

INFORMATION SERVICES PROVISION IN LIBRARIES AS A FACTOR FOR MALARIA REDUCTION AMONG UNDERGRADUATES

ABSTRACT

Objectives: The main objective was to study information services provision in libraries as a factor for malaria reduction in federal university of technology Minna, with undergraduate students in view. The specific objectives were

1. To find out the information provision in FUT Minna library as regards to malaria
2. To find out the library information resources on malaria
3. To find out user-educational programmes on malaria information awareness by the library
4. To find out the students' perception of the library malaria information services.

Methods: Using students as respondents, four research questions which were in consonance with the objectives were posed for the study. Three hundred and seventy-six (376) students were used as the sample size of the population. The entire number of FUT Minna Undergraduate student as at 2018/2019 academic session was Nineteen thousand, four Hundred and twenty-one (19,421) however, the researchers cited Onwukanjo (2017) who cited Krejcie and Morgan (1970) which states that for a population of (150,000 to 200,000) a sample size of three hundred and seventy-six (376) should be used. The researchers used a sampling fraction of 2.2% to select 376 undergraduates from the total population using simple random sampling technique. Questionnaire was the only data collection instrument. The Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the reliability coefficients of the instruments. The values obtained were 0.85 for Malaria Reduction Questionnaire (MRQ), 0.91 for Information Services Provision Questionnaire (IS PQ). The data collected were analysed using mean and standard deviation.

Results: The finding of the study revealed that there are malaria information services being provided. These services range from compilation of malaria bibliography, inter-library cooperation with medical libraries for accessibility to malaria information, malaria health awareness, ask a librarian on malaria, malaria enquiry services, current awareness services on malaria, selection dissemination of information on malaria, indexing and abstracting though not super satisfactorily. In addition, the study also revealed that there are different library material and resources available to students for malaria information provision, more so, various health awareness initiatives are also put in place by the library to its target users.

Conclusion: The study recommends that the University Authorities and relevant stakeholders in the education sectors should do all that is possible in ensuring proper funding of academic libraries so as to enable them function as a veritable medium in malaria awareness campaign, sensitization, and lastly have robust information materials on malaria reduction and prevention.

Keywords: Information services provision, libraries, malaria reduction, undergraduate students, federal university of technology, Minna

Introduction

Malaria infection is an ailment that is got from mosquito bites. A mosquito has a lifespan of one week after which it dies. However, Smith (2014) posited that malaria is not only gotten from mosquito bites, but everyone has malaria in their body system in which little stress or inadequate rest can trigger the sickness. Smith further posited that only those with “AS” genotype have immuno-compromised or has antigen that does not allow the breed of malaria in their body system, however frequent exposure to mosquito bite can compromised their immune system. Malaria infection is bactericidal in nature and not blood spectrum ailment.

Malaria patients always feel feverish, headache, bitter tongue and sometime insomnia as symptoms. Untreated malaria protozoa in the host’s body can cause the host to be weak, which will in turn have psychological effect on the host. Also, malaria infection, can also affect the student ability to study lecture materials, therefore have adverse effect on the academic performance of such student. Also, according WHO (2014) report, malaria infection has killed over ten million people in the last ten decades in the developing countries. Therefore, it is important to note that despite the microscopic size of mosquito, it has the potency to kill the host’s body if not treated.

Due to the presence and type (anopheles) mosquito traceable to our geographical location, it is necessary to take measures to curtail the bite of mosquitoes and the spread of malaria. Ogunmodede, Adio, & Odunola (2011) opined that despite the campaign against malaria by World Health Organisation and other Health organisations, some people are still ignorance on how to prevent or avoid mosquitoes bite. According to WHO (2014), for malaria infection to be reduce, it is imperative the following are done:

1. Regular cleaning of environment
2. Using of treated mosquito net
3. Disposing of empty container that can facilitate the breed of mosquitoes
4. Channeling any pool of water around the surrounding
5. Sanitising rooms that have mosquitoes with anti-mosquitoe chemicals.

However, Ogunmodede, Adio, & Odunola (2011) opined that if adequate rest is not taken by individual, the stress may trigger malaria inhibited in the body system. They therefore suggested that for reduction of malaria, there is need for adequate rest and balanced diet.

