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Library Research Journal Authors Guideline

Library Research Journal is an annual publication of Festus Aghagbo Nwako Library, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

Format for Submission

Manuscript submitted for publication must not have been submitted or published elsewhere. Articles should not be more than 14 pages. Manuscripts should be typed on A4 sheet using MS word (Times New Roman, 12 points, double-spaced). The title, author's full name, institutional affiliation, position, phone number and e-mail address should appear on the first page.

Submissions should include an informative abstract of not more than 200 words. Four to six keywords should be included. Tables and graphs should be included in the body of the work (where necessary). The APA 6th Edition (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association) referencing format should be used throughout the manuscript. All submissions will be peer reviewed.

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Library Research Journal is an institution based journal from Festus Aghagbo Nwako Library of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. It is an online peer reviewed Google Scholar journal, published in the month of September. This edition is a compilation of research reports from various institutions of higher learning in Nigeria. The research reports cover a wide array of issues in Library and Information Science. This volume addresses topical issues in librarianship such as NgRen, Competency Appraisal of law cataloguers as well as law students' profile as a correlate of library use. Emerging concepts in librarianship such as MOOC's, parenting styles and readership were part of the compilation. Research reports from Festus Aghagbo Nwako Library focused on library practices in the Circulation Department, Information Literacy, Zik Research Centre and reprographic services in the library.

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CHALLENGES IN THE SELECTION AND ACQUISITION OF GREY LITERATURE IN LIBRARIES IN CHUKWUEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU UNIVERSITY ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated challenges in the selection and acquisition of grey literature in Nigerian Libraries. Five research questions guided the study. Survey research design was adopted for the study. Population of the study comprised 17 staff working in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Library, Igbariam Campus. There was no sampling because the population of the study was small and manageable. The instrument used for data collection was questionnaire. Mean and frequency tables were used to analyse the research questions. The major findings of the study showed that all categories of grey literature resources were available in the library studied and that grey literature was acquired through purchase, donation and exchange. Major challenges libraries face in the acquisition of grey literature was paucity of funds. Based on the findings, it was recommended that government should increase the funding for the acquisition of grey literature in university libraries. It was also recommended that the library management should embark on regular review and supply of new and more grey materials. It was further recommended that the library management should employ subject specialists to assist in the selection acquisition of grey materials. The study further recommended that the library management should create proper awareness to both teachers and students on the importance of grey literature in education.

Keywords: *Grey Literature Acquisition, Grey Literature Selection, Grey Literature Challenges, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Anambra State, Nigeria.*

Introduction

The term "grey literature" is used to describe publications not published commercially or indexed by major database vendors. Grey literature include research reports, working papers, conference proceedings, theses, preprints, white papers, blogs, podcasts and so on. Grey literature has some connection to the brain's "grey matter" since so much of it seems highly intellectual and is significant for research and development in many subject areas. Grey literature materials may not have any ISBN or ISSN and so cannot be easily tracked or accessed by a large group of users except some concerted efforts are made. This explains why it is called grey. Grey is used to connote something that is not very clear, while literature in this context

means publications. This view was strongly supported by Mason (2012) who wrote that grey literature brings connotation of bleakness, apathy, indifference and questionable authority to mind. They are not controlled by commercial publishing interests because they are usually issued either by the government, academia, pressure groups, trade unions or industries.

Grey literature materials are publications issued not for commercial purposes. They may also be published especially on the Internet, without a commercial purpose or the mediation of a commercial publisher. Generally, they are materials which are not attainable through the conventional channels and not available through normal book

selling channels used for research (Okoroma 2012; Towolawi, 2017, Weintraub, 2000).

Grey literature includes scientific, technical, economic, social, and other reports developed in national and private institutions, unpublished conference materials, standards/patents/technical specifications and recommendations, statistical resources, discussion/working papers, factsheets, promotion/advertising/commercial documentation, preprints, preliminary progress and advanced reports, research memoranda, posters, unpublished translations, and unpublished bibliographies (Muokebe, & Anaehobi, 2021). Rucinski, 2015; Nahotko, 2014; Fatokun & Amusa, 2014; and Siegel, 2010).

Grey literature publications are important materials that libraries, must acquire to support research. Although not rigorously peer reviewed, they contribute greatly to national development since they sometimes originate from scholars. They are not controlled by commercial publishing interests because they are usually issued by government, academia, pressure groups, trade unions, industries etc. Grey literature materials are publications without commercial purpose; articles and information published especially on the Internet, without a commercial purpose or the mediation of a commercial publisher. Generally, they are materials which are not attainable through the conventional channels and not available through normal book selling channels. Grey literature publications are important materials that libraries, must select, and acquire. (Upev, Terna, & Beetseh, 2018).

