

Availability and Utilization of Library Information Resources and Services for Research Productivity of Agricultural Scientists in Agricultural Institutions in Benue State

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigated the availability and utilization of library information resources and services for research productivity of agricultural scientists in agricultural institutions in Benue state, Nigeria. The study adopted survey research design. The population for the study comprises of 242 Agricultural Scientists in Agricultural Institutions in Benue. The sample size for the study was 151 Agricultural Scientists composed using proportionate stratified and simple random sampling techniques. The instrument employed for data collection was a self-constructed structured questionnaire which was validated by experts. The reliability of the questionnaire was established using Cronbach alpha method and an overall reliability index of 0.86 was obtained which shows that the instrument was highly reliable. Data for the study were collected with the help of research assistants and were analyzed using Frequency Count, Percentages, Mean and Standard Deviation to answer the research questions raised to guide the study. The findings of the study revealed that Library Information Resources and Services are available and highly utilized for research productivity of Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State.

Keywords: Availability; Utilization; Library information resources; Agricultural scientists.

1. Introduction

Agriculture is an important sector in the economy of all countries, developed or underdeveloped including Nigeria. Nigeria having realized the value of agriculture is making frantic effort to sustain it by pragmatic agricultural policies. One of such policies in Nigeria is the establishment of specialized institutions, to carry out research in agriculture for socio-economic development of the country. These specialized institutions which enhance agricultural development largely rely on library resources and their information services. Consequently, recent empirical studies by librarians and information scientists are not only concerned with the acquisition, processing, storage and dissemination of 'hard' information to individuals and organizations for their use, but also concerned with the manner in which the information resources and services provided is put to use. They have also become concerned with the outcomes in terms of satisfaction the recipient of the information services has in carrying out their several functions (Tiamiyu, 2012).

Research in agriculture is widely recognized as one of the most significant tools for sustainability of agricultural productivity and economic development in the developing countries, including Nigeria. Agricultural research holds a great potential for raising agricultural productivity and reducing poverty in every nation. This is because research in agriculture is required to meet the food and economic needs of the nation, provide employment for the populace, as well as preserve the natural resources (Islam, 2010). The policy makers, researchers and stakeholders in agriculture are also of the opinion that information resources and services provision and utilization are key components of research and development efforts in agriculture, thus the need for effective library and information service provision (Osigwe, 2012). Modern agricultural research and development efforts have also been partly attributed to the spread of information and the ability of researchers to access and utilize research results. The key tenet of this information provision view point is that researchers need to access and utilize information in order to optimally enhance their Research and productivity outputs in agriculture (Griffith, 2010).

Popoola, and Haliso, (2009) define information resources as those information-bearing materials that are in both printed and electronic formats, such as textbooks, journals, indexes, abstracts, newspapers and magazines, reports,

CD-ROM databases, the Internet/E-mail, video tapes/cassettes, diskettes magnetic disk, computers, micro forms and so on. These information materials are the raw materials that libraries acquire, catalogue, stock, and make available to their patrons. According to Hanif, Zabeed, and Nasir, (2007) a good library should be well equipped with books and periodicals in all subjects to advance study and research. The duty of a university library is to collect, organise and disseminate information to academics, research scholars and students, and support the generation of new knowledge.

The up-to-datedness of contents in courses, the continuous academic growth and competence of academic staff members and research productivity as well as the quality of learning environment depend on how effective the academic library is in identifying and connecting information on current developments in various subject fields with the academic community. Hanif et.al (2007) claims that, in order to satisfy the diverse information needs and interests of the academic community (agricultural scientists), the library collection must be adequate in terms of quantity, quality and currency. The collection must also be accessible to the agricultural scientists for use. The provision of quality information will invariably have positive impact on research productivity in agriculture; on the contrary, if the quality of the information provided leaves much to be desired, the result or productivity would be worse. From the foregoing, one can conclude that information resources are pertinent to research productivity.

