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EVALUATION OF THE USE OF LAW LIBRARY AMONG LEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN KWARA STATE

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A B S T R A C T

The study evaluated the use of the library by legal practitioners in Kwara State. A descriptive survey was adopted, a simple random sampling technic was adopted for the sample selection of participants and the questionnaire serves as an instrument for data collection. A sample size of 257 participants was selected from the study population of 772 and only 252 copies of the questionnaire are returned and found useful, constituting a 98% returned rate. The study found that law reports, law textbooks, reference materials, index and abstracts, legal periodicals, legislation and statutes, and digests are the library resources available to legal practitioners. It was further reported that the majority of the respondents use legal periodicals, law reports, law textbooks, indexes and abstracts, legislation and statutes, and digest daily while the majority of them use reference materials only once in a month. The majority of the respondents purposely use library resources to further knowledge on legal issues; for work in progress; to keep informed of the development in the legal profession; to defend their client in the court of law, and for case preparation. The test hypothesis indicated that there is gender difference in male and female legal practitioners' use of library resources in Kwara state. The reason for this is that the t-value is 84.961, and the associated p-value which is 0.000 less than the level of significance 0.05. Also, the mean score of male legal practitioners is significantly higher than the mean score of female legal practitioners, that is, the mean score of male legal practitioners is 37.190 compared to the mean score of female legal practitioners which is 28.832? The study, therefore, recommended that adequate provision should be made for current legal information resources in the library.

Keyword: *Use of Library, Law Library, Legal Practitioner, Legal Information, Kwara State*

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A. INTRODUCTION

Law libraries were essentially designated to provide library and information services to law students, legal educators/ lectures, attorneys, judges, law clerks, and all other legal practitioners. Law libraries serve as appendages to law faculties, law firms, ministries of justice, and law schools. Their collections are attributed to the special needs of the institution or organization they were affiliated with. The special nature of law library collections tailored to the special needs of their special users accounted for why library libraries are regarded as a special kind of library. Modern law libraries like every other kind of library house their collections both in print and digital format and these collections come in form of law textbooks, law reports, law dictionaries, law encyclope-dias, law treaties and status, legal acts, legal history, legal journals and so on. Law libraries are used mostly by legal practitio-ners and others that are interested in law-related issues and research. Legal practitio-ners require legal information and it is rightly deposited in the law library. Meanwhile, availability and accessibility to this legal information constitute an essential element for an effective judicial system and administration of justice, hence, the use of law library by legal practitioners.

The role of legal practitioners in our society is very crucial and this encompasses dispute settlement, advocacy for fundamen-tal human rights, legal litigation, counseling, and preparation of legal document among other functions. Besides, they defend their clients in the court of law through the application of principles of law to the evidence available. Correspondingly, they enlighten the public of their constitutional rights and ensure that people are not deprived of their fundamental human rights (Owoeye, 2011). Legal information to the legal profession is invaluable to the extent that one may argue that lawyers cannot prac-tice effectively without having access to accurate, reliable and up-to-date information. This is because information, as it were, has become the most important element for progress in any society. Therefore, to thrive in this modern era, one needs a variety of information, no matter how well versed one is in his/her profession (Okonoko, Emeka-Ukwu & Ayomanor, 2015). In light of this, Tuhumwire and Okello-Obura (2010) postulated that information is very important if effective justice is to be served in our society. To this end, for legal practitioners to thrive in their profession, timely information is needed. In another perspective, legal practitioners need accurate information if a miscarriage of justice is to be avoided, other-wise, innocent people would suffer as a result of improper decisions resulting from the absence of accurate information to serve as precedence. Based on this, law libraries have the potential of providing a wide-ranging of current and timely law resources to legal practitioners.

Legal practitioners and legal information are like Siamese twins that are inseparable; this is to say that, accurate and timely information is indispensable for the effective practice of the legal profession (Coker, 2014). However, to the best of the research-ers' knowledge, the use of a law library among legal practitioners in Kwara State re-mains unknown. This is the identified empi-rical gap that this study sought to fill. It is in light of this that this study was designed to examine the extent of the use of law libraries among the legal practitioners in Kwara State. This study essentially sought to provide insight into the application and relevance of the law library in the legal realm and it is sincerely hoped that it would stimulate what is urgently needed to develop adequate law library services. It is also anticipated that the findings of the study will be of the utmost benefit to the policymakers of the law library and all stakeholders in the legal

profession. It is expected that the study will serve as a reference source that has contributed to the body of existing and non-existing knowledge.

