AVAILABILITY AND USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE LIBRARIES OF SCHOOLS OF NURSING, BIDA AND MIDWIFERY, MINNA, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA.

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Abstract
This paper investigated the availability and use of information resources in the Libraries of Schools of Nursing, Bida and Midwifery, Minna. The sampled population consisted of 100 respondents for both schools, with 50 respondents per school. The instrument used for collecting data was questionnaire. The research questions responded to were analyzed using table of frequency and percentage. The findings showed that School of Nursing, Bida Library does not have computers and is not connected to the internet but School of Midwifery, Minna has computer laboratory with dysfunctional computers and is not connected to the internet. In the two School Libraries there are very few librarians who use DDC to classify the library materials. Based on these findings, the researcher recommended that the two Schools should make effort to provide computers in their Libraries and connect them to the Internet to access MEDLINE for current and up - to - date healthcare information for the benefit of all categories of library users; and also recommended that more graduates of Library and Information Science should be employed in order to provide effective and efficient library service delivery.

Key words: *Availability, Use, Information Resources, Medical Libraries, Niger State, Nigeria*

Introduction

"Health is wealth" is a popular saying generally testified by any living person. A healthy nation is a wealthy nation. Health is a fundamental desire of every person. It is essential to national development or advancement in any sphere of life. In terms of resources for socio-economic advancement, nothing can be considered of higher significance than the health of the people.

An individual can be said to have good health when he/she is mentally, spiritually and physically sound. Hence, an efficient healthcare system is a must in any society. Excellent medical or health colleges are fundamental to prepare nurses or doctors and health professionals with good knowledge and skills. Libraries, laboratories and lecturers are important components in providing effective and efficient medical education. Medical or health libraries are meant to support the parent institution in achieving their aims and objectives particularly in terms of teaching, research and development as well as patient-care. A medical or health library is designed to help students, patients, physicians, consumers, health professionals and medical researchers in finding health and scientific information to improve, update, assess or evaluate healthcare. Medical libraries are found in hospital, medical schools, private industry and in medical or health associations. A typical medical library should have access to MEDLINE, have a range of electronic resources, print and digital journal collections and print reference books.

Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) (2004) states that, "for an institution to be approved as a school of nursing or school of midwifery, it must have a library with the following: A seating capacity of at least fifty (50) book shelves, magazines/journals stands, at least 500 relevant nursing or midwifery textbooks, at least 100 research papers, journals or abstracts, at least 100 reference books in nursing or midwifery and a professional librarians".

David and Flower (1985) defined medical or health library as "a library which contains clinical or related materials to serve the information needs of medical practitioners from their student days and into their careers as clinicians or researchers or both". The establishment of functional and effective health science libraries are important to meet the varied information needs of healthcare practitioners and researchers, since it is closely associated with the collections, dissemination and use of medical data and information to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery services.

Brief History of School of Nursing, Bida

Health or medical sciences libraries in Niger State serve as major information resources centre that make possible the flow of information through which quality health education, research and patient- care are achieved. The school of nursing library, Bida was established along with the school in November, 1976 before the creation of Niger State from the defunct North- western state.

 In 1978, a provisional approval was granted to the school to run a post - basic Nursing programme. From its inception to date, the school has trained about **4, 157** qualified general and post- basic Nurses. The school was established to train professionally competent polyvalent Nurse practitioners who will - use problem - solving skills in providing safe, acceptable effect and affordable health services to meet the healthcare needs of individuals, families and community at all level of care.

Presently, the school runs basic nursing and post- basic nursing programmes. The basic nursing program is for three years (six semester) while the post- basic nursing program is for 18 months (three semester).

The Library of School of Nursing, Bida

The school library has five (5) staff in all, three are librarians while two are non-professionals. It has a total volume of **1,0708** materials in stock including books, journals, magazines and encyclopedias purely on health sciences. It also subscribes to only Daily Trust Newspapers and uses Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme (DDC) to classify the materials.

Brief History of School of Midwifery, Minna

The School of Midwifery library, Minna was also established along with the School in 1982 with desired need of manpower to run and maintain the state hospitals, clinics and health centers, especially for the pregnant mothers, nursing mother and children. An application for its establishment was submitted to the (NMCN) and an initial inspection visit was made in 1983 to give a provisional approval for recruitment and training of two sects of Basic Midwives, yearly. The first set of 1983 were a total of 19 students.

At present, the school runs only Basic Midwifery programme with the following departments as follows:

a. Basic Nursing Department

b. Basic Sciences Department

c. Anatomy Department

The Library of School of Midwifery, Minna

The library has a total volume of **8,500** library materials including books, journals, periodicals and student projects and also subscribes to daily newspapers. It has 11 staff in all, three of which are librarians while eight are non-professionals. The library also uses Dewey Decimal Classification scheme to classify the materials.

