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## Influence of Students' Awareness, Accessibility and Usability of Library and Information Resources in Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic, Lafia.

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#### Abstract

This study examined the influence of students' awareness, accessibility and usability of library and information resources in Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic, Lafia. Four research questions and three hypotheses guided the study. Descriptive research design was used, the population of the study consisted of 4300 students spread across five faculties (schools) in the Polytechnic. The sample for the study was 645 students. The instrument used for data collection was a researcher designed questionnaire. Data generated was analyzed using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation, while a non-parametric statistic of chi – square (goodness of fit test) was used to test the three hypotheses at .05level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that there is significant influence on the level of awareness of library resources; there is significant influence on the extent of accessibility of library resources; and there is significant influence on the usability of library resources. The lack of time, lack of information literacy skills and inadequate telecommunication facilities amongst others are the challenges facing accessibility of library resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students. Based on the findings of the study it was recommended that more awareness should be created on the need to use library resources; innovative approaches should be employed in the library for quicker accessibility of library resources and lecture time table should be flexible to allow for library

**Keywords**: Accessibility, Awareness, Influence, Library information resources, Usability.

### 1.1 Introduction

The level of performance of every student in higher learning can be measure with the level of available, access and use of library information resources in their academic environment. Its' imperative to note that books, magazines, maps, microforms, audio recordings, video recordings, and electronic resources are among several types of library resources contained in a library. They are obtained to meet up user information needs. Library information resources according to Gwang (2010) are the framework upon which library services are formed, regulated and used. The quality and quantity of library resources of a library largely determines the awareness, accessibility and usability of the library service available.

According to Akpojotor (2016) awareness is the knowledge or perception of a situation, fact, consciousness, recognition, realization, grasp and acknowledgement concern about and well-informed interest or familiarity in a particular situation or development. Accessibility on the other hand according to Obande (2018) refers to accessibility as openness, convenience, ease of location and proximity to library resources. Accessibility to information is important because except a library resource is made accessible to user, it cannot be used (Jimba, in Obande, 2018). In the same vein Burns as cited in Abu, (2005) who view usage as concerned with discovering, articulating, understanding, influencing, and when appropriate, the elimination or at least minimization of those obstacles between a user and his information goals. Usability of library resources implies making use of the library resources. Thus, library resources are synonymous to information resources.

In earlier times, information resources were mainly presented in paper formats. At present information is generated in an exponential rate and the need to make them readily available, accessible to all became an issue and, in a bid, to overcome this problem, brought about the quest for an alternative media for holding and propagating information resources. Several attempts were made until the emergence of information and communication technology (ICT) especially the Internet in the early 1990s, which brought about the needed change to cope with the everincreasing volume of information. With the Internet and other electronic information

resources (EIRs) media such as CD ROM, databases, OPAC, information can be stored in one place and be made simultaneously available to all for usage. According to Fabunmi, Paris and Fabunmi, (2006) the manual system of searching for information does not permit multiple accessibility and usage of the same library resources by different users unlike online services. However, some of the challenges facing the use of library resources according to Alabi, (2003) includes poor and inadequate telecommunication facilities, poor level of computer literacy among Nigerian higher education students and researchers (even among staff of the institutions), poor computer facilities, poor level of awareness of library resources and importance of information among Nigerians, ignorance of decision/ policy makers on the power of information technology for industries and economic development of a nation. In addition to information technology in Nigeria, namely (Nitel, MTN, Glo, Airtel.) and Electric Distribution Commission (EDC) have always rendered epileptic services, which affect adversely the use of library information resources.

#### 1.2 Statement of the Problem

The importance of library information resources in academic institutions can never be over emphasized. They are among the essential tools that constitute excellent performance of the student because of the nature of information contain therein. It is imperative to note that, library information resources enable students to know what is obtainable in their profession when consulted for assignments, preparation for examination, pleasure or recreation. For students to become best in their courses of study absolutely center on level of library information resources made available to them upon which awareness are

created which will stimulate their levels of usage.

