AVAILABILITY AND UTILISATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR CLINICAL PRACTICES BY NURSES IN SELECT FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRES IN NORTH CENTRAL, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The human need for information is unlimited. People seek information from different sources and formats for undertaking a variety of jobs and tasks. They use information for decision making, discovering new phenomena, developing new techniques and technologies, and improving existing knowledge and theories. The study explored the availability and utilisation of information resources by nurses of Federal Medical Centres in Lokoja, Keffi and Makurdi, North Central Zone of Nigeria. The study examined the types, extent, satisfaction and challenges of information resources. It adopted Information Utilisation Capacity Theory. Population of the study comprised of all nurses in Federal Medical Centres (FMC) in Bida, Makurdi, and Keffi. Information obtained from the relevant information units of the Centres indicated that FMC in Lokoja has 380 nurses, Keffi has 495 and Makurdi, 358. Therefore, the total population of the study was 1, 234. From the total population, the researcher used Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table method of getting sample size from a total population to arrive at a sample size of 293.The findings showed that information resources were available, accessible and are utilised. There were inadequacies in funding, staffing, library resources and services provided. The study recommended among others that there should be more funding of the libraries, provision of more recent information resources, quality of information resources should be improved to aid maximal utilisation, awareness, sensitisation and orientation programmes should be carried out by staff to enhance utilisation.

Keywords: Information, resources, nurses, clinical practice, information resources, medical centres, Nigeria

Introduction

The human need for information is unlimited (Naumer & Fisher, 2017). People seek information from different sources and formats for undertaking a variety of jobs and tasks, because information is a vital part of human daily living (Ashikuzzman, 2024). Humans make use information for decision making, discovering new phenomena, developing new techniques and technologies, and improving existing knowledge and theories (Ashikuzzman, 2018). Thus, information plays a critical role in shaping human thinking and character-building, communication, and the teaching process (Haruna & Rashid, 2023). Tremendous growths in knowledge, technological advancements and rapid changes in the modern world have led to an increased awareness of the importance of information in all aspects of life (. Therefore, the availability and utilisation of information are very important topics which this study discussed. Information is of great importance to the society. Information is essential in planning and indecision making. Information is essential to take decision since its content is evident from

data. According to Sheldon (2024), information is the results from analysing, contextualising, structuring and interpreting of data. It is seen a grouping of facts and figures in an understandable form capable of communication (Sheldon, 2024). This means that information must be made up of data put together in a particular form that can be communicated or distributed. Information is a critical resource that enables an individual, organisation to function, flourish and take decisions.

Information means the communication of knowledge about an event or a given condition or the spread of knowledge derived from observation, study, experience, or instruction. Information is considered a basic resource. Ghasemi (2021) posits that information remains significant in human decision-making process. This, therefore, indicates that information provides clues to the hidden facts and helps in providing necessary and reliable facts to a wise and reasonable decision for vocational, educational and socio-personal problems. Information is no doubt an integral part of man's daily activities and existence. In the view of Tashtoush (2021), information, which is a group of processed, does support the effective functioning of humans when it is well utilised.

Utilisation of information resources refers to the extent to which the available information resources are used by nurses for the purpose of satisfying their information needs in the quest to serve humanity better (Ekpang & Idhalama, 2024). It is therefore, necessary for the nurses to make maximum utilization of the available information resources to improve the quality of services they offer to the general public. Wanyonyi, Odin and Sikolia (2018) further opine that effective utilisation of information resources is hinged on awareness of the existence of a particular resource required to meet one's information needs.

In the context of this study, information resources utilisation is concerned with the variety of information bearing materials (print and electronic) that nurse's use for their clinical practices. These include textbooks, journals, conference proceedings, technical reports and trade manuals, newspapers and magazines, abstract/indexes, government documents, statistical publications, internet, online databases, CD-ROM databases, workshop reports, encyclopaedias, directories, handbooks, and dictionaries.

A fundamental factor in information resources utilisation is the 'perceived' information need, awareness of the existence of an information resource is a major determinant of use. An individual's knowledge of possible resources and preferences may help determine his information horizon (Wanyonyi, Odin & Sikolia, 2018). Awareness of the availability of resources is therefore an important variable that has been found to have a positive association with use of information resources (Ibenne, 2018; Owusi & Mundi, 2021; Ogunbodede & Oribhabor, 2022). However, a proper and satisfactory utilisation of information resources in a social institution such as Federal Medical Centres is absolutely necessary for efficient and effective service delivery. It is against this background that the researcher considered it imperative to embark on this study geared towards exploring the nature of information resources provided in the some Federal Medical Centres in North Central, Nigeria and to determine the level of availability and utilisation of the information resources.

