Information Seeking Behaviour of Law Students at Adekunle Ajasin University, Nigeria (AAUA)

By

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Library information sources

Primary information sources
Library information sources - secondary information sources

Secondary information sources
Law library

Library reading area - 250 seats

E-library with 16 computers
Available information sources
Format preferences in the library

Law students reading lecture notes in law library

E-library users
Methodology

• Data gathered using a questionnaire based on the study’s objectives
• Questionnaires were administered to 356 law students
• One hundred and six (106) usable questionnaires were returned
• Response rate of 30%
• Data analyzed with simple descriptive statistics
Findings: Law students’ information seeking behaviour

• Law students well disposed to search information in law library (82%)
• (78%) respondents can effectively search the Internet
• Observation confirmed the claim in terms of their Internet search abilities
• 22% respondents do not have ICT skills to search the Internet.
Purpose of seeking library sources

- Further their knowledge about legal issues (79%)
- Complete assignments 71%)
- Support lecture notes (68%)
- To be update with the latest developments on the legal front (65%)
- To study the outcomes of court cases (55%)
- To enable participation in class discussions (52)
Ability to effectively search the Internet

- 78% respondents can effectively search the Internet
- 75% can independently search Internet
- Observation confirmed the claim in terms of their Internet search abilities
- 22% respondents do not have ICT skills to search the Internet.
- 16% search with friends’ help
- 5% search with librarian’s assistance while only
- 3% relied entirely on the librarian to search for them.
Challenges faced in law libraries

• Lack of current materials hampers efforts to find information
• Sources are unorganized
• Unhelpful staff who are not electronic literate
• Prohibition to access the electronic library in the law library
• The library close too early
E-library problem

- E-library is not fully functional or non-existent and can’t be utilize
- Non-availability of digital information resources (43%)
- Poor network connections influence ability to use the Internet (38%)
- Electricity power interruptions (24%)
- Inadequately skills to effectively search Internet (22%)
- Lack of funds to buy airtime
Conclusions

• Law students at Adekunle Ajasin University are well prepared to use the law library.
• They have ability to use available electronic information resources to retrieve information for their studies.
• However, the challenges faced accessing information sources and resources in the law library prevents their patronage.
Recommendations

• Provision of adequate funds to upgrade library information sources and resources
• University library to formulate collection development policies that caters for ICT in law library
• Free access to e-library is imperative
• Information literacy to be emphasised as compulsory course at all levels for law student.
Thank You