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ORIENTATION PROGRAM OF THE
LIBRARY MANUAL



Introduction

Orientation is a program that is normally performed for fresh intake in an organization. The usefulness of a library in any academic institution is to support the academic and research needs of its clients mostly students, lecturers, and researchers. To provide better services to its patrons, it is the responsibility of the University library to make information sources, services, and resources readily available for use and easily accessible to its patrons. The academic library is made up of many users such as students, staff of both academic and non-academic institutions, and researchers who may not even have the slightest idea of how library materials are used.

It becomes very difficult sometimes to effectively access, identify or recover information at the library without instructions or guidance which would have credibly aided one learning, teaching or research. Library orientation helps these groups of library users to adapt to the system or know how the library operates its activities within the university and make good use of its services.

All performances in the field of education of the tertiary institution is to preparing student to get excellent practical and theoretical abilities needed in the labour force and develop skills in researches that would add value and formulate a solution to challenges hindering the growth and development of the country. To some extents, a university student's achievements is undoubtedly a result of what libraries are playing in tertiary institution of learning because any academic library starts with giving orientation, educating them about and use of the library.

The objectives of the Study

- To ascertain the effectiveness of library orientation/instruction used for the students.
- To find out the level of student's satisfaction with the library orientation programme.
- To know the perception of users about the library orientation programs.
- To identify the challenges students encounter in the use of library services.
- To find out how orientation programs are designed towards helping the need of students on proper information utilization.
- To examined the challenges occurring in library orientation.
- To formulate solutions to challenges occurring in library orientation.




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Literature Review

People have different perceptions which undoubtedly signify that knowledge is dynamic. The more changes are witnessed in information and new knowledge is discovered, the more the complications are using the available resources and services in academic libraries. One of the important duties of academic libraries is to create awareness amongst users through giving library orientation and instruction on the current face of information coping with the needs of students, and at the same time aiming at fulfilling the objectives of their parent materials.

The orientation offers the opportunity for students to be taken and shown around the various departments of the library, with handouts and leaflets underlining some important materials and some key parts of the introductory lecture on the use of the library, as well as providing brief but detailed demonstrations on how to find and recover important materials.

Relevance and Need of Library Orientation

One can talk of library orientation otherwise known as user orientation as a way of modifying the new library used to be conversant with the library. This provides users with a sense of awareness of the library and the services it can provide. The orientation provides users with education on the general usage of a library. The rationale behind library instruction in educating the user of the library should be that of assisting the user to manipulate library resources for whatever need to ultimately help develop reading habits in University.

Libraries nowadays are expected to participate actively in the overall education and intellectual build-up of an individual through the properly planned education programs for the users. The planning of such user education programs will, of course, involve various stages systematic and flexible enough to allow evaluation.

The orientation/instruction programme of academic libraries is intended to help library users gain the full benefits of the resources, materials, and services of the library to their maximum fulfilment while having a home-like feeling of the library and developing a competency trust with the staff of the library. Other benefits include enabling library users with the needed skills for finding information and thus fostering feelings of confidence and independence.




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Benefits

- Creation of better interest for library clients.
- Enhancement and effective library resource usage.
- Librarian and user's time are save.
- Better understanding of the library rules and regulation.

Effectiveness of Library Orientation

Orientation, which includes information literacy instruction/orientation, can be viewed in a way as any work or effort made by any institution to successfully help transition students from their former environment into a new one of the collegiate system. The literature review showed that researchers into library instruction/orientation are still putting in much work to have a fair understanding of how enough time could be made for and which instruction/orientation program models are most beneficial to student learning.

Various studies recently conducted with the focus on the influence or otherwise the impact training in information literacy could have on students' academic performance revealed that the orientation in information literacy and the skills developed by students on information literacy have a positive correlation with the grade point average (GPA) of students.

Methodology

The study adopted a quantitative case study design to examine the impact of library orientation on students' academic performance. Given the objective of the study, a case study approach is adopted.

The descriptive research method was used for this study. The simple random sampling technique which assured a good representative sample for the population was adopted. This technique is free from biases because no factor influencing the selection of sample cases is present. The simple random sampling technique which assured a good representative sample for the population was adopted.




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Conclusion

Libraries are considered as apex store source of information for continuous education in higher institutions most especially in universities. Following its strategic importance; probably, the tendency of not obtaining the right relevant information and right time is very high. Considering our era of information overload where information are been pushed to users unwantedly (push factor), if users would be allowed to access information unguardedly, then why the library and librarians. The results of this study have emphasized the importance and effectiveness of library orientation and instruction programmes and the variety of inter-related issues involved.

A clear pattern of attendance, method of presentation, effectiveness, and satisfaction with library orientation among students was revealed in the study. Additionally, students found the use of library services and resources to be very comfortable as they were already equipped with the literacy skills needed to use such services and resources effectively. Therefore, for all the goal and objectives of all types of libraries to be fully achieved user must be instructed in the proper use of the resource for maximum benefit and this will require well planned appropriate program of user education for different levels of the library clientele.

Recommendations

- The following recommendations are made toward improving student's orientation.
- The findings have made it necessary that, total of academic performance of students in the university should assume responsibility in maintaining impact published by its orientation to students in gaining excellent support of the library for all academic pre-requisites.
- Academic librarians should endeavour to implement comprehensive information literacy programmes like library orientation or tailored library marketing and promotion strategies for freshers to raise the information skills of students for life-long benefits. Assessment of this literacy skill in the very early stages of their academic year will go a long way to improve the use of library resources and academic performance.




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- Sequel to the above strategy recommended, emphasis should be laid on prioritizing, ensuring, and actualizing that orientation impact positively on improving student's academic performance, also right library use should be facilitated without which students cannot be on independent on their own because of the nature of the information organization within the system.
- Orientation program should be simple and strategic to educating students. Using facilities or resources should be made easier and flexibility of use. This will ensure long-lasting and frequent use of the library with less boring and minimal barriers.



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