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Attitude and Use of Online Public Access Catalogue by Students of Kwara State University, Malete, Kwara State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT
This paper examined the attitude and use of online public access catalogue (OPAC) by students of Kwara State University, Malete. The objectives of the study were to: (i) examine the attitude of Kwara State University students towards OPAC; and (ii) ascertain student's frequency of use of OPAC. *Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 11, 855 undergraduate students in Kwara State University. Sample size of 378 was drawn from the population using a multi-staged sampling approach of proportional and simple random sampling techniques. Three hundred and seventy eight (378) copies of the questionnaire were administered on the respondents. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics including percentage and frequency counts. The findings of the study revealed that the respondents love the use of OPAC, are pleased and appreciate the results provided by Online Public Access Catalogue. The study concluded that the attitude of the students towards the Online Public Access Catalogue is positive. The study further revealed that majority of the respondents use the OPAC mostly by year and quarterly with less daily usage and when materials are needed. The study recommended that users should be oriented on the need to use the OPAC daily. More so, users should be briefed on the need to always consult the OPAC when a material is needed for easy identification and location and library management should ensure facilities and sever to consult OPAC within and outside the library available 24 hours.*

Keywords: Attitude, Information and Communication Technology, Online Public Access Catalogue, OPAC, Students, Use.

Introduction

University library is a major information providing system which support teaching, learning and research with information materials of various types (Anuobi and Edoka, 2010). By this, a library can be referred to an institution saddles with the responsibly of acquiring and processing materials so as to ensure its users have easy access to the information for their needs.

Sanyaolu (2014) asserted that the library catalogue originally emanated from manuscript list, arranged by format (folio, quarto etc) or in a rough alphabetical arrangement by author. Chaudry (2008) defined a catalogue as a list of books maps, sound recording or materials in other medium that represents a collection arranged alphabetically by authors, titles, numbers or subjects. The main essence of the catalogue is to record, describe and index the collections in the holding of a library. Catalogue is always important when a library is growing in its collection. When a catalogue lists the holding of two or more libraries it is called a union catalogue.

There are different forms of catalogue which are categorically the traditional/manual catalogue and Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The manual catalogue which is the traditional form of catalogue can be a card, book and sheaf catalogue (Ashikuzzaman 2014). Ashikuzzaman (2014) also described the card catalogue as one in which entries for books are prepared on standard size cards (12.5cm x 7.5cm) which are placed in desired order in the catalogue cabinet. The cards are retrieved manually so as to be able to use the information in them. Similarly Ashikuzzaman (2014) also described the book catalogue as one in which entries for a book in the collection of a library are printed and bound in a book form.

Although these traditional catalogues have been of advantages to the library allowing and ensuring logical and some level of ease to the location of materials through its bibliographic details,

but its shortcoming cannot be overlooked. This has posed a great challenge to the users of the libraries and the library itself. Adedibu (2008), identified some of the shortcoming of the manual catalogue which are in terms of how it takes much space in the library, this are spaces which should have been used for other better things, the difficulty in transporting the catalogue due to its bulkiness which is also a great challenge that might not be easily done, also it is less protected and secured, they are also not flexible and not easy to be updated when an update is needed especially in appropriating new entries , it is less durable and very difficult to cope with by the library users because it is found so hard to browse through in retrieving information by users in the library.

With the aforementioned challenges faced by the libraries and library users on the use of manual catalogues, there is need for a better way of browsing through the library catalogues. Neelakandan et al (2010) suggested that for expeditious retrieval and dissemination of information and better service for the clientele, application of modern techniques such as modern retrieval tool, with the utilizing of Information and communication technology has become absolutely indispensable. So, the challenges faced on the use of the manual catalogues has resulted in its replacement with Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). According to Thirumagal, Mani, and Saravanakumar (2018), Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is an electronic catalogue which contains complete bibliographic information of all resources in the library. The Online Public Access Catalogue is a form of library catalogue in an electronic form. Similarly, Fabunmi and Asubiojo (2013) described an Online Public Access catalogue as an interface of information retrieval system which assist information searchers to access resources of library(ies) using several access points. Online Public Access Catalogue is a catalogue of library holdings or several libraries which can be access using several access points.