The study sought to provide answers to the following research questions:

1. What are the legal information resources that are available in the law library for legal practitioners in Kwara State?
2. To what extent are legal practitioners in Kwara State use library resources?
3. What is the perceived usefulness of legal information resources deposited in the library among legal practi-tioners in Kwara State?
4. What are the purposes for which legal practitioners in Kwara State use library re-sources?
5. What are the challenges that legal practitioners in Kwara State encoun-tered while using library tools?

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Law libraries are classified as a special library because of their focus on specialized collections for special sets of users. Law libraries are used by legal practitioners and they are found in law schools, courts, law firms and barristers chambers. Broadly speaking, law libraries are categorized into public, private and academic law libraries. Public law libraries are those law libraries found in ministries of justice, and courts own by the government, but the fact that they are owned by the government only makes them public property but in most cases, those law libraries are not open to the public. Private law libraries are those owned by and individual or private law firms while academic law libraries are those found in law schools and faculties of law. Not minding the various categories, law libraries are beacon, depositories and intellectual hub for legal information. Onwudinjo, Ogbonna and Onwumbiko (2015) stressed that law libraries have been recognized as the "heart" of every law faculty in every university for the attainment of educational excellence, goals and objectives.

Legal information sources can be categorized into formal sources, historical sources, literary or material sources and other law sources. formal sources are the ultimate origin of the whole body of a legal system which in the abstract sense is the source from which a political, social, or economic authority derives their power from, while historical sources of law consist of chains of circumstances and events that brought about or lead to the evolution of legal rules over a specific time. Law library that tends to justify its continuous relevant must ensure that its collections are relevant, accurate, timely and adequate. Some of the basic reference titles that a law library is expected to have in its collection are com-plete sets of the up-to-date Laws of the Federation and Laws of the States, Law Reports of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Federal High Courts and the State High Courts, law reports of at least Commonwealth countries, secondary works that are needed to support the teaching of the subjects offered especially the core subjects; precedent books of foreign countri-es such as Britain, America and some Asian countries, legal dictionaries and other dictio-naries, Thesaurus legal bibliographies and both legal and general encyclopedias (Olorunfemi, 2014).

On the other hand, the literary or material source of law is the physical law books (constitution, law reports and law journals), where written laws can be accessed. Legal information sources range from print to electronic, and the usage of these information resources varies among legal practitioners depending on their areas of specialization. According to Deakin University (2014) stated that legal

information sources are in two categories namely primary and secondary information sources. The primary sources are the actual text of the law, that is, legislation and case law, as created by the parliaments and the courts. The primary sources are authoritative records of the law made by law-making authorities. In the same vein, primary legal information resources are the statements of the law itself. These materials include acts of parliament, subordinate legislation and reputed decisions of courts and tribunals. In the view of Dina, Akintayo and Ekundayo (2013), the constitution, statute and case law are the primary law sources that are referred to as the Law. Conversely, the Law Library of Congress (2014) postulated that the primary law sources are the laws made by govern-ment or public organizations, court, the legislature and administrative entities.

Furthermore, the primary sources frequently consist of two categories of material, this includes; legislation (the law made by the legislature or parliament), and the decisions of the Courts of Laws: case or judge-made law. Sometimes there is a third category of primary material these include: codes, principles and standards of practice, possibly approved by bodies outside the legislature, parliament, or Courts which are recognized as guides to practice. Therefore, practicing lawyers need access to statutes, acts and decrees that are legislation passed by the government and are arranged according to years accompanied by an index. In the same vein, Tuhumwire and Okello-Obura (2010) postulated that many of the rules that govern everyday life are contained in instruments made under powers granted by statutes. The legislation includes statutory instruments, orders in council and local-bylaws. In their opinion, they further opined that the most common forms of primary legislation are acts of parliament also known collectively as the statutes. The researchers explained further that before these resources have been approved by parliament and received the royal assent, Acts are known as Bills of parliament.

