USE OF ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOGUE AMONG LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATES IN SOURTHERN, NIGERIA

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Abstract
The study investigated the use of online public access catalogue among library and information science undergraduates in Southern Nigeria. The objectives of this study were to find out the purpose of OPAC use among LIS undergraduates, to know the extent undergraduates use OPAC, level of satisfaction of OPAC use and to identify the constraints associated with the use of OPAC among the undergraduates. The descriptive survey design was used adopted for this study. One thousand, four hundred and forty (1,440) questionnaires were distributed and nine hundred and twenty (920) were retrieved. The total enumerative sampling techniques was used to select the entire population. Data generated was analysed using simple percentage and frequencies. Finding revealed that LIS undergraduate in Southern Nigeria use OPAC for the purpose of identifying books using author, title and subject. However, they use it to a little extent and they were satisfied to a large extent with its use. power failure, inadequate OPAC terminals or workstations, lack of proper guidance from the library staff and lack of skills to use OPAC independently were some of the constraints associated with use of OPAC. The recommended among others, that alternative sources of power supply should be provided in libraries considering the erratic nature of power supply in Nigeria. Also, librarians and libraries should ensure that LIS undergraduates are sufficiently trained to make effective use of the OPAC.

Keywords: *Catalogue, Online public access catalogue, Undergraduates*

Introduction
A catalogue is a record or list of books, periodicals, journals, pamphlets, monographs, audio-visual aids and other materials of a particular library, or a group of libraries (when union catalogue), or a private collection containing specified items of bibliographical information, namely author, title, edition, imprint, collation (Atanda & Ugwulebo, 2017).

OPAC stands for Online Public Access Catalogue. Aina (2004) stated that online public access catalogue (OPAC) is the most current form of library catalogue, whereby bibliographic records of all documents are stored in the computer memory or server. As a means of ensuring that information materials are available and accessible, libraries provide catalogues to display what is available in the library

and where they can be obtained (Mohammed & Temboge, 2019).

Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science (2017) defines OPAC as, 'an acronym for Online Public Access Catalogue, a database composed of bibliographic records describing the books and other materials owned by a library or library system, accessible via public terminals or workstations usually concentrated near the reference desk to make it easy for users to request the assistance of a trained reference librarian. Online catalogues are searchable by author, title, subject, and keywords and allow users to print, download, or export records to an e-mail account.

Research Objectives
The study is designed to achieve the following objectives

1. To find out the purpose of OPAC use among LIS undergraduates in Southern Nigeria;
2. To find out the extent LIS undergraduates use OPAC;
3. To know the level of satisfaction of OPAC use by the LIS undergraduates;
4. To identify the constraints associated with the use of OPAC;

Research Questions
The study is designed to answer the following research questions
1. What is the purpose of OPAC use among LIS undergraduates in Southern Nigeria?
2. To what extent do LIS undergraduates use OPAC?
3. What is the level of satisfaction of OPAC use by the LIS undergraduates?

4. What are the constraints associated with use of OPAC?

Literature Review
Severally studies have been carried out OPAC usage. Atanda and Ugwulebo (2017) investigate the awareness, access and utilization of library catalogue by undergraduate students of the College of Law of Osun State University Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria. The study revealed that 40% of the respondents were aware of user education programme and 4.0% of the respondents were aware of information brochure. Similarly, 47.0% of the respondents were able to access the library catalogue through the use of author access point, and 44.4% of the respondents agreed that both awareness and access brings speed access to information.

Fabunmi and Asubiojo (2019) investigated the awareness and use of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) by students of Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. The study revealed that 68.7 % of the respondents were aware of the OPAC services; students who were aware of the library OPAC and did not use it to access library resources were statistically significant (x2 =82.073; df =2; α = 0.001); 23.8% of the respondents used OPAC independently; only 3.2% of the respondents accessed library resources from their hostels, 0.2% access it from homes. Similarly, majority of the respondents lacked information searching skills while lack of awareness, irregular power supply, network failure and inadequacy of computer terminals designated for the use of OPAC were

among the problems identified as factors inhibiting the use of library OPAC.

Apagu, Temboge and Hassan (2018) investigated the satisfaction and challenges facing Undergraduates with the use of Online Public Access Catalogue in University Libraries in Gombe State, Nigeria. The study revealed that the level of undergraduate satisfaction with OPAC in both libraries is low and the unique challenges faced are lack of skills to use OPAC independently, inadequate OPAC terminals, and no hyperlink to library OPAC from the university website.

Onuoha, Umahi and Bamidele (2013) examined the use of online public access catalogue (OPAC) among final year students in Redeemer's University and University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria. Findings from the study revealed poor OPAC utilization among the respondents. It did, however, show that respondents were moderately satisfied with the use of the OPAC but faced challenges such as lack of orientation on OPAC use, inadequate computer supplies and erratic power supply.