Saha (2018) described Online Public Access Catalogue as the main catalogue for a library which main aim is to search library information resources and has in it an indexing system that indexes all library resources. All the library resources are indexed in a systematic and logical way in the library Online Public Access Catalogue, which users can browse through at their conveniences. Fabunmi and Asubiojo (2013) suggested that libraries online public access catalogue (OPAC) is one of the highly visible end user search tools which offer university students the opportunity to consult more information sources than ever. This statement can be further explained looking into the easy access of information in variety of ways and from different locations with ease and also making it easy to search through indexing and searching bar. Also in further note, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) provides at once related information on a search made by a user which might also be of need to the user in the library.

Since libraries are now living in the technological age where users are very much faster about their information search, there is need for the use of Online Public Access Catalogue to fulfill user's needs. This is because of its notable merit. According to Saha (2018), the library OPAC is the fastest way to access information in which users can search by authors, title, name and keywords.

With the increased level of the adoption of the new technology in libraries in the area of cataloguing of library materials, users' attitude to and use of the modern technique will greatly determine its success. This is why Makintami (2016) asserted that one of the major barriers in implementing new innovations in libraries is not technical but attitudinal, as positive attitude towards technology contributes to the better performance in a technologically advanced environment.

Arshad, Wilson and and Given (2014), noted that a few studies were available on the use of OPAC. In a similar view, Tella (2019) also opined that despite increase of OPAC reported in literatures, there are limited studies available in Nigeria context on the effective use of OPAC particularly among undergraduate students. Similary, Makintami (2016) postulated that slight is known about university students' attitude towards computerized services in their institutions' libraries and without a better understanding, it ruins easier the effort made by these libraries to effectively make available these services to their patrons.

Since ICT has revolutionized library practices which also has served as a driving force in online information retrieval system which has resulted in the introduction of the Online Public Access Catalogue which forms the widely acceptable catalogue in libraries, the need for the study of user attitude and its use is essential to ascertain its tolerance by library users who are the reason for its developments.

The Objectives of the study are to:

i. examine the attitude of Kwara State University students towards OPAC; and
ii. ascertain student's frequency of use of OPAC.

Hypothesis

H_{01}: There is no significant difference between attitude and the use of OPAC by Kwara State university students.

Review of Related Literature

Despite the importance of OPAC in the libraries, several users possess varying and different attitude to the use of the library Online Public Access Catalogue. Salami (2016) asserted that most library users do not know what the library catalogue stands for with this they have their own share of the blame.

The study of OPAC is indispensable in the discipline of librarianship and in the discussion of a library as the storage of knowledge and disseminator of right information to the right users. This is because the library catalogue is of crucial use in accessing the information in a library. All academic and non-academic activities revolve around the information materials that are available for all activities and administrative works within the environment. According to Ishola and Zacceus (2015), without any reservation, the library is a challenging and exciting place, if its resources are properly organized and made accessible within an institution.

Online public access catalogue is one of the essential products and services rendered by modern libraries to make the retrieval of information materials easy and quick for the library patrons by incorporating ICT based products and services. Isaac (2016) sees OPAC as a computerized online catalogue of materials held in a library where the patrons and staff can virtually access on the computers located in the library or at home through the internet. That has made it possible to even conduct a search from anywhere around the university area without being present physically in the library.

The principle of organization also ensures the easy retrieval of what was organized. Aina (2004) asserted that in any human settings, it is usual to organize objects that are within ones environment, especially those that are frequently used. In a further note, Aina (2004) explained

that if there were no better organization of objects, there will be difficulty in retrieving a particular object from among the various objects in the collection when needed, hence the need to organize titles, books, etc. Chauchan (2009) opined that the library catalogue is perhaps the most important tool for locating materials in the library in which the advent of computers with their ability to process large volumes of information brought the library to the consumers.

Esarada and Okolo (2019) examined the use of OPAC in selected university libraries in South-south Nigeria. The study adopted the descriptive survey design and a population of 18,332 registered undergraduate library users with the sample size of 920 library users of the universities. Questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection. The result of the study revealed that 8.9% of the respondents always used OPAC, while 13.1 % used OPAC most of times, 47.5 % rarely used OPAC and 13.9% never used OPAC at all. The frequency of use shows that a large chunk of the respondents rarely and never used OPAC for searching for information resources in the library while a few respondents sometimes use OPAC to source materials in the library.

