

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The advancement of knowledge in the field of education has influenced and restructured students' tactics in using periodicals in the university library. This has put a higher priority on librarians on the successful organisation of increasingly diverse collections to satisfy their users (postgraduate students) as it guarantees active participation in the librarian-user service delivery process. According to Ashikuzzaman (2018), every educational institution requires a library containing various information resources that involve several kinds of periodicals. This is because, a university library is the resource bank of any institution and its goal is to provide effective services for users to enhance their knowledge with up-to-date information which is important for teaching-learning and extra-curricular activities in the university.

Periodicals, as defined by Bajracharya (2015), refers to a publication with a distinctive title, which appears at stated or regular intervals, without a prior decision as to when the last issue shall appear. According to Sivadas (2012), periodicals are serials characterised by the regularity of publication and frequency of issues that are generally paid for in advance. Periodicals are the conveyance of current trends in all walks of life. This has made access to their contents more direct, convenient and timely which made postgraduate students cling to them to unravel their greatest source of anxiety and uncertainty. Due to increased activity and as a medium of exchange of scientific information, periodicals have gained great importance in university libraries. They are published scholarly and theoretical research articles that have high impact and are among the most vital sources of information in the library as they carry the latest information in all fields of knowledge.

This implies that, collections of periodicals are very important for any academic and research libraries as they are primary sources of information and awareness and are invariably more up-to-date and usually intended for a wider audience. Akporhonor and Azonobi (2015), among the information resources in university libraries, periodicals collection occupies a predominant role and have an ever-lasting value. Hence, it is not easy to lend out documents from these collections. Therefore, almost all periodical literature must be acquired for the betterment of the university community. The importance of periodicals has forced postgraduate students to learn how to access and use a wide variety of resources in the library. Periodicals are vital sources of information and as such are meant to be used, read and studied. This requires that periodicals must be acquired, organised and made visible and accessible in various formats to users especially postgraduate students. According to Baburao (2011), the organisation of periodicals demands not only professional knowledge and experience, dedication and adaptability but also a deep insight and acumen to understand the sequence of periodicals and courage to deal with their distinctiveness.

Librarians have a professional duty to ensure that periodicals within their collections are maintained in a condition appropriate for their use and their intrinsic value (Shameenda, 2011). This does not mean that all items must be, or should be displayed indefinitely. Periodicals constitute an important source of information in university libraries in Nigeria. Their usefulness is found in the current information they carry. The information these vital sources carry, educate and entertain the readers and keep them abreast or informed about what happens in the society around them. The creamy or vital information, which is on a regular basis, makes them one of the most important and crucial sources of information (Abalaka, Yahaya & Okikiri, 2014). Periodicals and serials can be used interchangeably and they consist of print and electronic formats (Njeze, 2012).

At the national or institutional levels, necessary financial resources are not normally available to enable librarians acquire all periodicals to be widely used by students. Librarians must determine policy for the visibility and accessibility of their collections as appropriate to the aims and objectives of their institutions, the needs of users and the value of the individual items (Shameenda, 2011). Therefore, knowledge of the use of periodicals is essential for all librarians who are concerned with the acquisition of periodicals. Use of periodicals simply means the exploitative/interactive activities performed by a user. Someone who uses something to achieve his/her aim is a user. In the same vein, those who make use of periodicals for scholarly research are periodical users (postgraduate students). Also, those who enter the library or surf the library website and find periodicals useful are library users. Barman (2020) defined user “as a person who is actively seeking access to the information available in the library”.

Use of periodicals is not a new ideology in university libraries, but efforts are being made by librarians to acquire periodicals that will translate to qualitative research by users in their various institution. Kanwar Library (2019) avowed that, periodicals acquired should be effectively and ethically obtained at a reasonable and available cost, when needed, to reflect the needs of the university curriculum. It is also in this regard that the usefulness of periodicals is very essential for students to communicate with their counterparts at large. Periodicals are used by postgraduate students to conduct research, to pursue individual interests as well as support their claims on concerned issues. The use of resources especially periodicals, according to Magoi (2014), could be a result of information seeking, browsing or discovery of new or existing phenomena. Bamidele, Omeluzor and Amadi (2013) believed that information resources (periodicals) accessed by users, especially postgraduate students, greatly depend on their information needs.

Thus, Zhang (2013) highlighted some of the reasons students select and use periodical sources to include: the quality and characteristics of the content of a source: is the content of a source truthful, or correct? Is it easy to understand and is it up-to-date? The characteristics of the source itself; is the source available or easy to access? The trustworthiness of the source; is the source integral in terms of motivation to be truthful? The usability of the source; is the source easy to use? The similarity of the source; is a source similar to the user in terms of interest? The scope of the source; is source information specific or includes many other topics? The user's emotional reaction to the source; the selection of the source is dependent on the emotional reactions of the user and social norms: whether the use of a source conforms to generally accepted norms.

Another variable that could influence the use of periodicals in a university library is accessibility. Accessibility is explored in many studies on collection development. Ntui and Udah (2015) regards accessibility to mean the ease of locating and retrieving a piece of information from the storage medium. It involves the extent to which a periodical eliminates barriers and permits the user to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the content (Lisney, Bowen, Hearn & Zedda, 2013). Therefore, Ugbagir (2016) noted that “to create easy accessibility of library resources (periodicals) to library users in universities, National Universities Commission of Nigeria established rules and regulations that libraries should follow to decentralise university resources and sitting capacity”.

Accessibility, according to Fange and Iwarsson (2018), is the ability to access and benefit from periodicals acquired by universities through the library. It is created to achieve specific goals with efficiency, effectiveness, and satisfaction in a specific context of use. Bathe (2018) defined efficiency as “a level of performance that describes using the least amount of input to achieve the highest amount of output”. It is a measurable idea that may be determined using the quantitative relation of useful output to total input. This means that efficiency has to deal with organising,

managing and providing basic access to periodicals in the library collection. It minimises the waste of resources like physical materials, energy, and time whereas accomplishing the required output which is an effective use of periodicals.

According to Bello (2011), “users access information resources through the use of the library catalogue and Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)” (p. 18). This infers that, access to periodicals could be in the form of search, locate, download, retrieval, and reading periodicals within and outside the library. Therefore, the use of tools such as the Sci-Hub, search engine, catalogue, union catalogues and library Genesis enhances access and helps users to quickly obtain particular periodicals for use. Accessibility and use of periodicals are key factors in the provision of quality services in any type of library. Rao and Reddy (2018) stated that university libraries are always committed to providing access to information resources in supporting research and university curriculum.

Nevertheless, studies have revealed that there seems to be a need to improve visibility and accessibility of periodicals in libraries as they have great influence on the use of periodicals because users are unable to find out what has been acquired by their libraries. Okorie and Akanwa (2018) reported that, despite the emphasis placed on the use of periodicals in university libraries, there is a decline in their usage among postgraduate students. This view correlates with the one by Abubakar and Adetimirin (2017) that postgraduate students' use of periodicals in Nigeria is on the downside. Nutsupkui and Owusu-Ansah (2017) studied how frequent faculty and students used serials in an African university library and observed that both faculty and graduate students were, relatively, aware of the serials (periodical) collection in the library. However, despite this awareness, they used serials, relatively, less frequently.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The use of periodicals among Library and Information Science postgraduate students have become of paramount important for qualitative research and up-to-date knowledge in university libraries. Periodicals are widely recognised information paths to students, academia and researchers. Hence, they are acquired by libraries in satisfying the insatiable needs of their users, especially postgraduate students. In spite of the numerous benefits associated with the use of periodicals, most students restrain themselves from using them due to their inadequate knowledge to navigate the library, use the catalogues (both online public access catalogue) and search the available databases. As a result, periodicals that are the predominant carriers of up-to-date information cannot be utilised with ease and convenience.

