



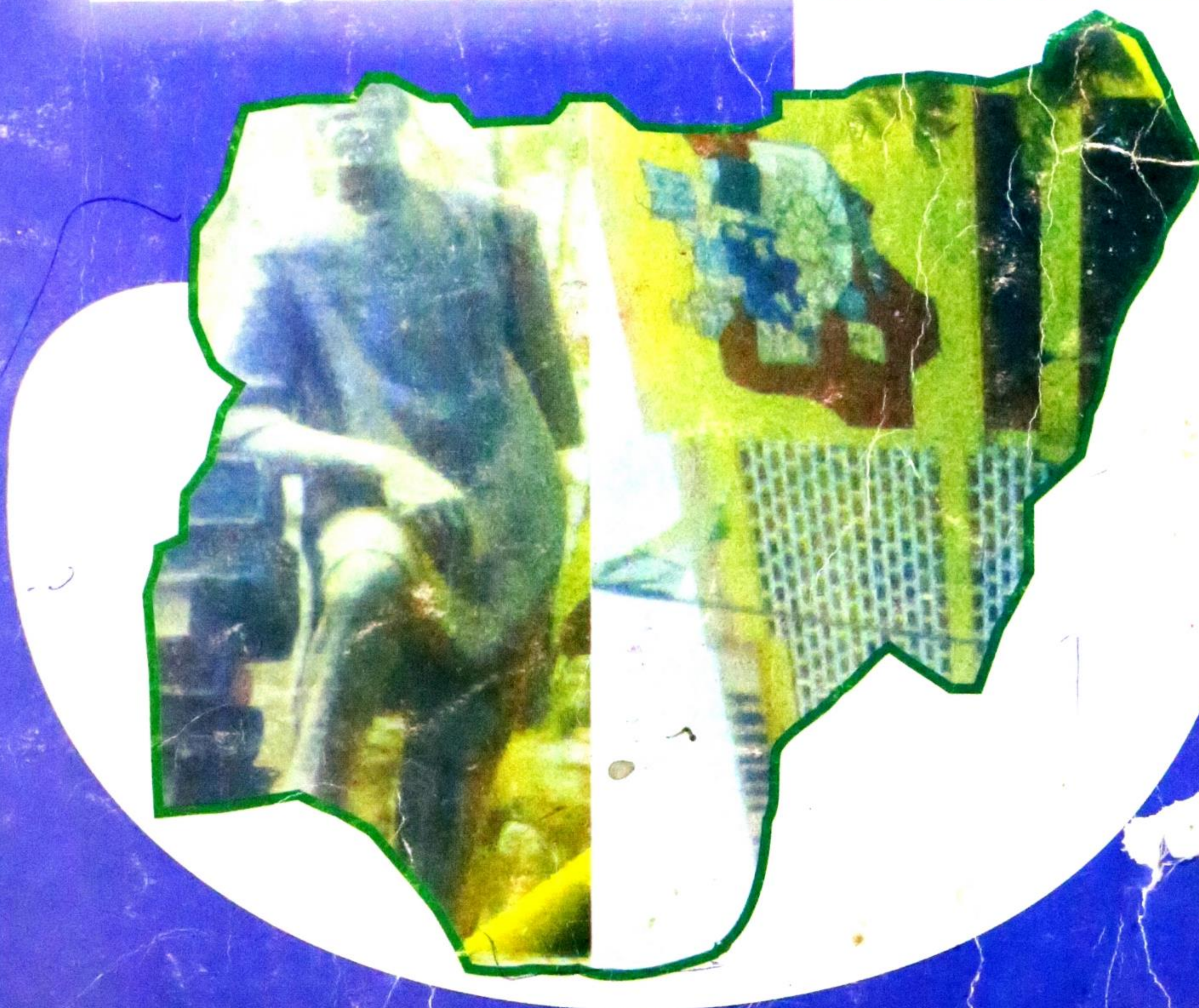
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THE ATTITUDE OF UNDERGRADUATES TOWARDS THE USE OF LIBRARY: UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN EXPERIENCE

BY

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Abstract

This paper attempts a critical investigation into the extent to which the attitude of undergraduates towards the use of library at the University of Ilorin. Data were collected from three faculties which are science, social sciences and Arts. Their views were analysed using simple distribution and percentage statistical technique. The result of analysis showed that there was a significant difference in the attitude of undergraduates towards the use of library based on their educational level. It was also found that there was no significant difference in the attitude of undergraduates towards the use of library based on sex and faculty. This study therefore was designed to gather information about attitude of undergraduates of University of Ilorin towards the use of library, the way in which they make use of it, and their opinions about its resources and services. The findings showed that sex and educational level differences not affect the respondents' attitudes towards the use of library. Based on these findings, it is suggested that there should be a re-orientation in the attitudes of undergraduates towards the use of library. This could be achieved when relevant tools/materials are made available in the University of Ilorin, Library.

