the intended patrons directly.

To make successful use of library resources, a collection development policy should be spelt out, documented, and strictly followed when materials are acquired for the library. Emasealu (2021) found that a collection development policy positively impacts the utilisation of library resources. Other strategies include building a strong library network supported by equitable

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book distribution, encouraging reading for pleasure, and promoting the value of reading. A country full of passionate, lifelong readers will result. Libraries must, therefore, make reading apparent everywhere. Basically, they ought to sing their own praises. Academic libraries must be established at the institution's centre and have branches in each department or school to ensure that books are accessible to students. This will allow for the sustainable use of library resources by the student body. She said it would make sense to make books available to students and staff through libraries at little or no additional cost, given the spiralling cost of books and the nation's deteriorating economic conditions.

Methodology

This research employed promotional strategies such as publicity, distribution of fliers, and the pasting of photographs of the best users of the library in the three colleges. Meanwhile, the records of students' library utilisation were kept by the library's circulation staff. Then, the researcher will employ a descriptive survey methodology to test if the strategies enhance the utilisation of information resources in the area of study. Also, the population under consideration comprised all students in the three Kwara State government-owned colleges of education. These colleges encompass Kwara State College of Education Ilorin, Kwara State College of Education Oro, and Kwara State College of Education (Technical) Lafiaji.

Table 1: Population distribution and sample size of the library Staff in Kwara State government-owned Colleges of Education

S/N	Name of the Library	Total Population	Sample size
1	Kwara State College of Education Ilorin Library	19	14
2	Kwara State College of Education Oro Library	17	13
3	Kwara State College of Education Technical Lafiaji Library	10	06
	Total	**47**	**33**

Source: Field Data (2025)

***Sample and Sampling*:** In this study, a purposive sampling approach will be employed to select professionals and librarians across the three government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State.

***Instrumentation*:** The primary data sources for this study were questionnaires, structured to collect quantitative data on control environment, control activities, and self-reported instances

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of dysfunctional behaviour. The questionnaire employed a 5-point Likert scale for measurement.

Data Analysis: The study used simple frequency and percentage analyses to analyse the demographic data of respondents. This will help the researcher reach a logical conclusion based on individual responses to each questionnaire item. using SPSS version 2.0 will be adopted to analyse the questionnaire.

Results and Discussion

Results

Utilisation level of library resources among the students in government-owned colleges of education

For the first research question (What is the level of utilisation of library resources among the students in government-owned colleges of education library in Kwara State?), the results are as detailed in Figure 1:

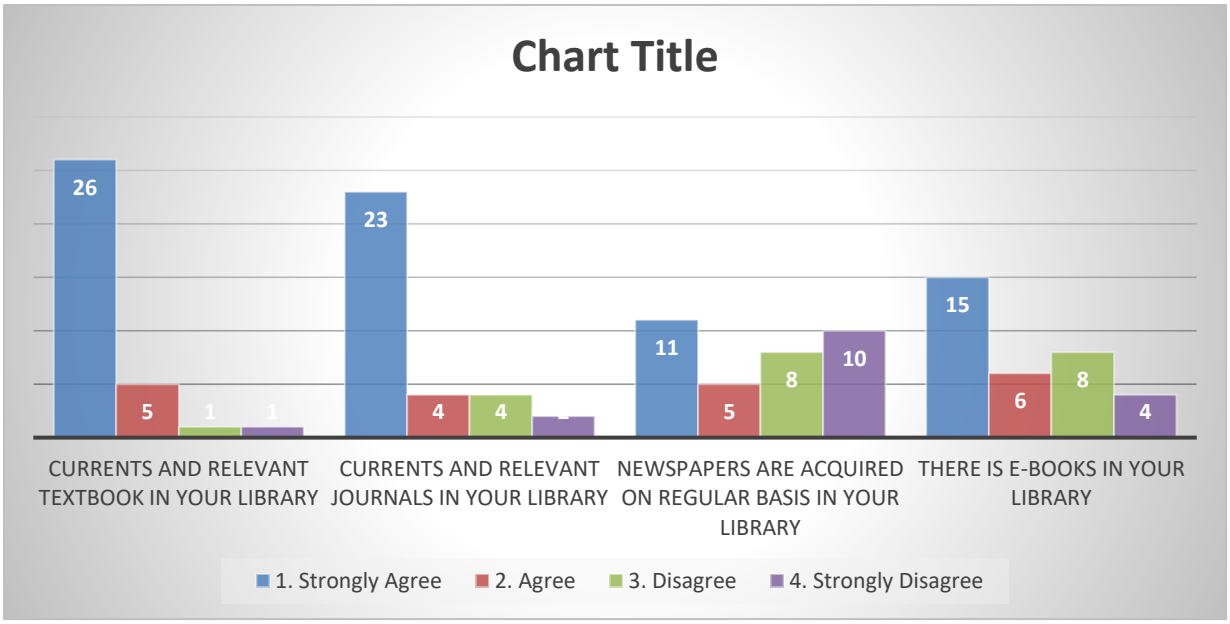


Figure 1:Bar Chart Responses on Relevant Materials Available in the Government-Owned Colleges of Education in Kwara State

Source: Field Data (2025)

Figure 1, which shows the availability of various library resources such as textbooks, journals, newspapers, and e-books, reveals that 26 respondents strongly agree, and 5 agree, making a total of 31 out of 33 (93.9%) who reported positive feedback on the availability of current and

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relevant textbooks in their library. For journals, 23 respondents strongly agree, and 4 agree, indicating that 27 out of 33 (81.8%) believe journals are available. However, 4 respondents disagree, and 2 strongly disagree (18.2%), suggesting that some students feel journal access is limited. Regarding newspapers, only 11 respondents strongly agree, and 5 agree, totalling 16 (48.5%) positive responses, while 8 disagree and 10 strongly disagree, indicating that 18 out of 33 (54.5%) consider newspaper availability inadequate. For e-books, 15 respondents strongly agree, and 6 agree, totalling 21 out of 33 (63.6%) who acknowledge their availability. However, 8 respondents disagree, and 4 strongly disagree, meaning 12 out of 33 (36.4%) feel that e-books are insufficient, highlighting a moderate level of availability but indicating potential for improvement.

Utilisation Level of library resources among the students in government-owned colleges of education

For the second research question (What is the level of the utilisation of library resources among the students in government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State?), the results are presented in Figure 2:

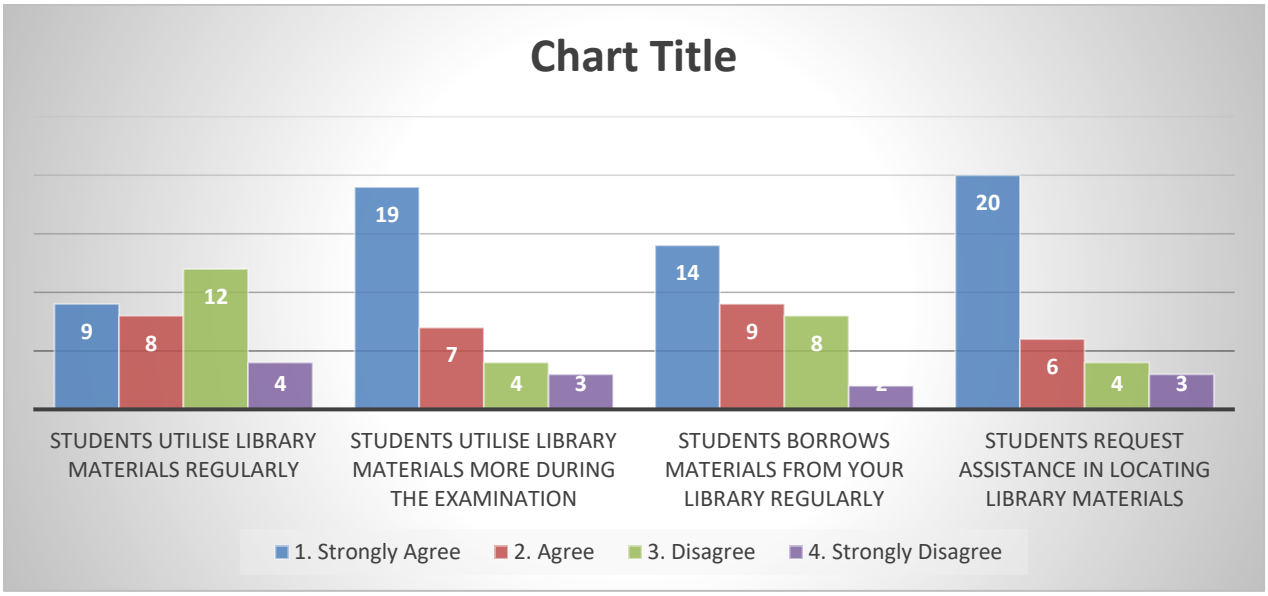


Figure 2: Bar Chart Responses on Utilisation Level of Library Resources among Students in Kwara State Government-owned Colleges of Education

Source: Field Data (2025)

As illustrated in Figure 2, which shows responses regarding how students use library resources, focusing on regular usage, usage during examinations, borrowing frequency, and requests for assistance reveals the level of library resource utilisation among students in government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State. It indicates that 9 respondents

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(27.3%) strongly agree and 8 (24.2%) agree, meaning 51.5% of students use the library regularly. However, 12 respondents (36.4%) disagree, and four (12.1%) strongly disagree, indicating that 48.5% do not use the library regularly. Regarding library use during exams, 19 respondents (57.6%) strongly agree, and 7 (21.2%) agree, indicating that 78.8% believe students use the library more during exams. Only four respondents (12.1%) disagree, and three (9.1%) strongly disagree, showing that most students use the library more during exam periods. Additionally, 14 respondents (42.4%) strongly agree, and 9 (27.3%) agree that students borrow materials regularly from the library, implying that 69.7% do so. However, eight respondents (24.2%) disagree, and two (6.1%) strongly disagree, suggesting that nearly 30% believe students do not frequently borrow library materials. Furthermore, 20 respondents (60.6%) strongly agree, and 6 (18.2%) agree that students seek help locating library materials, indicating that 78.8% of students ask for assistance. Only four respondents (12.1%) disagree, and three (9.1%) strongly disagree, showing that most students require help to find materials.

Students' Challenges to Using Library Resources in Government Colleges of Education

For the third research question (What are the challenges facing the students on the utilisation of library resources in government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State?), the results are as shown in Figure 3:

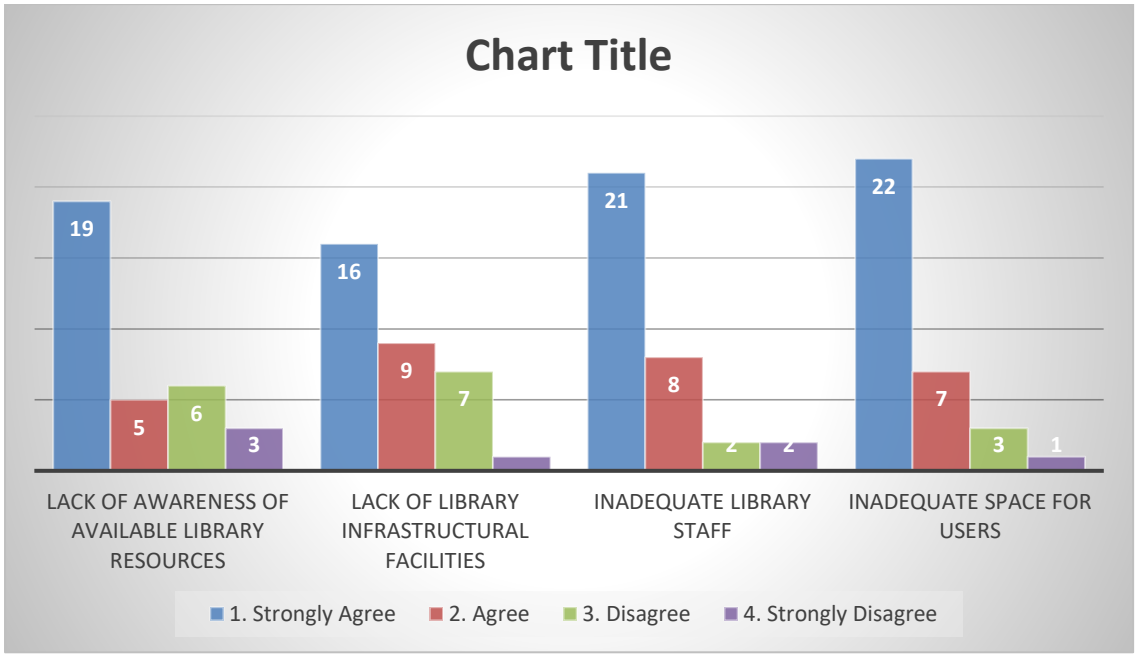


Figure 3: Bar Chart Responses on Challenges Students Face in Utilising Library Resources in Kwara State Government-Owned Colleges of Education

Source: Field Data (2025)

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Figure 3 highlights the challenges hindering the effective use of library resources in government-owned Colleges of Education in Kwara State. A total of 19 respondents (57.6%) strongly agree, and 5 (15.2%) agree, for a total of 72.8%, that a lack of awareness of available library resources affects their usage. On the other hand, 6 respondents (18.2%) disagree, and 3 (9.1%) strongly disagree, indicating that a minority do not see awareness as a significant issue. Regarding the shortage of library infrastructure, 16 respondents (48.5%) strongly agree, and 9 (27.3%) agree, for a total of 75.8% offering positive responses. In comparison, 7 respondents (21.2%) disagree, and 1 (3.0%) strongly disagree, suggesting that some do not view infrastructure as a major concern. Similarly, 21 respondents (63.6%) strongly agree, and 8 (24.2%) agree, for a total of 87.8%; they believe that insufficient library staff is a challenge affecting resource utilisation. Only 2 respondents (6.1%) disagree, and 2 (6.1%) strongly disagree, indicating minimal disagreement. Additionally, 22 respondents (66.7%) strongly agree, and 7 (21.2%) agree, totalling 87.9%, and report that limited space for users is an issue. In comparison, only 3 respondents (9.1%) disagree, and 1 (3.0%) strongly disagree, suggesting very few think the space is adequate.

Suggested strategies for improving students' utilisation of library resources in Kwara State government-owned colleges of education

For the fourth and final research question (What are the strategies that could be adopted to improve the utilisation of library resources by the students in the government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State?), the results are as captured in Figure 4:

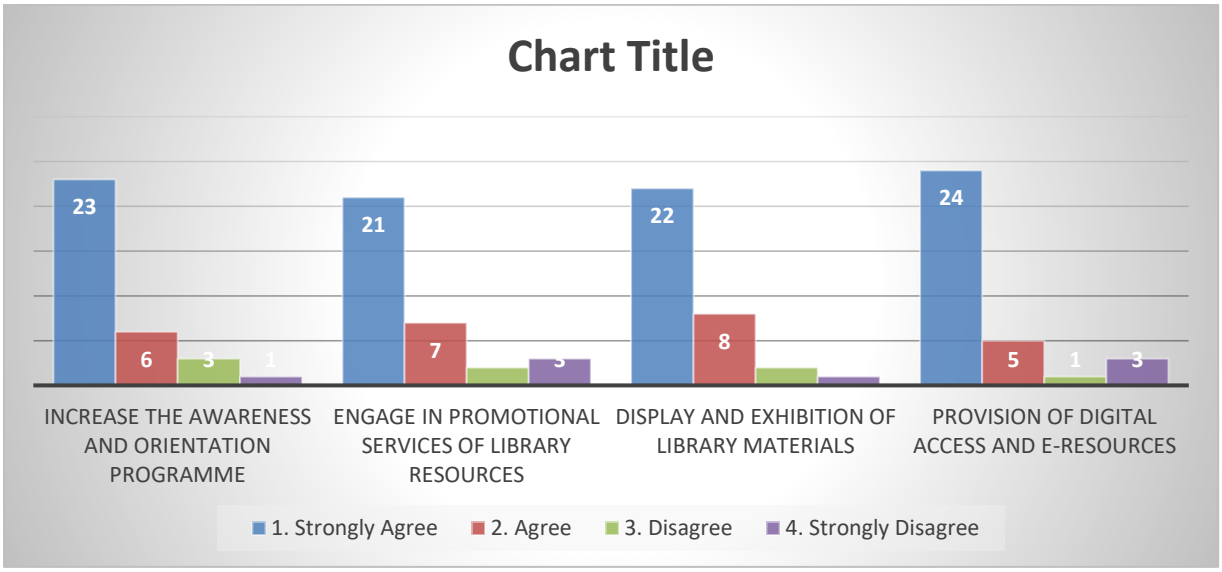


Figure 4: Bar Chart Responses on Strategies that could be Adopted to Improve Students' Utilisation of Library Resources in Kwara State Government-Owned Colleges of Education

Source: Field Data (2025)

Figure 4 illustrates the respondents' opinions on various strategies to improve the effective use of library resources in government-owned Colleges of Education in Kwara State. A total of 23 respondents (69.7%) strongly agree, and 6 (18.2%) agree, for a total of 87.9%, expressing positive responses regarding the increase in awareness and orientation programs. In comparison, 3 respondents (9.1%) disagree, and 1 (3.0%) strongly disagree, indicating that only 12.1% disagree. Similarly, 21 respondents (63.6%) strongly agree, and 7 (21.2%) agree, totalling 84.8%, indicating support for promoting library resources, while 2 (6.1%) disagree and 3 (9.1%) strongly disagree, meaning 15.2% do not consider promotional services essential. Furthermore, 22 respondents (66.7%) strongly agree, and 8 (24.2%) agree, totalling 90.9%, and express positive responses toward displaying and exhibiting library materials, whereas 2 respondents (6.1%) disagree, and 1 (3.0%) strongly disagree, indicating 9.1% do not believe this is necessary. Additionally, 24 respondents (72.7%) strongly agree, and 5 (15.2%) agree, totalling 87.9%, supporting the provision of digital access and e-resources, while 1 respondent (3.0%) disagrees and 3 (9.1%) strongly disagree, representing 12.1% opposition.

Discussion

The findings and discussions in this study show that the libraries in government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State have adequate library resources. The findings indicate that the libraries in the government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State have acquired up-to-date, relevant textbooks, journals, e-books, and newspapers. The only problem with the availability of various library resources is the need to subscribe to newspapers. The library may not be consistently acquiring newspapers, or its access to them may be limited. The implication is that students who rely on current affairs for research and knowledge will lack access to the information they need. It is therefore the researcher's view that newspapers should be procured regularly to make them available in the college libraries.

The findings and discussions on the level of utilisation of library resources in government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State show that students utilise the college libraries regularly, particularly during exams, in borrowing frequency, and in requests for assistance. The students utilise the college libraries regularly, borrowing library materials and requesting assistance from the staff. However, they utilise the college libraries most during examinations. The implication is that library usage is significantly higher during exams, suggesting that students rely on it primarily for last-minute studying rather than for regular academic engagement.

Challenges include limited awareness, insufficient infrastructure, inadequate staff, and limited space. The implication is that when there is a lack of awareness of library resources and infrastructure, as well as inadequate staff and space, students will not be motivated to utilise library resources frequently.