It is pathetic to note that, despite the huge efforts and resources spent in the acquisition of these periodicals, there are no viable tools put in place for proper visibility and accessibility of these periodicals. The researcher's preliminary observation and personal experience showed that subject based periodicals are obscured and inaccessible to students to conduct quality research. Reviewed literature also showed that university libraries in developing countries are faced with the problem of poor visibility and inaccessibility of intellectual content due to lack of access to subject-based periodicals and numbering problems (Islam, 2015; Christian, 2012; Suja & Zakaria, 2011).

This implies that, the use of periodicals among postgraduate students is on the downside. This study, therefore, requires an empirical study to find out the actual factors responsible for the non-usage of periodicals and the extent to which each factor contributes to the problem. Consequently, this study is out to investigate acquisition, visibility, accessibility, and use of periodicals among Library and Information Science postgraduate students in federal university libraries in Nigeria.

1.3 Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to investigate the accessibility and use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Determine the ways used for accessibility of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University;
- ii. Examine the frequently use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University; and
- iii. Identify the purpose of using periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University.

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions were answered in this study:

- i. What are the ways used for accessibility of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University?
- ii. What is the frequently use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University? and
- iii. What is the purpose of using periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University?

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study focused on the investigation of accessibility, and use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede. The study was interested in ascertaining the methods adopted for the determining out how postgraduate students access periodicals in the university libraries; examining how postgraduate students use periodicals in the university libraries. It is limited to all the postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study is of immense benefit to University Management, librarians, researchers and students. It will be useful to the university management because it provided information on the methods of acquisition, how to create visibility and make the periodicals accessible which will, in turn, bring an improvement on the use of periodicals by postgraduate students. Secondly, librarians will find it useful as it revealed the postgraduate students' use of periodicals (searching, downloading, locating, etc) and their shortfalls, which will lead to the design of policy on the minimum and maximum usage of the library in general and periodicals to be specific.

Thirdly, researchers and students will find it useful because it will serve as background information to the researchers that are interested in the field of periodicals acquisition while students will benefit from the study because it provided information on the tools for accessing and downloading periodicals, thus, increasing the extent of usage. Lastly, the study will add to the body of literature on acquisition, visibility, accessibility and use of periodicals among library and information science postgraduate students in federal university libraries in Nigeria, thereby influencing researchers' interest in periodicals collection.

1.7 Operational Definition of Terms

The following terms are defined as used in this research:

Accessibility: This refers to the convenience, ease of locating and proximity to periodicals collection.

Periodicals: These are serials publications with distinctive titles, containing a mix of articles by more than one contributor, issued at regular or stated intervals of less than a year, without a prior decision as to when the final issue will appear.

Postgraduate: This is an academic programme that occurs after an undergraduate degree has been obtained. It is connected with further studies that someone does at a university after receiving his/her first degree.

University Library: This refers to the type of academic library that is found in the university, solely for the support of the teaching-learning process and academic excellence of researchers, students, lecturers, and the university community.

Use of Periodicals: This refers to the exploitation (searching, downloading, etc) of periodicals with the full extent of getting the required information to actualise academic pursuits.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter is devoted to the review of related literature on the accessibility, and use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede. The review is organised under the following sub-headings:

- 2.2 Accessibility of Periodicals in Libraries;
- 2.3 Use of Periodicals by Postgraduate Students in Libraries;
- 2.4 Accessibility and Use of Periodicals in Libraries;
- 2.5 Accessibility and Visibility of Periodicals in Libraries
- 2.6 Theoretical Framework; and
- 2.7 Appraisal of the Reviewed Literature.

2.2 Accessibility of Periodicals in Libraries

The goal of any university library, according to Harold and Wilma (2018), is to build and maintain information resources including periodicals in diverse formats to meet the information needs of users. This, therefore, means that due attention should be drawn to the accessibility of periodicals since libraries are established with the aim that everyone within the library deserves access to knowledge. Their usage as non-usage will automatically amount to the ineffectiveness of the library, thereby, defeating their primary aim of information provision. Ram (2015) posited that information cannot be separated from their use. Hence, the choice of information depends on its perceived accessibility. For postgraduate students to use periodicals in the library for scholarly

communication, evidence of claim or quality research options, access is required to reap the essentials of periodicals based on their currency and accuracy.

Accessibility refers to the ease of locating, search, retrieval, and proximity to periodicals. It is about making periodicals obtainable to users at the quickest possible and convenient time. Accessibility modifications may be required to enable users to gain access to the periodicals collection because the aim of any university library has changed from ownership to accessibility (Fange & Iwarsson, 2018). Aina (2014) stated that accessibility determines the speed at which an information output in any format is obtained. Similarly, Cetina, Munthin and Radulescu (2012) opined that, access to relevant information is needed for the academic community to take an efficient decision in research. As averred by Research Information Network (2010), librarians need the support of senior managers across higher education sectors as well as publishers and other information providers in addressing the challenges as well as the opportunities they face.

This statement connotes that users need access to periodicals that require the least effort to access. Haliso and Aina (2012) advocated for quality service in the area of collection of current, relevant and adequate print and electronic information resources to achieve a standard that suits the needs of users. According to Nisha (2011), before adopting any of the standards, the following criteria must be relied on: the scope of the periodicals, the demand of users, whether the titles are easily available elsewhere and the financial status of the library. For libraries to assist in the promotion of access to knowledge, they must help to identify and deliver information sought by the researcher by creating some enabling channels (Ugah, 2008). Therefore, to facilitate the accessibility of periodicals in libraries, the library is expected to provide effective access such as directories, catalogues, bibliographies, guides, indexes, and abstracts. Ola and Osagie (2011) put it that

“nothing frustrates a researcher more than trying to retrieve an article, which seems right on target only to find out that the library does not own the journal”.

According to Ram (2015), users take on the role of librarians and gain access to a vast amount of information and it is provided with a set of tools and aids that will help in extracting the data needed in the manner that suits best. Ani, et al (2014) noted that access to information is imperative to the successful conduct of research in universities. With contemporary tools, libraries can manage their budgets and activities by continuing updating reports to have insight into revenue, purchase orders, invoices, and payments processed as well as display periodicals for easy access. Libraries work toward providing formats accessible to individuals who have diverse needs and abilities and in developing accessibility standards that must be followed both in online environment and in the traditional library, such standards may include Open web platforms (OWP), Web content accessibility guides (WCAG) and Web accessibility initiative/accessible Rich Internet Applications (WAI-ARIA).