Statement of the Problem

Information constitutes a crucial requirement for all human endeavours. It is recognised to play a key role in science and technological development as well as the health sector of any nation. With information, ill-health is extremely minimised as their causes are known and therefore curative measures and preventive mechanism to human ailments are discovered through information. To neglect such an essential aspect is "folly" (Fischer, 2005). This is necessary in order to enhance the awareness base of the staff of organisations such as Federal Medical Centres and give room for informed decision making, constructive research and organised standards of practices as well as training activities within the organisation. It is in view of the importance of information particularly in a social institution such as

medical centres that the Federal government has been harnessing resources towards equipping medical libraries with relevant information resources. A proper and satisfactory utilisation of information resources in a social institution such as Federal Medical Centres is absolutely necessary for efficient and effective service delivery.

There are so many cases of medication errors and carelessness by nurses which led to complications in patients and sometimes, eventual death of a patient. Based on the above statement, it is evident that medical errors do occur, and most of the medical centres are equipped with libraries to provide the medical practitioners with the relevant and needed information resources in different forms and formats, to keep them updated with current happenings in their field. The availability and utilisation of these information resources can reduce these medical errors. It is against this background that the researcher considered it imperative to embark on this study geared toward exploring the nature of information resources that are available in the libraries attached to some Federal Medical Centres in North Central, Nigeria and also to ascertain the level of utilisation of the resources for effective clinical practices by nurses.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to the availability and utilisation of information resources for clinical practices by nurses in select federal medical centres in North Central, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. find out if information resources available for clinical practices by nurses and extent of accessibility in the libraries of Federal Medical Centres in Keffi, Bida and Makurdi, North Central Nigeria;
2. assess the extent utilisation of the information resources by nurses in libraries of Federal Medical Centres in Centres in Keffi, Bida and Makurdi, North Central Nigeria;
3. examine the level of satisfaction derived by nurses from the information resources

utilised in the libraries of Federal Medical Centres in Centres in Keffi, Bida and Makurdi, Nigeria; and

4. find out the challenges associated with the provision and utilisation of information resources by nurses in these health institutions.

Review of Literature

This chapter deals with the review of relevant literature on the subject of investigation. It covers the general and specific review.

Concept and Significance of Information Resources

Information is knowledge which is transferred from one person to another in order to encourage action or decision making. It is a fact that human beings, whether at home or place of work, need information for survival within the environment in which they live or work. Information may be stored in different ways such as language, graphs, printed document, photographs, diagrams, formulas, factual and statistical data records, magnetic tapes, and punch cards among many other means. Ebaye and Osim (2022), and Aladeniyi and Owokole (2018), also submit that information as an important economic resource which enhances the knowledge base of humans, leading to taking rational decision. Mckee (2022) emphasises that information can be conceived as anything that adds to our existing knowledge, ideas, skills and experiences positively or negatively that enables us to take decisions or react to situations immediately or late at an appropriate period of time. Therefore, information serves as communicating ideas, opinions, beliefs, perception and knowledge of people in the society and religious associations, which are capable of solving personal or corporate problems. Information educates the mind because it is a powerful tool which develops the three domains of learning which includes cognitive, effective and psychomotor.

Information resources are nerve centres of any library services, an effective management of the resources should therefore, be of more concern to the librarian (Macapodi, 2022). Makinde and Mugwisi (2020) contend 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/Email, video tapes/cassettes, diskettes magnetic disk, computers, microforms and so on. Various reasons can be attributed to why individuals utilise information resources, ranging from academic to health, business, wealth creation, competition, public support necessary for sustainable development, and even survival. Whichever it is, what is pertinent is that information resources are invaluable and so cannot be handled carelessly especially in this age of information explosion.

From the statement above, it can be deduced that information is used in the development of the whole person intellectually, psychologically, socially, vocationally, and morally otherwise. Aladeniyi and Owokole (2018) contend that information is important because it enables people to teach others, especially in any academic community. Members of the academia need library information resources for teaching, learning, research, update of knowledge and personal development in trying to define information, one is confronted with the problem of semantic terminology and conceptual difficulties. It exists on multimedia computer screens, textbooks, magazines, movies, television, compact discs, reports, letters, emails, faxes, memos, etc. all waiting to be interpreted, all waiting to be attached by people. This then brings the question as to why we attach so much importance to information. It could be without information; we would not have triggers to alert us to the need to interpret events. Information provides us with an opportunity to make meaning of sensory input. Without information, there is nothing to provoke us to sit up and take notice- this is its primary value.

Availability of Information Resources in Libraries of Federal Medical Centres

Medical research in Nigeria has always been closely associated with the collection, dissemination and use of medical data and information to enhance the efficiency of medical care delivery services. Therefore, the ability of the medical libraries to carry out this function effectively depends on availability and accessibility of information resources in print and non-print (e-resources, especially) formats. Adesoye and Amusa (2013) in Unobe (2015) noted that the shift from print to electronic information sources as a result of advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) affords users with availability of a vast array of information. However, Roy (2006), in Unobe (2015), in discussing information accessibility, added what can be termed as the right time factor.