The world health organization and other authors have postulated how malaria can be reduced though it cannot be exterminated from our geographical location, but the major challenge is the accessibility to these plethora of information resources. Information resources on malaria can be gotten from the internet, library, health centres, information centres etc., but the information seekers do not know how to identify genuine source of information and how to navigate different information gateways, which in turn make the place of a librarian and library non-negotiable.

The library as an information centre is shouldered with the responsibilities of acquiring relevant and current health information resources packaged in a way to suit the information needs of their users. It is the duty of the library to render information services tailored to the information needs and challenges of their users.

Accessibility to information resources that can help to the reduction of malaria among students of higher learning it is of benefit to countries in Africa, with Nigeria in view,

where societies are faced with malaria infection (Godbolt & Stanley, 2010). Malaria infections among tertiary student can be best resolved if information about the prevention transmission and treatment is readily administered., malaria information has been familiarised by health workers, policy makers, researchers and librarians.

The various quality of information on malaria comes of a variety of source includes the family, media, health workers, internet, religious leaders, social network and the educators. Health information has been reported by different scholars that it might be unreliable and irrelevant, which in turn require the assistance of an information professional who can sieve relevant information from irrelevant information (Godbolt & Stanley, 2010). These reasons make it easy for people to make informed health decisions for themselves or those they care for. (Godbolt & Stanley, 2010).

The library as an information provider and custodian is shouldered with different responsibilities of information service provision. Information service can therefore be defined as the service render by the library in accordance to their core goal and objectives. The library provides the following service; current awareness services, referral services, selective dissemination services, provision to current, inter-library loan, and relevant information resources in print and non-print; charging and discharging of collections among others.

Libraries can work hand in hand with the health workers in the community to improve on the access to malaria infection information issues, to avoid the incidents that may cause health issues, and provision of preventive health programme and safety programmes (Obidike, 2011).

Library staff can play important role, as their aim is to promote and develop access to malaria information. These groups can give help through training and selection, dissemination and repackaging of important information (Godbolt, 2014).

Wasike & Tenya (2013) opined that for the library to be able to curtail the incessant of malaria infection among students of tertiary institutions the following services must be rendered by the library: Procurement and dissemination of information resources both in textbooks and periodical materials; information consortium with medical information centres; identify in and filling health information needs, dissemination of information therapy services, providing current awareness services, creating information reference and referral centers. Offering selectively provision of high quality information to users and interlibrary loan requests; provision of education through awareness creation of the availability of information resources in the library as some users only use the library for examination purpose and do not recognisie the library as a source of information on malaria dissemination, therefore the need for this study to orchestrate the fact that malaria information can actually be disseminated in the library as regards prevention and treatment.

Statement of the Problem

With the roll-back malaria programmes by society for family health, distribution of treated mosquito nets by primary health care centers, and campaign by World health Organization, malaria ought to have reduced drastically especially among tertiary students where access to such facilities are easily available. Also, students of tertiary institution are supposed to be abreast with necessary information resources on how to prevent, treat, and protect themselves against malaria through accessibility to requisite information services from information provider like the library.

However, preliminary investigation by the researcher shows that the rate of malaria cases from the institution health centre is high during examination especially among undergraduate students, which may be traced to exposure to mosquito bite, lack of good nutrition, stress and other causes of malaria. Sequel to this challenge, this research is geared towards finding out the

information services provided by FUT Minna library and how it can aid the reduction of malaria amongst the undergraduate's students in Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger state.

Objective of the Study

The general aim is to research on how adequate the information services provided by the library could be a factor that enhances the reduction of malaria among FUT Minna students.

The objectives specifically are as follows:

1. To find out the information provision in FUT Minna library as regards to malaria
2. To find out the library information resources on malaria
3. To find out user-educational programmes on malaria information awareness by the library
4. To find out the students' perception of the library malaria information services

Research Questions

The specified research questions will influence this study:

1. What is the information provision on malaria in FUT Minna library?
2. What are the library information resources on malaria in FUT Minna library?
3. What are the user-educational programmes on malaria awareness by library?
4. What is the student perception on the library malaria information services?