Accessibility of resources may be conceptual, bibliographically identified and located. As noted by Ugbagir (2016), university libraries are a potential entity in the process of teaching and learning anywhere but for users to find the library resources (periodicals) useful. It must be visible and accessible for utilisation. Accessibility is the physical or virtual contact with the periodicals. Access is a general term used to describe the degree to which resources: services are accessible by users (Aminu, 2016). The more accessible periodicals are, the more likely the periodicals can be obtained for use. Stoianov and Tselkov (2010) maintained that the objective of any acquisition is to ensure users' access to the right information resources at any moment in any location. Libraries should endeavour to provide access to comprehensive and balanced collections that meet the needs of their users.

Anasi and Ali (2011) studied resource sharing for effective access and utilisation of information in Nigeria university libraries and revealed that majority of their respondents 63(66%) preferred the use of union catalogue for effective access to periodicals, 62(88.6%) advocated for a need for a library to develop an in-house tool to aid access to their periodicals. According to Gruszczynka (2012), accessibility should be firmly embedded within an institution policy that focuses on current information to ensure access to users and strategies should be developed by serials librarians in creating periodicals accessibility. Periodicals can be accessed by using keywords, subject, title, author, etc.

Building on the idea of the creation of tools of value that could better reflect the university's concerns and making the most of the potential periodicals for the creation of access to users, they could achieve their values that arise from the usage of the periodicals acquired. Such tools could reduce the barriers that limit access to periodicals collection (Gray, 2010). Thus, Mourad, Hussein, Kamoun and Watta (2019) posited that there are many tools available to evaluate accessibility of periodicals such as; Achecker tool, Ulrich's international periodical directory, guide to current British periodical, Sears list, new periodical title display, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), Abstracts and directories, catalogue and Union catalogue.

Ameen (2016) stated that periodicals are becoming very difficult to manage and this is causing a great concern to periodicals librarians and affirmed that periodicals can also be accessible to users using display rack, Current Awareness Services (CAS). He opined that an inquiry from staff and various strategies that can help in creating periodicals accessibility may include support from institutions to cover additional cost, guidance from professional bodies dealing with accessibility, guidance from accessibility specialist, guidance from colleagues experienced in accessibility creation, support from learning technologies and case studies of issues can help in making

resources accessible. Access to the right periodicals is difficult because information contained in them are abundant, but users do not know whether it is available and where to locate it (Kumar, Singh and Yadave, 2011).

2.3 Use of Periodicals by Postgraduate Students in Libraries

Students of higher learning must be conversant with a variety of periodicals and tools that can help them get the information they need to conduct their seminars as well as in their research work. The library is a storehouse of information where periodicals in different formats are kept for research activities (Okiki & Oyeniyi, 2019). According to Okiki and Oyeniyi (2019), the university library sources acquire, process, make visible and available information resources especially periodicals to achieve their aim of information delivery. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the university library to ensure that appropriate periodicals are selected based on the acquisition policy of the institution. Therefore, the librarians should make these periodicals visible and accessible to users (postgraduates).

Ashikuzzaman (2018) stated that periodicals are resources which require frequent access and delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full-text bases or electronic journals (e-journals) and are basically divided into two major categories viz; online resources which include e-journals, online databases, and websites. Other may include CD-ROM, diskettes or other computer databases. Hadagali, Kumbar, Neglogal and Bachalapur (2012) investigated the use of electronic resources by postgraduate students in different universities of Karnataka State and found that the information contained in electronic journals is better than that of print versions; most of the users access electronic journals to search bibliographical information.

However, in using the periodicals, efforts should be made to ensure students obtain them. This is because information is critical for effective academic functioning. Adetoro (2011) noted that, useful, relevant and timely information is crucial for purposeful living and survival. Postgraduate students need information for their daily functioning as students, thus the extent to which relevant information is visible and accessible to students help determine their academic success. Furthermore, the extent to which people can utilise information from various sources will determine the usefulness of information as a developmental resource. Students seek for periodicals collection for various purposes which could be to supplement coursework, complement other information resources, research work, writing assignments, finding specific information, extending knowledge, knowing current trends in research, understanding the key concepts and improving writing and reading skills.

Apart from the use of traditional periodicals such as journals, magazines and so on by students, there is also the widespread shift to electronic formats of periodicals which have enabled academic librarians to provide users with an ever-increasing scope and breadth of quality information (Colon-Aguirre & Fleming-May, 2012). With the use of both traditional and electronic information resources, students will be able to attain academic excellence but their ability to use the periodicals as well as the access gained from such use will determine their level of visibility of periodicals. This is because poor visibility and inaccessibility of these periodicals are responsible for non-usage among postgraduate students. Hence, librarians have an urgent role to play in providing access to periodicals.

Periodicals are valuable resources for study, learning, research and they offer advanced search capabilities to students in various formats and force them to learn how to find, select and use a variety of sources without the restriction of time and location. Asom, Suleiman and Kudus (2018) revealed in their study that most of the periodicals used by postgraduate students as identified, are online databases, electronic journal, CDROMs, electronic newspapers and magazines, and multimedia products were the kind of periodicals accessible to the postgraduate students except for Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) that was not accessible to the 88.9% of them. This indicates that students depend on periodicals for current and up-to-date knowledge to enrich themselves and quality research output.

According to Ndubuisi and Udo (2013), in an empirical study of motivation, challenges and strategies in the use of electronic information resources by postgraduate library users in South-East, Nigerian Federal universities, postgraduate students were motivated to use periodicals collection in their libraries because they were found to be informative, easy to access and use, saved time, more useful and less expensive. Abubakar and Adetimirin (2017) carried out a study on the influence of user education on Postgraduate students' use of electronic resources in Nigerian University libraries. The result revealed that postgraduate students use electronic resources - electronic journals (38.2%), magazines (23.5%), databases (14.8%) and believe that it has a great influence on the quality of their research.

Periodical collections are becoming the dominant resources that contain the most recent information that takes place in the context of higher education (Al-Muomen, 2019). This high level of use is also as a result of their perception of ease and usefulness of electronic sources such as the web. Pauline (2013) and Asom, et al (2018)'s findings indicated that postgraduate students of the universities under study were highly aware of all the listed periodicals in their study. These include

electronic journals, CD-ROMs and electronic newspapers. Ahmed and Vinayagamoorthy's (2014) findings also indicated that the electronic format of almost all major periodicals were preferred for academic purposes to the printed resources by their respondents. Millawithanachchi (2012) conducted a case study on electronic resource usage of postgraduate students at the University of Colombo to investigate the critical success factors and identified technology as the most critical factor affecting the use of periodicals.