The library remains the source of right information in right format to the right users and at the right time (Ogunmodede et al, 2023). Itsekor and Nwokeoma (2017) further concur that information is a fundamental resource in any organisation. McKee (2022), emphasising the importance of information for every profession, states that different practitioners and professionals depend whole on information because it supports effective decision-making, improves efficiency and productivity, enhances performance and gives room for innovations in their professions. Munira et al (2010) opine that library is the heart of any organisation, every organisation that wants to move ahead has to depend on the resources of the library, to some large extent, the level of advancement goes proportionately with the potential of the library. The essence of libraries in Federal Medical Centres is to provide adequate and relevant data to medical personnel. The production and dissemination of knowledge should operate from the strong background of adequate information from the library. The library has been at the centre of numerous activities in medical centres because of the resources and materials derived from the library in order to update the medical knowledge of medical personnel. According to Unobe (2015), resources may be available in the library and even identified bibliographically as relevant to one's subject of interest, but the user may not be able to access them. Readers tend to use information source that require the least effort to access.

Nigerian libraries generally, despite their importance are faced with the challenge of inadequate funding. It is a fact that most libraries in Federal Medical Centres have insufficient books, journals, etc. on relevant studies due to inadequate tendencies of the libraries. Adediba (2010) and Ifidon (2006) observe that the inadequate funding of the libraries has a primary problem confronting libraries and their managements.

Types of Information Resources

Adeoye and Popoola (2011) categorise information resources into two broad areas:

Printed Materials and Non-print materials (electronic materials): For printed materials, they include Books. These Trade-books (books intended for the general reading such as novels, biographies, books on current affairs) educational books (textbooks used for instructional purposes). There are also special publications, which Newspapers, magazines, journals, government publications, etc.; reference materials such Encyclopaedias, dictionaries, and yearbooks that contain information about wide variety of topics, and gazette, which official publication of an organisation. Others are journals. A journal is periodical especially one produced by professional organizations or body of members, containing information or relevant and recent contribution relevant to their areas of specialisation, pamphlets, which a small leaflet or paper booklet usually unbound and coverless that gives information or support a position, and newspapers. A newspaper is publication containing news and comment on current events together with features and advertisements that usually appear daily, or weekly and is printed on a large sheet of paper that are folded together.

Printed materials further encompass magazines. A magazine is a publication issued at regular intervals usually weekly, monthly, containing articles, stories, photographs, advertisements and other features with a page size that is usually smaller than that of a book, and Encyclopaedias, a reference work offering comprehensive information on all or specialized areas of knowledge.

Non-print materials (electronic materials) are E-magazines. These are electronically published magazines and newspapers especially on the internet. They also constitute a large part of the information materials consulted by users of academic libraries. A main difference between the e-journals and e-magazines apart from its target audience is a lesser degree of content monitoring; where most e-journals have a peer review system to filter out unsuitable content, the e-magazines generally have a more inclusive philosophy. In some subject areas, this may be seen to be beneficial and to encourage a higher degree of debate and discussion. There are also E-books, which could be online or offline e-books (it's a book-length publication in digital form consisting of text, images or both and produced or published through and readable on computer or other electronic devices. Others are E-journals. This is also known as electronic serials. These are scholarly journals or intellectual publications that can be accessed via electronic transmission. In practice, this means that they are usually published on the web. They are specialised form of electronic document with a purpose of providing materials for academic research and study and they are formatted approximately like journal articles in traditional printed journals. Lastly, Internet resources, which are also known as the international network of networks. They contain information resources in variety of formats. Example of internet resources are: web pages, the World Wide Web (WWW), electronic mail (e-mail), internet relay chat, etc.

Challenges Associated with Availability and Utilisation of Information Resources

There are numerous challenges confronting information resource centres. Some of these include: Lack of funds: Fund is a major resource for any organisation to function effectively and without it nothing meaningful can be achieved. Ikem and Ajala (2004) note that the problem of funding is the major constraint of ICT application in libraries According to them, the problem of funding is more than just acquiring the hard and software but updating and maintaining them are more essential for both books and non-books materials to be consulted

from time to time in order for them to remain useful, to ensure this, the librarians have responsibility to select, acquire, process and make the resources accessible to user. The librarian however is faced with the problem of inadequacy of funds arising from low budget allocation to libraries installation and maintenance involves foreign currency limitations, bad telephone lines, and reluctance of telecommunication offices to license modems. Moreover, there is also the ever network problem which affects the decision of individuals and organisations

The poor utilisation of the resources in federal medical centres libraries also poses great challenges especially in the era of budget cuts and non-release of budgetary allocation. The librarian in this sector who is facing this challenge must work out ways in order to remain relevant to the system in which they have come to find themselves. A library's success depends upon the availability of information resources. It is not enough that they are available or even bibliographically accessible: they must be physically accessible to those who need them. The growths of knowledge, especially in science and technology, have turned attention to the problem of bibliographical or intellectual access to recorded knowledge. Iwhiwhu (2007) notes that there are generally two kinds of failure in library use: stock failure and readers' failure. The former is a library failure to acquire or produce the material needed by the patron. The readers' failure has two aspects: bibliographical and physical. The bibliographical aspect involves the reader's inability to find the item sought in the library catalogue. The physical aspect is the failure to locate the material housed in the library. Reasons for inaccessibility have been identified by Aguolu and Aguolu (2008). They are:

- Users do not know precisely what they want: if they cannot articulate their needs accurately to the library staff.
- The bibliographical or intellectual access to the content of the library is inadequate owing to poor indexing system in the library catalogue of the library collection itself.
- The circulation policy of the library is inefficient, shelving methods are inadvertent, and guides to the library arrangement are lacking.
- Unnecessary physical and administrative barriers are imposed upon the use of the library material by the library management.

Failure to locate on the shelves what has been bibliographically identified in the library catalogue is a common frustration and a challenge to library management. This can be because there is no indication on the library catalogue that an item is lost, sent to the bindery for repairs, weeded, or stolen. Items may be mis-shelved. Library staff may have removed materials for their private use or that of their relations, friends, and associates. Other significant variables are discussed by Aguolu (2008). These include restrictive circulation policies and an inefficient loan system, among others.

More to the challenges facing the accessibility and utilisation of information resources, Federal Ministries in Nigeria is the poor state of library and information services. There is the virtual absence of library and information services in many Nigerian Federal Ministries, and even in few places where these library services are present, there is a reluctant and lack of willingness on both the librarian and the users to actually put the resources to maximum usage. Iwhiwhu (2007) also contends that bibliographic obstacle as one of the problems facing the effective utilisation of information resources in government agencies. The author states that bibliographic obstacles take various forms. In some cases, adequate bibliographic description is lacking while in others, the bibliographic description is incomplete or incorrect. In many cases, information retrieval devices themselves are lacking. Those devices vary in sophistication and usefulness. They include indexes, abstracts, bibliographies, and catalogues. Lack of information retrieval devices is more serious in developing countries like Nigeria, creating a serious obstacle to information access and use,

even when they exist, they lack continuity, are out-dated, and do not give a true picture of available current information.

Theoretical Framework

The study was situated within the Information Utilisation Capacity Theory (IUCT) framework. The theory was propounded by Curras in 1986. This theory states that the utilization of information is dependent on the ability of the users to access information. According to Curras, the users' educational background, personality, belief, etc. will to a great extent affect the ability of the user to access information. This on the other hand, also implies that the users' ability to access information could be dependent on their level of information literacy skill, attitude towards the use of information resources, ability to interpret information resources and accessibility of the information resources. Supporting Curras' (1986) Information Utilisation Capacity Theory, Wilson (1999) states that personal characteristics such as beliefs held by a person, interests, needs

or existing attitudes, personal cognitive need (knowledge base) may constitute barriers to access and use of information.

Likewise, low level of information literacy skill may pose a barrier to the use of information resources. The implication of this theory is that the medical personnel's variables which in this study include their level of information literacy skills, ability to interpret information resources, computer self-efficacy and accessibility to information resources could influence their use of information resources. The Information Utilisation Capacity Theory (IUCT) is related to this study as it states that the utilisation of information resources is dependent on the ability of the users to access information resources. In other words, libraries have to do more in making sure necessary information resources and sources are made available and are up to date so as to encourage maximum utilisation by medical personnel in order to make appropriate and timely decisions and improve health care services.

Diagram of the Information Utilisation Capacity Theory
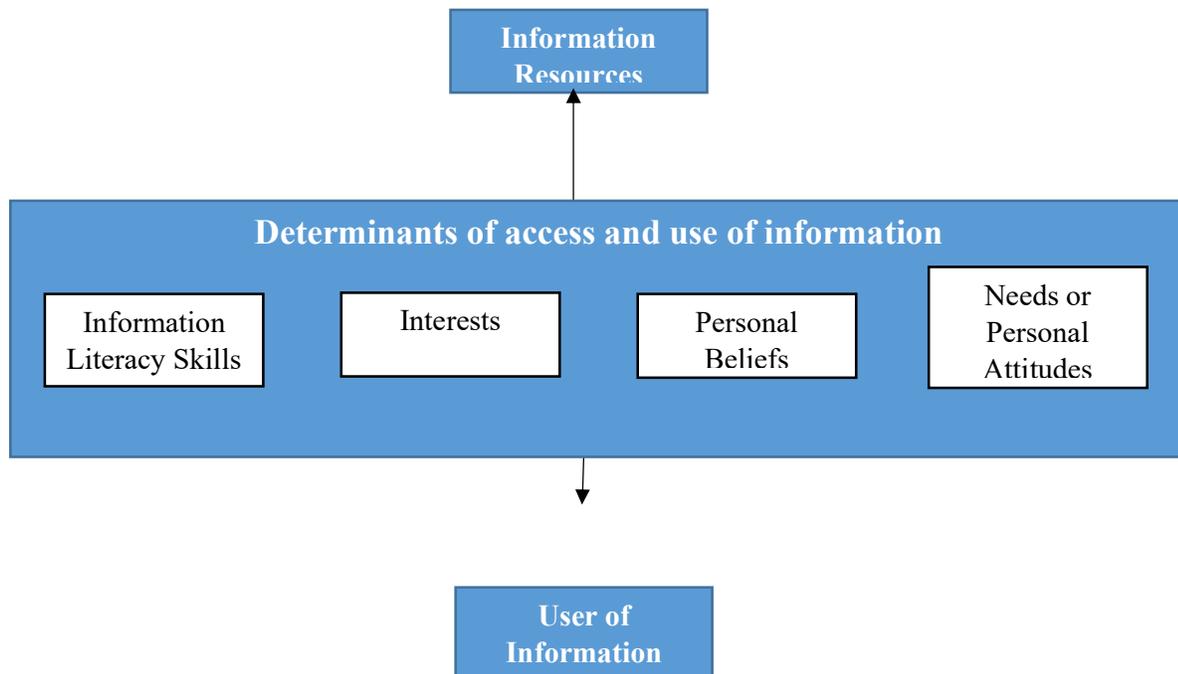
Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was used in this study. Creswell and Creswell (2018)

