

# Determinants of Reading Habits for Serials Publications by Undergraduate Students in Bayero University Library, Nigeria

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## Abstract

*This study on the determinants of the reading habits of undergraduate students for serials publications in Bayero University Library employed cross-sectional survey design to ascertain the reading habits of 297 undergraduate students of Bayero University. Using simple random sampling technique, the study comprised 185(62.3%) males and 113(37.7%) females, predominantly in levels 300 and 200. The study revealed that the reading habit of undergraduate students for serials publications was predominantly inclined towards leisure than academic purposes such as examinations, research and class assignments. Furthermore, undergraduates mostly read serials publications occasionally and their most read serials publications comprise bulletins, newspapers, magazines and journals. Chi-square test empirically indicated that information literacy skills is a determinant factor for the reading habit of undergraduates towards serials publications. Specifically library services and access were determinants of reading habits for serials publications by undergraduate students.. Conversely, library facilities and availability were not determinants of reading habits for*

*serials publications by undergraduate students. The challenges facing the reading habits of undergraduates towards serials publications include inadequate literacy skills on access, retrieval and use of serials publications, inadequate awareness about available serials in the library and erratic Internet services or facility for accessing serials publications online. To improve the preference of undergraduates towards more academically inclined reading of serials publications, the library should evolve marketing strategies aimed at promoting the relevance of serials for learning in terms of writing assignments, term papers, articles and conducting research.*

**Keywords:** Reading Habits, Serials Publications, Reading Campaigns, Under-graduate Students, Bayero University Library

## Introduction

Serials publications are information resources renowned to be current, reliable and continuous. Some of them are produced under sincere and unbiased peer review or ethical editorial processes. Serials publications like journals, annual reports and conference proceedings are veritable sources for research while newspapers and magazines are often read to keep abreast of trends in a field of knowledge or a new developing story that has just been reported for the first time in the news. *The American Library Association (ALA) Glossary of Library and Information Science* defines serials publications as, “a publication issued in successive parts, usually at regular intervals, and, as a rule, intended to be continued indefinitely”. They include; journals, newspapers, magazines, bulletins, annual reports and yearbooks, memoirs, proceedings, and transactions

of societies. Most serials are characteristically source of current information and they comprise numerous articles by various authors and on various new items or several fields of a discipline.

Bayero University Library was established in 1964 as an offshoot of Abdullahi Bayero College library, and over the years, it has grown from a single site library to a multiple site library. According to *Bayero University Annual Report (2019)*, the serials publications in Bayero University Library comprise over one hundred thousand collections of; journals, conference proceedings, newspapers, magazines, bulletins, newsletters and reports, available in either hard or soft copy. The serials publications in the library are user oriented and they reflect all the academic programmes taught in the university. Owing to their importance for teaching and research, the acquisition of serials publications into the library is given topmost regards.

Reading is an essential tool for knowledge transfer and it is usually inculcated among people through a conscious and painstaking process. The attitude to read and keep reading is what informs reading habits. From the library and information sciences perspective, the reading habit of a person or group of people can be determined in terms of what is read, how often, when and why. Reading serials publications is quite unique, unlike books that are read all through for their knowledge content, serials information sources are often read for a particular knowledge interest.

According to Saka, Bitagi and Garba (2012), the declining reading culture of Africans, particularly Nigerians, is a serious source of concern to librarians who have always served as gatekeepers to published and unpublished information sources, specifically because of their call to ensure that what they acquire is read to support teaching, learning and research. Accordingly, the *rationale* of embarking on this study is that, unlike postgraduate students, the attitudinal disposition of undergraduate students in Bayero University towards serials publications is highly unimpressive when compared to textbooks. The usage statistics for textbooks has always outweighed that of serials publications by a very wide margin and that is quite unhealthy for investment towards acquiring serials publication by the library, because the return on their investment has not been achieved.

In this study, the determinants of the reading habits of undergraduate students towards serials publications will be surveyed to help the library understudy to improve priorities towards providing serials for their undergraduate patrons to read. Furthermore, this study intends to contribute to the existing literature on reading habits with specific interest towards serials information publications.