The concept of Perceived Usefulness is defined as the potential user's subjective likelihood that the use of a certain system to improve his/her action enhances job performance or productivity (Lai, 2017). According to Howard, Restrepo and Chang (2015), perceived usefulness is the extent to which a user believed that using a specific application system would enhance his job performance within an institutional frame-work. The relationship between perceived usefulness and intention to use is resulting from the conception that legal practitioners' intention toward the use of library resources were as a result of their readiness to make their profession more effectual. The reason is that legal practitioners will eventually use the library resources if they perceive that its utilization would help in achieving their targeted goals.

In other words, law library resources which include law weekly report, legal databases, proceedings, and so on motivate legal practitioners, attract their attention and elevate their interest in their profession (Farivar & Rahimi, 2015). Scherer, Siddiq, and Teo (2015) noted that the users perceive library resources as more useful and easier to use in the work context which makes perceived usefulness to be a crucial determinant for use in the legal profession. Balakrishnan and Leo (2012) found that a popular motive for a legal practitioner to use library resources was its privacy. They stated further that the privacy afforded legal practitioners to read freely and discreetly.

Studies carried out by the previous researchers have shown that legal practitioners encounter different challe-nges while using library resources. This is shown in a study carried out by Tahir (2008) who identified seventeen possible

problems legal practitioners face in acquiring information for their profession and research activities. The study reported that respondents ranked "Required material is not available" as the number one problem they encountered while searching for information materials in the library, followed by "information is scattered in too many sources" and "information sources are very expensive". Other challenges as stated by the researcher were information sources located far away, lack of time, lack of training in information literacy skills, lack of knowledge in using the library, language barrier and incompetent or not well-trained library staff.

Onuoha and Awoniyi (2011) also reported that the major problem noted by the respondents in using library and ICT resources that needed materials were not available. The respondents also noted that obsolete material is another major problem. Other problems include; library staff not willing/friendly, incomplete information mate-rials, information sources far located, lack of time, do not know how to use the library catalogue, information scattered in too many sources. Other challenges include information sources are located far away, latest information explosion or too much information, lack of time for searching, non-availability of electronic resources (journal and data-bases), too many classes or admi-nistrative work, lack of training in electronic resources/products, library staff is incom-petent or not well trained, lack of computer hardware or software, lack of technical support, lack of information about available sources, lack of support from library staff, lack of knowledge in using the library, and language barrier (most of the material is in foreign languages).

The importance of a library in the legal profession cannot be overestimated because it has contributed immensely to the legal profession. This was shown in the empirical findings of the previous research works carried out in the legal environment. For example, Olorunfemi (2014) investiga-ted the law information sources used in legal research among undergraduate law students in Nigeria universities, it was found that the print law sources were mostly available in the law libraries, which the law students frequently used in legal research to access law-related information. The respondents indicated that they do legal research to further their knowledge of legal issues. The study identified some challenges experien-ced in legal research while sourcing information in the law libraries. The challenges are as follow: lack of adequate law library materials; information materials are not in the right places or not well arranged; erratic power supply; no current law texts, many are old books; no accessible electronic library among others

In the same vein, Uluocha and Mabawonku (2014) examined the availability and utilization of the legal information resources as determinants of law lecturer's research productivity in Nigerian universities. The result shows that law books, legal periodicals, reference materials, law reports, reference materials, legislation and statutes, newspapers, loose-leaf, indexes and abs-tracts, and digests were readily available to Law lecturers. The study found that legal information resources such as law reports, legal periodicals, legislation and statutes, indexes and abstracts, law book, non-legal materials, reference materials, digests and e-resources were used by lecturers in Nigerian universities. Furthermore, Onwudinjo, Ogbonna and Onwumbiko (2015) investigated the law library collections and their utilization by the undergraduate students of Faculty of Law, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, the study shows that a greater number of law students use the law library at least twice a week for preparing for examinations. In the

light of this, the study recommended that the law library should be adequately stocked with current and relevant law resources, as well as improving the reading environment to make it more conducive for learning and research.