argue that this design finds out current status of a phenomenon and therefore permits the study sample from the population for the purpose of

drawing generalisation to the entire population. This design was therefore considered appropriate because it is used extensively in social science, psychology and educational research. It can provide rich data set that often brings to light new knowledge or awareness that may have otherwise gone unnoticed or encountered.

Population of the study comprised of all nurses in Federal Medical Centres (FMC) in Bida, Makurdi, and Keffi. Information obtained from the relevant information units of the Centres indicated that FMC in Lokoja has 380 nurses, Keffi has 495 and Makurdi, 358. Therefore, the total population of the study was 1, 234. From the total population, the researchers used Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table method of getting sample size from a total population to arrive at a sample size of 293.

Questionnaire was used as the instrument of data collection, descriptive and inferential statistical methods were adopted to analyse the data. Frequencies, simple percentages Tables and Figures were used.

Data Presentation

The researchers administered a total of 293 copies of questionnaire of which 278 were returned and found valid for analysis. The Figure below gives the percentage representation of the retrieved and not retrieved questionnaire.
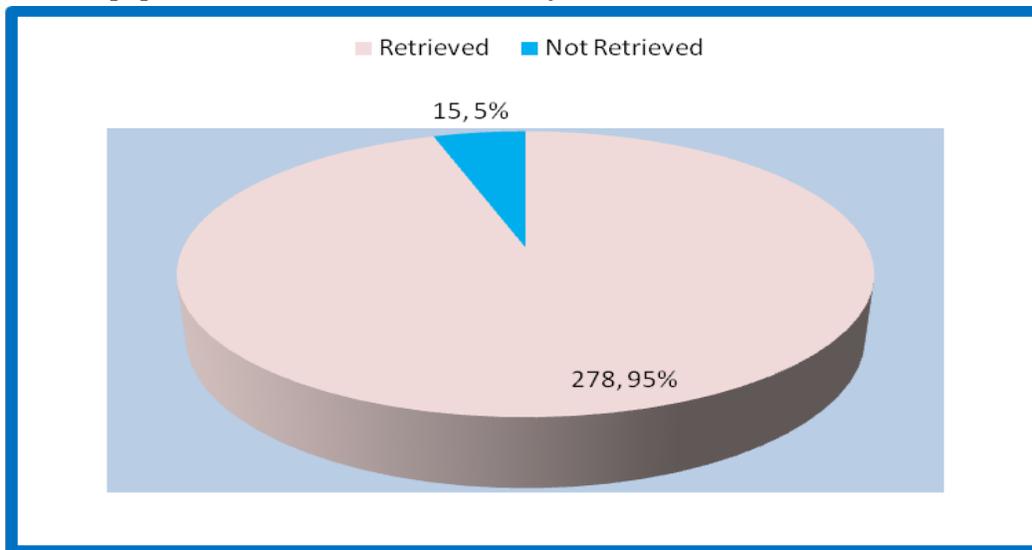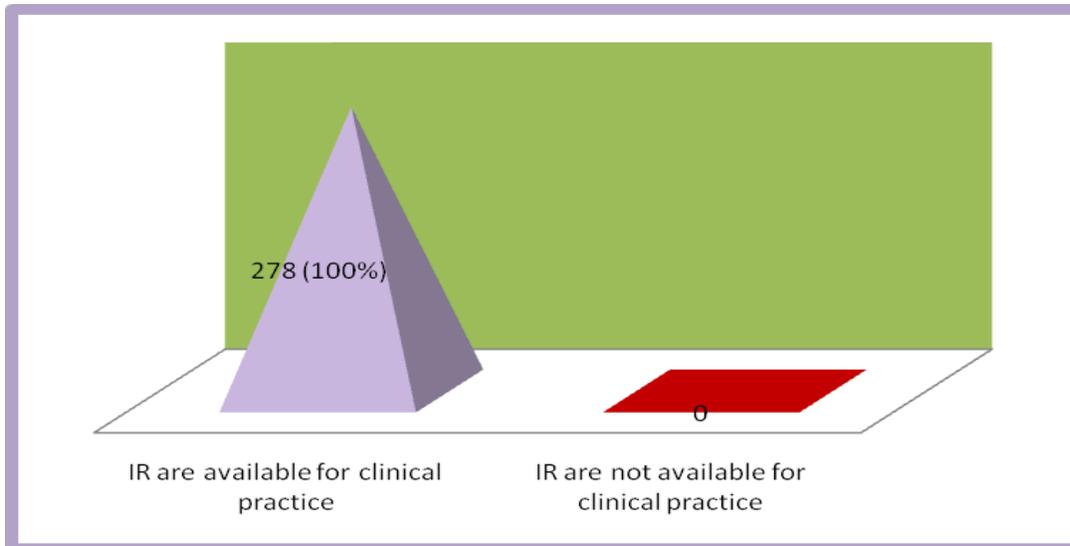