### Research Objectives

- i. To identify the types of serials publications read by undergraduate users of Bayero University Library.
- ii. To discover the frequency of reading serials publications by undergraduate users of Bayero University Library.
- iii. To ascertain the purpose of reading serials by undergraduate users of Bayero University Library.
- iv. To identify library facilities for reading serials information sources in Bayero University Library.
- v. To find out challenges associated with reading serials information sources in Bayero University Library.

### Research Hypothesis

- i. There is no statistical relationship between library services and the reading habits of undergraduate students towards serials publications
- ii. There is no statistical relationship between library facilities and the reading habits of undergraduate students towards serials publications
- iii. There is no statistical relationship between availability of serials and the reading habits of undergraduate students towards serials publications
- iv. There is no statistical relationship between access to serials publications and the reading habits of undergraduate students towards serials publications
- v. There is no statistical relationship between

information literacy skills of undergraduate students and their reading habits towards serials publications

## Literature Review

### Reading Habits and Library Campaigns towards Reading

According to Aina, Ogunbeni and Ogundipe (2011), the reading habit of an average Nigerian is very worrisome as 40% of adult Nigerians have never read a non-fiction book from cover to cover after they finish secondary school. Specifically, the average Nigerian read less than a book per year and only one percent of successful men and women in Nigeria read one fiction book per month, and more than 30 million Nigerians have graduated from high school with poor reading skills. Thus, the literature on reading habit or reading culture is depleted with sordid stories that depict Nigeria as a flippant reading society and hence the justification for the poor results by students during national examinations, (Yahaya and Babayo, 2012).

In view of the pervasive poor reading habits in Nigeria, the library as a facility that acquires and disseminates organised information resources engaged in promoting reading with the aim of motivating people to read. In Nigeria, the National Library of Nigeria, introduced the Readership Promotion Campaign in 1978 and it became an annual event, not only to foster reading among people, but also to enable research towards understanding the types of materials people read, the frequency with which people read, the sources from which people get reading materials, the nature of reading by different age groups, and the reasons why people read, (Emenyonu, 1983). Interestingly, the Readership Promotion Campaign of the National Library has fostered increased production of reading materials across all levels of education and has significantly led to identifying the obstacles that inhibit reading with a view to finding ways of eliminating them.

The literature on library and readership campaigns indicates that the strategies used by libraries to promote reading habits can be grouped into rewarded and unrewarded readership campaigns. The rewarded readership campaign gives incentives (usually certificates and gifts) to people

who read, while on the other hand the unrewarded readership campaign does not provide incentives to people who read. Specifically, the promotion of reading culture as often reported, depicts the partnership and collaboration between relevant stakeholders on reading, including civil society organisation and international agencies like UNICEF and USAID. Accordingly, Ode (2014) noted that an effective readership promotion activity should involve the library, publishers, authors, parents, schools, government and the mass media. A newspaper report by Alakam (2015) informed that Restore Hope for Nigerian Youth Foundation (RHNYF) partnered with schools to donate books and give prizes to winners of a programme they organised on reading campaigns, inter schools essays and debates in three local governments in Abeokuta. Furthermore, the *Thisday* Newspaper once reported that Oluebubechukwu Nwokeoma the Library Prefect at Dominican School in Lagos, did a pet project aimed at promoting reading culture in her school by soliciting for donation of over 130 books that were provided by Clever Clog Books in partnership with PEA. Moreover, Osuigwe, Udeze and Annunobi (2011) reported that programmes like; spelling contests, mobile library service, book donation and readership promotion talks by the Anambra Public Library Board engaged was less effective in motivating readership due to inadequate collaboration with teachers.

Thus, the readership campaigns by libraries have become one of the means for reviving reading culture among our youths. Even if they are not too effective at reviving the dying reading culture among students, it epitomises an acknowledgement that there is a problem with reading and something needs to be done to arrest the situation.