In a contrary when there is a poor or low available library information resources coupled with challenges of awareness will definitely result to poor usage of the information resources of such will have negative effects on the academic performance of the students. This justify the study and the question in view is; what is the influence of students' awareness, accessibility and usability of library and information resources in Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic, Lafia?

#### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the influence of students' awareness, accessibility and usability of library and information resources in Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic, Lafia. The specific objectives of the study are to

- 1. Find out the level of awareness of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.
- 2. Ascertain the extent of accessibility of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.
- 3. Determine the level of usability of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.
- 4. Identify the challenges facing accessibility of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.

#### 1.4 Research Questions

The following questions are raised to guide the study

- 1. What is the level of awareness of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students?
- 2. To what extent is the accessibility of library information resources by Isa

- Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students?
- 3. To what extent is usability of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students?
- 4. What are the challenges facing accessibility of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students?

### 1.5 Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the investigation of this study:

- 1. There is no significant influence on the level of awareness of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.
- 2. There is no significant influence on the extent of accessibility of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.
- 3. There is no significant influence on the usability of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.

#### 2.1 Review of Related Literature

Literature will be briefly reviewed under conceptual framework, theoretical framework and empirical studies.

#### 2.2. Conceptual Framework

The nature of library information resources made available and utilized in higher institutions have significance roles to play in development of knowledge and sundries when proper awareness is done on it. Information is a necessity for development in all ramifications. According to Bello, Chaji and Alla (2013) information is the holistic product every organization and individual needs for survival. It is an indispensable product to the functioning of every society.

Man has made use of information in

diverse ways and since time immemorial has made records. In the same vein, Aiyepeku (1983) noted that information is accumulated knowledge in all subjects, in all forms and from all sources that could help its users to make rational decision. One cannot but agreed with these that, information helps in value planning, decision making and execution of programmes (Bello, Choji and Alla, 2013).

It is important to note that, information resources are the conduct in which information are stored. According to Bello (2018) library information resources can be interchangeably used with library information materials, information packages, and information sources, all depends on point of usage or compression. Thus, he categorized information resources into electronic, documentary, dimensional and non-dimensional information resources.

Electronic information resources can be referred to as tangible or virtual resources upon which information is been acquired, processed, analyzed, stoned, disseminated, archived and weeded (Bello, Azubuike and Onyam (2014). Example of this are compact disk (CD), digital versatile disk (DVD) compact, magnetic tape, digital television, smart phones, digital tablets. Documentary information resources include Newspapers, Journals, Magazines, Books, among others (Bello, Omojola and Ojo, 2015). Dimensional information resources are information resources that contain information by the virtue of their representation or direct and physical presentation while a nondocumentary information resource is based on the bodies that produce them (Bello 2018).

#### 2.3. Theoretical Framework

It is pertinent to note that this study hinges on information utilization theory. The theory of Information Utilization was propounded by Havelock R.G. in 1975. The theory states that information utilization is a paradigm that moves information from availability to accessibility and finally to utilization level. Havelock examines the tasks of generation, dissemination and use of knowledge (information). He sees dissemination of information as the mode of moving knowledge/ information from one place to another. This means that knowledge already exists and that the components can be transmitted from one point to another. This Theory sees utilization as the action or what happens to knowledge (information) after it has reached its destination. Its utilization explains the state of how knowledge is received, interpreted or transformed and consumed when it gets to its destination.

Havelock (1975) configures the essential elements of the paradigm he used to explain the elements in a research-utilization process on two premises. The first is that the User Communities and the Research and Development Communities are two distinct problem-solving systems. The second is that the two-way communication process between the two communities is essential starting point to the event of "research utilization".