Figure 1: Response Rate Analysis

Figure 2: Response on whether Information Resources (IR) are Available for Clinical Practices

It could be deduced from the data in Figure 2 that Federal Medical Centres in Lokoja, Keffi and Makurdi have information resources to enhance the service delivery of nurses.

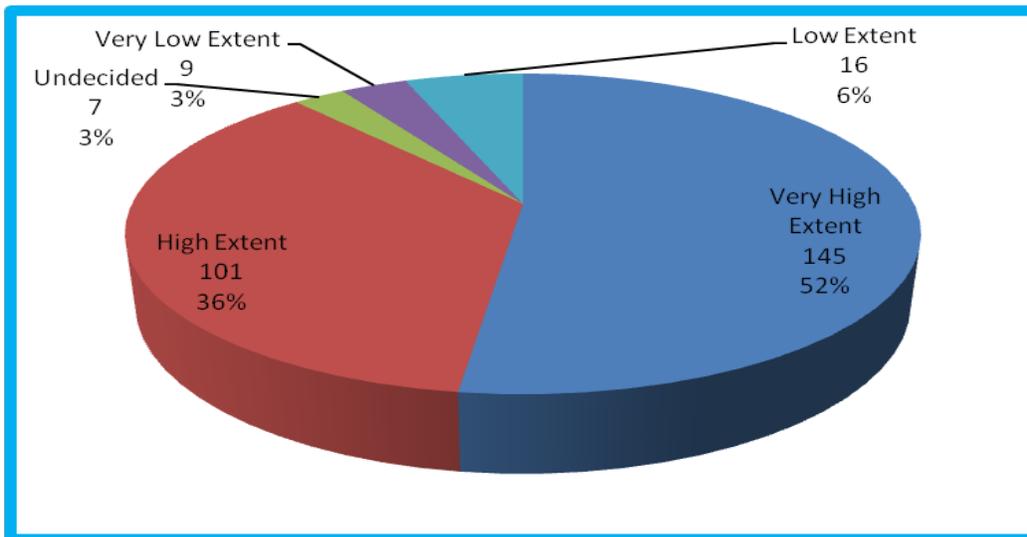**Table 1: Types of Information Resources Available**

Information Resources Available	Frequency	Federal Medical Centre, Keffi	Federal Medical Centre, Lokoja	Federal Medical Centre, Makurdi
Encyclopaedia	17	Available	Available	Available
Dictionary	32	Available	Available	Available
Textbooks	20	Available	Available	Available
Atlases	18	Available	Available	Available
Maps	7	Available	Available	Available
Journals	14	Available	Available	Available
Magazines	12	Available	Available	Available
Newspapers	11	Available	Available	Available
Monographs	13	Not-Available	Not-Available	Not-Available
Microfilms	22	Not-Available	Not-Available	Not-Available
CD ROMs	18	Available	Available	Available
DVD ROMs	14	Available	Available	Available
Magnetic tapes	21	Available	Available	Available
Internet	17	Available	Available	Available
Computer Hard Drives	18	Available	Available	Available
Microforms	13	Available	Available	Available
Databases	11	Available	Available	Available
Total	278			