From a food policy perspective, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (2012) maintains that sustainable strategies aimed at reducing poverty and hunger and improving nutrition in Africa requires access to high quality information resources that enable decision makers to articulate and plan for the long term, as well as to enable researchers to enhance their research activities. Thus high quality information services provision is fundamental to research in agriculture, and the necessity to provide the information services rest squarely on agricultural research libraries in Nigeria. Osigwe (2012) states that one major factor that makes agricultural libraries different from other information gateways is their ability to provide information resources and services unique to the institutions they serve. The author concludes that other information gateways such as Google scholars, internet among others do not provide such information and services.

Libraries has also provided a range of services which facilitates the inter-change of library data, promote the interoperability of library system, and support the operation of national and international networking of libraries. Australian Library Association (2010) notes that these services include reference services, circulation services, current awareness services, selective dissemination of information, internet services, inter-library loan services among others. These services play important roles in the library collection, in collections of other libraries or which are accessible in the World Wide Web.

Essentially, information resources and services are provisions aimed at disseminating desirable information to information users; library and information professionals have to provide the range of resources and services. These resources and services play important role in improving users' accessibility and utilization for enhanced research. However, Ezuala and Yusuf (2011) noted that, it is pertinent to state that considering the mandates of agricultural research institute in a developing country, expectation of research libraries performance is high, frequent evaluation of library resources and service should not be compromised, research library evaluation would increase users utilization of information which in the past has been adjudged to be very low. Apart from supporting the management with both immediate and strategic management information, research library evaluation would also help libraries understand their position within the cycle of information resources provided in the library. This would lead to upgrading of library resources and services according to needs of agriculturalists.

Agricultural research libraries established under the auspices of agricultural research institute are set aside for the use of students, agricultural scientists, researchers and practitioners in agriculture and related areas. The emphasis for the agricultural research libraries is the dissemination of specialized information primarily devoted to a special discipline, offering specialized services to specialized clientele (Uganneya, Ape & Ugbagir, 2012). For any effective and successful research and development to take place, it is necessary for the agriculturalist to acquire the knowledge from the library. According to Rhoe, Oboh and Shelton (2010), libraries support agricultural research by enhancing access to information through effective management of its resources and provision of wide range of information services to researchers, scientists and policy maker in agriculture sector. These libraries are special libraries that are expected to acquire, organize, preserve, and disseminate information as well as to improve, stimulate and guide research in agriculture by coordinating the efforts of research findings in agriculture, setting in motion interaction and better working relation between producers and consumers of agriculture research. Uganneya, Ape and Ugbagir (2013) maintained that agricultural research libraries remain societal mechanisms designed essentially for the provision of needed information services and resources for high quality agricultural productivity. These libraries are mandated to provide information services for study and research activities that will enhance the provision of prompt solution to farmers' practical problem and raise farmers output, income and accelerate the drive toward national food self-sufficiency.

The quest for a better understanding of our environment to enhance agricultural production propels human societies to seek and acquire more knowledge through research activities. Research is a systematic investigation towards increasing the sum of human knowledge to discover new facts or to refurnish old knowledge. Research is

cumulative in that it builds upon what is already known. The completeness of a research library and the availability of relevant learning materials help the researcher not only to know whether he is unnecessarily duplicating what has already been done, or being done by another research, but also to determine whether there is an adequate bibliographical basis for his study (Ezeala and Yusuf 2011). In this line, research in every field of endeavor including agriculture can be better enhanced with a well-equipped library where information resources and services can easily be obtained.

Agricultural scientists are those individuals' researchers and practitioners in agriculture and related areas that are committed to sharing information and working together to solve agricultural problems. They include soil scientists, crop scientists, weed scientists, agricultural economists, and agricultural engineers among others. These individuals are expected to use library information services and resources to solve agricultural problems through research and as a consequence, enhance food productivity of the nation (Uganneya *et al*, 2013).