Msagati (2016) examined the utilization of OPAC among separate students of the open university of Tanzania. Stratified arbitrary examining strategy was utilized to choose 300 separate students. An organized pool was produced and appropriately to 300 separation students including undergraduate and postgraduate understudies were studied. An aggregriate of 230 (76.67%) finished the polls which they were returned once again from the separated students for examination. Regardless of OPAC being the best data recovery instrument and of specific perfect for data retrieval, discoveries of this examination uncovered low level of mindfulness of (24.78%) and utilization (22.61) of OPAC among them. The discovery of this examination has additionally uncovered the greater part of respondent (85.65%) recovered instructive assets from library accumulation utilizing peruse through track system.

Bansal and Kumar (2017) examined the use of OPAC by students of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Science University, Ludhiana. A survey research was carried out with the use of a questionnaire as the research instrument. The report of the work discusses various aspect of OPAC use. Some of the discuss are frequency of use, satisfaction regarding use of OPAC e.t.c. (69.30%) which are most of the respondents use OPAC to find journals. 54.55% searched using titles of the required document, 79.55% are fully satisfied with the use of OPAC. Majority of the user are noticed for the use of OPAC for one thing or the other in this study which shows high level of OPAC usage.

Gohain and Saikia (2013) investigated the use and user satisfaction of OPAC services at Tezpur University. The study attempted to investigate the frequency of OPAC use, purpose of use and the problem faced among the B.Tech students while using OPAC. The result of the work revealed that 51.03% of the respondents used OPAC every day to locate document on shelves. Lack of skills of OPAC uses independently, lack of awareness about OPAC and lack of proper guidance to use OPAC were the major problem faced by users while using OPAC. It was reported that 76.67% were aware of OPAC while 72.05 % respondents were aware that it help easy search of different categories of information. The findings also revealed that there is high encouraging satisfactory level of OPAC by the B.Tech students of engineering and they were much satisfied with the performance and quality of OPAC services. It is so obvious that student use well pose good attitude to OPAC by using it well for their information need.

Sankari et al (2013) examined the frequency of use of OPAC by students and faculty members of Unnamalai Institute of Technology in Kovilpatti (Tamil Nadu). A survey research was conducted and a questionnaire was used as the instrument of the study. The result of the study showed that only moderate number of respondents make daily use of OPAC while less than

average respondents rarely use the OPAC. The result shows a minimum number of respondents that don't use it at all. The result show that 49.92 % of the students make daily use of OPAC, 37.90% rarely make use of the OPAC while 4% of the respondents don't use the OPAC at all. In this survey, it is noticed that the highest population make use of the OPAC.

Similarly in the work of Gohian and Saikia (2013), on the use of OPAC by undergraduates in selected universities. The survey research method was employed and questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. The result of the study revealed that 51.03% respondents used OPAC everyday while 23.85% of the respondents rarely use the OPAC. Few of the respondents don't use the OPAC at all.

Mulla and Chandrashekara (2009), conducted a study on the use of OPAC in Devi Ahilya University Library. A survey research was carried out and a questionnaire was used as the instrument of data collection. 1,338 students was used as the study sample for the study. The study indicates that 81.61 % of the respondents used OPAC to search for library resources while 40.02 % of library users at Devi Ahilya University consult library staff to access materials they needed in the library. 20.60% consulted the card catalogue and 24.91% consulted their peers. This report has shown that maximum number of respondents make good use the OPAC while most of this respondent also can't use it independently. With this study, it shows that some also consult card catalogues which means the library at that time use both manual and OPAC.

In the work of Thanuskodi (2012) which examined OPAC usage by the students, researcher scholars and faculty members of Annamalai University Library, a survey research was conducted using a questionnaire as the instrument of study. It was conducted on various categories of users in the university library such as faculty members, research scholars, and postgraduate students,

covering different discipline such as art, science, engineering etc. The result of the study revealed that only one third of the respondents used OPAC frequently and also that majority of users consulted OPAC to know the availability and location of the documents. 31.35 % of the respondents frequently make use of the OPAC while 95 % of the respondents expressed lack of knowledge for using the OPAC. 74.03 % of the users consulted OPAC to know the availability of the document in the library.

