USE OFCOMPUTERISED CATALOGUE SYSTEM BY STUDENTS IN SELECTED DEPARTMENTS IN KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC ILORIN.

BY

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DECLARATION

I, **IBRAHIM ABDULKADIR** declare that this work was done by me and has never been presented elsewhere for the award of degree. Apart from other people's works cited in this research, all the remaining ones are mine. I also hereby relinquish the copyright to Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that **IBRAHIM ABDULKADIR** an undergraduate student in the department of Library and Information Science, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin with the Matriculation number **ND/23/LIS/PT/ 0073** satisfactorily completed the requirements for the course and research work in National Diploma in Library and Information Science.

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DEDICATION

I sincerely dedicate this piece of research to

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the study

Academic libraries are established in order to support the teaching, learning, research, and community services of their parent institution. This is done by systematically arranging the bibliographic items of the resources in library for easy identification and retrieval by the registered users such as students, academic and non – academic staff.

Cataloguing process have been described as those activities that occurs from the time a book enters the cataloguing department/ unit, to the time it is send to shelf and final catalogue products, weather cards, machine readable or some form of printed catalogue. Today, development in computer technology has changed the way cataloguing is done and utilised in the academic libraries to this regards one of the earliest applications of computers to library operation is the product of the library catalogue in book form. The advantage of computerised catalogue over a conventional card catalogue especially in large university library system is well known. In addition to space saving, a computerised catalogue makes the resources of the library more widely and easily known to library users in several locations not only in the institution where the library is located but throughout the world; however, the production of such catalogue conventional method has always posed a serious problem of updating. This major problem is easily solved by the use of computer.

Computerization in libraries refer to the use of automatic and semi – automatic data processing machines to perform such traditional library activities like acquisition, cataloguing and circulation. It is also " a generic term usually used to refer the use of electronic data processing equipment and supporting technology to assist in acquiring, processing, storing and maintaining library collections and making the collections available to users by the way of circulation, reference, inter – library loan and telecommunication".

According to Morris (2019), the application of computers in libraries, stemmed from the fact that computers can solve so many operational problems. He further stated that, "the use of computers in library operations started in the United States in the early sixties when they were applied to indexing and abstracting of scientific and technical literature and massive storage and retrieval of information".

He further concluded that "any organization handling information like libraries would need computers to function well". This is because operations such as acquisitions, cataloguing and circulation stand to benefit a great deal from its use.

Fasanya (2020), stated that "libraries resort to computerize when it was discovered that inefficiency in libraries are manifested delays, errors and back log of unprocessed books". Further opinion that a computerize catalogue to many locations as possible.

Akinyotu (2018), explained that, one of the earliest applications of computers to library task was the production of library catalogues in book form and since then, computerization has opened up several possibilities in the area of cataloguing, now, computer based c

atalogues, whether on – line or off – line can be made to produce not only catalogue list s of all types and descriptions, but also catalogue cards, book cards, spine labels and tra nsaction slips.

Along the same line, Liptz and Paulson (2015), "the computerization of cataloguing syst em in academic libraries are generally regarded as desirable and inevitable that many m ajor research and academic libraries have already installed computerised catalogue syst ems, to replace the traditional systems such as books, card and microform catalogue an d that in libraries where such changes have not been made yet, active planning is in prog ress to make such effort

The existence of computerization thus permit us to create machine based catalogue wit hout giving up any of the quality and integrity traditionally striven for in manual catalogu es.

Malinconico (2022), states that, "the use of computer technology is actually capable of c reating a more precise and accurate level of bibliographic control, than was feasible in m anual system, since it allows the enormous requirements imposed on the catalogues to be ameliorated because changes can be achieved by utilizing the computers sophisticat ed access techniques with a rigorously controlled and easily re – organised data base".

In view of all these, the rationale for the computerization of library's cataloguing system may be summarised as the need to provide catalogue services with fewer staff member s, lower unit, cost for cataloguing, faster modification or re organization when required, t

he ability both in principle and indeed, to interact with broader computer networks and also the possibility of extending catalogue access opportunity beyond the physical confines of the library building.

1.1.2 GENERAL STOCK

General stocks provide a collection of materials used in support of courses being taught at College of Education of Ilorin, Kwara State. Materials that are housed here do circulate. Students are allowed to borrow one book for a period of two weeks while academic staff can borrow five books for a period of four weeks.

1.2   PROBLEM STATEMENT

It is a fact that computerization of cataloguing system has come to stay in the daily operation of the libraries all over the world due to the myriad of records that the library has to deal with.