Research productivity is the output of research work in form of creative work, conference paper, innovation, and research books including critical scholarly texts, new interpretation of historical events and new ideas or perspectives based on established research findings. Research productive agricultural scientists is defined as those agricultural scientists with a demonstration of on-going commitment to research which meet the minimum threshold of performance prescribed by a given institution (Southern Cross University, 2010). In measuring research productivity, Blackburn, and Lawrence in Okiki (2013) used three outcome variables: published work, presentations on a national and international level, and conversations regarding research. The need for agricultural information services and resources, provision and utilization by agricultural scientists in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. This is because Nigeria is pre-dominantly an agricultural country. In spite of the pre-eminent position of the petroleum sub-sector, the agricultural sector still plays prominent role in the Nigeria economic development contributing to 40% of the Nation's GDP and employing about 70% of the active population. It is in recognition of this important role that agriculture plays, that the government of Nigeria established libraries in all agricultural research institutes, including universities of agriculture as information support system (ISSs). Uganneya, *et al*. (2012) is of the view that these libraries have the capacity to make impact on the research productivity of agricultural scientists, but in most cases, the needed impact is lacking or inadequate. For example, the Global Hunger Index published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) cited by Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (FMANR) (2011) which ranked developing countries on the basis of their dimension of hunger in the range of 0 - 100 with '0' as state of "No hunger" and 100 as the worst states of hunger placed Nigeria at "20" in the rank of 10 - 20 labelled as having a serious state of hunger among compared sub-saharan African countries. Furthermore, the food and agricultural organization (FAO) also cited by FMANR (2006) reported that Nigeria had over 12 million people reported as undernourished as at 2003.

Agricultural Scientists have a primary function to undertake research activities focused towards boosting knowledge generation and innovation capacity to ensure the attainment of development in the economy. Agricultural Scientists in research especially in the developed countries have been observed to use information resources and services such as library and reference services, consulting and planning services, current awareness activities, selective retrieval services, analysis and interpretation services; advisory services, and publishing services, to access knowledge and to keep abreast of inventions and innovations. Some of the resultant effects have been shown to include increased information flow, and increased research productivity, in terms of publications output (Owens, Wilson and Abel, 2008).

The use of information resources and services is one of the channels which scientists manage their research activities that helps in decision-making, communications; improvement of performance and enhancement of productivity (Owens *et al*, 2008). Agricultural Scientists research productivity is therefore increasingly viewed as an important contributor to the production of knowledge and growth within any National Innovation System (NIS) (Salter and Martin, 2001). Agricultural Scientists in Research require the use of information resources and services to gain access to frontier knowledge nationally and internationally to keep abreast of developments in inventions and innovations, which they also need to adapt to the local environment, while creating awareness for the dissemination of their research results. It is evident that, the availability of these information resources and services can enhance the research productivity of agricultural scientists. It is against this backdrop that the study seeks to investigate the availability and utilization of library information resources and services for research productivity of Agricultural Scientist in the agricultural institutions in Benue State, Nigeria.

2. Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following research questions;

1. What are the available library information resources for research productivity of Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State?
2. What are the available library information services for research productivity of Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State?
3. What is the extent to which Agricultural Scientists utilize the available library information resources in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State?
4. What is the extent to which Agricultural Scientists utilize the available library information services in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State?

3. Methodology

The study adopted a survey research design. Survey research design is one in which a group of people or items studied by collecting and analyzing data from a few people or items considered to be representative of the entire population. This design is therefore appropriate for this study because data on the availability and utilization of library information resources and services on research productivity of agricultural scientists in Benue State was collected from a sample of agricultural scientists in the agricultural institutions in Benue state.

The study was conducted in Benue State -Nigeria. Benue State was created on the 3rd of February, 1976 with the capital city at Makurdi. It is inhabited predominantly by the Tiv and Idoma peoples, who speak the Tiv language and Idoma respectively. There are other ethnic groups, including the Igede, Etulo, Abakwa, Jukun, Hausa, Igbo, Akweya and Nyifon. Benue State is a state in the middle belt region of Nigeria with a population of about 4,253,641 in 2006 census. Benue State was formed from the former Benue-Plateau State in 1976. Benue is a rich agricultural region; some of the crops grown there are potatoes, cassava, soya bean, guinea corn, flax, yams, sesame, rice, and groundnuts. Benue state shares boundary with Nasarawa state in the North, Ebonyi State and Enugu State in the South west, Kogi State in the North West, Taraba state in the North East and Cross River State in the South. The state is located in the North Central Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria. Benue State has two agricultural institutions; University of Agriculture Makurdi and Akperan Orshi College of Agriculture, Yandev. The University of Agriculture Makurdi was established in 1988 with the mandate of complementing the effect of Federal Government in the area of agriculture while Akperan Orshi College of Agriculture Yandev was established in 1973 to complement the effect of the state government in the area of agriculture. The suitability of Benue State for the study is that, the state is predominant by agricultural activities and the researcher observed a lack of agricultural research productivity in terms of published books, articles, journals among others.