Introduction

Communication plays a central role in human relationships. Without it, there would not be any meaningful human interaction. (Sola, (1998, Aina 1985). Communication plays an important role in acquisition of knowledge. The early man used signs to communicate, but with passage of time, man developed spoken and written language. Language then serves as a vehicle that derives beliefs, aspirations and achievement of mankind from generation to generation to form his accumulated wisdom (Dahl, 1968). While writing which is as old as civilization came into existence in the ancient Egypt, and other is through papyrus, clay tablets etc. Book format dated back to first century AD. With the introduction of movable types in 15th century the production of books became easy and literacy spread with great rapidity. Also, the technological and scientific innovations have produced varied media such as printed books, telecommunication films, sounds recording, computer and other means of communication gave rise to library for proper organization and retrieval of needed information.

In Daniel (2000) contribution, he asserts that the world is witnessing wave of revolution in information Technology. The "Information Revolution". Catalytic changes are occurring every day as a result of the application of the information technology. Thus, there is a gradual revolution that is changing the world into what has variously been described as an "Information society". Information is now considered as the most relevant factor in the production of a world economy that is now gradually becoming globalized. In this context, the globally interconnected network capable of delivering various forms of digital information is changing what has been known in the past to what we understand as information technology globalization. It is therefore imperative that the 21st century will be built on information and its attendant technology strategies.

Encarta Premium, (2004) states that, the preparation for library Service began with apprentice training as in many other fields that later adopted formal Library education. Library Schools are provided and attached to universities in most countries of the world to provide library education. Such countries are;

USA, Canada, Ghana, Nigeria and some other countries of the world. Olanlokun and Salisu, (1993) Stated that library is an agency, which engage in the collection, organization, processing preservation, and dissemination of recorded information in the various formats most convenient to its target users. The library therefore, in our society has an important role to play in uplifting the educational standard of individual. Alokun (2003) sees the library as an agent of education some cultural, economic, politic changes in the society. Encarta (2004) the history of library service at all levels of education in Nigeria was characterized by a close interplay of education and civilization, each promoting the other, library service as known today is to promote quality education and on crucial quest for civilization and progress.

Libraries generally provide knowledge, education, and enlightenment which form the basis for the full development of individuals talent and skills required for the aforementioned changes and development. The library is with variety of resources to support the learning experience of the students. It is equally important for promoting the reading habit and study skills in students during and after they have left school. The importance of libraries is clearly stated under Section 10 of the National Policy on Education (1981: p. 43).

It is stated that libraries are one of the most important education service. Every state ministry needs to provide for the establishment of libraries in all our educational institutions and library assistants for this services.

Following this pronouncement, some schools are provided with library even with this effort made by the government, the students are ignorant of its use because the government is only concerned with the establishment of library without considering library education on the school time table to link the students with the library. Therefore, to link students with the library calls for library education. In this wise, the researcher is not talking of library education that could make students to become professional librarians but for student to be given some sform of library instruction so as to enable them to use the library efficiently and rewardingly. This will help them to improve on their academic performance. The aim of this research is to find out the attitude of students towards the use of libraries.

Problem of the Statement

Libraries are learning centres and if students are given access to a variety of materials, they can be motivated to seek their own information. From the researcher's general observation, most students are ignorant of the importance of library and its usage. It could also be observed that students have been and are still deficient in library training and more significantly in their use of the library. Therefore, the empirical investigations into the probability of and need to integrate library skills into the University curriculum is most highly imperative and timely needed.

2.0 Literature Reviews

There are a number of literatures on use of library conducted globally. Fowowe (1989), surveyed students' use of an academic library of University of Ilorin and Indicated that 94.8% of the students use the facilities. According to Igben (1995), he posited that review of literature becomes essential so as to appreciate the value of conducting research study. A descriptive survey research method was employed in carrying out this study. (Nnaji, 1986) opined that the content of a library are organized in a certain acceptable order thus making it possible for such contents to be utilized to the maximum for the purpose of information retrieved. (Aina 1982) rightly states that a well equipped library could encourage both students and teachers to engage in the process of self learning with educationists usually refer to as "auto-education". Encarta premium (2004) Stated that, the preparation for library services began with apprentice training as in many other fields that later adopted formal education. Library schools are provided and attached to universities in most counties of the world to provide library education. Such as united states of America, Canada, Nigeria and some other countries of the world.