The literature of library and information science has vastly covered various themes on the awareness, (Otu, Asante and Martin, 2015; Nutsupka and Owusu-Ansah, 2017), acquisition (Idhalama and Obi, 2019), access (Salaam, 2001; Tomomowo Ayodele and Hameed, (2018), availability (Iyoro, 2004; Chigbu, 2012; Nwafor, Chikaodi and Nweke, 2019), use and utilization (Oguniyi, Akerele and Afolabi, 2011; Olutoki and Osoba, 2017; Hameed and Osunrinade, 2010), management (Annunobi and Edoke, 2010; Annunobi and Edoke, 2008; Dahiru and Temboge, 2011; Adio, 2006), preservation and conservation (Ifijeh, Iwu-James and Osinulu, 2015) as well as problems

(Annunobi, Nwakwuo and Ezejiolor; 2010,) of serials information sources. Specifically, Priya and Abdulmaleeq (2015) corroborated that because serials publications are crucial to effective library services, topical studies about them have continued to dominate the literature of library and information sciences often published as books and journal articles.

According to Aghadiuno, Agbo and Onyekwediri (2015) serials publications are very crucial information resources and that their availability in libraries cannot be overemphasised. They are not merely available in university libraries because they are indispensable for research and course work by academics and students, but also because they have always been considered as a separately distinguishable library resource by virtue of their contents, format, continuum of bibliographical relationships as well as their methods of acquisition and organisation. Accordingly, Nutsupki and Owusu-Ansah (2017) noted that to ensure appropriate acquisition and the effective use of serial publications, a library should first make a conscientious attempt to feel the pulse of users by determining their needs and expectations before going on to acquire them. Hence, the availability of serials publication entails providing resources in print and non-print format. Moreover availability of serials publication promotes and enhances patronage of libraries towards ensuring that libraries are useful facilities that support teaching, learning and research activities in a university.

The literature on access to serials publications indicates they are read variously for research, teaching, assignment, leisure and self-development. Furthermore, access to serials publications like journals attract readership and usefulness during the employment, professional advancement or career progression of lecturers. Accordingly, Ogunyemi, Akerele and Afolabi (2011) reported that 66% of lecturers have indicated access to serials publications as they read and use journals to support their academic services, while Akinbode and Nwalo (2017) empirically proved that the combination of management, access and use are the prerequisites for serials publications to have any significant impact on whether they will be read and used for making scholarly output by lecturers. Furthermore, Onye (2016) discovered that library resources such as serials publications are available and often accessed

for reading by students as Federal University of Technology Owerri only that poor library facilities and inadequate current resources inhibit their optimal reading.

In Oluchi and Ibrahim (2014) it was reported that the newspaper as a type of serials publications attracts the readership of youths aged 18 - 34 because it contains articles of academic and research value in the field of historiography, more so its currency and up to date quality makes them ideal for teachers to teach and make students learn social studies. Moreover, Olutoki and Osoba (2017) reported that undergraduate students of tertiary institutions in Ogun State read newspapers very frequently, while Fasae, Aladeniyi and Arikawe (2016) informed that undergraduate students read journals and newspapers during examinations because they contain current best practices that are highly needed to achieve academic excellence in their chosen field of study.

According to Akpe, Chukwuka and Salisu (2019) serials publications are crucial and highly needed for scholarly purpose. More so, Chigbu (2012) had opined that even though the zeal to continuously read serials electronically by students is hampered by affordability of Internet subscription, it is quite fascinating to see how students have embraced reading serials publications electronically through their laptops, ipad and mobile phones. Based on a survey of postgraduate students, Komolafe, Gbotosho and Odewale (2020) informed that reading of serials publications is directly proportional to rate of availability and access. In Ogunniyi and Akerele (2011), it was revealed that even though use is directly proportional to availability and access, abysmal reading habit towards serials occurs because they are too old, scanty and improperly arranged.

Information literacy skills are crucial for reading habits to be inculcated or developed by undergraduate students. This is not only for reading serials publications but for all information resources and that is why libraries devote time towards making their users to imbibe information literacy skills. Information literacy skills entail a suite of capabilities possessed by a library patron to efficiently navigate through the myriad of a library's collection to identify the one that perfectly matches his information needs in terms of relevance, authority and objectivity, currency and timeliness, accuracy and reliability as well as

authenticity. Studies by Okuonghae and Ogiamen (2016) have shown that information literacy skills will go a long way in ensuring user satisfaction and creating independent lifelong learners. Moreover, Oyewusi and Shabi (2016) noted that due to low library use, information literacy skills do not guarantee reading habit and neither does it guarantee library use by students.