The two libraries lack the latest technologies to collect, store, retrieve and disseminate large amount of information in their day - to - day education, research and clinical practice. The availability of Internet connectivity in the two libraries would assist in providing adequate library services. This paper therefore tries to investigate the availability and use of information resources in the libraries of the two Nursing School in Niger State.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to:

1. examine the use of information resources in the two medical libraries

2. Determine the differences between the two libraries regarding the different aspects of library services being rendered.

3. Determine the relevance of the information resources to the curriculum of the two schools and investigate how the use of information resources affect the effectiveness of the lecturers in delivering their lectures;

4. Assess the level of awareness of users on medical databases and open access to electronic journals

5. Find out the methods of acquisition of books and other information resources in the two libraries;

6. Suggest ways for improving the resources and services in the two libraries.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What type of information resources does your school library acquire for its users?

2. What type of the library services are provided by your school library for its users?

3. Which categories of users do your school library open for?

4. Is your school library connected to Internet to access MEDLINE?

5. Which type of method does your school library use to acquire information resources for its users?

6. Which of the classification scheme does your school library use to classify and catalogue her materials?

Review of Related Literature

The library is the store house of knowledge and information; it provides both access to information resources and the information itself. Hence, the availability and use of information resources in the library help the nursing and midwifery schools to achieve the objectives of producing quality nurses and midwives that are information literate and are prepared for lifelong education, in order to be able to serve the patients effectively. According to Popoola and Haliso (2009) states that library information resources are those information bearing material that are in both printed and electronic format such as textbooks, journals, indexes, abstracts, newspapers and magazines, reports, CD-ROM databases, internet/E-mail, video tapes/cassettes, diskettes magnetic disk, computers, micro forms.

Lucas (2003) states that valuable information generated from health research are not widely applied to the benefit of Nigerian people due to the fact that many practitioners are not aware of the current scientific information. Many practitioners do not have regular access to current literature that college medical libraries/Nursing school libraries can acquire. The absence of current relevant health literature has resulted in students, teachers, faculty, practitioners and policy makers who have failed to take notice of current ideas on best teaching methods, indigenous practice or take advantage of experience from other parts of the world in practice and teaching.

Sime (2013) said the amount of information that clinicians need access to is constantly changing and increasing. The vast amount of clinical trials, patient's data and new drugs available combined with patients who are much more informed about their conditions, mean that clinical reference materials is becoming much more complex and readily available in greater quantities. Clinicians struggle to keep on top of this using books and journals alone and often

if they are not provided with an easy option, they will turn to the likes of Dr Google as a last resort. This can be problematic for clinicians in identifying whether the information they come across is really trusted and whether they feel confident that they are using the right information to make decisions, which may ultimately affect a patient's life.

Most of the Nigerian health practitioners are not aware nor have access to current health information services. As such, these lead to poor teaching, research and effective service delivery, particularly to patients. Rankin (1992) quoted by Adeoye and Popoola (2011) identifies five basic functions the health sciences library collections are meant to serve. These include" the education and training of health professionals, administration of healthcare services, to preserve institutional publications and related materials, training of staff and students, clinical practice and healthcare services". Wang, Gui-Zhi, et. al. (2006) quoted by Bhatt (2012) stressed that, Medical Libraries should take the responsibility to provide medical information service for public health emergencies in the areas where they are located. Medical libraries can improve their selective information dissemination service for policy-makers, scientific worker, healthcare professionals, and the public by making use of on-line update holdings with modern information technology.

 Rathinasabapathy (2005) also quoted by Bhatt (2012) observed that the Internet gives access to a huge collection of health information to patients and professionals. Further, the training required for Librarians and Medical Professionals for evaluation of online healthcare information resources. Florence Nightingale in her view as quoted by Abba Kale (2005) defines Nursing practices as " putting the patient in the best condition for nature to act"/ To be able to put the patient in the best condition therefore, requires learning skills, either from information resources or practically. Pregnancy, labour, and birth and during the postpartum period. A practitioner of midwifery is known as a midwife, a term used in reference to both women and men, although the majority of midwives are female. For midwives to be able to handle both mother s and babies effectively and efficiently before, during and after delivery requires quality availability and use of health information resources in whatever format.

Methodology
The researchers used questionnaire method to collect data because this is a survey report. One set of questionnaire was designed for collection of data from both schools and were administered to both staff and students. Questionnaires were used because, according to Cohen and Morrison (2002) quoted by Akor (2008) stated that "the questionnaire is widely used and it is a useful instrument for collecting survey information providing structure, often numerical data, being able to be administered without the presence of the researchers and often comparatively straight forward to analyze". One hundred percent of the questionnaire administered were retrieved.

Findings and Discussions

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender:

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	24	24
Female	76	76
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 1 shows that there are more female respondents (76%) than the male respondents (24%) in the sample used for the study.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Qualifications:

Qualifications	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Diploma	6	6
HND	2	2
N. R. N.	68	68
N. R. M.	14	14
Degree	10	10
Master's and above	-	-
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 2 shows that 6 respondents (6%) have diploma, 2 (2%) have HND, 68 (68%) have N.R.N., 14 (14%) have N.R.M., while 10 (10%) have degree. Based on the staff qualifications, there is need for the schools to encourage staff to go for higher degrees in their field of specialization.