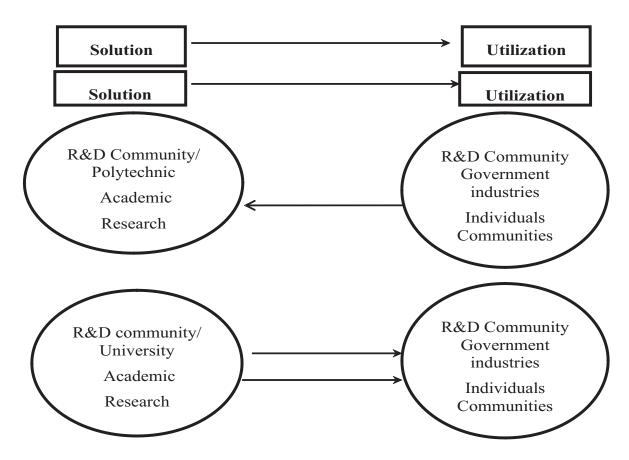


Figure 1: The Problem-Solving Dialogue

**Source:** Havelock (1975) from knowledge to wisdom in information for action.

The relevance of the theory to this study in Figure 1 is that the community of research and development is the same as the users of information; however, others like the government, industries, individuals and institutions all constitute the users of information. Students' need information for research output and career progression. They need to do research and advance the frontier of knowledge so they seek information to cover their areas of research. They need to determine the approach of obtaining answers to their problems through electronic information resources. Librarians get

information through accessing the available electronic information resources and utilized such information for the purpose of research work, this theory state how information is moved from one place to another. Through research output students can access information from one place to another. The researcher adopted this theory because of its relationship to the problem under investigation.

#### 2.4 Empirical Studies

Several studies have been carried out on the awareness, accessibility and usability

of library resources. In a research carried out by Akpojotor, (2016) on the awareness and usage of electronic information resources among postgraduate students of library and information science in Southern Nigeria. The descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The results obtained revealed that postgraduate students of library and information science are quite aware and highly use electronic information resources. The study also reported that postgraduate LIS students are skilled in the use of electronic information resources. Based on the findings the study concluded that electronic information resources are essential tools for empowering postgraduate students of library and information science in Southern Nigeria. This research is quite unique from the other since it focuses on library resources which electronic information resource is a subset.

In a research carried out by Emasealu and Popoola (2016) on information needs, accessibility and utilization of library information resources as determinants of psychological well-being of prison inmates in Nigeria. The study found that there were significant multiple correlations among information needs, accessibility to library information resources, utilization of library information of library information of library information resources.

#### 3.1 Research Method

The study adopted the case study research design, since it deals with an in depth understanding of the influence of students' awareness, accessibility and usability of library and information resources in Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic, Lafia. This partly formed the objective for data Collection. The population of the study comprised of all the students (4300), spread across five faculties (schools) in the Polytechnic.

Proportionate stratified random sampling technique was used in drawing the respondents involved in the study which include 100 - 400 levels students from the institution. There were one thousand four hundred and fifty (1450)100 level students; nine hundred and eighty (980) 200 level students; one thousand (1000) 300 level students and then eight hundred and seventy (870) 400 level students. Denga and Ali (1998) posits that a sample should be about 15 -30% of the population; where a population is large, only a size of it that the researcher can manage ought to be used. This gave a total of six hundred and forty five (645) respondents, which include two hundred and thirteen (218) 100 level students, one hundred and forty seven (147) 200 level students, one hundred and fifty (150) 300 level students and one hundred and thirty (130) 400 hundred level students in Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic, Lafia. Out of the 645 questionnaires that was sent, 512 were received representing 79.4% which is a reasonable number.

The instrument for data collection is a self-structured questionnaire. The instrument is titled Awareness, Accessibility and Usability of Library Resources Questionnaire (AAULRQ). It comprises of a 20 – item questionnaire divided into four clusters and each cluster contains relevant question items that addressed each of the four research questions. The instrument was validated through expert opinion and the completed questionnaires were analyzed for reliability using Cronbach Alpha coefficient. Eventually, the reliability statistic of .940 was established for the whole set of scores.

The researcher distributed and collected the questionnaires personally. He equally used research assistants to distribute and collect the questionnaires from the faculties covered. The researcher visited and collected the completed questionnaires from

them. Data generated were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions and the hypotheses was tested using chi square and shown on a bar chart. Chi square is used to test the hypotheses since the data obtained are nominal data and it summarizes the discrepancies between the expected numbers of times each outcome occurs and the observed number of times each outcome occurs, by summing the square of the

discrepancies, normalized by the expected numbers, over all the categories.