Another study carried out by Olorunfemi, Janneke and Ocholla (2012) among the law students at the Adekunle Ajasin University shows that law students are well prepared to use the law library. The study further shows that they can use the available electronic information resources to retrieve information for their studies. Con-trary to this, the respondents faced some challenges while accessing information sources in the law libraries and this prevents their patronage. The researchers explained further that the challenges faced by the law libraries are lack of current materials ham-pering efforts to find information, unorgani-zed sources, unhelpful staff who are not electronic literate, the prohibition from accessing the electronic library in the law library, and the fact that library closed too early.

Furthermore, Onwudinjo, Ogbonna and Onwumbiko (2015) investigate the law library collections and their utilization by the undergraduate students of Faculty of Law, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, the study indicated that a greater number of law students use the law library at least twice a week for preparing for examinations. In the light of this, the study recommended that the law library should be adequately stocked with current and relevant law resources, as well as improving the reading environment to make it more conducive for learning and research.

The value for this current study could be understood from the frame of the literature reviewed which showed that legal practitio-ners always use primary and secondary legal information resources in the library while lack of adequate law library materials; information materials are not in the right places or not well arranged; erratic power supply; no current law texts, many are old books; no accessible electronic library are some of the challenges legal practitioners encountered while using the library.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

The design adopted for this study is a descriptive survey. The population of this study consists of all the registered legal prac-titioners in Ilorin and Offa branches of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). This is more so because there are two branches of NBA in Kwara State domicile in Ilorin and Offa. As of 2018, the total number of registered legal practitioners in the Ilorin and Offa branch of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) is 717 and 55 legal practitioners respectively bringing it to a total of 772 legal practitioners. The sampling technique adopted for this study is the purposive

sampling technique. According to the Raosoft sample size calculator, the sample of 772 is equal to 257.

The instrument for this study is a questionnaire and to ensure that the ques-tionnaire to be used for this study is valid, the researcher gave the drafted questionnaire to three research experts in the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Ilorin, Ilorin for face and content validation in terms of clarity of instruction to the respondents; proper wording of items; appropriateness and adequacy of the items for the study and to

add any other item(s) which is/are relevant but was not included in the instru-ment and to remove irrelevant or ambiguous statement to improve the strength and structure of the items. On reliability testing of the instrument, thirty copies of the validated questionnaire were administered to thirty legal practitioners in Oyo State. Thereafter, data collected was subjected to Cronbach alpha correlation co-efficient which involves associating

each measurement item with other measurement items and obtaining the average inter-correlation for all the paired associations. The total result of the analysis is 0.771.

The researcher administered copies of the questionnaire to the respondents during the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) monthly general meeting in the Ilorin and Offa branch respectively with the help of three trained research assistants. Collected data was analyzed through percentage and central tendencies using IBM 22.0 SPSS version and the T-test was used to test the hypothesis.

Data Presentation and Interpretation of results

Table 1
Demographic Information of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	170	67.5
Female	82	32.5
Total	**252**	**100.0**
Age		
21-30	67	26.6
31-40	136	54.0
41-50	49	19.4
Total	**252**	**100.0**
Qualification		
Bachelor Degree	129	51.2
Master/M.Phil	117	46.4
PhD	6	2.4
Total	**252**	**100**
Specialization		
Practicing	243	96.4
Lecturing/Practicing	9	3.6
Total	**252**	**100**
Year of Experience		
1-5	100	39.7
6-10	106	42.1
11-15	16	6.3
16-20	30	11.9
Total	**252**	**100.0**

Source: Field Survey

The result in Table 1 showed the demographic information of the respondents. The table showed that out of 252 respondents, 170 (67.5%) were male while 82 (32.5%) were female. This shows that majority of the respondents were male. Furthermore, the result revealed that 67 (26.6%) fall between the ages of 21-30 while 136 (54.0%) fall between the ages of 31-40 and 49 (19.4%) fall between the age of 41-50. This shows that the majority of the respondents fall between the ages of 31-40. In the same vein, the result revealed that 129 (51.2%) had a Bachelor's Degree while 117 (46.4%) had Master/M. Phil Degree and 6 (2.4%) had a Ph.D. This means that the majority of the respondents had Master/M.Phil. Furthermore, the result showed that 243 (96.4%) were practicing lawyers while 9 (3.6%) combined both

lecturing and practicing together. Based on the year of experience of the respondents, the results confirmed that 100 (39.7%) had 1-5 year experience while 106 (42.1%) had 6-10 year experience. On the other hand, 16 (6.3%) had 11-15 years of experience while 30 (11.9%) had 16-20 years of experience. In summary, it can be deduced that the majority of the respondents had 6-10 years of experience.