According to Radboud University Library (2019), searching, downloading, retrieval (copying), borrowing, reading, printing, referencing, etc, could be seen as an indication that collections of the library are being put to use. This idea is also in line with Olutoki and Osoba (2017) and Odede (2018) which opined that when students search, locate and browse information at the serials section and library websites, there is an indication that they are using information resources. The following are some of the usages of periodicals:

2.4 Accessibility and Use of Periodicals in Libraries

Periodicals acquisition may be seen as the formation of routines and procedures for administering periodicals collection. Periodicals acquisition is cyclic from selection to circulation and record control. Thus, Priya and Majeed (2015) asserted that, university libraries need to understand their periodicals adoption from users' perspective to ensure that they are visible and accessible to their user community. The acquisition of periodicals is influenced by a number of individual factors such as trust from colleagues in terms of managing the fund allocated to the library for the acquisition of library resources and awareness of periodicals acquisition

Fortes and Rita's (2016) study evidenced that, the attitude of librarians toward the acquisition of periodicals suffers the impact of diverse beliefs, which is positive in the case of trust, perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. Technology plays a large role in many aspects of day-to-day life, and periodicals acquisition is not different. Technology is rapidly changing the way libraries acquire and display resources for use. Computers have replaced the stress of cataloguing as the online public access catalogue today. And it is not just happening in university libraries. The influence of technology on periodicals acquisition varies from one university library to another; therefore, librarians have to be very careful in analysing the periodicals of different titles due to increasing reliance on equipment. From the online questionnaire developed by Ahmed (2013) to assess the extent of use of library resources subscribed by universities and the level of satisfaction of the users in Bangladesh, he concluded that users are not generally satisfied with the current level of university subscribed periodicals.

However, the constraints he identified were mainly related to poor information technology infrastructure, difficulty in finding the required information, inability to access from home due to slow developmental speed and online access problems which in turn affect optimum use. Priya and Majeed (2015) conducted a study on serials management in libraries and noted that Librarians should also participate in the transition process by achieving skills and embracing the technological advancements to reap more from the scholarly world. Three primary areas can have a significant effect on periodicals acquisition. Areas such as structure (the foundation of how the library is conducted i.e. the daily operation of the library), organisational leadership which has to do with the support of the institution and culture (people within the library can go several directions to assess the organisation for perceived culture).

Typically, factors from the inside and outside of the organisation (culture, motivation) can directly or indirectly influence the choice of periodicals to be acquired and determine factors that cause satisfaction or dissatisfaction of staff in a work environment and to better understand employee attitudes and motivation. In terms of financial support, Akinbode and Nwalo (2017) hinted that, the acquisition of periodicals has not enjoyed corresponding attention from library managers as well as writers in the field of librarianship. This corroborates with the findings of Anunobi, Nwakwuo and Ezejiofor (2010) which revealed that periodicals are hinged on continual financial commitment and the problem facing the library is lack of financial support.

University libraries have not been able to subscribe to overseas journals due to poor budgetary allocation, lack of qualified staff, and lack of incentives for workers and shortage of facilities which, according to Akinbode and Nwalo's (2017) finding, showed that facilities and services are provided in periodicals sections of the libraries, but are inadequate, which may have influence on effective acquisition of periodicals in the university library. It is, therefore, pertinent, to note at this point that periodicals cannot be made visible and accessible for users without the acquisition work of university librarians.

2.5 Accessibility and Visibility of Periodicals in Libraries

The escalating change in accessibility of periodicals impose pressure on librarians and emphasised the tension between what can be done in an ideal situation and what can be done in realistic terms. As expectations have changed, librarians are faced with growing demands from postgraduate students for better access to periodicals to actualise their academic pursuits (Isa, Abu, Bala & Abdulhamid, 2017). Visibility according to Mauvais (2018) referred to “as the degree to which something is seen by users”. This statement indicates that visibility is assured when libraries have

widely distributed and well-established channels of periodicals that can be used by their user community. The essence of periodicals is to increase their usefulness by making them visible to the information seekers. Lawton (2015, p.215) used five questions to ascertain the level of visibility of periodicals in the library:

- i. *Are the periodicals recognised as information paths by name?*
- ii. *Is it clear for users to get to the serials section of the library?*
- iii. *Do users know where periodicals are located/ displayed?*
- iv. *Do users understand what the library has to offer?*
- v. *Do users value periodicals as an information resource?*

This literally means that, for a librarian or university library to make boast of being visible, the above questions must be answered in order to ensure a better access to the various types of periodicals such as journals, magazines, newsletters, newspapers, etc and electronic formats must be made visible to students for an informed decision and quality research through various tools in place.

Most university libraries in Nigeria subscribe to some of these databases with the help of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) interventions to make periodicals visible, thereby, meeting the information needs of their university community. Visibility is a common term in defining management success in many management philosophies. In line with Crumpton's (2010) study, success stories clearly define management involvement, awareness of operational staff as cornerstones to providing a high level of service to users as well as serving as motivational tools for maintaining morale and productivity. Visibility of resources, according to Ibrahim (2014) referred to readily access to information. A key requirement for accessibility of periodicals is the visibility of periodicals which requires communication to explore the internal state of the library

to the user community as it requires more financial resources. This is because students cannot explore the library without seeing what they intend to access and use to actualise their academic aim.

However, Ma and Romer (2014) asserted that, since resources are scarce in university library environment, a balance between a sufficient level of visibility and tolerable access to information needs to be found for users to define which state should be visible and the information needs to solve. Also, for a periodical to be visible, it means that it has some measure of impact in the global community and must have secured a reasonable impact in the growth of knowledge and this can be obtained when it is neither read nor cited by others (Zainab & Anwar, 2018). Therefore, it implies that for periodicals to be adequately and productively used by postgraduate students for high quality and good research, periodicals have to be seen not obscured and obstructive. It is not enough to have a wide range of periodicals without a proper tool for visibility to encourage access which breeds utilisation. If periodicals are visible, if users can see periodicals, there will be high usage of periodicals. This relationship between visibility and usage is interdependent (Claartje, Hoeven, Stohl, Leonard and Stohl, 2019).

According to Scochi, Munar, Pedreria, Padilha and Marziale (2012), to make periodicals more attractive (visible), persons involved in organising information resources (periodicals) must be professionalised especially in the techniques used to select periodicals that have high information impact and indeed communicate novelties. They further averred that the availability of periodicals in a library system makes ample distribution and democratisation of the science a necessity, principally to give visibility to production and an intellectual output within the library for users to interact. This amplifies the flow of scientific communication. Developing periodicals visibility and becoming a member of networking libraries has been a principal trend noticed among higher

education libraries and visibility is reached when a library has a well-articulated network of periodicals (Lor, 2016).

The finding of Nwachuku, Abdulsalami and Salami (2014) showed that, increase in visibility of materials (online resources, Online Public Access Catalogue, research gate presence, institutional repository, and publications) is beneficial for librarians. They categorically stated that, indeed, much research productions generated in Africa are highly under-utilised in the global scholarly community as a result of lack of global visibility, thus need proper organisation to increase their visibility and impact. University libraries should look at various preservation methods in making these rare publications visible and accessible to their immediate community (Ezema, 2011). The consequent lesser visibility presents some challenges not only to those undertaking research, but also those who publish periodicals. Lack of well-established and complete indexing systems for periodicals limits users' ability to identify relevant materials from their university libraries.

Punchihewa (2012) affirmed that libraries should provide a clear idea to users about the visibility of periodical titles by designing a proper mechanism to provide access to the periodicals collection. The professionalisation of journals requires greater agility in publishing and communication with authors coupled with the adoption of standardised norms capable of being recognised by researchers throughout the world (Caborero & Dolendo, 2013). Sin (2014) conducted a survey on Malaysian library and information periodicals and avowed that, in terms of visibility, out of the ten periodicals sampled, only four were being indexed and abstracted by the library and information science abstract while others were not covered. According to him, the library and information science periodicals are not too attractive as they do not bring in many economic returns. The obvious advantage of having a serials division in any library is to manage periodicals to speed up the visibility and accessibility of up-to-date periodicals. Great and vibrant

libraries are measured by the level of visibility of periodicals acquired or subscribed through reputable publishers as well as the quality of collections (Emeghara, 2018).