The population for the study comprises of 242 Agricultural scientists in the two agricultural institutions in Benue State. Among the 242 agricultural Scientists, 160 were from Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM) and 82 Agricultural scientists from Akperan Orshi College of Agriculture Yandev (AOCAY), Gboko (FUAM, 2017 & AOCAY, 2017).

The sample size of 151 Agricultural scientists was used for this study. This sample size was drawn using Taro Yamen formulae. The proportionate stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample from the two agricultural institutions to ensure that, appropriate weights of the agricultural scientists in the two agricultural institutions are included in the sample.

The instrument for data collection was a questionnaire developed by the researcher and titled "Availability and Utilization of Library Information Resources and Services for Research Productivity of Agricultural Scientists" (AULIRSRPAS). The instrument was divided into four sections A-D in consonance with the research questions raised for the study. Section A has 16 items and contain information on the available library information resources, Section B has 12 items and contain information on the available library information services, Section C has 16 items and seeks to obtain information on the extent of use of the available library information resources while Section D has 12 items and seek to obtain information on the extent of use of library information services, Section E has 9 items and seek to obtain information on the extent to which the use of library information resources influence research productivity. The response format for items measuring the available information resources and services was AV=Available and NAV=Not available. For the items measuring extent of utilization, the response format was: VHI=very High Extent; HE=High Extent; LE=Low Extent and VLE=Very Low Extent.

To establish the reliability of the instrument, it was subjected to trial testing. The result obtained from the trial testing was used to calculate the internal consistency reliability of the instrument using Cronbach Alpha with a coefficient of 0.95 which shows that the instrument was highly reliable.

The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of Frequency Counts, Percentages, Mean and Standard Deviation to answer the research questions. For the instrument with two response format on availability, the benchmark for decision was 50%. This means that 50% and above was considered available and 50% below was considered not available. For the instrument in the form of a continuum (Very High Extent, High Extent, Low Extent and Very Low Extent) the items were scored using the format thus; VHE=4, HE=3, LE=2, VLE=1. The benchmark or

anchor point was obtained thus = 2.50. A mean of 1.00 - 2.00 was considered very low extent, 2.00 - 2.49 was considered low extent, 2.50 - 2.99 was considered high extent and 3.00 - 4.00 was considered very high extent

4. Analysis

The presentation follows the sequence of the research question

Research Question One

What are the available library information resources for research productivity of Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State?

Table 1: Analysis of the Available Library Information Resources in Agricultural Institutions in Benue State

S/n	Items	Frequency (AV)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (NAV)	Percentage (%)	Decision
1	Textbooks	123	81.5	28	18.5	Available
2	Journals	106	70.2	45	29.8	Available
3	Newspapers	97	64.2	54	35.8	Available
4	Dictionaries	133	88.1	18	11.9	Available
5	Encyclopaedias	87	57.6	64	42.4	Available
6	Handbooks	115	76.2	36	23.8	Available
7	Magazines	92	60.9	59	39.1	Available
8	Manuals	80	53.0	71	47.0	Available
9	Atlas & Maps	97	64.2	54	35.8	Available
10	Thesis/Dissertations/Projects	151	100	0	0.0	Available
11	E-books	54	35.8	97	64.2	Not Available
12	Abstract	99	65.6	52	34.4	Available
13	Granary	53	35.1	98	64.9	Not Available
14	Monographs	44	29.1	107	70.9	Not Available
15	Bibliographies	63	41.7	88	58.3	Not Available
16	Articles	93	61.6	58	38.4	Available