Table 2
Library Resources available to Legal Practitioners

S/N	Items	Available	Not Available
	Library resources		
1	Law Reports	251 (99.6%)	1 (0.4%)
2	Legal periodicals	233 (92.5%)	19 (7.5%)
3	Legislation and Statutes	182 (72.2%)	70 (27.8%)
4	Indexes and Abstracts	245 (97.2%)	7 (2.8%)
5	Law textbooks	247 (98.0%)	5 (2.0%)
6	Non-legal materials	117 (46.4%)	135 (53.6%)
7	Reference materials	246 (97.6%)	6 (2.4%)
8	Digests	127 (50.4%)	125 (49.6%)

Source: Field Survey

The result in Table 2 revealed the library resources available to legal practitioners. Therefore, based on the library resources that were available to the legal practitioner, the result showed that out of 252 respondents, 251 (99.6%) claimed that law reports were available to them while 1 (0.4%) against this. Furthermore, the result revealed that 233 (92.5%) stated that legal periodicals were 19 (7.5%) against this. In the same vein, the result showed that 182 (72.2%) affirmed that legislation and statues were available to them while 70 (27.8%) declined this. Also, the result showed that 245 (97.2%) agreed that indexes and abstracts were available to them while 7 (2.8%) against this. Also, the result revealed that 247 (98.0%) stated that law textbooks were available to them while 5 (2.0%) against this statement.

Similarly, the result revealed that 117 (46.4%) confirmed that non-legal materials were available to them while 135 (53.6%) against this. Furthermore, the result showed that 246 (97.6%) stated that reference materials were available to them while 6 (2.4%) against this. Finally, the result revealed that 127 (50.4%) agreed that digests were available to them while 125 (49.6%) disagree with this. In summary, it can be deduced that law reports, law textbooks, reference materials, index and abstracts, legal periodicals, legislation and statutes, and digests are the library resources available to legal practitioners.

Table 3
Extent to which Legal Practitioners Use Information Resources in the Law Library

S/N	Library Resources	Daily	Twice a week	Once a month	Yearly
1	Law Reports	138 (54.8%)	46 (18.3%)	66 (26.2%)	2 (0.8%)
2	Legal periodicals	152 (60.3%)	58 (23.0%)	28 (11.1%)	14 (5.6%)

3	Legislation and Statutes	102 (40.5%)	30 (11.9%)	84 (33.3%)	36 (14.3%)
4	Indexes and Abstracts	118 (46.8%)	45 (17.9%)	71 (28.2%)	18 (7.1%)
5	Law textbooks	119 (47.2%)	112 (44.4%)	19 (7.5%)	2 (0.8%)
6	Non-legal materials	87 (34.5%)	60 (23.8%)	75 (29.8%)	30 (11.9%)
7	Reference materials	75 (29.8%)	61 (24.2%)	98 (38.9%)	18 (7.1%)
8	Digests	91 (36.1%)	48 (19.0%)	49 (19.4%)	64 (25.4%)