According to Bankole (2019), priority should be given to titles that are directly relevant to the need's curriculum of the university community. The titles selected should be appropriate to the level of study based on the perspective audience and use and should be evaluated within the context of existing library resources and projected library support for the purchase of other subject related materials. Overlapping titles should also be reviewed. Various systems could be adopted by a library to enhance periodicals visibility. Lee, Burnett, Vandegrift, and Baeg (2015) argued that institutions can increase their visibility and prestige by centralising the intellectual work of their members, thus enabling researchers to find relevant materials more easily. The greater visibility of information provided to the user community via a shared database not only empowers users to consult periodicals more efficiently and effectively but also make them more visible to others within the institution (Rajan & Baral, 2015), since an increasing percentage of library budgets are spent on periodicals for effective global access and readership. Some of the approaches to enhance the visibility of periodicals may include but not limited to institutional repository/open access repositories, social networking tools, collaborative initiatives, etc.

Institutional repositories are digital collections of the intellectual output of the university community. According to Keith (2010), they are the expressions of institutional vitality. Repositories are developed to manage, preserve and provide access to the growing body of digital materials generated through research, teaching and administrative activities of the university. It guarantees academic visibility which leads to recognition and prestige while recognition leads to usages (Orsu, 2019). It is the home to scholarly, administrative and cultural heritage that support, engage and inspire the university community and a reflection of intellectual achievements of an

institution. Most institutions have repositories to store and make available their institutional assets such as periodicals, in most cases libraries run the repositories on behalf of their institutions. The development of an institutional repository redefines the production and dissemination of scholarly materials within an academic community.

Institutional repositories, also known as Green OA, are a part of a larger open access movement, which aims to provide free access to users over the internet. The adoption of institution repository, according to Tapfuma and Hoskins (2019) is to increase the visibility of research output (articles published, journals, newsletters, etc) deposited in the university library for a wider readership. Institutional repositories are managed by universities to accommodate their own authors' works, as well as a convenient place to direct others to find the entire mass of an author's work. The institutional repository serves as a permanent, ever-growing free digital archive to disseminate research and scholarship as widely as possible. The function of an institutional repository was coined by Lynch (2014) concerning universities. He argued that "a university-based institutional repository could be a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the university and its community members...".

Institutional repository, as hinted by Kumar (2012), provides researchers with a common platform so that everyone in the institution can contribute scholarly articles and publications to promote visibility. It has several benefits, including access to periodicals, visibility of research and presentation of the contents. The content of an institutional repository depends on the focus of the institution. He noted that the concept of institutional repository suggests the tantalising possibility of greater library influence over the full cycle of scholarly communication on campus, from research through publication, collection, and preservation. This correlates with Kaladhar and Rao's

(2018) finding which affirmed that the repository approach of organising and consolidating periodicals makes it possible for all library users to access them easily and also enable knowledge sharing as it increases the visibility and prestige of the institution. Institutional repositories are a value proposition for universities as they showcase a university's research output and increase the visibility and accessibility of scholar's research (periodicals) (Luca & Narayan, 2016).

According to Zainab (2010), most repositories deposit all types of items; scholarly and non-scholarly, including journal articles, conference papers, examination questions, research reports and images. Repository represents a concise and coordinated warehouse of intellectual resources, books, journals, research articles, educational volumes, and manuscripts. For instance, the University of Nigeria repository provides a condensed tip of the educational contributions of past and present academia, broadening to include scholarly articles and an array of intellectual gifts to anyone whose search for answers and solutions brings them to their doorstep. Thus, Wells (2009) averred that "institutional repositories are exclusively a web-based technology and as such have seen some application of evaluative investigation aimed at their integration and visibility ..". This implies that the success of institutional repositories will depend on the visibility and the ability of users to satisfy their information needs.

According to Ashikuzzaman (2018), different techniques can be used to enhance the visibility of periodicals through the use of the institutional repository. The techniques include:

Profiling Strategy: This policy aims to enhance the profile and create an affirmative brand for the repository. The policy, for instance, includes the utilisation of articles, publications, newsletters, and web sites that analyse the overall advantages of institutional repositories.

Pull Strategy: The purpose of this strategy is to reward and encourage authors to deposit their work in the repository. The strategy offers specific incentives for researchers who deposit.

Push Strategy: This strategy demonstrates the positive effects of the repository once the material has been deposited. One of the best examples of this is to highlight usage statistics for authors since downloads of content in repositories tend to be very high. Other aspects of a push strategy can include removing existing barriers by, for example, assisting authors with their deposits and providing rights checking services.

Consultation Strategy: This involves direct communication and consultation with faculties and departments to improve messaging and better engage faculty in developing the repository to meet their needs.

According to Tidor (2018), institutional repositories have several benefits, including access to resources and visibility of research contents. The content of an institutional repository depends on the focus of the institution. Institutional repositories are hosted by universities to facilitate access to periodicals deposited. Examples of such digital institutional repositories include: University of Ibadan institutional repository, University of Calabar institutional repository, University of Benin, institutional repository, Nnamdi Azikiwe University institutional repository. Some of the universities use Dspace and E-print software which complies with open archive, thus, allowing periodicals to be easily discovered and accessed by web search engines.

Suber (2019) affirmed that, open access is making scholarly published research articles visible to the public and noted that there are two primary vehicles for enhancing the visibility of periodicals: open access journals commonly referred to as gold access and open access repositories also known as green open access. Though they both enhance the visibility and accessibility of content, but of green open access belong to an institution that permits their authors to archive their articles for global access and use. Open access is the provision of access to academic periodicals and enabling

users (postgraduate students) anywhere to access and use them. This implies that greater visibility of periodicals can result in higher ranking, thus, enhancing the profile of the university.

Soong (2019) surveyed the measuring citation advantages of open accessibility and revealed that, of the 50 articles studied, only 58% had greater visibility and accessibility to users while the remaining 42% had not yet experienced similar growth. Institutional repository serves as a secured central repository of scholarly output of university and offers greater visibility for the research conducted by the university community. However, Priem, Piwowar, and Hemminger (2011) hinted that open access makes periodicals accessible across academia and society as a whole. It gives the library a worldwide audience larger than any subscription-based periodicals and demonstrably increases the visibility and impact of authors' work in the institutional repository; thereby, giving users access privileges and retrieval power.

Despite the increasing interest in the institutional repository by educational establishments and recognition that publisher policies build widespread green open access presently accessible and accomplishable, deposit in institutional repository remains low (Grundmann, 2019). And, in spite of the effort made by the tertiary education trust fund (TETfund) in support of researchers (lecturers and faculty members) to strengthen the scientific prominence, cutting-edge technologies, ideas and skills in research output within and outside the university and the perception of researchers, self-archiving and depository remain steadily dwindled. This could be attributed to the fact that the university community perceives self-archiving as an extra workload after publishing their articles.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is Trice and Treacy (1986) utilisation as a dependent variable in research. Therefore, the study adopted the utilisation as a dependent variable in research in investigating the research variables. The justification for this theory is because the variables are relevant to the intention of this study as it focuses on the utilisation of a system (periodicals). Consequently, the application of the theory is anchored on the utilisation as a dependent variable in research.