The use of computers to aid library process is made possible, in view of the information explosion, the growth of the information generated daily and its effect on the library, it is believed that the library can only keep abreast of the information growth and effectively preserve and disseminate it in the shortest possible time and at the least cost, if it adopts the use of computers. The use of computers is thus introduced to ease the task of library works, especially routine

In Nigeria, the use of computers in the libraries can be traced to the Universities. Although the National Library had also made efforts at the computerization, however, such efforts are yet to yield any substantial result. The major problems militating against the use of computers to catalogue in Nigerian Libraries eg Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin library is that, unqualified personnel, power supply, network problems, user education etc. Since the introduction of CCS in Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, the purview of literature shown that little or no study was conducted indicating the extent to which the students of IOT use the CCS.

In view of this fact, the need arises for the investigation and find out how CCS is used by students of Institute of Technology, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin

1.3   RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1.   To what extent do the students use the computerised catalogue system to locate materials in the library?

2.   What type of skills do students need in order to use the CCS to find information in library?

3.   What are the student's perceptions towards the use CCS to locate information?

4.   What are the problems and challenges associated with the use of CCS by the stud ents under study?

1.4   OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.   To find out the extent in which students use the CCS to locate library materials in t he library.

2.   To find out the skills needed for students to use the CCS under study.

3.   To find out the perception of students towards the use of CCS.

4.   To find out the problems and challenges associated with the use of CCS by the st udents under study.

1.5   SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Presently, there appears to be no uniformity consensus on the methodology on how stud ents use CCS in academic libraries.

This research work is therefore an attempt to investigate the way students of the selected departments use CCS in Kwara State Polytechnic library, so as to highlight the student's experience and make recommendations that will be of benefit to any library that may wish to adopt it. Such libraries are expected to be encouraged by the success of the library that has computerized their cataloguing services. The investigation helps to understand the type of catalogue in use or how it encourages or discourages its usage.

These findings will benefit the shift in understanding the importance of computerized cataloguing system to their search and put them in better prospective of what the computerized catalogue do in and for library. This study will benefit the librarian also in knowing how best that the public relation will be improved if adequate signs and direction to the use of computerized catalogue system is put in place.

The computerized catalogue system will also benefit by knowing if the effort on preparing the catalogue is at the right direction. That is, checking if the bibliography details contained in system help the students or not.

More importantly, this work will help any researcher on related topic to know the extent of finding that has been made and help him determine the next level of the path to follow.

1.6   SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The research study covers only the use of computerized cataloguing system by three selected departments, Library and information Science, Department of Mechantronics and Water Resources Enginering, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin. The research is only limited

to the cataloguing unit due to time constraint which will not allow the researcher to cover

the entire units of the library.

1.7   DEFINITION OF TERMS

Catalogue: This is a list of books, maps, or other items arranged in some definite   order.

Computerization: This is the application of computers in which many or all duties are performed automatically by machinery or electronic devices

Computer: This is an electronic machine which by means of stored instructions and information performs rapid, often complex calculations or compiles, correlates and select data.

Computerized Catalogue: The use of computers to record the descriptive information about library materials.

Utilisation: This simply means practical and effective use of something.

Perception: A way of regarding, understanding or interpreting something.

Skill: The ability to do something well, expertise or dexterity.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVEW

2.0   INTRODUCTION

Many literature are available on computer cataloguing system in the library. This chapter examines the studies carried out by various scholars regarding the computerization of the library system, particularly the cataloguing section of the library system and effect of applying computers to handle library functions, especially the cataloguing section of the library are as follows:

2.1   Conceptual Overviews

2.1   Historical development of the library computerization

2.2   Importance of computerization of cataloguing unit in the library

2.3   Application and use of CCS

2.4   Training and Skills for using CCS

2.5   Perceptions and Attitude of students towards the use of CCS.

2.6   Problems and Challenges associated with the use of CCS

2.1   HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF LIBRARY COMPUTERIZATION

Arua (2020), defined computerisation as more sophisticated process of replacing human labour, and particularly house – keeping tasks, with computers. Omotosho (2015), define

d computerization as the application of computers to library operation and services.

Owolabi, J. (2022), defined computer as a set of electronic equipment that accept data as an input, process them with the aids of predefined instructions called program, and any process useful output for management's (or any other people's) use. In the same vein, Capron (2018), defined computer as "a machine that can programmed to accept data (input) and store it away (secondary storage) for safe-keeping or later use".