Ishola and Zacceus (2015) examined user attitude towards the use of OPAC in two selected university in South-west Nigeria. A descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study and a questionnaire was used as the instrument of study. The population of the study comprised of 5% of the registered users of Kenneth Dike University Library and Osun State University Library. The result of the study was analyzed using simple descriptive statistics, percentage and frequency distribution. The report of the study show that majority of the users prefer going directly to shelve rather than going through the catalogue. The study also revealed that users viewed the catalogue as time wasting as they felt it took them less time to find books directly from the Shelf . The study also revealed that most students are yet to be conscious of the existence of the online public access catalogue. They do not understand its operation and infrequently use the service. Only 9% of the respondents makes use of the OPAC while 19% go browse the library shlves directly. 56% occasionally use the library catalogue while 39% use frequently. This report shows that most of library users still don’t show good attitude to using OPAC rather they go to the shelf searching for materials.

In a survey carried out by Owolabi (2013) on the effect and use of library catalogue on students’ use of library in the University of Benin. A survey research method was adopted and questionnaire was used as the instrument of study. 300 students were used as the study sample. It

was recorded that 58.70% which is the maximum prefer going straight to the shelve even when the author and title of the book are unknown. 15.70% prefer using the catalogue and 18.50% hope the catalogue can't be of help to them. 27.5 % use the OPAC frequently while 57.9 use the OPAC rarely.

From all the examined works and report of the results made by researchers on the attitude and use of OPAC, it is significant that most student make use of the library OPAC while some that don't make use of it is due to negligence, awareness or the thought of time.

Research Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised 11,855 undergraduate students in Kwara State University, Malete. Multi-staged sampling approach of proportional sample techniques was used to select a sample of 378 students from all colleges in the university. Questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. A total of 378 copies of questionnaire were administered on the respondents. All the administered copies of questionnaire were completed and returned and all were considered usable. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics including percentage and frequency counts.

Data Analysis and Interpretation of Results

Table 1: Respondents by Gender

Gender	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Male	180	47.6
Female	198	52.4
	378	**100.0**

The data in Table 1 shows the percentage of respondents by Gender. It reveals that majority of the respondents 198(52.1%) were female.

Table 2: Respondents by Age

Age	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
15 – 20	156	41.3
21 – 25	196	51.9
26 – 30	25	6.6
31 and above	1	0.3
Total	**378**	**100.0**

The data in Table 2 shows the percentage of respondents by age. The result revealed that majority of the respondents 196 (51.9%) were within the age bracket of 21-25 years.

Table 3: Respondents by Level

Level	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
100	24	6.3
200	75	19.8
300	209	55.3
400	68	18.0
500	2	0.5
Above 500	0	0.0
Total	**378**	**100.0**

The data in Table 3 shows the percentage of respondents by level. The data revealed that majority of the respondents 209(55.3%) were 300 level students of Kwara State University. The reason for the highest percentage might be that most students on campus during the time of administering the questionnaires are in 300 level while other levels are less on campus since the 100 level are just resuming on campus while most of the 400 and 500 levels are on their various attachments and industrial training.

Table 4: Respondents by Colleges

Colleges	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Pure & Applied Sci.	160	42.3
Engineering	52	13.8
Education	26	6.9
Humanities	51	13.5
Agric	16	4.2
ICT	73	19.3
Total	**378**	**100.0**

The data in Table 4 shows the shows the percentage distribution of respondents based on colleges in the university. The table revealed that majority of the respondents 160(42.3%) were from College of Pure and Applied Sciences. This implies that majority of the students who responded to the questionnaire were from College of Pure and Applied Sciences.

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage responses on the attitude of students towards the Library Online Public Access Catalogue

S/N	Attitude towards OPAC	Agreed		Disagreed		Remark
		F	%	F	%	
1	I hate using the Online Public Access Catalogue	87	23.0	291	77.0	Disagreed
2	I love using the Online Public Access Catalogue	260	68.8	118	31.2	Agreed
3	Use of Online Public Access Catalogue is a waste of time	133	35.2	245	64.8	Disagreed
4	Use of Online Public Access Catalogue saves time	246	65.1	132	34.9	Agreed