This theory was developed by Trice and Treacy (1986) to address the amount of use an individual, group, or organisation makes of an information system as a key variable in Management Information Science research. It is often used as a dependent variable when studying or predicting the impacts that an information system has had on process, structure, and performance. The degree and type of impacts would quite naturally be expected to vary with the amount of use that is made of the system. The utilisation of a system has also been used as a dependent variable. It has been modelled as an outcome construct that can be influenced by the process of design and implementation and by characteristics of the information system, the task, the individual user and its interaction.

As an approach, its application to fields such as library and information science, social sciences and arts and humanities. has continued to be significant especially in issues relating to acquisition and visibility in libraries or organisations that could enable students to access and use information resources (periodicals). Trice and Treacy (1986) opined that “utilisation is either the amount of effort expended interacting with an information system or, less frequently, as the number of reports or other information products generated by the information system per unit of time” (p. 2).

Examples include frequency and number of computer sessions, connect time, and time spent using different system functions, the number of records updated, and keystrokes or carriage returns.

Therefore, its application to this study which sets out to investigate acquisition, accessibility and use of periodicals is appropriate. The critical aspect of the theory is the users' interaction with an information system which is constructed through the task characteristics and the individual user differences which will invariably amount to an effective use of periodicals. The research framework provides the impetus for a large stream of empirical research that has studied the relationship between individual utilisation of an information system and the four types of independent variables. This research structure is illustrated in Figure 2.1.

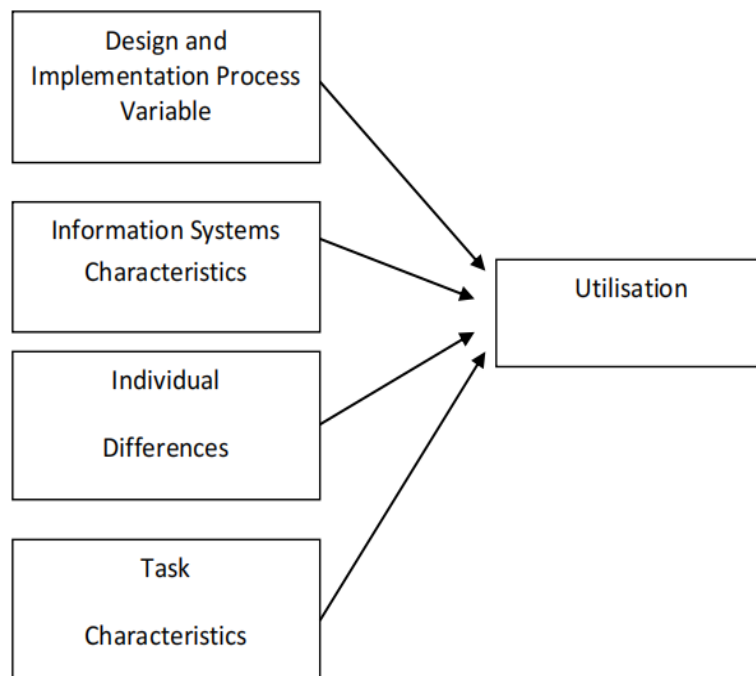


Figure 2.1. Trice and Treacy (1986) Structure of Utilisation Research

The structure is relevant to the study due to the inclusion of task characteristics that are basic requirement in accessing and using periodicals. The process encompassed the nature of the task users must execute to use periodicals through the various stages of information seeking such as

accessibility and the measure of the suitability of the acquired periodicals to the needs of different users. The utilisation structure consists of four independent variables:

Design and implementation process: At this stage, different information technologies are introduced into an organisation which could be likened to the acquisition of periodicals in the library. This involves the support of the parent organisation, user involvement and understanding of the activities of potential users.

Information system characteristics: Once the periodicals have adequately been acquired, then they are made visible for users' interaction in form of accessing them with the use of keywords or other search terms.

Individual differences: Each student has his/her different search terms and purposes of using periodicals in the university library. As such, there is usually an implicit assumption that utilisation is an indicator.

Task characteristics: This involves the interaction of users with the periodicals. After students have determined their search terms, they must define the tasks, search the databases and perform other activities such as reading, copying and pasting, printing, downloading, etc. for an effective use of periodicals.

2.7 Appraisal of the Reviewed Literature

The literature reviewed has extensively dealt with a wide range of issues like accessibility of periodicals in libraries and use of periodicals among postgraduate students. In this review, the researcher presented a theoretical framework by Trice and Treacy (1986) on the utilisation of information system as a dependent variable in research for the study. The theory explained the influence of independent variables in any research with use of periodicals as a dependent variable.

The framework was used in this study and applied to the accessibility, and use of periodicals in Adeleke University, Ede.

Periodicals are central to the success of a university library programme as they help to facilitate quality research and scholarly communication among users within and outside the university community. Although, several studies have explored the acquisition, accessibility and use of periodicals especially with reference to the Western World and other developed world, unfortunately, not much has been researched on in Nigeria and very little qualitative investigation has been done on accessibility and use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Nigeria. This present research which explores the accessibility and use of periodicals among Library and Information Science postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede, will make significant contributions to literature by filling the perceived gap.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter discussed the materials and methods employed in this study. It is organised under the following sub-headings: research design; population of the study; sample and sampling technique; research instrument; validity of the research instrument; reliability of the research instrument; method of data collection; method of data analysis.

3.2 Research Design

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The choice of this design was based on the nature of the research problem (Creswell, 2014). As a result, the descriptive survey design was more appropriate. The purpose of descriptive survey design is to describe the current condition of an area of study. This design was adopted as it provides an accurate and genuine description of the situation without manipulation of the variables. Egbule (2003) stated that, “descriptive design provides the basis for the existing situation and present conditions through the systematic collection of facts and accurate information”. It is, therefore, adopted for this study since it is concerned with gathering data from the respondent’s using questionnaire. Hence, it was suitable for this study.

3.3 Population of the Study

The population for this study is 411 respondents which comprised all postgraduate students of Adeleke University. The 411 respondents were drawn from all the departments running postgraduate programs in each faculty of the university. The population was made up of all the postgraduate students in the university.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample size of this study is 411 and this was done using total enumeration sampling technique. It is manageably small and can be accommodated in the study (Egbule, 2003). The entire population is therefore used as the sample.

3.5 Research Instrument(s)

The instrument employed for this study was the questionnaire titled “Accessibility and Use of periodicals in university library Questionnaire” (AUPULQ). The instrument has been prepared for postgraduate students. The instrument for postgraduate students consists of four (4) sections. Section “A” focused on demographic details of the respondents. Section “B” focused on accessibility of periodicals in libraries. Section “C” focused on frequently use of periodicals in libraries and Section “D” focused on purpose of using periodicals in libraries. The respondents were expected to tick the right option with respect to the tools used access periodicals in their libraries. The items were rated on a nominal scale with two-point of Agree (A) and Disagree (D).