#### 4.1 Data Analysis and Presentation

Based on research questions data are collected, analyzed and presented below.

**Research Question 1:** What is the level of awareness of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students?

**Table 1:** Level of Awareness of Library Informatio n Resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic Students.

| S/No | Items                | HL  | ML  | LL | VL | Mean | STD  |
|------|----------------------|-----|-----|----|----|------|------|
| 1    | Books                | 416 | 89  | 16 | 4  | 3.75 | 0.54 |
| 2    | Magazines            | 456 | 22  | 12 | 35 | 3.71 | 0.81 |
| 3    | Maps                 | 398 | 78  | 12 | 37 | 3.59 | 0.84 |
| 4    | Microforms           | 412 | 23  | 75 | 15 | 3.58 | 0.84 |
| 5    | Audio recordings     | 321 | 134 | 56 | 14 | 3.45 | 0.79 |
| 6    | Video recordings     | 387 | 30  | 61 | 47 | 3.44 | 1.01 |
| 7    | Electronic resources | 357 | 67  | 43 | 58 | 3.38 | 1.03 |
|      | Cluster Mean         |     |     |    |    | 3.56 | 0.84 |

**NOTE HL**: High Level; ML: Moderate Level; LL: Low Level; VLL: Very Low Level; STD: Standard Deviation

# Bar Chart Showing Level of Awareness of Library Information Resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic Students.

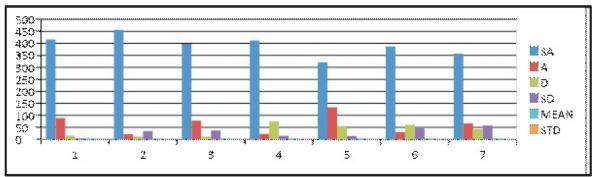


Table 1 shows the level of awareness of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students. As shown in this table, respondents ranked books as the most highly aware library resource. The cluster mean and standard deviation are 3.56 and 0.84 respectively.

**Research Question 2:** To what extent is the accessibility of library resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students?

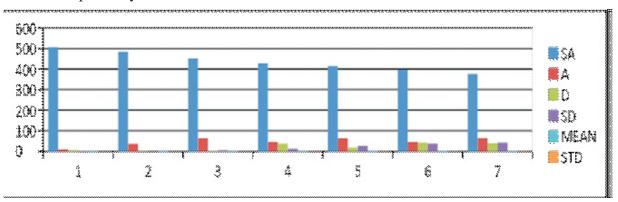
**Table 2:** Accessibility of Library Information Resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic Students

| S/No | Items                | HE  | ME | LE | VLE | Mean | STD  | Decision |
|------|----------------------|-----|----|----|-----|------|------|----------|
| 1    | Electronic resources | 506 | 10 | 6  | 3   | 3.94 | 0.34 | Accepted |
| 2    | Books                | 485 | 37 | 2  | 1   | 3.92 | 0.31 | Accepted |
| 3    | Magazines            | 452 | 64 | 3  | 6   | 3.83 | 0.47 | Accepted |
| 4    | Maps                 | 428 | 46 | 38 | 13  | 3.69 | 0.71 | Accepted |
| 5    | Audio recordings     | 415 | 64 | 19 | 27  | 3.65 | 0.78 | Accepted |
| 6    | Video recordings     | 398 | 46 | 43 | 38  | 3.53 | 0.92 | Accepted |
| 7    | Microforms           | 377 | 65 | 40 | 43  | 3.48 | 0.95 | Accepted |
|      | Cluster Mean         |     |    |    |     | 3.72 | 0.64 | •        |

**NOTE:** HE: High Extent; ME: Moderate Extent; LE: Low Extent; VLE: Very Low Extent; STD: Standard Deviation

# Bar Chart Showing Level of Awareness of Library Information Resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic Students.

Table 2 shows the level of awareness of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students. As shown in this table, respondents ranked electronic resources as the most highly accessible library resource. The cluster mean and standard deviation are 3.72 and 0.64 respectively.