Method

The descriptive survey design was used for this study. The population of the study is 1,440 undergraduates of the Department of Library and Information Science in federal universities in Southern Nigeria. The research instrument used for this study is a self-designed questionnaire with the title "Online Public Access Catalogue Use (OPACUQ)". One thousand four hundred and forty (1,440) questionnaires were distributed and nine hundred and twenty (920) were retrieved. The total enumerative sampling techniques was used to select the entire population. The questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. Frequencies and percentage was used to analyse the data.

Findings

Answering of the Research Questions

Research Question One: What is the purpose of OPAC use among LIS undergraduates in Southern Nigeria?

Table 1: Purpose of OPAC use

Purpose of OPAC use	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Identification of books using author, title and subject	380	41
To locate books/ journals and other reading materials	190	21
Dues/fines	120	13
Place online book reservation	58	6
To know the new arrival list	96	10
To know the complete history of check out, check in and reservation of a document.	65	7
For renewal of items borrowed	11	2

Table 1 shows the purpose of OPAC use. Majority 380 (41%) indicated that they use OPAC to identify books using author, title and subject. This was followed by 190 (21%) who stated that they use it for the purpose of locating books/ journals. and other reading materials

Research Question Two: To what extent do LIS undergraduates use OPAC?

Table 2: Extent LIS undergraduates use OPAC

Extent of use	Frequency	Percentage (%)
To a large extent	250	27
To a moderate extent	95	10
To a little extent	507	55
Not at all	68	9

Table 2 shows the extent of usage of OPAC. Majority 507 (55%) stated that they use OPAC to a little extent. This was followed by 250 (27%) who indicated that they use it to a large extent.

Research Question Three: What is the level of satisfaction of OPAC use by the LIS undergraduates?

Table 3: Level of satisfaction of OPAC use

Level of satisfaction	Frequency	Percentage (%)
To a large extent	355	39
To a moderate extent	221	24
To a little extent	144	16
Not at all	200	22

Table 3 shows the level of satisfaction of OPAC use by the LIS undergraduates, Majority 355 (39%) stated that they were satisfied to a large extent with the use of OPAC. This was followed by 221 (24%) who indicated that they were satisfied to a moderate extent.

Research Question Four: What are the constraints associated with use of OPAC?

Constraints	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Lack of skills to use OPAC independently	111	12
Network fluctuation	81	9
Inadequate OPAC terminals or workstations	152	17
Constant power failure	239	26
Lack of proper guidance from the library staff	112	12
No hyperlink to library OPAC from the university website	65	7
Book not in proper place on the shelf as indicated in the OPAC	62	7
OPAC design is too difficult to use and not easy to understand	98	11

Table 4 shows constraints associated with use of OPAC. Majority 239 (26%) indicated constant power failure. This was followed by 152 (17%) who stated inadequate OPAC terminals or workstations.

Discussion

The respondents indicated that they use OPAC to identify books using author, title and subject. This may be as a result of the fact that locating books using the author, title or subject of the book gives speedy access to information. This finding is in agreement with Atanda and Ugwulebo (2017) whose study revealed that 47.0% of his respondents were able to access the library catalogue through the use of author access point, and 44.4% of the respondents agreed that both awareness and access brings speed access to information.

The study revealed that majority of the LIS undergraduates use OPAC to a little extent. This finding is in conformity with Onuoha, Umahi and Bamidele (2013) whose findings revealed poor OPAC utilization among the respondents. It did, however, show that respondents were moderately satisfied with the use of the OPAC but faced challenges such as lack of orientation on OPAC use, inadequate computer supplies and erratic power supply.

The study shows that majority of LIS undergraduates were satisfied to a large extent with the use of OPAC. This finding is in agreement with Onuoha, Umahi and Bamidele (2013) whose findings shows that respondents were moderately satisfied with the use of the OPAC but faced challenges such as lack of orientation on

OPAC use, inadequate computer supplies and erratic power supply.

The study revealed that majority of the undergraduates identified constant power failure, inadequate OPAC terminals or workstations, lack of proper guidance from the library staff and lack of skills to use OPAC independently were some of the constraints associated with use of OPAC. This finding is in conformity with Fabunmi and Asubiojo (2019) whose study revealed that irregular power supply, network failure and inadequacy of computer terminals designated for the use of OPAC were among the problems identified as factors inhibiting the use of library OPAC.

Conclusion

The study shows that LIS undergraduate use OPAC for the purpose of identifying books using author, title and subject. However, they use it to a little extent and they were satisfied to a large extent with its use. power failure, inadequate OPAC terminals or workstations, lack of proper guidance from the library staff and lack of skills to use OPAC independently were some of the constraints associated with use of OPAC.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:
1. Alternative sources of power supply should be provided considering the erratic nature of power supply.
2. Academic libraries should ensure that OPACs are designed in a way that it would ensure less difficulties to access and use.

3. Librarians and libraries should ensure that LIS undergraduates are sufficiently trained to make effective use of the OPAC

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