On the management services provided for serials publications, Annunobi and Edoka (2008) noted that serials publications are unique collection in university libraries and are often acquired bearing in mind that those who read them want access to current information in volumes and issues.

## Methodology

The study was conducted during the 2019/2020 academic session using quantitative methodology and cross sectional survey design. Population of the study comprises 45,010 undergraduate students across the 18 faculties of Bayero University, Kano Nigeria. Simple random sampling method was used to identify the respondents of the study. The sample size of the study was 383 computed using Krejcie and Morgan (1971) formula for determining sample size at 5% margin of error and 95% level of confidence. A self-developed questionnaire

(comprised of 5 sections and 86 items) was designed and research assistants were employed and assigned to various faculties in the university to administer questionnaire to respondents of the study. The questionnaire was subjected to content validity and was tested for Chronbach Alpha reliability of which a score of .874 was obtained. Data collected was presented on tables and analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

## Findings

Respondents of the study were from eleven (11) faculties of the university. A total of 383 copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents out of which 297 (76.4%) were returned and found useful for the study. Majority of the respondents comprised of 185 (62.5%) male and 112 (37.7%) female. Furthermore, 132 (44.4%) of the respondents were between the ages of 23-27 while 2 (0.7%) representing 38 years and above was the highest age of the respondents. Moreover, 134 (45.1%) and 70 (23.6%) were majority of the respondents and they were in levels 3 and 2 respectively.

**Table 1: Types of serials publications read by respondents**

SERIALS	Frequency	Percent
Newspapers	215	72.4%
Magazines	169	56.9%
Journals	135	45.5%
Annual reports	97	32.7%
Bulletins	237	79.8%
Conference proceedings	65	21.9%
Newsletters	111	37.4%
Pamphlets	102	34.3%

Data in Table 1 indicates that the most read serial publications by respondents of the study is bulletins 79.8%, followed by newspapers and magazines

72.4% and 56.9% respectively. On the other hand, the least read were 65 (21.9%) conference proceedings and 97 (32.7%) annual reports.

**Table 2: Purpose of reading serials publications**

Serials Publications	Leisure	Research	Assignment	Exams
Newspapers	36 (12.2%)	15 (5.1%)	1 (0.3%)	2 (0.7%)
Magazines	13 (4.3%)	13 (4.3%)	2 (0.7%)	2 (0.7%)
Journals	28 (9.5%)	10 (3.3%)	5 (1.7%)	3 (1.0%)
Annual reports	10 (3.3%)	9 (3.0%)	5 (1.7%)	4 (1.3%)
Bulletins	37 (12.5%)	17 (5.7%)	7 (2.4%)	2 (0.7%)
Conference proceedings	10 (3.3%)	4 (1.3%)	2 (0.7%)	3 (1.0%)
Newsletters	18 (6.1%)	6 (2.0%)	3 (1.0%)	3 (1.0%)
Pamphlets	15 (5.1%)	7 (2.4%)	2 (0.7%)	3 (1.0%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>167 (56.3%)</b>	<b>81 (27.1%)</b>	<b>27(9.2%)</b>	<b>22(7.4)</b>

Data in Table 2 indicates that the purpose underlying the reading habit of the respondents towards serials publications was predominantly 167 (56.3%) leisure

and 81 (27.1%) for research. Moreover, the reading habit of respondents towards exams was (9.2%) and 22 (7.4) for assignment.

**Table 3: Frequency of reading serials publications**

Serials Publications	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally
Newspapers	17 (5.7%)	13 (4.3%)	4 (1.3%)	19 (6.4%)
Magazines	3 (1.0%)	9 (3.0%)	10 (3.4%)	24 (8.1%)
Journals	4 (1.3%)	7 (2.4%)	7 (2.4%)	16 (5.4%)
Annual reports	2 (0.7%)	2 (0.7%)	4 (1.3%)	14 (4.7%)
Bulletins	7 (2.4%)	37 (12.5%)	5 (1.7%)	10 (3.4%)
Conference proceedings	1 (0.3%)	6 (2.0%)	2 (0.7%)	19 (6.4%)
Newsletters	4 (1.3%)	5 (1.7%)	4 (1.3%)	15 (5.1%)
Pamphlets	3 (1.0%)	3 (1.0%)	4 (1.3%)	17 (5.7%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41 (13.7%)</b>	<b>82 (27.7)</b>	<b>40 (13.4%)</b>	<b>134 (45.2%)</b>

Data in Table 3 indicates that 134 (45.2%) of respondents read serials publications occasionally followed by 82 (27.7%) weekly. Moreover, their

reading habit is 41 (13.7%) daily and 40 (13.4%) weekly.