3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

The validity of the instrument was done with the assistance of the researcher's supervisor. This was to help structure the instrument such that the variable (independent and dependent) was reflected in the final version of the questionnaire. This was scrutinised so as to ensure its face and content validity. The reason for this was to adequately cover the research questions raised and fully cover the content area that it should measure in terms of accuracy and truthfulness with respect to the variables.

The instrument was administered to 30 postgraduate students of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Oyo State, in order to estimate the reliability of the instrument. The data obtained were analysed with the use of Cronbach Alpha Reliability Coefficient, which gives a measure of internal consistency. The analysis yielded the following coefficients: Section A: Accessibility of Periodicals in Libraries had a coefficient of .80 and Section B: Postgraduate students' Use of Periodicals in Libraries yielded a coefficient of .92. Arising from the above reliability coefficients obtained, which are above .60, the researcher concluded that the instrument is reliable and therefore suitable for the study. This conclusion was based on the recommendation of Pallant (2005). According to the author, the Cronbach Alpha Coefficient of a scale should be above .60.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

Copies of the questionnaire were administered by the researcher with the help of two research assistants, to the postgraduate students in their various department during the school hour. The questionnaire was administered on a one-to-one basis to the respondents in their departments, between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm daily for the period of 3 weeks. The researcher

instructed the two research assistants on the guidelines followed in the administration and collection of the questionnaire. The respondents were given 15-20 minutes to complete the questionnaire after which they were retrieved on the spot. This was to ensure a maximum response rate.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

The data obtained from the respondents were analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequencies were used to answer research questions 1; while the mean and standard deviation was employed to answer research questions 2 and 3. The criterion mean was placed at 2.50. All statistical analyses were carried out using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) version 23.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

The study employed the anonymity ethical consideration and follow all the ethics guiding scholarly writing by ensuring the work is original. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), anonymity refers to keeping secret by not identifying the ethnic or cultural background of respondents, refrain from referring to them by their names or divulging any other sensitive information about a participant. This is why, during study, the researcher must promise to protect the information given in confidence by the respondent. But, if any information has to be revealed, then consent must be sought from the respondent(s).

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1 Introduction

The chapter presents the results and discussion of the findings in line with the research questions and hypotheses. This chapter is discussed under four sections. They are: response rate; answering of the research questions; and discussion of the findings.

4.2 Response Rate

Table 4.1: Response Rate

Administered Questionnaire	Retrieved Questionnaire	Valid	Percentage (%)
404	388	388	96

A total of 404 copies of the questionnaire for students were distributed and 388 copies (96%) were returned. The response rates of 96% was considered adequate for the study because the standard and acceptable response rate for most studies is 60% (Dulle, Minish-Majanja & Cloete, 2010).

4.3 Analyses of the Research Questions

This section provides analyses to the research questions earlier raised in chapter one of this study. The results are presented in Tables below.

Research Question One: What are the ways used for accessibility of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University?

Table 4.2: The ways used for accessibility of periodicals among postgraduate students.

Items	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed
<i>Print Formats:</i>				
Subject	284(73.2%)	99(25.5%)	4(1.0%)	1(0.3)
Title	260(67.0%)	114(29.4%)	11(2.8%)	3(0.8%)
Author	234(60.3%)	115(29.6%)	35(9.0%)	4(1.0%)
ISSN	260(67.0%)	114(29.4%)	11(2.8%)	3(0.8%)
Date of Publication	115(29.6%)	149(38.4%)	104(26.8%)	205.2(%)
Publisher	187(48.2%)	141(36.3%)	48(12.4%)	12(3.1%)
Class Marks	175(45.1%)	123(31.7%)	67(17.3%)	23(5.9%)
<i>Electronic Formats:</i>				
Keywords	160(41.2%)	118(30.4%)	84(21.6%)	26(6.7%)
Title	270(69.9%)	93(24.0%)	19(4.9%)	6(1.5%)
Author's Name	262(67.5%)	108(27.8%)	14(3.6%)	4(1.0%)
Username/Password	202(52.1%)	141(36.3%)	42(10.8%)	3(0.8%)
Uniform Resource Locator (URL)	127(69.9%)	130(33.5%)	103(26.5%)	28(7.2%)
Digital Object Identifier (DOI)	127(69.9%)	138(35.6%)	79(20.4%)	44(11.3%)

From Table 4.2, the postgraduate students strongly agreed that they have access to print periodicals in the university libraries by subjects 284(73.2%), title 260(67%), author 234(60.3%), date of publication 187(48.8%), publisher 175(45.1%), class marks 160(41.2%), while 149(%) of them agreed to have access to international standards serial number (ISSN). Under electronic format, 270(69.69%) of them strongly agreed to have access to keywords, title 262(52.1), author's name 202(52.1%), while 127(32.7%) respectively agreed to have access to the periodicals through username/password and uniform resource locator (URL)/digital object identifier (DOI). Therefore, the postgraduate students have access to both print and electronic periodicals in the university libraries through subjects, titles, authors, dates of publication, publisher, class marks, international

standards serial number (ISSN), username/password and uniform resource locator (URL)/digital object identifier (DOI).

Research Question Two: What is the frequently use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University?

Table 4.3: The frequently use of periodicals among postgraduate students.

Items	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Means	StD.
<i>Print Formats:</i>						
Journals	219	109	46	14	3.37	.83
Magazines	150	162	61	15	3.15	.82
Newspapers	167	135	65	21	3.15	.89
Newsletters	150	115	73	50	2.94	1.04
Proceedings	123	129	87	49	2.84	1.01
Bulletins	126	137	74	51	2.87	1.01
<i>Electronic Formats:</i>						
Electronic Journals	227	78	45	45	3.27	1.01
Electronic Magazines	200	93	50	50	3.15	1.04
Electronic Newspapers	195	89	61	61	3.12	1.04
Electronic Newsletters	169	82	65	65	2.90	1.16
Aggregate Mean/StD:					3.08	.74
Criterion Mean:					2.50	

Table 7.1 shows an aggregate mean of 3.08(Std. = 0.74) which is greater than the criterion means of 2.50, this finding suggests that the postgraduate students' frequency of using periodicals is high. Majority of them indicated that they always and often use both print and electronic periodicals.

Research Question Three: What is the purpose of using periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University?

Table 4.4: The purpose of using periodicals among postgraduate students.

Items	Agreed	Disagreed
For scholarly communication.	361(93.0%)	27(7.0%)
For evidence of claims.	296(76.3%)	92(23.7%)
For current awareness.	330(85.1%)	58(14.9%)
For information on local issues.	300(77.3%)	88(22.7%)
For reading a wealth of knowledge.	337(86.9%)	51(13.1%)
For political ideology stance.	233(60.1%)	155(39.9%)
For entertainment.	248(63.9%)	140(36.1%)
For a job advertisement	256(66.0%)	132(34.0%)
For bibliographic details.	284(73.2%)	104(26.8%)
For in-depth knowledge.	334(86.1%)	54(13.9%)
As a presentation solution.	331(85.3%)	57(14.7%)
For research option.	337(86.9%)	51(13.1%)

Table 4.4 shows the purpose of using periodicals. Some of the reasons as indicated by the postgraduate students are for scholarly communication-361(93%), reading a wealth of knowledge and research options-337(86.9%) respectively, in-depth knowledge- 334(86.1%), as a presentation solution in the university libraries- 331(85.3%) and information on local issues-300(77.3%). Therefore, the reasons for the use of periodicals among postgraduate students include for scholarly communication, reading a wealth of knowledge, research options, in-depth knowledge, as a presentation solution in the university libraries and information on local issues.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

This section discussed the various findings from the study, relating them to the aim of the study and research questions which the study sought to answer, as well as other previous works discussed earlier in chapter two.