Source: Field Survey

The results in Table 3 showed the extent to which legal practitioners use library resources. The result showed that out of 252 respondents, 140 (55.5%) use law reports daily while 46 (18.3%) use it twice a week. On the other hand, 66 (26.2%) use it once a month. Furthermore, the results revealed that 152 (60.3%) use legal periodicals daily while 58 (23.0%) claimed that they use it twice a week. Conversely, 28 (11.1%) use it once a month and 14 (5.6%) use it yearly. In the same vein, the result showed that 102 (40.5%) claimed that they use legislation and statutes daily while 30 (11.9%). In contrast, 84 (33.3%) claimed that they use it once a month while 36 (14.3%) use it yearly. Also, 118 (46.8%) stated that they use indexes and abstracts daily while 45 (17.9%) stated that they use it twice a week. On the contrary, 71 (28.2%) claimed that they use it once a month while 18 (7.1%) use it yearly. Similarly, the study showed that 119 (47.2%) use law textbooks daily while 112 (44.4%) uses it twice a week. Conversely, 19 (7.5%) use it once a month while 2 (0.8%) use it yearly. The result revealed that 87 (34.5%) use non-legal materials daily while 60 (23.8%) use it twice a week. Also, 75 (29.8%) use it once a month and 30 (11.9%) use it yearly. Besides, the results showed that 75 (29.8%) use reference materials daily while 61 (24.2%) use it twice a week. On the other hand, 98 (38.9%) use it once a month while 18 (7.1%) use it yearly. Furthermore, the result of the table showed that 91 (36.1%) use digests daily while 48 (19.0%) use twice a week. Contrary to this, 49 (19.4%) use it once a month while 64 (25.4%) use it yearly. In summary, it can be noted that the majority of the respondents use legal periodicals, law reports, law textbooks, indexes and abstracts, legislation and statutes, and digest daily while the majority of them use reference materials once a month.

Table 4
Perceived Usefulness of Library Resources among Legal Practitioners in Kwara State

S/N	Statements	SA	A	D	SD
1	Using library resources enables me to accomplish more quickly.	163 (64.7%)	34 (13.5%)	37 (14.7%)	18 (7.1%)
2	Library resources improve my performance in the court of law	99 (39.3%)	99 (39.3%)	37 (14.7%)	17 (6.7%)
3	Library resources increase my productivity	123 (48.8%)	76 (30.2%)	34 (13.5%)	19 (7.5%)

4	Knowledge acquired through library resources ease the case at hand	172 (68.3%)	50 (19.8%)	30 (11.9%)	-
5	Library resources make it easier to learn effectively	147 (58.3%)	65 (25.8%)	20 (7.9%)	20 (7.9%)
6	Library resources are enjoyable to use while arguing in the court of law	92 (36.5%)	90 (35.7%)	50 (19.8%)	20 (7.9%)
7	Using Library resources make profession activities more interesting	142 (56.3%)	90 (35.7%)	10 (4.0%)	10 (4.0%)

Note: SA+A=Agree while D+SD= Disagree

Results in Table 4 showed the perceived usefulness of library resources among the legal practitioners in Kwara State. The result revealed that out of 152 respondents, 197 (78.2%) agreed that using library resources enable them to accomplish more quickly while 55 (21.8%) disagreed with the statement. Also, the study showed that 198 (78.6%) agreed that library resources improve their performance in the court of law while 54 (21.4%) disagreed with the statement. In the same vein, the result showed that 199 (79.0%) agreed that library resources increase their productivity while 53 (21.0%) disagreed with the statement. Similarly, the result showed that 222 (88.1%) agreed that knowledge they acquired through library resources ease the case at hand while 30 (11.9%) disagreed with the statement.

Furthermore, the result showed that 212 (84.1%) agreed that library resources make it easier for them to learn quickly while 40 (15.8%) disagreed with this statement. Also, the result confirmed that 182 (72.2%) agreed that library resources are enjoyable to use while arguing in the court of law while 70 (27.7%) disagreed with the statement. Finally, the result showed 232 (92.0%) agreed that using library resources makes their professional activities more interesting while 20 (8.0%) disagreed with this statement. In summary, it can be noted that the majority of the respondents had a positive perception of the usefulness of library resources in their profession.