**Table 4: Library facilities that enhance undergraduates students reading habit towards serials publications**

Facilities	Available	Unavailable	Not Aware
Tables	260 (87.5%)	16 (5.4%)	21 (7.1%)
Chairs	253 (85.2%)	20 (6.7%)	24 (8.1%)
Printer	84 (28.3%)	140 (47.1%)	73 (24.6%)
Computer	76 (25.6%)	153 (51.5%)	68 (22.9%)
Reading carrels	47 (15.8%)	152 (51.2%)	98 (33.0%)
Photocopy machine	159 (53.5%)	58 (19.5%)	80 (26.9%)
Internet	64 (21.5%)	163 (54.9%)	70 (23.6%)
OPAC/CARDEX	68 (22.9%)	81 (27.3%)	148 (49.8%)

Data in Table 4 indicates that 260 (87.5%) respondents confirmed the availability of chairs for reading serials publication in the library while 253 (85.2%) and 159 (53.5%) indicated availability of chairs and photocopy machine. Contrarily, 140 (47.1%), 153 (51.5%), 163 (54.9%) and 152 (51.2%)

respondents of the study indicated unavailability of printer, computer, Internet and reading carrels to support reading serials publications. In the same vein, 148(49.8%) indicated the unawareness of OPAC/ CARDEX as a facility to support reading serials publication.

**Table 5: Inhibitors to undergraduate students reading habit towards serials publications**

Inhibitors	SA=1	A=2	D=3	SD=4	(X)	DECISION
Serials publications are not accessible from outside the library	89 (30.0%)	124 (41.8%)	64 (21.5%)	20 (6.7%)	2.1	D
Absence of internet for accessing serials publications online	37 (12.5%)	95 (32.0%)	103 (34.7%)	62 (20.9%)	2.6	A
Serials are not properly organised for easy access	49 (13.2%)	132 (44.4%)	83 (27.9%)	33 (11.1%)	2.5	D
Outdated and noncurrent nature of serials publications in the library	48 (16.2%)	116 (39.1%)	93 (31.3%)	40 (13.5%)	2.4	D
Inadequate awareness about available serials in the library	36 (12.1%)	90 (30.3%)	123 (41.4%)	48 (16.2%)	2.6	A
Inadequate literacy skills on access, retrieval and use of serials publications	70 (23.6)	134 (45.1%)	66 (22.2%)	27 (9.1%)	2.6	A
Absence of printing facility in the library	58 (19.5%)	98 (33.0%)	101 (34.0%)	40 (13.5%)	2.4	D
Absence of photocopy facility in the library	49 (16.5%)	95 (32.0%)	118 (39.7%)	35 (11.8%)	2.4	D
Prohibition of copying serials to external memory or saving facility by the library	46 (15.5%)	119 (40.1)	81 (27.3%)	51 (17.2%)	2.5	D
Serials publications in the library are irrelevant to my course of study	60 (20.2%)	130 (43.8%)	78 (26.3%)	29 (9.7%)	2.3	D
Delay, cancellation and inconsistency in providing serials publications by the library	45 (15.2%)	106 (35.7%)	89 (30.0%)	57 (19.2%)	2.5	D

The mean decision underlying data on Table 5 is;  $\bar{x} > 2.5 =$  agree while  $\bar{x} \leq 2.5$  is disagree. Thus, the challenges militating against the reading habit of the respondents towards serials publications are;

(a) Inadequate literacy skills on access, retrieval and use of serials publications.

(b) Inadequate awareness about available serials in the library.

(c) Absence of internet for accessing serials publications online.