The finding strongly implied that postgraduate students in federal university libraries in Nigeria can access periodicals by using subjects, and title for the print format while they access periodicals by using keywords and title for the electronic format. This finding supported that of Ram (2015) which found that “student can gain access to vast amount of information provided the accessibility aids are put in place”. It is also in line with Gruszczyńska’s (2012) finding, which affirmed that accessibility should be embedded within an institution policy that focuses on current information to ensure access which could be with the use of keywords, subject, title, etc.

In the researcher’s view, the most compelling explanation for this present set of finding is that the postgraduate students have difficulty in accessing periodicals with the use of International Standard Serial Number, username/password and uniform resource locator respectively. This might be due to their inadequate knowledge to navigate the library/library website to know the necessary accessibility aids to access periodicals. However, at home, students have limited access to periodicals, most of which are Internet-based (database) which may require rigorous steps to carry out before access is granted. This finding has implication on serials librarians, suggesting that they should consider providing more accessibility aids for students to enable them make qualitative use of periodicals which are painstakingly acquired with the meagre allocated funds.

One interesting and important finding was the use of periodicals by postgraduate students which was determined using some indicators, frequency and purpose of using periodicals. The result revealed that the Use of periodicals by postgraduate students is high. This study identified that during their interaction with periodicals such as searching for information, downloading from open access/databases and locating multiple sources from periodicals they are using periodicals. According to Olutoki and Osoba (2017), a majority of the postgraduate students responded that when they search, browse and locate needed periodicals at the serials section, they are using periodicals particularly during their interaction. This is a vital discovery, placing students at the focal point of information provision. This finding is in support of Odede's (2018) which found that "an indication that postgraduate students use information resources greatly determined their ability to browse library online databases". Also, retrieving 3.24(0.78), reading 3.26(0.78), printing and creating optional account on the library homepage are other indicators of using periodicals as noted by the respondents.

The result also showed the frequency at which postgraduate students use periodicals in the library. The finding revealed that their frequency of using various periodicals (journals, electronic journal and electronic magazine) is high as the majority of the students indicated that they use both print and electronic periodicals and the purpose of using them are for scholarly communication, for reading a wealth of knowledge and for information in local issues. This result concurred with an earlier study conducted by Rao and Reddy (2018) which revealed that students use periodicals because they facilitate what is known as scholarly communication.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, conclusions and recommendations of the study in line with the objectives of the study. Covered in this chapter are also conclusion and recommendations. Lastly, the chapter provides possible areas for further studies that were outside the scope of this study.

5.2 Summary

The study investigated the accessibility and use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede. The population of the study consist of 411 respondents drawn from various department in the university. In this study, three research questions were raised and answered. The literature was reviewed in line with the research questions. The 411 copies of the questionnaires administered to the respondents and 388 copies were retrieved which were found valid and usable for the study. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics, frequency counts, mean and standard deviation. The findings from the study showed that:

- i. Periodicals are accessed by using subject, title and keywords by the postgraduate students.
- ii. Postgraduate students use periodicals by searching for information, downloading from open access/databases and locating periodical from multiple sources.
- iii. Postgraduate students used periodicals frequently.
- iv. Postgraduate students used periodicals mostly for academic purposes.

5.3 Conclusion

This study investigated the accessibility and use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede. The study is of paramount importance due to students yearn for current and up-to-date knowledge to actualise their academic and personal aims. The study concluded that periodicals are acquired using various methods which made them more accessible to postgraduate students to use for a qualitative research and other purposes. Though it is not possible to acquire all types of periodicals, proper and adequate accessibility tools will help students to use them. It also highlighted various methods of periodicals acquisition such as purchase, subscription and patron-driven.

5.4 Recommendations

In the light of the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- i. Serials librarians should maintain and sustain the methods of accessibility adopted to enhance usage of periodicals. This can be done by attending workshops, seminars and conferences.
- ii. Attention of library administration in university libraries should be drawn to the urgent need of accessibility tools to improve on the use of periodicals by postgraduate students which can be achieved by introducing user education kits which could be during their orientation programme.
- iii. Efforts should be made by serials librarians to augment print and electronic periodicals for use by postgraduate students.

5.5 Contributions to Knowledge

This study has contributed to the body of existing knowledge in the following ways:

- i. The study has shown that subject, title, author and keywords were the various tools used for the accessibility of periodicals.
- ii. The study has exposed the various indicators to the use of periodicals such as searching downloading, etc in the university libraries.
- iii. It has proven that accessibility had an influence on the use of periodicals among postgraduate students in the university libraries.

5.6 Suggestions for Further Study

Based on the outcome of this study, the researcher suggested that further studies should be conducted in the following areas:

- i. This study should be replicated using other categories of students in university libraries in Nigeria.
- ii. A comparative study of the use of periodicals among postgraduate students of a specific discipline in state and private university libraries in Nigeria.
- iii. Other factors that account for the use of periodicals among students.

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE ON:

INVESTIGATING THE ACCESSIBILITY AND USE OF PERIODICALS AMONG POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS IN ADELEKE UNIVERSITY, EDE

Dear respondent,

I am a student in the Department of Library and Information Science, Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin. I am currently undertaking research project titled: “investigating the accessibility and use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University, Ede”. I therefore, request you to kindly provide your opinions to the questions as contained in the attached questionnaire. Information provided in this questionnaire will be held confidential and used for research purpose only.

Your quick response will be highly appreciated.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

ABDULKAREEM, Aishat Bidemi

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**SECTION A:
Demographic Data**

Specify by ticking the right option

Please indicate your program:

Age: 30 below []; 31-40 []; 41-50 []; 51-60 []; 61 above []

Gender: Male []; Female []

SECTION B:

What are the ways used for accessibility of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University?

Items	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed
<i>Print Formats:</i>				
Subject				
Title				
Author				
ISSN				
Date of Publication				
Publisher				
Class Marks				
<i>Electronic Formats:</i>				
Keywords				
Title				
Author's Name				
Username/Password				
Uniform Resource Locator (URL)				
Digital Object Identifier (DOI)				

SECTION C:
What is the frequently use of periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University?

Items	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
<i>Print Formats:</i>				
Journals				
Magazines				
Newspapers				
Newsletters				
Proceedings				
Bulletins				
<i>Electronic Formats:</i>				
Electronic Journals				
Electronic Magazines				
Electronic Newspapers				
Electronic Newsletters				

SECTION D:
What is the purpose of using periodicals among postgraduate students in Adeleke University?

Items	Agreed	Disagreed
For scholarly communication.		
For evidence of claims.		
For current awareness.		
For information on local issues.		
For reading a wealth of knowledge.		
For political ideology stance.		
For entertainment.		
For a job advertisement		
For bibliographic details.		
For in-depth knowledge.		
As a presentation solution.		
For research option.		