Table 5
Purpose of Using Library Resources by Legal Practitioners in Kwara State

S/N	I used library resources:	SA	A	D	SD
1	To further knowledge on legal issues	152 (60.3%)	85 (33.7%)	15 (6.0%)	-
2	For case preparation	117 (46.4%)	80 (31.7%)	50 (19.8%)	5 (2.0%)
3	To defend a client in the court of law	132 (52.4%)	80 (31.7%)	25 (9.9%)	15 (6.0%)
4	For work in progress	142 (56.3%)	85 (33.7%)	20 (7.9%)	5 (2.0%)
5	To keep informed of the development in the legal profession	147 (58.3%)	80 (31.7%)	15 (6.0%)	10 (4.0%)

Note: SA+A=Agree while D+SD= Disagree

Results in Table 4.5 revealed the purpose of using library resources by legal practitioners in Kwara State. The results showed that out of 152 respondents, 237

(94.0%) agreed that the purpose of using library resources is to further their knowledge on the legal issue while 15 (6.0%) against this statement. Similarly, the result confirmed that 197 (77.1%) agreed that they use library resources for case preparation while 55 (21.8%) disagreed with this statement.

Also, the result revealed that 212 (84.1%) agreed that they use library resources to defend their client in the court of law while 40 (15.9%) disagreed with this statement. Furthermore, the result showed that 227 (90.0%) agreed that they use library resources for work in progress while 21 (9.9%) disagreed with the statement.

Lastly, the result confirmed that 227 (90.0%) agreed that they use library resources to keep informed of the development in the legal profession while 21 (9.9%) disagreed with this statement. In summary, the majority of the respondents use library resources to further knowledge on legal issues; for work in progress; to keep informed of the development in the legal profession; to defend their client in the court of law, and for case preparation.

Table 6
Challenges that Legal Practitioners Encountered while using the Law Library

S/N	Items	Yes	No
1	Lack of adequate library resources	182 (72.2%)	70 (27.8%)
2	Information resources are not well arranged	147 (58.3%)	105 (41.7%)
3	Electronic information resources are not easily accessible	15 (6.0%)	237 (94.0%)
4	No current law textbooks and other information materials	240 (95.2%)	12 (4.8%)
5	Poor internet facility	219 (86.9%)	33 (13.1%)
6	Epileptic power supply	203 (80.6%)	49 (19.4%)

Source: Field Survey

The result in Table 4.6 showed the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using library resources. From the table, the result revealed that out of 152 respondents, 182 (72.2%) claimed that lack of adequate library resources is one of the major challenges they encountered while 70 (27.8%) against this statement. Furthermore, the result revealed that 147 (58.3%) stated that information resources in the library are not well arranged while 105 (41.7%) disagreed with this. In the same vein, the result confirmed that 240 (95.2%) affirmed that no current library textbooks and information material related to the legal profession available in the library while 12 (4.8 %) declined this. Also, the result showed that 219 (86.9%) agreed that poor internet facility is another challenge they encountered while using library resources and the remaining 33 (13.1%) against this statement. Lastly, the result showed that 203 (80.6%) claimed that epileptic power supply is another challenge they encountered when they are using library resources while 49 (19.4%) against this statement. In summary, it can be deduced that no current law textbooks and other information materials; poor internet facility; epileptic power supply; and lack of adequate library resources are some of the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using library resources.

Testing Hypoteses

H01 There is no significant difference in the use of library resources between male

and female legal practitioners in Kwara State.

Table7
Difference in the Use of Library Resources between Male and Female Legal Practitioners in Kwara

Variable	N	M	SD	T-cal	Df	P
Male	170	37.190	3.92	84.961	250	.000**
Female	82	28.832	2.03			

The results in table 4.7 showed the differences in the use of library resources between male and female legal practitioners in Kwara State. The results confirmed that there is a significant difference in the use of library resources between male and female legal practitioners. This is because the result revealed that the t-value is 84.961, and the associated p-value which is 0.000 less than the level of significant 0.05. Furthermore, the mean score of male legal practitioners is significantly higher than the mean score of female legal practitioners, that is, the mean score of male legal practitioners is 37.190 compared to the mean score of female legal practitioners which is 28.832. This means that the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference in the use of library resources between male and female legal practitioners in Kwara State is rejected. Therefore, the study, in turn, establishes the fact that there is a significant difference in the use of library resources between male and female legal practitioners in Kwara State.