The data indicates there are different types of information resources available in the three Federal Medical Centres.
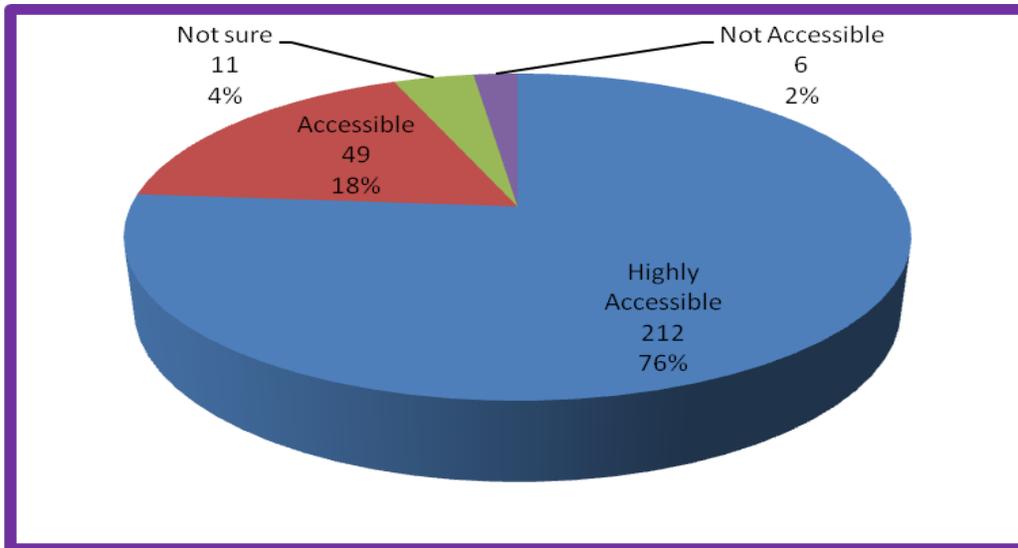
Figure 3: Respondents' Extent of Accessibility to Information Resources

Figure 3 shows the responses from the participants in the studied Federal Medical Centres regarding the extent of accessibility to the various information resources in the libraries. From the data, it implies that FMCs in Lokoja, Keffi and Makurdi provide IR for nurses to improve their knowledge with a view to rendering better services.

Figure 4: Respondents' Extent of Utilisation to Information Resources

Based on the above result, it is inferred that the level of utilisation of information resources in Federal Medical Centres in Keffi, Lokoja and Makurdi by nurses is high.
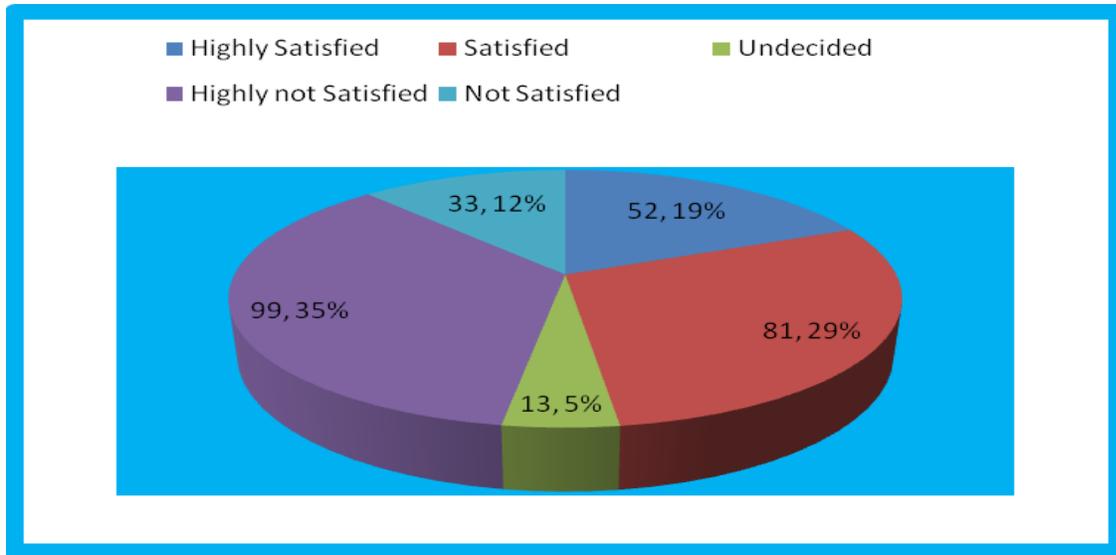
Figure 5: Level of Satisfaction Derived from the Utilisation of Available Information Resources

It is therefore deduced that the information resources available in the libraries of the investigated Federal Medical Centres moderately meet the expected level of satisfaction of the respondents.

Table 2: Challenges Associated with the Provision and Utilisation of Information Resources

Option	Frquency	Percentage
Lack of awareness of the library materials/services	64	24
Inability to access materials from the shelves	27	9
Inadequate knowledge of information technologies by users	41	15
Inability to access electronic databases	39	14
Insufficient materials in the library	44	16
Lack of conducive atmosphere for study	36	13
lack of assistance from librarians	27	9
Total	**278**	**100**

The implication of the data in Table 1 is that the nurses may not be able to perform optimally due to these challenges.