AV = Available, NAV = Not Available

Table 1 shows the available Library information resources as indicated by the Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State in Frequencies and Percentages. From the table item 1 have 123(81.5%) availability and 28(18.5%) non availability; item 2 have 106(70.2%) availability and 21(12.9%) non availability; item 3 have 97(64.2%) availability and 54(35.8%) non availability; item 4 have 133(88.1%) availability and 18(11.9%) non availability; item 5 have 87(57.6%) availability and 64(42.4%) non availability; item 6 have 115(76.2%) availability and 36(23.8%) non availability; item 7 have 92(60.9%) availability and 59(39.1%) non availability; item 8 have 80(53%) availability and 71(47%) non availability; item 9 have 97(64.2%) and 54(35.8%) non availability; item 10 have 151(100%) availability and 0(0.0%) non availability, item 11 have 54(35.8%) availability and 97(64.2%) non availability; item 12 have 99(65.6%) availability and 53(34.4%) non availability; item 13 have 53(35.1%) availability and 98(64.9%) non availability; item 14 have 44(29.1%) and 107(70.9%) non availability; item 15 have 63(41.7%) and 88(58.3%) non availability; item and 16 have 93(61.6%) availability and 58(38.4%) non availability.

Researches question two:

What are the available library services for Agricultural Scientists' research productivity in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State?

Table 2: Analysis of the Available Library Services in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State

S/n	Item	AV	Percentage (%)	NAV	Percentage (%)	Decision
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17	Circulation Services	85	56.3	66	43.7	Available
18	Indexing Services	94	62.3	57	37.7	Available
19	Reference Services	118	78.1	33	21.9	Available
20	Bibliographic Services	72	47.4	79	52.6	Not Available
21	Current Awareness Services	99	65.6	52	34.4	Available
22	Online/Internet Services	81	53.6	70	46.4	Available
23	Selective Dissemination Information Services	39	25.8	112	74.2	Not Available
24	Documentation Services	125	82.8	26	17.2	Available
25	Photocopying Services	113	74.8	38	25.2	Available
26	Printing Services	90	59.6	61	40.4	Available
27	Classification Services	96	63.6	55	36.4	Available
28	Abstracting Services	106	70.2	45	29.8	Available

A=Available, NAV=Not Available

Table 2 shows the available Library services as indicated by the Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State in Frequencies and Percentages. From the table as indicated by the Agricultural Scientists, item 17 have 85(56.3) availability and 66(43.7%) non availability; item 18 have 94(62.3%) availability and 57(37.7%) non availability; item 19 have 118(78.1%) availability and 33(21.9%) non availability; item 20 have 72(47.4%) and 79(52.6%) non availability; item 21 have 99(65.6%) availability and 52(34.4%) non availability; item 22 have 81(53.6%) availability and-70(46.4%) non availability; item 23 have 39(25.8%) availability and 112(74.2%) non availability; item 24 have 125(82.8%) availability and 26(17.2%) non availability; item 25 have 113(74.8%) availability and 38(25.2%) non availability; item 26 have 90(59.6%) availability and 61(40.4%) non availability; item 27 have 96(63.6%) availability and 55(36.4%) non availability and item 28 have 106(70.2%) and 45(29.8%) non availability

Research Question Three:

What is the extent to which Agricultural Scientists utilize the available library information resources in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State?

Table 3: Analysis of the Extent to which Agricultural Scientists Utilize the available Library Information Resources

S/N	Items	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	MEAN(X)	SD	DECISION
29	Textbooks	68	48	20	15	3.12	.99	VHE
30	Journals	71	53	17	10	3.23	.90	VHE
31	Newspapers	57	46	27	21	2.92	1.06	High Extent
32	Dictionaries	79	44	19	9	3.28	.90	VHE
33	Encyclopædias	31	33	49	38	2.38	1.08	Low Extent
34	Flan books	60	54	28	9	3.09	.90	VHE
35	Magazines	53	49	27	22	2.88	1.05	High Extent
36	Manuals	72	45	24	10	3.19	.93	VHE
37	Atlas & Maps	46	49	33	23	2.78	1.04	High Extent
38	Theses	89	40	16	6	3.40	.83	VHE
39	E-Books	30	22	59	40	2.28	1.07	Low Extent
40	Abstracts	57	41	23	30	2.83	1.14	High Extent

41	Granary	21	15	71	44	2.09	.97	Low Extent
42	Monographs	13	17	33	88	1.70	.98	V LE
43	Bibliographies	27	33	40	51	2.24	1.11	Low Extent
44	Articles	64	48	18	21	3.03	1.05	VHE
	Grand Mean					2.78	1.00	High Extent