In view of the various definitions of grey literature, the selection and acquisition of grey literature in Nigerian libraries is not an easy one because of their nature of publication. To acquire them, the acquisitions librarian should bear in mind the needs of the users since grey literature is not well-covered by the conventional book trade channels. The acquisitions librarian is faced with the challenge of how to identify, acquire, process and access these literatures through the conventional literatures (Kwaghga, Precious, Gabriel, & Chukwuka, 2019). Hence, libraries desiring to use grey literature as a source of information must be prepared to overcome

these bearing in mind the ever dwindling fund allocation in modern day libraries.

Libraries and information centres acquire a wide range of information resources to satisfy the information needs of their clientele. These information resources are both in print and non-print format. It does appear that the acquisition of grey literature is not given prominence in libraries in Nigeria. Both the acquisition and integration of grey literature is often neglected in most academic libraries in Nigeria, despite their inherent benefits for research and knowledge development. It is against this background that this study sought to investigate the possible challenges in the selection and acquisition of grey literature in Nigerian libraries.

Statement of the Problem

In some disciplines, research reports first appear in grey literature before they are published. Some government decisions or working papers may be difficult to track. Conference proceedings may also be difficult to access through the conventional book trade. Keeping track of these publications is problematic in many libraries because of the nature of their bibliographic control. Both their selection and acquisitions poses challenges to libraries hence this research. Regrettably, it does appear that no empirical study has been carried out in this regard particularly in Anambra State hence this research.

Research Questions

1. What types of grey literature are available in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Library?
2. What are the methods of selecting grey literature in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Library?
3. What are the methods of acquisition of grey literature in in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Library?
4. What are the methods of processing of grey literature in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Library?
5. What strategies can be used to improve the selection and acquisition of grey literature in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Library?

Method

The research design was descriptive survey. This study was conducted in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Anambra State, Nigeria. The population of the study consists of 17 staff working in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Library, Igbariam Campus. There was no sampling.

The instrument for data collection was questionnaire. All the 17 copies of questionnaire distributed were filled, returned and found usable. The data obtained through the questionnaire was analysed using mean scores and frequency table. Scores from 2.50 and above was rated as positive. While item below 2.50 was regarded as negative.

Result

Research Question 1: What are types of grey literature provided in libraries in Anambra State?

Table 1: Staff responses on the types of grey literature available in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Library.

SN	ITEM	MEAN	DECISION
1.	Calendars	3.00	Accepted
2.	Students projects	2.90	Accepted
3.	Clippings	2.85	Accepted
4.	Conference Proceedings	3.50	Accepted
5.	Newsletters	3.40	Accepted
6.	Advertising Leaflets	2.00	Rejected
7.	Newspapers	3.20	Accepted

The result in Table 1 shows that the respondents accepted all the items in this table except item 6 which was rejected. Item 5 (Newsletters) got the

highest acceptance with the mean score of 3.40. Item 2 (Clippings) has the lowest acceptance with the mean score of 2.85.

Research Question 2: What are the methods of Acquiring Grey Literature Resources?

Table 2: Responses on methods of Acquiring Grey Literature Resources in COOU library.

SN	ITEM	MEAN	DECISION
1.	Purchase	3.41	Accepted
2.	Donations and gifts	3.30	Accepted
3.	Exchanges with other libraries	2.50	Accepted
4.	Standing order deposit for staff.	2.85	Accepted

All the four items listed in Table 2 were accepted by the respondents. The highest acceptance was accorded to item 1 (Purchase) with the mean score of 3.41.

Research Question 3: What are the methods of processing grey literature in your library?

Table 3: Mean responses on method of processing grey literature.

SN	ITEM	MEAN	DECISION
1.	Classification	2.55	Accepted
2.	Cataloguing	3.15	Accepted
3.	Indexing and abstracting	2.50	Accepted
4.	Others	3.00	Accepted

The result in Table 3 shows that the respondents accepted that all the items listed as methods of processing grey literature in COOU library.

The highest acceptance goes to item 2 (Cataloguing) with the mean score of 3.15, while the lowest acceptance goes to item 3 (Indexing and abstracting) with the mean score of 2.50.

Research Question 4: What are the challenges of acquisition and selection of grey literature?

Table 4: Mean responses on challenges of acquisition and selection of grey literature.