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The findings on effective strategies to enhance the utilisation of library resources in government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State indicated that increased awareness and orientation programs, engaging in promotional services of library resources, display and exhibition of library materials, and provision of digital access and e-resources could enhance the utilisation of library resources by the students. These findings imply that students need the library to support their academic activities to achieve good academic outcomes. Regularly showcasing available books, journals, and digital materials, along with promotional efforts like newsletters, announcements, and interactive events, can increase student engagement and exploration of library resources, while digital resources support remote learning,

Summary of the Major Findings

Based on the data presented and analyses, the findings could be summarised as follows:

In the government-owned colleges of education in Kwara State, there is a notable abundance of library resources. Library staff proudly report that their collections are well-stocked with textbooks, complemented by a commendable selection of journals and e-books. However, they express concern about the acquisition of newspapers, which remains a significant gap in their offerings.

Despite these resources, library usage among students tends to fluctuate, peaking primarily during exam periods. The distribution of information sources indicates that many students are not making consistent use of the library throughout the semester. Borrowing rates are moderate, but library staff believe there is a substantial opportunity for improvement. They suggest that enhanced policies and increased awareness could encourage students to utilise library resources more effectively.

Moreover, many students struggle to locate materials in the library, underscoring a pressing need for better cataloguing systems to make navigation easier. Library staff have identified several barriers to the effective use of their facilities, including inadequate physical space, insufficient staffing, poorly maintained infrastructure, and a general lack of awareness among students about available resources.

Subsequently, to address these issues, library staff have proposed a variety of measures to boost student engagement with the libraries. Among these, the most prominent ideas include increasing awareness of library services, conducting more orientation programs, and implementing promotional activities to showcase library materials. They believe that through these initiatives, they can foster greater utilisation of the library's resources and enhance the overall academic experience for students.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study explored strategies for improving library resource utilisation in government-owned Colleges of Education in Kwara State. Key objectives included assessing resource

availability, usage, challenges, and strategies for improvement. A descriptive survey method was used, with 33 library staff sampled. Findings show adequate library resources, but students primarily use the library during exams. Challenges include inadequate space, insufficient staff, poor infrastructure, and low awareness. Recommendations include acquiring up-to-date resources and implementing promotional strategies to enhance library utilisation.

Based on recent research findings, several recommendations have been proposed to enhance the utilisation of library resources within the Colleges of Education. To begin with, colleges must acquire up-to-date, relevant information resources, especially books and journals. This includes not only securing up-to-date materials but also obtaining multiple copies of heavily used titles to ensure these resources remain consistently available to students and faculty.

Another important recommendation is to strengthen newspaper acquisition by subscribing to both print and digital formats. This dual approach will ensure that users have regular access to current events and news. In cases where print newspapers are too costly, libraries could consider offering online news subscriptions to keep users informed. Moreover, promotional strategies also play a vital role in encouraging regular library usage. Initiatives such as study workshops, reading competitions, and awareness campaigns can boost student engagement and increase the likelihood that students utilise library resources consistently.

Furthermore, investment in human resources is essential. The colleges should employ adequate Numbers of Librarians, library officers, and support staff, as the current numbers are insufficient for the needs of library users. Also, financial support is another key area that requires attention. Allocating dedicated funding to the college libraries will ensure that they can meet their financial obligations and serve the academic community effectively.

In addition to these points, library promotion programmes should be implemented to raise awareness of available resources and services. This could include workshops, campaigns, visual displays, and exhibitions to showcase the library's array of materials. In the same vein, the expansion of digital library services is also necessary, incorporating e-books, databases, and online access. Engaging students through interactive promotional activities, such as book fairs and academic contests, can further stimulate interest in utilising library resources.

Finally, improving library infrastructure is crucial. Upgrades to furniture, lighting, and air-conditioning systems, along with the installation of more computers for digital research, will create a more conducive environment for students to study and engage with library materials. By embracing these outlined recommendations, the Colleges of Education in Kwara State can significantly enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of their library resources, ultimately supporting student success and academic achievement.

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