## Hypotheses Results

**Table 6: statistical relationship between library facilities and reading habit towards serials publications**

Library Facilities	Reading Habit					Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never read				
Available	7 (2.4%)	16 (5.4%)	39 (13.1%)	13 (4.4%)	3 (1.0%)	78 (26.3%)	14.743 <sup>a</sup>	8	.064
Not Available	38 (12.8%)	46 (15.5%)	80 (26.9%)	35 (11.8%)	4 (1.3%)	203 (68.4%)			
Not Sure	5 (1.7%)	7 (2.4%)	2 (0.7%)	2 (0.7%)	0 (0%)	16 (5.4%)			

The cross tabulation and chi-square results in Table 6 indicate that ( $\chi^2 = (8) 14.743, p=0.064 > 0.05$ ). The null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, library facilities have no statistical relationship with reading habits. In essence, library facilities like chairs, tables,

OPAC, internet, computers, printer, etc; do not influence the reading habit of the undergraduates in Bayero University towards reading serials publications.

**Table 7: Statistical relationship between library services and the reading habit towards serials publications**

Library Services	Reading Habit					Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never read				
Available	4 (1.4%)	2 (.7%)	8 (2.7%)	9 (3.1%)	2 (0.7%)	78 (26.3%)	27.510 <sup>a</sup>	8	.001.
Not Available	21 (7.1%)	30 (10.2%)	76 (25.9%)	30 (10.2%)	3 (1.0%)	203 (68.4%)			
Not Sure	25 (8.5%)	35 (11.9%)	36 (12.2%)	11 (3.7%)	2 (0.7%)	16 (5.4%)			

The cross tabulation and chi-square results on Table 7 indicate that ( $\chi^2 = (8) 27.510^a, p=0.001 < 0.05$ ). The null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, it can be inferred that library services such as; photocopy, binding,

cataloguing, selective dissemination of information and etcetera influences the reading habits of the respondents towards reading serials publications.

**Table 8: Statistical relationship between availability of serials publications and the reading habit towards serials publications**

Availability	Reading Habit					Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never read				
Very High	0	0	1 (0.3%)	0	0	1 (0.3%)	16.467 <sup>a</sup>	12	.171
High	13 (4.4%)	22 (7.4%)	41 (13.8%)	14 (4.7%)	6 (2.0%)	96 (32.3%)			
Low	31 (10.4%)	41 (13.8%)	74 (24.9%)	34 (11.4%)	1 (0.3%)	181 (60.9%)			
Very low	6 (2.0%)	6 (2.0%)	5 (1.7%)	2 (.7%)	0	19 (6.4%)			



The cross tabulation and chi-square results on Table 8 indicates that  $\chi^2 = (12)16.467^a$ ,  $p=0.171 > 0.05$ . As such, the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there

is no statistical relationship between availability of serials publications in the library and the reading habits of undergraduates

**Table 9: Statistical relationship between access to serial publications and the reading habit of undergraduate students**

Access	Reading Habit					Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never read				
Very High	0	1(0.3%)	1(0.3%)	0	1(0.3%)	3(1.0%)	27.942 <sup>a</sup>	12	.006
High	30(10.1%)	53(17.8%)	101(34.0%)	40(13.5%)	4(1.3%)	228(76.8%)			
Low	1(0.3%)	1(0.3%)	1(0.3%)	1(0.3%)	1(0.3%)	64(21.5%)			
Very low	0	0	0	1(0.3%)	1(0.3%)	2(0.7%)			

The cross tabulation and chi-square results on Table 9 indicates that  $\chi^2 = (8)27.942^a$ ,  $p=0.006 < 0.05$ . The null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is

statistical relationship between access to serials publications and the reading habits of undergraduate students.

**Table 10: Statistical relationship between literacy skills and reading habits of towards serials publications**

Literacy Skills	Reading Habit					Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never read				
Very High	0	0	0	1(0.3%)	7(2.4%)	8(2.7%)	405.595 <sup>a</sup>	12	.000
High	0	0	29(9.8%)	29(9.8%)	0	58(19.5%)			
Low	15(5.1%)	35(11.8%)	80(26.9%)	20(6.7%)	0	150(50.5%)			
Very low	0	0	12(4.0%)	34(11.4%)	35(11.8%)	81(27.3%)			

The cross tabulation and chi-square results on Table 10 indicate that  $\chi^2 = (12)405.5952^a$ ,  $p=0.000 < 0.05$ . The null hypothesis is rejected and hence there is a statistical relationship between information literacy skills and the reading habits of undergraduate students towards serials publications.