VHE=Very High Extent, HE=High Extent, LE=Low Extent, VLE=Very Low Extent

Table 3 shows the extent to which Agricultural Scientists utilize the available library information resources in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State in Frequencies, Means and Standard Deviations. From the table as indicated by the Agricultural Scientists item 29 with Mean= 3.12 and SD=.99 is to a very high extent, utilized; item 30 with Mean=3.23 and SD=.90 is to a very high extent, utilized; item 31 with Mean=2.92 and SD=1.06 is to a high extent utilized; item 32 with Mean=3.28 and SD=.90 is to a very high extent utilized; item 33 with Mean=2.38 and SD=1.08 is to a low extent, utilized; item 34 with Mean=3.09 and SD=.90 is to a very high extent utilized; item 35 with Mean=2.88 and SD=1.05 is to a high extent utilized; item 36 with Mean=3.19 and SD=.93 is to a very high extent utilized; item 37 with Mean=2.78 and SD=1.04 is to a high extent utilized; item 38 with Mean=3.40 and SD=.83 is to a very high extent utilized; item 39 with Mean=2.28 and SD=1.07 is to a low extent utilized; item 40 with Mean=2.83 and SD=1.14 is to a high extent utilized; item 41 with Mean=2.09 and SD=.97 is to a low extent utilized; item 42 with Mean=1.70 and SD=.98 is to a very low extent utilized; item 43 with Mean=2.24 and SD=1.11 is to a low extent utilized and item 44 with Mean=3.30 and SD=1.05 is to a very high extent utilized. The table also reveals a Grand Mean=2.78 and corresponding SD=1.00 which shows that the library information resources are to a high extent utilized by the Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State.

Research Question Four:

What is the extent to which Agricultural Scientists utilize the available library services in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue?

Table 4: Analysis of the Extent to which Agricultural Scientists Utilize the available Library Services

S/N	Item	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	Mean(X)	SD	Decision
45	Circulation services	67	42	31	11	3.09	.97	VHE
46	Indexing Services	58	49	24	20	2.96	1.04	High Extent
47	Reference services	56	41	41	13	2.93	.99	High Extent
48	Bibliographies service	21	33	55	42	2.22	1.01	Low Extent
49	Current Awareness	60	39	28	24	2.89	1.10	High Extent
50	Online/Internet Services	73	47	17	14	3.19	.97	VHE
51	Selective Dissemination Information Services	14	15	63	59	1.89	.92	VLE
52	Documentation Services	84	57	7	9	3.47	.68	VHE
53	Photocopying services	79	46	17	9	3.29	.89	VHE
54	Printing Services	65	52	20	14	3.11	.96	VHE
55	Classification Services	47	49	28	27	2.77	1.08	High Extent
56	Abstracting Services	49	53	30	19	2.87	1.01	High Extent
	Grand Mean					2.89	.88	High Extent

VHE=Very High Extent, HE=High Extent, LE=Low Extent, VLE=Very Low Extent

Table 4 shows the extent to which Agricultural Scientists utilize the available library services in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State in Frequencies, Means and Standard Deviations. From the table as indicated by the Agricultural Scientists item 45 with Mean= 3.09 and SD=.97 is to a very high extent, utilized; item 46 with Mean=2.96 and SD=1.04 is to a high extent, utilized; item 47 with Mean=2.93 and SD=.99 is to a high extent utilized; item 48 with Mean=2.22 and SD=1.01 is to a low extent utilized; item 49 with Mean=2.89 and SD=1.10 is to a high extent, utilized; item 50 with Mean=3.19 and SD=.97 is to a very high extent utilized; item 51 with Mean=1.89 and SD=.92 is to a very low extent utilized; item 52 with Mean=3.47 and SD=.68 is to a very high extent utilized; item 53 with Mean=3.29 and SD=.89 is to a very high extent utilized; item 54 with Mean=3.11 and SD=.96 is to a very high, extent utilized; item 55 with Mean=2.77 and SD=1.08 is to a high extent utilized and item 56 with Mean=2.87 and SD=1.01 is to a high extent utilized. The table also reveal a Grand Mean=2.89 and corresponding SD=.88 which shows that the library services are to a high extents utilized by the Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State.