**Research Question 3:** To what extent is usability of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students?

**Table 3:** Usability of Library information Resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic Students

|      | Students             |     |     |    |     |      |      |
|------|----------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|------|------|
| S/No | Items                | HE  | ME  | LE | VLE | Mean | STD  |
| 1    | Books                | 498 | 9   | 15 | 3   | 3.91 | 0.42 |
| 2    | Electronic resources | 428 | 45  | 46 | 6   | 3.70 | 0.67 |
| 3    | Magazines            | 452 | 10  | 39 | 24  | 3.70 | 0.80 |
| 4    | Maps                 | 428 | 38  | 35 | 24  | 3.66 | 0.80 |
| 5    | Audio recordings     | 402 | 67  | 17 | 39  | 3.58 | 0.87 |
| 6    | Video recordings     | 328 | 156 | 34 | 7   | 3.53 | 0.68 |
| 7    | Microforms           | 358 | 76  | 57 | 34  | 3.44 | 0.92 |
|      | Cluster Mean         |     |     |    |     | 3.65 | 0.74 |

**NOTE:** HE: High Extent; ME: Moderate Extent; LE: Low Extent; VLE: Very Low Extent; STD: Standard Deviation

Bar Chart Showing the Usability of Library Information Resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic Students

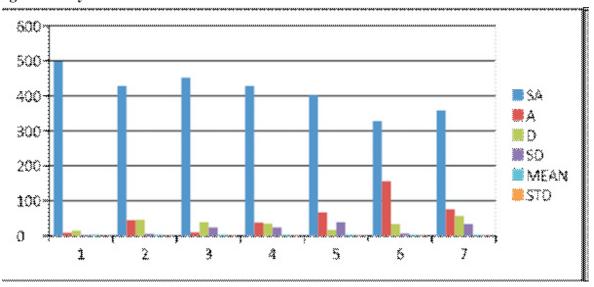


Table 3 shows the extent of utilization of library resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students. As shown in this table, respondents ranked books as the most choice. The cluster mean and standard deviation are 3.65 and 0.74 respectively.

**Research Question 4:** What are the challenges facing accessibility of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students?

**Table 4:** Challenges facing accessibility of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic Students

| S/No | Items                                              | HE  | ME | LE | VLE | Mean | STD  |
|------|----------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|-----|------|------|
| 1    | Lack of time                                       | 513 | 12 | 0  | 0   | 3.98 | 0.15 |
| 2    | Lack of information literacy skills                | 498 | 12 | 5  | 10  | 3.90 | 0.47 |
| 3    | Poor and inadequate telecommunication facilities.  | 412 | 90 | 17 | 6   | 3.73 | 0.58 |
| 4    | Erratic power supply                               | 425 | 47 | 23 | 30  | 3.65 | 0.81 |
| 5    | Poor level of<br>awareness of library<br>resources | 456 | 2  | 16 | 51  | 3.64 | 0.93 |
| 6    | Library staff are indifferent                      | 402 | 66 | 45 | 12  | 3.63 | 0.74 |
| 7    | Poor computer facilities                           | 413 | 52 | 23 | 37  | 3.60 | 0.87 |
|      | Cluster Mean                                       |     |    |    |     | 3.73 | 0.65 |

**NOTE:** HE: High Extent; ME: Moderate Extent; LE: Low Extent; VLE: Very Low Extent; STD: Standard Deviation

Bar Chart Showing challenges facing accessibility of Library Information Resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic Students

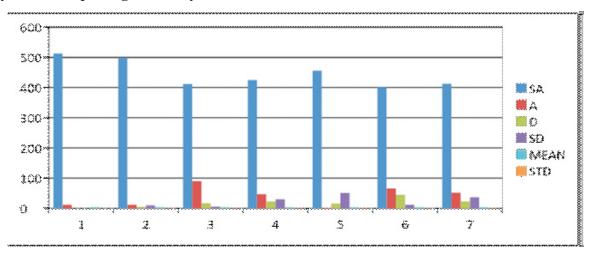


Table 4 shows the challenges facing accessibility of library resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students. As shown in this table, respondents ranked lack of time as the most choice. The cluster mean and standard deviation are 3.73 and 0.65 respectively.