Join more literature here

(Oke, 1977) explains that students should be encouraged to see the need to make more use of library and stop the over dependence on single text-book that characterizes our educational system in the country. He stressed that teachers should not be prescribing single text look for students because the world has gone beyond that, since no single information material can now rightly claim monopoly of all that must be learnt in any area of knowledge it treats. This study therefore was designed to gather information about attitude of undergraduates of university of Ilorin towards the use of library, the ways in which they make use of them, and their opinions about its resources and services.

3.0 Methodology

A descriptive survey research method was employed to collect data for this study, this enables the information obtained from the representation population to describe the prevailing situation. The students of university of Ilorin constitute the target population (20,000) of this study. The total number of students that were involved in this study equals two hundred and they were randomly selected from three faculties which were science, social sciences and Arts. The sum of two hundred copies of the questionnaires was distributed among these three faculties. Out of the questionnaire that were distributed only about 70% return rate was achieved. The main reason for this is because students were preparing for examination. However, Seventy percent (70%) return rate is considered very reasonable to make inferences for this study. They were analysed with the use of means-test and analysis of variance.

For this study, a self-designed questionnaire was used. The questionnaire was titled "Attitude of undergraduate students towards library Questionnaire" (AUTL). It consisted of two sections, namely sections 'A' and 'B'. Section 'A' dealt with the respondent's background. Information such as age, sex, faculty and educational level. Section 'B' was designed to measure the students' attitude towards the use of library. Twenty items patterned after the four-point Likert scale format of formed and they were:

Very True(VT) = 4 points

True (T) = 3 points

Not True (NT) = 2 points

Not very True (NVT) = 1 points

The respondents were expected to respond to all items appropriately. The four point Likert type scale format of scoring conveys a degree of freedom on the respondents when it comes to responding to each of the items in the instrument.

The instrument was administered to the respondents personally by the researcher. The respondents were assured of confidentially that their responses would be used for research purpose only.

3.1 Objectives of the Study

- To find out the attitude of undergraduate students towards the use of library?
- To determine if there is any difference in the attitude of undergraduate students towards the use of library based on age.
- To find out if there is any difference in the attitude of undergraduate students towards the used of library based on gender
- To find out if there is any difference in the attitude of undergraduate students toward the use of library based on faculty?
- To determine if there is any difference in the attitude of undergraduate students towards the use of library based on educational level?

Research Questions

There is no significant difference in the attitude of undergraduate students towards the use of library based on age.

There is no significant difference in the attitude of undergraduate students towards the use of library based on gender.

There is no significant difference in the attitude of *Sandwich* undergraduate students towards the use of library based on faculty.

There is no significant difference in the attitude of *Sandwich* undergraduate students towards the use of library based on educational level.

4.0 Results and Discussion

A detailed analysis of data gathered with the use of the instrument described in the paper. The study presents demographic data, analysis of the generated hypotheses and summary of the findings of the data.

SECTION A DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Sex

SEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
MALE	84	42
FEMALE	116	58
TOTAL	200	100

Table 1 indicates that 84 (42%) of the respondents are males, while 116 (58%) are females. This shows that a higher number of females responded to the questionnaire.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Faculty

SEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
SCIENCE	75	37.5
SOCIAL SCIENCE	61	30.5
ARTS	64	32.0
TOTAL	200	100

Table 2 indicates that 75 (37.5%) of the respondents were in the faculty of science, 61 (30.5%) of the respondents in the social science while 64 (32.0%) of the respondents were in the faculty of arts.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Level

LEVEL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
100	40	20
200	43	21.5
300	37	18.5
400	80	40
TOTAL	200	100

Table 3 indicates that 40 (20%) of the respondents were in 100 level, 43(21.5%)

of the respondents were in 200 level, 37 (18.5%) of the respondents were in 300 Level while the remaining 80 (40%) were in 400 Level. This show that majority of the respondents were in 400 level.

Table 4: Ranking of Undergraduates Attitude Towards the Use of Library. Item by item in the questionnaire

S/No	Item No	Item analyzed	Mean(x)	Rank
1	2	Library is needed in every school	3.75	1 st
2	1	Library provides useful information to students	3.63	2 nd
3	7	Every student should know the function of the library	3.48	3 rd
4	5	Library education should be introduced into university	3.32	4 th
5	17	Library curriculum use makes learning more effective	3.30	5 th
6	4	Student should acquire relevant data from the library	3.27	6 th
7	6	Library provides information on course of study	3.23	7 th
8	14	Library assists in training of students in the use of books for independent study	3.07	8 th
9	13	Library caters for the intellectual needs of the student	3.03	9 th
10	19	Library provides opportunity to effectively utilizes their leisure time	3.02	10
11	16	Library provides materials to enrich the curriculum	2.97	11 th