According to Abolaji, M.I (2020), effort at computerization of library operation in Nigerian libraries began in 1970s with Kenneth Dike Library (KDL), university of Ibadan, Hezekiah Olusanmi Library (HOL), Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile Ife and Kashim Ibrahim Library (KIL), Ahamadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, blazing the trail. Both Akinyotu (2020) and Igbeka (2018), as quoted by Abolaji (2005), traced the history of library computerization in KDL to early 1970s. According to Akinyotu (2015), the project was first mooted in 1973. The primary objectives were to produce an alphabetical listening of the entire serial holding both current and noncurrent in both form with possibility of easy and speedy updating as required. The first phase of the project was completed before the end of the year. There was similar plan in 1973 to computerize serial catalogue of the libraries of A.B.U but the outcome of that plan did not appear to have been documented. Igbeka (2019), discussed the further steps that were taken in 1978 culminating in the three phases which the computerisation is the committee of the library designed in 1990 and attempts that were taken to implement the design.

Even though concern efforts to computerise library functions in Nigeria commenced in th

e early 1970s, it was not until the last decayed of thus millennium that significant and wide – spread progress was made.

At the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NILA) library, the history of computerization began in 1987 with the training of all categories of staff basic computing skills with aids of two micro computers, the radio shack TRS80 II model. Full computerization however began there in earliest in 1991 when a system analysis was employed and IBM computers with TIN LIB software were acquired.

Initially attempts to computerize the cataloguing process of HOL, OAU and Ile Ife in 1970 s, some funds were made available to conduct feasibility studies under the guidance of university's computer centre to find out the way the library can enjoy the facilities provided by the centres main frame computers. Various meetings were held aimed at communication, the library's needs and the services to be computerized. Designed staff of the computer centre held series of discussions with the library's computerization group under the support of the university librarian. These efforts achieve little owing to the rapid turnover of the centre personnel.

2.2   IMPORTANCE OF COMPUTERIZATION OF CATALOGUING UNIT

Oyedum (2019), also describe a catalogue as a list of books and other reading materials in the holding of a library or as the arrangement of entries representing documents in one library. In most cases, they record the document in one library. A catalogue that records the document in more than one library is generally referred as **union catalogue.**

Sonaike (2021), defines catalogue as "a record of the books and other resources of the library indicated on cards, books or machine – readable format" were contrasted with a union catalogue, defined as a catalogue that hold the combined records of two or more libraries who have agree to cooperate and share resources for the benefits of their users. We must have user's time as propounded by S.R Ranganathan.

According to Saffady (2021), in most libraries, where the library catalogue is considered a bibliographic tools as well as a finding list, descriptive cataloguing is performed according to Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (AACR) which has gone into second edition.

The explosion of information as lead the librarian to seek cooperative solution for access to maximum range of literatures at minimum cost, Emenike,(2022), this made Nigerian Cataloguers eager to provides a union catalogue – a compass that will help users navigate the bewildering sea of information a union catalogue will eliminate duplicating files, reprocessing of data, repeated handing of the same unit of data.

The process of preparing catalogue entries is called cataloguing while the person who does the cataloguing is called **cataloguer.** Cataloguing consists of two parts; these are **descriptive cataloguing** and **subject cataloguing.**

Nwalo (2020), makes a clear distinction between descriptive cataloguing and subject cataloguing and view the former as something that Para – professionals can do, while subject cataloguing should be reserved for professionals.

Nwalo (2020), defined subject cataloguing as the professional techniques and process o

f identifying the subject matter or content of a work and choosing a suitable word or term from a thesaurus to describe the subject such as thesaurus or subject heading list is adopted by a bibliographic agency and so all the terms used to describe the subject of the materials held are selected from such a list. He summarized the needs for subject heading, quoting in the words of Aina (2019), that "there are library users who do not know the author and title of the work but are looking for document on particular areas of subject interest".

Aina (2019), defined descriptive cataloguing as that part of cataloguing which involves providing a bibliographic description using the elements present in the document to describe it. He further stated that descriptive cataloguing is concerned with the characterization of each document using element that are taken from the physical make – up of each document as well as choice access points.

2.3   COMPUTERIZED CATALOGUING SYSTEM

Levey (2022), said that computerization in cataloguing department is to encode the futures previously recorded on cards. This he continues, enable a fairly strength forward translation of card contents into digital machine readable catalogue.

According to Oketunji (2020), automating the cataloguing section can facilitate the following:

- Establishment and maintenance of catalogue database, names authority files, subject file and local authority list.