Discussion of the Findings

The first research question sought to identify the types of information resources available for clinical practices by nurses in the libraries of Federal Medical Centres in Lokoja, Makurdi and Keffi. From the responses show that information resources were available in the medical libraries. These included encyclopaedia, dictionary, atlases, maps, journals, magazines, newspapers, microforms, non-prints, CD ROMs, DVD ROMs, magnetic tapes, internet, computer hard drives, microforms, databases and textbooks as some of the types of information resources available in the Medical libraries. Unobe (2011) corroborates this finding that the reputation and status of any library depends on the types and quality of information resources and services provided to clients. The high response on the availability of books, newspapers and dictionaries were assumed to be associated to the medical library standards on information resources that need to be available in medical libraries. This finding can also supports that of Glenor (2011) which indicates that the collections of the prison libraries are similar to that of the public libraries which include dictionaries, books, newspapers and magazines, encyclopaedia, and non-print to mention a few. This finding indicates that information resources were made available to nurses but some resources were less utilised.

The next objective sought to identify the accessibility of information resources from the respondents. Information access is any means through which an information seeker gets required information to meet his/her information need. Access is also termed the freedom and ability to obtain and make use of library and information resources and services. From the response of the two groups (Nurses and Librarians) on the types of access it was discovered that the Dewey Decimal Classification and Library of Congress Classification Schemes were employed among other means of accessing information (such as the library catalogue, etc.) in creating access to

the available information resources and majority of the nurses agreed that they have adequate access to the materials available in their libraries.

To provide access there should be mechanism for information retrieval. Igbo (2010) citing Steward (2008) who sees access mechanisms as very important predicators of information resource satisfaction. Accessibility of information can be described as an important yardstick for assessing the library and it services. Ifidon (2006) as cited by Igbo (2010) outlines services required to promote the users access to information resources to include library instruction, library book loan, reference services, photocopying services, book binding, compilation of reading list and bibliographies, inter library loan, abstracting and indexing services, email, internet connectivity, CD-ROM searching and publication.

The third objective sought to find out the level of utilisation of information resources by the respondents. The study found that the utilisation level was moderate. Popoola and Haliso (2009) observe that information utilisation leads to user's liberation from ignorance. Information accessibility which in turn leads to information utilisation helps individuals to behave or act in an informed manner (Makinde & Mugwisi (2020). Every individual whether literate or not has information needs such could be recreation, leisure or meeting tasks that are considered critical to survival. Aladeniyi and Owokole (2018) contend that the most important information need is the information that will enable the individual to resolve uncertainties and problems that will help in decision making process.

The fourth objective interrogated the respondents on the level of satisfaction derived by from the information resources. User's satisfaction with the information resources, facilities and services provided by libraries irrespective of the libraries has become a melting pot of the present-day librarianship and information science (Saliu, 2002) as cited in

Iwhiwhu and Okorodudu (2012). In Swanson (1979) as cited in Ezeala and Yusuff (2011) posits that for a library to be sure that it is carrying out its mandate to its users "the totality of features and characteristics of its resources and services must be able to satisfy all users stated on implied needs. Thus, the satisfaction of library users is a function of the quality of information received and the services provided to access such information. From the response of the nurses, it was gathered that majority of them felt the available resources were relevant nevertheless they were not satisfied with the library resources as it was inadequate.

The last objective solicited responses on the challenges associated with the provision and utilisation of information resources. Finding reveals the challenges to include but is not limited to funding, inadequate staffing, lack of awareness of the library materials/services, inability to access electronic databases, lack of conducive study environment, insufficient materials and resources in the library, inadequate knowledge of information technologies by users and librarians. This agrees with the position of Ashikuzzman, (2024) which states that information is a vital resource which provides impetus for the advancement of any nation in social, cultural, spiritual, political, economic, scientific and technological terms.

Conclusion

The focus of the study has been on availability and utilisation of information resources for clinical practices by nurses in select Federal Medical Centres in North Central, Nigeria. From the findings, the study concludes that the information resources available in the libraries under study were dictionaries, encyclopaedias, atlases, maps, journals, magazines, newspapers, textbooks, microfilms, microforms, CD ROMS, hard drives, internets databases, others. However, from the response of the library users it shows that they are not satisfied with the available materials because they are inadequate among other setbacks.

Recommendations

Base on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are hereby made:

1. There is need for current information resources so that medical workers in the studied FMCs and other health institutions in Nigeria they can move with the happenings in the world of health and be up to date to be able to stand among their counterparts in the world.
2. Medical libraries should ensure that there is active internet connectivity and subscription to available medical data bases such as National library of medicine (NLM), Medicine Net-com (e-encyclopaedic dictionary), Online Medical Journal, and other opened access medical data bases. These data bases are mainly developed to meet the information needs of medical practitioners.
3. There should be awareness programmes by the library staff to encourage more utilisation of the library by the nurses and other medical personnel within and outside the Federal medical centres. For example they should show-case their resources, by exhibiting new material when they arrive for their users to know about their availability in the library.
4. There should be enough funding from government as well as orientation on the use of new information technologies operation by the users, also the library environments should be made conducive and more spacious for users to be comfortable in using the libraries.

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