5	Online Public Access Catalogue is difficult to use	114	30.2	264	69.8	Disagreed
6	Online Public Access Catalogue is very easy to use	279	73.8	99	26.2	Agreed
7	I am please when using the library Online Public Access Catalogue	273	72.2	105	27.8	Agreed
8	I am not pleased when using the library Online Public Access Catalogue	178	47.1	200	52.9	Disagreed
9	I appreciate the results provided by Online Public Access Catalogue	290	76.7	88	23.3	Agreed
10	I do not appreciate the results provided by Online Public Access Catalogue	165	43.7	213	56.3	Disagreed

Table 5 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of responses on the attitude of students towards the library Online Public Access Catalogue. The result reveals that majority of the respondents have positive attitude towards OPAC. Most respondents are pleased when using he OPAC, they find it easy to use, they love using OPAC, it is easy to use among other positive attitudes. This implies that the attitude of the respondents towards library Online Public Access Catalogue is positive. This result contradicts the result of the study of Ishola and Ojeniyi (2015) which reported that majority of their respondents representing 244 (61%) used the traditional card catalogue and 44(11%) depend on the library staff assistance in retrieving materials while 76(19%) browse the shelves when searching for information materials in the library. Only 9% of the respondents search for information through the OPAC.

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage responses on how frequent students use Online Public Access Catalogue

S/N	Frequency of OPAC use	Agreed		Disagreed		Remark
		F	%	F	%	
1	Daily	88	23.3	290	76.7	Disagreed
2	Weekly	221	58.5	157	41.5	Agreed
3	Monthly	240	63.5	138	36.5	Agreed
4	Quarterly	289	76.5	89	23.5	Agreed
5	Yearly	350	92.6	28	7.4	Agreed
6	When I need material	190	50.3	188	49.7	Disagreed
7	Never	151	39.9	227	60.1	Disagreed

Table 6 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of responses on how frequent students use Online Public Access Catalogue. The result reveals that majority of the respondents use OPAC yearly and also quarterly. It is revealed from the table that students are not using the OPAC daily. This result is at variance with the finding of the study of Onuoha, Umahi and Bamidele (2013) which revealed that out of 190 respondents 79 used the OPAC very frequently. Majority of respondents 111 used the OPAC occasionally, and no respondents answered to the use of the Online Public Access Catalogue rarely and not at all. This report is also in variance to a report by Gohain and Saika (2013) which revealed that 51.03% of their respondents use Online Public Access Catalogue every day which shows a good daily usage.

Table 3: Summary of Regression Analysis of relationship between attitude and the use of Online Public Access Catalogue

Model	N	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-cal.	P-value
1	378	0.790	0.691	0.701	17.100	0.002

Dependent Variable: Use of Online Public Access Catalogue

Table 3 summarizes the regression results of relationship between attitude and use of Online Public Access Catalogue. The result indicated that there is a strong correlation between attitude and use of Online Public Access Catalogue ($R = 0.79$) while R-squared is 0.69 which means that the independent variable (attitude) explained 69.1% variations of the dependent variable (use of Online Public Access Catalogue). The relationship between attitude and use of Online Public Access Catalogue was therefore statistically significant ($F=17.100$; $p < 0.05$) and other variables not included in this model may have accounted for the remaining variation. It therefore, means that the null hypothesis that stated that there is no significant relationship between attitude and the use of Online Public Access Catalogue was rejected.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is a very crucial tool used by undergraduate students in academic libraries for location of materials and access to the holding of the libraries. This study investigated the attitude and use of Online Public Access Catalogue by undergraduate students of

Kwara State University, Malete. The study revealed that attitude is a crucial factor in the use of OPAC as there is a significant relationship between attitude and the use of OPAC. This is obvious because the love for OPAC will definitely relate to its usage. Students of Kwasu have positive attitude towards OPAC. For better use of the library for researches and knowledge, the gateway to its resources is the OPAC. OPAC is a tool to be consulted almost every day, when materials are needed. It is important to note that the students of KWASU use the OPAC weekly, monthly and yearly and do not use it daily, which might be due to students lack of proper knowledge of the need to use OPAC every day when to consult the library.

Guided by the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made by the researcher:

i. users should be oriented on the need to use the OPAC every day when using the library for effective library usage;
ii. the users should be briefed on the need to always consult the OPAC when a material is needed for easy identification and location;
iii. the library management should ensure facilities and library sever is up and running to aid users consult OPAC in library and outside library daily.

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