## Discussion of Findings

Owing to a variety of serials available to undergraduates in Bayero University Library, they are choosy with reading serials publications and they tend to read those that have tendencies for satisfying their preference for leisure than for academic works such as assignments and research. This reaffirms

the findings in the study of Hughes-Hassel and Rodge (2007) where two-thirds of middle school students predominantly had reading habits in favour of magazines for fun and relaxation as well as in order to learn new things or kill boredom. More so, findings of the study reinstate Okolo and Ivwighrehweta (2020) where undergraduate students read for 2-4 hours only when the need arises.

Despite the fact that serials publications carry current information about the advancements or happenings in all facets of life like economy, politics, religion, society, education, fashion, sports, culture, etc; the reading habits of undergraduate students of Bayero University towards them is characterised

with inconsistency. This is unlike the findings of the study by Olotoki and Osoba (2017) as well as Bankole and Akinyede (2019) where it was discovered that majority of first year students at Federal University Oye-Ekiti devote 3-4 hours daily to read in order to pass examinations, complete class assignments and improve spoken and written expression. Thus, the inconsistent reading habits of undergraduates towards serials publications indicates they are underappreciated or unfamiliar to undergraduate students for learning purpose. In line with Bamidele, Omeluzor and Amadi (2013) it can be deduced that the reading habits of undergraduates towards serials publications is over shadowed by the preference for other information resources like textbooks.

In this study, data analysed indicates that bulletin is the most read type of serials publication. This reaffirms the findings of Tomomowo-Ayodele and Hameed (2018) who reported that equal access to serials publications by university libraries in Ogun State is responsible for why undergraduates frequently read bulletins and get better informed about things happening in their universities. Even though Oyedum (2011) underscored the importance of physical library facilities like tables, seats, air condition, standby power supply and good lighting system towards influencing the sustained reading of library resources, this study indicates that mere availability of information resources and library facilities may not determine reading habits.

Thus, as in the study of Hussain and Abalkhail (2013) and as corroborated by Komolafe, Gbotosho and Odewale (2020) the determinants of undergraduate students reading habits towards serials publications as revealed through this study are; library services, information literacy and accessibility of serials publications. The impact of information technologies on access to reading materials as highlighted by Walia and Sinha (2014) purports that a paradigm shift towards infotainment via social media has redefined access to reading materials. Hence, the technology savvy youths of nowadays may be influenced to reading with

entertaining technologies as compared to when these technologies are absent. Thus, libraries can enhance the reading habits towards serials publications by joining publishers to make social media a tool for reading than for socialising.

The library itself could be the cause of poor reading habits displayed by respondents of the study towards serial publications. The rate at which respondents of the study revealed unavailability of critical infrastructures such as the Internet, computer and printers that libraries provide to influence the reading of serials publication via online sources as opined by Chigbu (2012) is a cause for concern. Accordingly, the influence of library facilities e.g computers, Internet, photocopy machine, printers and *etcetera* towards reading habits of undergraduate students requires that libraries should devote more resources towards improvising library facilities with the aim of making libraries conducive for reading.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

Though serials publications are crucial for tertiary education, their usefulness is not properly harnessed and exploited for learning by undergraduate patrons of Bayero University Library. Hence, there is the need to initiate ways of making undergraduate students justify investments on acquiring serials publications for academic purpose.

To improve the preference of undergraduates towards more academically inclined reading of serials publications, libraries should liaise with lecturers and evolve marketing strategies aimed at promoting the relevance of serials for learning, especially in terms of writing assignments, term papers, articles and conducting research.

It is also recommended that Bayero University Library should improve the provision of critical infrastructure like tables, seats, air condition, standby power supply, good lighting system, the Internet, computers, printing services, photocopy services, as well as indexing and abstracting services needed to attract readership of undergraduates towards serial publications.

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