D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Information is very important if effective justice is desired by any society and for legal practitioners to thrive in their profession, timely information is needed which will indeed improve their performance, as they are the backbone of the people most especially in terms of litigation (Tuhumwire & Okello-Obura, 2010). Most importantly, legal practitioners need accurate information if a miscarriage of justice is to be avoided in any society; otherwise, innocent people will suffer as a result of improper decisions resulting from a lawyer's incompetency or lack of accurate information. Therefore, for legal practitioners to get accurate and current information, the library had taken a central position by making information available to them. In fact, for the sustainable development of a nation, the library had become essential knowledge to the professionals in every nation. This clearly shows that the library serves as a backbone for legal practitioners and societal develop-ment in all ramifications.

Based on the first finding of the study which shows the library resources available to the legal practitioners in Kwara State, the study found that law reports, law textbooks, reference materials, index and abstracts, legal periodicals, legislation and statutes, and digests are the library resources available to legal practitioners This finding corroborates the work of Makri (2008) and Olorunfemi (2014) who found that law report, legal and non-legal textbooks, reference materials, abstracts, electronic court records, among others are the library resources available to the law library.

Furthermore, the study examined the extent to which legal practitioners use library resources. The study found that the majority of the respondents use legal periodicals, law reports, law textbooks, legislation and statutes, indexes and abstracts, and digest daily while the majority of them use reference materials once a month. This finding contradicts the work of Olorunfemi (2014) who found that law students frequently use both the library and ICT resources for their research and learning activities. The study is also inconsequent to the finding of Onwudinjo, Ogbonna and Onwumbiko (2015) who found that law students use library and ICT resources twice a week. The reason for this may be subjected to the fact that Olorunfemis' study was carried out among the law student while this present study was carried out among the legal practitioners.

Also, the study examined the perceived usefulness of the library resources among legal practitioners. The study found that the majority of the legal practitioners had a positive perception of the usefulness of the library resources. The reason for this may be subject to the benefit they derived from using library resources. Also, the majority of the respondents claimed that using library resources makes legal professional activities more interesting; and knowledge they acquired through library and ICT resources ease the case at their hand. This finding aligns with the work of Khan, Bhatti and Khan (2011) surveyed lawyers' community at District Bar Council, Bahawalpur where they found that lawyers had a positive perception towards the use of library resources for their profession.

Similarly, the study investigates the purpose of using library resources by legal practitioners. The study found that the major-ity of the respondents purposely use library resources to further knowledge on legal issues; for work in progress; to keep informed of the development in the legal profession; to defend their client in the court of law, and for case preparation. This finding is in line with the work of Makri (2008) who found that the main purposes of using library resources by legal practitioners are to keep informed of the development in legal profess and to defend their client in the court of law. Based on the challenges legal practitioners encountered while using library resources, the study found that no current law textbooks and other information materials; poor internet facility; epileptic power supply; and lack of adequate library resources are some of the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using library resources. This finding corroborates the work of Olorunfemi (2014) who reported that lack of adequate law library materials; information materials are not in the right places or not well arranged; erratic power supply; no current law texts, many are old books; no accessible electronic library among others are the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using library resources.

The result of the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference in the use of library resources between male and female legal practitioners in Kwara state was rejected. The reason for this is that the t-value is 84.961, and the associated p-value which is 0.000 less than the level of significance 0.05. Also, the mean score of male legal practitioners is significantly higher than the mean score of female legal practitioners, that is, the mean score of male legal practitioners is 37.190 compared to the mean score of female legal practitioners which is 28.832.

In light of this, the study established the fact that there is a significant difference in the use of library resources between male and female legal practitioners. This means that legal male practitioners use library resources compare to female legal practitioners. The finding supports the work of Oyesiku and Oduwole (2004) who reported that male students in Olabisi

Onabanjo University used the library more than their female counterparts.

E. CONCLUSION

Be that as it may, in the examination of the effectiveness of legal practitioners, no shortcoming appears more conspicuously and unmistakably other than that of deficiencies in the law libraries. Upon examining and considering the use of law libraries by legal practitioners in Kwara State, the researchers are stock by the verdict that the law library as it may remain essential for legal scholarship. More so, the potentiality in the much greater use of the law library stood as an effective, and, in fact, an indispensable educational instrument for legal practitioners. Based on the findings of the study, there is no doubt whatsoever, that intelligently utilized library services by legal practitioners will contribute something of value in preparation for the effective conduct of litigation and public life.

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