12	15	Library provides knowledge and enlightenment which form the basis of an individuals full development	2.95	12 th
13	3	Students should visit the library everyday	2.70	13 th
14	20	Library provides current information to users	2.63	14 th
15	18	Library provides opportunity for positive interaction among students	2.54	15 th
16	10	Library equips students with the latest information	2.50	16 th
17	12	Library caters for every aspect of educational needs	2.45	17 th
18	8	The use of li brary should be enforced by teachers/lecturers	2.39	18 th
19	11	Library provides internet service to users	2.16	19 th
20	9	Library provides recreational services	2.11	20 th

Table 4 shows the ranking of undergraduate students' attitude towards the use of library. The main positive attitudes towards the use of library were the following: A mean of 3.75 shows that students have a positive attitude because they believe that library is needed in every school and a mean of 3.63 shows that library provides useful information to students. A mean of 3.30 stating that library makes learning more effective also makes students have a positive attitude towards library. Also a mean of 3.03 shows that library caters for the intellectual needs of the students. Lastly, a mean of 3.02 shows that library provides opportunity to students to effectively utilize their leisure time.

SECTION B

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference in the
based on sex.

Attitude of undergraduates towards the Use of library

Table 5: Means, Standard Deviation, and t-value of Respondents' Attitude towards Library based on Sex

Variable (sex)	No of Cases	Mean	SD	DF	Calculated t-value	Critical t-value
Male	84	69.3690	6.752	198	0.03	1.96
Female	116	69.3362	6.465			

Table 5 presents data on respondents' attitude towards the use library based on sex. The table shows a calculated t-value of 0.03 and critical t-value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. Since the critical t-value is greater than the calculated t-value, the null hypothesis 2 is accepted. This shows that there is no significant difference in the attitude of respondents towards the use of library based on sex.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference in the Attitude of the undergraduates towards the Use of library based on faculty.

Table 6: Analysis of variance on Attitude of undergraduates towards the use of library based faculty

Source	Degree of Freedom	Sum of squares	Means Squares	Calculated F-Value	Critical F-value
Between Groups	2	63.6032	31.8016	0.73*	3.00
Within Groups	197	8525.8968	43.2787		
Total	199	8589.5000			

Table 6 presents data on respondent attitude towards the use of library based on faculty. The table shows a calculated f-value of 0.73 and a critical F-value of 3.00 at 0.05 alpha levels. The null hypothesis 2 is therefore accepted. This implies that there is no significant difference in the attitude of respondents from different faculties towards the use of library.

Hypothesis 3

There is no significant difference in the attitude of undergraduates towards the use of Library based on their educational level.

Table 7: Analysis of variance on Attitude of undergraduates towards Library

Source	Degree of Freedom	Sum of squares	Means Squares	Calculated F-Value	Critical F-value
Between Groups	3	335.9068	111.9688	2.66*	3.00
Within Groups	196	8253.5935	42.1102		
Total	199	8589.5000			

NB= significant at 0.05 alpha level.

The hypothesis that there is no difference in the attitude of *Sandwich* undergraduates towards the use of library based on educational level was rejected because the critical F-value was less than the calculated F-value. Therefore, there is a significant difference based on the educational level of *Sandwich* undergraduates.

Summary of The Findings

The following constitute a summary of the major findings:

1. In this study, the main reasons of *Sandwich* undergraduate students' positive attitude towards library are because they acquire relevant data from the library and the library equips them with the latest information.
2. There was no significant difference in the attitude of *Sandwich* undergraduate students towards the use of library based on sex.
3. There was no significant difference in the attitude of *Sandwich* undergraduate students towards the use of library based on faculty.
4. There was a significant difference in the attitude of *Sandwich* undergraduate students towards the use of library based on their educational level.

5.0 Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it can be concluded that: The main reason for a positive Attitude towards the use of Library is because it makes learning more effective and also it caters for the intellectual needs of the students. The study also indicated that there was no significant difference in the Attitude of *Sandwich* Undergraduates towards the use of Library based on their sex and faculty, but the respondents were significantly different in their Attitude towards Library based on their educational level.

General Recommendations

- The findings of this study pose some challenges to Librarians/Teachers. Therefore, counselors/librarians should provide orientation services to students and proper library education should be introduced into the University curriculum. If this is done, students will have to make proper use of the library.
- Students should be made to conduct researches on their own in the Library.
- The library should provide an improved internet facilities so that it can assist for research purposes.
- Also and imperative as well the Library should be as accommodating as possible and the library staff should be willing to help at all times.
- Finally, students should cultivate the habit of researching. This will help them to make more meaningful use of the library to achieve the set goal(s) and objective(s).

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