Table 3: Availability of Information Resources:

Information Resources	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Books	61	61
Periodicals	21	21
Government Documents	18	18
Audio-Visual	-	-
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 3 shows that 61 (61%) respondents are books, 21 (21%) are periodicals, while 18 (18%) are Government documents. The two libraries are still heavily depended on books than other information resources.

Table 4: Availability of Library Services:

Library Services	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bibliographic	20	20
References and Information	51	51
Inter- Library loan	8	8
Indexing and Abstracting	21	21
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 4 shows that 20 (20%) respondents indicate bibliographic service, 51 (51%) indicate references and information service, 8 (8%) indicate inter- library loan, while 21 (21%) indicate indexing and abstracting services.

Table 5: Characteristics by Purpose of using Library:

Purposes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Research	66	66
Reading for examination	26	26
Relaxation	8	8
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 5 shows that 66 (66%) respondents use the library for research purposes, while 26 (26%) use it for examination, while 8 (8%) use it for relaxation. The higher percentage for research use

of the library reveals that the two library provide effective information services for both students and staff.

Table 6: Characteristics by Library Users:

Library Users	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Students	44	44
Staff	17	17
Medical Practitioners	26	26
Hospital Administrators	13	13
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 6 shows that 44 (44%) respondents are students, 17 (17%) are staff, 26 (26%) are medical practitioners, while 13 (13%) are hospital administrators.

Table 7: Characteristics by Acquisition Methods of Information Resources:

Method	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Donation	20	20
Gift	4	4
Purchase	71	71
Exchange	5	5
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 7 shows that 20 (20%) respondents indicate donation, 4 (4%) indicate gift, 71 (71%) indicate purchase, while 5 (5%) indicate exchange. The table also revealed that purchase is the major acquisition method by both libraries, even with the dwindling funding from Government.

Table 8: Characteristics by Periods of visiting Library:

Period	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Everyday	52	52
Weekly	30	30
Monthly	15	15
Yearly	2	2
Never	1	1
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 8 shows that 52 (52%) respondents visit library every day, 30 (30%) visit library weekly, 15 (15%) visit library monthly, 2 (2%) visit library yearly, while 1 (1%) never visit library. It shows that majority of library users visit the library on daily and weekly basis.

Table 9: Characteristics by types of Readers Services Being Practiced:

Readers Services	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Charging and discharging	70	70
Photocopying	9	9
Overdue Charges	4	4
Registration of new users	17	17
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 9 shows that 70 (70%) respondents indicate charging and discharging, 9 (9%) indicate photocopying, 4 (4%) indicate overdue charges, while 17 (17%) indicate registration of new users. The two libraries, from the study, revealed that adequate book borrowing services are practiced.

Table 10: Characteristics by Forms of Catalogue

Forms of Catalogue	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Book catalogue	24	24
Card catalogue	17	17
Sheaf catalogue	59	59
Computer catalogue	-	-
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 10 shows that 24 (24%) respondents indicate book catalogue, 17 (17%) indicate card catalogue, 59 (59%) indicate sheaf catalogue. There is need for the two libraries to migrate from manual system of catalogue to the use of Information Communication Technology in the operations of their libraries.

Table 11: Characteristics by Technical Services Being Practiced

Technical Services	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Classification	53	53
Cataloguing	29	29
Accessioning	7	7
Filling	11	11
Total	**100**	**100**

Table 11 shows that 53 (53%) respondents indicate classification, 29 (29%) indicate cataloguing, 7 (7%) indicate accessioning, while 11 (11%) indicate filling. The table revealed that the two libraries still organized their information resources professionally.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

➢ Niger State government should provide information technology facilities to School of Nursing Bida Library and School of Midwifery Minna Library to assist the staff, students and medical practitioners to meet up with current and up - to - date healthcare information.
➢ More professionals in Library and Information Science should be employed to handle the work so as to achieve the set goals and objectives.
➢ Staff training and development should also be provided from time to time for information managers, as this will help them to meet up with the latest information technology challenges.
➢ The academic staff should be encouraged to go for higher degrees in their areas of specializations.

Conclusion

Health information has become an important ingredient for efficient and effective healthcare service delivery in our Hospitals, Clinics and Medical Colleges. Medical College Libraries need to be continuously and properly stocked with current health information resources. In order to

ensure the survival of patients and to achieve the set goals and objectives of the above mentioned institutions their Libraries should be well funded. The advent of information technology will no doubt facilitate information and services of medical practitioners in different phases and assist information professionals to generate, process, store, preserve, retrieve, access and disseminate information within and outside the said medical institutions. It is therefore necessary for medical institutions and their Libraries to employ information technology in the management of information resources for better healthcare service delivery.

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