Discussion of Findings

Based on the findings derived from the results of the study, the following were discussed.

Findings of the study as shown on table 1 revealed that, except for E-books, Granary, Monographs and Bibliographies, the agricultural Scientists indicated that, all the other Library Information resources presented to them were available for their research productivity. This implied that, most library information resources are available for research productivity of Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State. The finding of this study contradicts that of Uganneya, Ape and Ugbagir (2012) who reported in their study that, agricultural research libraries in Nigeria have no commitment in the provision of information resources so as to enhance information dissemination to agricultural scientists. The finding of the study is also at variance to that of Foluso (2014) who reported inadequate library information resources and services and recommended the need to increase funding of research and development institutes libraries to enable the acquisition and maintenance of necessary information resources especially equipment and facilities needed for physical presence and smooth running of adequate information services.

Similarly, the finding contradicts that of Ochogwu (1992) who acknowledge the existence of the problem of availability of adequate resources to carry out research in the research institutions. However, this is not the case in the Agricultural Institution in Benue State as the library information resources were found to be available for research productivity of Agricultural Scientists. This finding may be that, immense efforts are made the by the institution and Government in the provision of library information resources in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State since Benue is a State dominated by Agricultural activities.

The findings of the study as shown on table 2 revealed that, except for Bibliographic and selective dissemination information services, the agricultural Scientists indicated that all the other Library services presented to them were available for their research productivity. This implied that, most library services are available for research productivity of Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State. This finding is at variance with the submission of Zainab (2011) that, most problems faced by Scientists for their research productivity is the inability to find relevant information services needed for their professional growth and recommended that Libraries should constantly organized orientation and current awareness services for Library users. The finding also contradicts that of Foluso (2014) who reported inadequate library services and recommended the need to increase funding of research and development institutes libraries to enable the acquisition and maintenance of necessary information resources especially equipment and facilities needed for physical presence and smooth running of adequate information services. The variation observed from the finding of this study may be as a result that, since agricultural activities are highly concentrated in Benue State, efforts are made by the Agricultural Institutions and Government to provide the necessary library services for boost the research productivity of agricultural Scientists.

Findings of the study as shown on table 3 revealed that, except for Encyclopedias, E-books, Granary, Monographs and Bibliographies, the Agricultural Scientists indicated that all the other Library Information resources such as journals, newspapers, dictionaries, handbooks, magazines, manuals, atlas and maps, theses, abstracts and articles are to a high extent being utilized. This implied that, there is a high utilization of the available library information resources by the Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State. The finding disagrees with the submission of Uganneya, Ape and Ugbagir (2012) who reported in their study that, agricultural research libraries in Nigeria have no commitment in the provision of information resources so as to enhance information dissemination to agricultural scientists. The findings of this study differ evident to the fact that, library information resources are adequately provided and consequently utilized by the Agricultural Scientists in the agricultural Institutions in Benue State. The high utilization of these resources could be as a result to enhance their professional growth.

Findings of the study as shown on table 4 revealed that, except for Bibliographic and Selective dissemination information all the other library information services such as circulations services, indexing services, reference services, current awareness services, online/internet services, documentation services, photocopying services, printing services, classification services and abstracting services are to a high extent being utilized. This implied that, there is a high utilization of the available library services by the Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State. The finding disagrees with that of Ochogwu (1992) who reported that the problems faced by scientists are inability to

find relevant information and services, lack of information and not knowing how to choose relevant database and recommended constant organization of orientation and current awareness services for Library users. This contradiction is evident to the fact that library services are available and highly utilized by the Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State. The high utilization of these resources as observed from the findings of this study by the Agricultural Scientists could be as a result to boost their professional growth in the field of agriculture since Benue State is regarded as an Agricultural State.

5. Conclusion

The study successfully investigated the availability and utilization of library information resources and services for research productivity of Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State. Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that, library information resources and services are available in the study area and Agricultural Scientists in the Agricultural Institutions in Benue State highly utilize the available library information resources and services to enhance their research productivity.

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