SN	ITEM	MEAN	DECISION
1.	Inadequate fund	4.00	Accepted
2.	Absence of acquisition policy	3.00	Accepted
3.	Insufficient bibliographic details	3.10	Accepted
4.	Lack of commercial publishers to contact	3.45	Accepted
5.	Wrong perception of librarians on grey literature	2.50	Accepted
6.	Non-advertisement of resources.	2.80	Accepted
7.	Hard to find and access	2.50	Accepted

All the seven items in Table 4 were positively rated. The highest acceptance goes to item 1 (Inadequate funding) with the mean score of 4.00, while the lowest

acceptance goes to items 5 (wrong perception of librarians on grey literature) and 7 (Hard to find and access) with the mean scores of 2.50 respectively.

Research Question 5: What are the ways of improving acquisition and selection of grey literature resources?

Table 5: Mean responses the ways to improve acquisition and selection of grey literature resources.

SN	ITEM	MEAN	DECISION
1.	Provision of adequate fund to sponsor acquisition and management	3.00	Accepted
2.	Formulation of firm acquisition policy	3.00	Accepted
3.	Establishment of depository centers.	3.00	Accepted
4.	Filing of conference papers in pamphlet boxes and vertical file collection	2.80	Accepted
5.	Proper labeling of storage facilities	2.90	Accepted
6.	Provision of national bibliography for grey literature resources.	3.10	Accepted
7.	Employment of subject specialist with IT knowledge	3.50	Accepted
8.	Production of in-house bulletins	2.60	Accepted

Result in Table 5 shows all the items were positively rated. The highest acceptance goes to item 7 (Employment of subject specialist with IT knowledge) with the mean score of 3.50, while the

lowest acceptance goes to item 8 (Production of in-house bulletin) with the mean score of 2.60.

Discussion

From the study, it was revealed that all the grey literature items identified in the study were available in the library except one item which is advertising leaflets. The available grey literature materials include calendar, students projects, clippings, conference proceedings, newsletters and newspapers. This finding is in agreement with the finding of Muokebe and Aniehobi (2021), who disclosed that grey literature materials are readily available in all Nigerian libraries.

The study shows that the respondents agree that the process of selecting grey literatures include purchase, donations, exchange with other libraries, and standing order deposit for staff. This finding agrees with the findings of Towolawi, (2017), who stated that grey literature resources can be made available in the library through donations, purchase, and exchange.

The study shows that the respondents agree that the methods of processing grey literatures include cataloguing, classification, indexing and abstracting. This finding is in agreement with the finding of Aina, (2000) who stated that grey literature resources can as well be processed after being acquired into the library.

The study accepted insufficient fund, absence of acquisition policy, insufficient bibliographic details, lack of commercial publishers to contact, wrong perception of librarians on grey literature, Non-advertisement of resources, hard to find and access as the main challenges faced by libraries in acquiring grey literature. This finding agrees with the assertion of Osayande, & Ukpebor, (2012) that librarians face some challenges such as lack of fund, difficulty in finding it among others.

The study reveals some strategies for the improvement of selection and acquisition of grey literature resources as Provision of adequate fund to sponsor acquisition and management, Formulation of firm acquisition policy, Establishment of depository centers, Filing of conference papers in pamphlet boxes and vertical file collection, Proper labeling of storage facilities, Provision of national bibliography for grey literature resources,

Employment of subject specialist with IT knowledge, Production of in-house bulletins. This finding agrees with the finding of Upev, Terna, & Beetseh (2018) that employment of subject specialist with IT knowledge will go a long way in improving the process of selection and acquisition of grey literature in libraries.

Conclusion

The increasing demands on published material occasioned by the rapid rate of student's enrolment in universities calls for a change from the self-centered acquisition of conventional published materials to acquisition of grey literature especially the literature produced/circulated within the locality of the users. This is to augment the costly, scarcely and sparsely distributed published materials that are really seen in localities. This shift demands efficient and effective management of grey literature resources to facilitate usage. Hence the study investigated the challenges of selection, acquisition and use of this important resource in academic libraries of tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The research discovered fair treatment of grey literature resources in the library studied and emphasised where the library still needs to pay a closer attention to, as well as suggestions, with a view of improving selection and acquisition of grey literature. Implementation of these suggestions is timely, to harness the values of grey literature in libraries. The study concludes that strategies could be adopted for improving the selection and acquisition of grey literature in Nigerian Libraries.

Recommendation

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

1. The government should make provision for adequate funds for acquisition of grey literature in University libraries
2. The library management should embark on regular review and supply of new and more grey materials
3. Library management should employ subject specialists that can assist in the selection acquisition of grey materials.
4. Library management should create proper awareness to both teachers and students on the role of grey literature

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