## 4.2 Test of Hypothesis

**Research Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant influence on the level of awareness of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.

Table 5: Chi Square Test on the Level of Awareness of Library Information Resources

| Table 3. Chi St    | quare rest on   | the Level of | 2 X 1 1 44. | i ciicss o | of Librar          | y 1111101 1111     | ation itesources |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Opinions           | Observed        | Expected     | df          | Level      | X <sup>2</sup> Cal | X <sup>2</sup> Tab | Decision         |
|                    | Frequency       | Frequency    |             | of         |                    |                    |                  |
|                    |                 |              |             | Sig        |                    |                    |                  |
| Not<br>Significant | 206(9.8)        | 1050         | 18          | 0.05       | 535.14             | 28.86              | Sig              |
| Significant        | 1894<br>(90.19) | 1050         |             |            |                    |                    |                  |

From Table 5, the calculated X $^2$  = 535.14, crit = 28.86, df = 12 at 0.05 alpha level. The calculated value is greater than the critical value therefore the hypothesis which states that there is no significant influence on the level of awareness of library resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students is rejected.

**Research Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant influence on the extent of accessibility of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.

Table 6: Chi Square Test on the Accessibility of Library Information Resources

| Opinions        | Observed<br>Frequency | <b>Expected Frequency</b> | Df | Level of Sig | X <sup>2</sup> Cal | X <sup>2</sup> Tab | Decision |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Not Significant | 72(3.4)               | 1050                      | 18 | 0.05         | 845.75             | 28.86              | Sig      |
| Significant     | 2028 (96.57)          | 1050                      |    |              |                    |                    |          |

From Table 6, the calculated  $X^2 = 845.75$ , crit = 28.86, df = 12 at 0.05 alpha level. The calculated value is greater than the critical value therefore the hypothesis which states that there is no significant influence on the extent of accessibility of library resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students is rejected.

**Research Hypothesis 3:** There is no significant influence on the usability of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.

Table 7: Chi Square Test on the Usability of Library Information Resources

| Opinions        | Observed<br>Frequency | Expected<br>Frequency | df | Level<br>of<br>Sig | X <sup>2</sup> Cal | X <sup>2</sup><br>Tab | Decision |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Not Significant | 192(9.14)             | 1050                  | 18 | 0.05               | 1083.45            | 28.86                 | Sig      |
| Significant     | 1908 (90.85)          | 1050                  |    |                    |                    |                       |          |

From Table 7, the calculated  $X^2 = 1083.45$ , crit = 28.86, df = 12 at 0.05 alpha level. The calculated value is greater than the critical value therefore the hypothesis which states that there is no significant influence on the usability of library resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students is rejected.

## 5.1 Discussion of Findings

After the analysis, the first finding reveals that there is significant influence on the level of awareness of library resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students. This finding is in agreement with that of Akpojotor (2014) whose finding reveals that students are quite aware of electronic information resources.

The second finding of this study revealed that there is significant influence on the extent of accessibility of library resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students. This finding is in agreement with that of Emesalu (2016) whose findings reveals that there were significant multiple correlations among information needs, accessibility to library information resources, utilization of library information needs,

accessibility and utilization of library information resources.

The third finding of this study also reveals that there is significant influence on the usability of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic Students. This finding is in agreement with Akpojotor (2014) whose findings is in conformation to this findings. The fourth finding of this study reveals lack of time amongst others as the challenges facing accessibility of library information resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students. This finding is in agreement with Alabi (2003) whose findings is in conformation to this findings.

#### Conclusion

Based on the results of this study, it has been established that there is significant influence on the level of awareness of library information resources; there is significant influence on the extent of accessibility of library information resources; there is significant influence on the usability of library resources; lack of time amongst others are the challenges facing accessibility of library resources by Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic students.

#### Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made; more awareness should still be made on the use of library resources; innovative approaches should be employed in the library for quicker accessibility of library resources; Lecture time table should allocate time for library use.

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