Literature review

Malaria Information Provision

According to Olayemi (2016) libraries can facilitate the reduction of malaria by providing information in the form of newspapers which serve or announce opportunity of promotional campaigns and place of study, immunization, health centres that give health services. Olayemi (2016) Suggested that through that through appropriate orientation and procurement of items on malaria infection and other disease, users get information from academic libraries as regards their causes, symptoms, control and prevention. Library workers also benefit from the facilities or services through the provision of information services that aid them to prevent, treat and control malaria.

Ezeoke (2009) opined that malaria infection has resulted in absenteeism in class, resulting to poor academic performance among students especially in tertiary institutions. Information about malaria prevention and treatment ought to be made available to tertiary students by information centers.

However, Abdulkarim (2010) opined that libraries can channel their information on malaria requirement for their users. The author further opined that the following malaria information services can be provided by the library are (1) malaria referral service (2) inter-library co-operation with medical libraries for accessibilities to malaria information (3) indexing and abstracting of malaria information sources and services (4), malaria bibliographic text service (5) malaria health awareness programme. It can be seen from the foregoing that the library provides numerous functions in the quest to provide information on malaria infection within a broad context, such as: information producer, welcome desk, information provider, authority controller, and referral agent (Olayemi, 2016). However, Adeyemo et.al., (2014) opined that partnership is the

only effort which can be done by librarians and non-librarians. Library staff widely require the facilities in order to meet the larger population. Most people think the library as an institution for learning and information, we need to expand our reach through a diversity of partnerships with health professionals in a bid to quell the spread of malaria through the provision of information.

According to (Ezeoke,2009, Gathoni ,2012,) a good malaria information service provision is rated based on how it able to quell the spread of malaria among the users of such information centre.

According to (Ajuwon, ,2015, Adeyemo, 2014, Aderav2013, Agu and Nwojiji, 2005) library clientele search for a malaria information service that is reliable, timely, authentic and accurate meets their health needs, use and easily understood and delivered to courteous and skillful worker.

The academic libraries interested with malaria information provision, as well as staff, facilities, space as opined by Kinengyere *et a.* (2015) should have knowledgeable library staff apt in malaria information services could change even the cheapest library to one offering quality malaria information service.

Information Resources in the Library about Malaria

Malaria information resources are information resources that provide information about malaria transmission, prevention, treatment, protection, trend, among others. The basic purpose of establishing information centre is to make information available to support school programmes. In order to do this, it should provide access to varieties of information resources in different physical formats. Kweaiagbo (2012) opined that, the extent at which malaria will be curtail among undergraduate students could be determined by the boundaries of the contents of the library resources available and related to malaria in tertiary institutions.

Information resources about malaria are in different formats in the library. There are electronic and non-electronic format. Similarly, Kwesiagbo (2012) opined that information resources about malaria can be found in the library in the following information carrier: journal articles, conference proceedings, textbooks, magazines, newspapers.

User Educational Programme on Malaria Awareness by the Libraries

Knowledge concerning malaria can be enhanced when information is made available through proper communication channels (Chinweuba, et al. 2017). Onyeneho et al. (2015) studied perception and attitudes of pregnant women in Enugu state, Nigeria, towards prevention of malaria infection. Results showed that some of the women were ignorant of what to do to prevent malaria infection. Anumudu et al. (2006) assessed the treatment seeking behaviour of 307 young students of university of Ibadan, Nigeria. They observed that Insecticide-Treated, Nets (ITN) and indoor residual spray (IRS) sparingly used as malaria prophylactics; almost half of the respondents were self-medicated while more than half did nothing. Okwa and Ibidapo (2009) studied the malaria situation, perception, causes, and treatment in a Nigerian university and it yielded similar result. Pregnant students living in school hostels have received few research attentions, hence there is the need to create awareness on malaria through the use user-educational programme by academic libraries, since most students adopt self-medication.

Library instruction teaches clientele required skills to make use of library resources. These are required to promote use of malaria information resources available in libraries. Among the important ways which resource centers work with health workers in health institutions have to be through initiatives resulting to patients being tutored with information resources. Instance given, clinic handbooks, information on malaria investigative trials, care giver leads, caution, prevention, treatment, also detail slips proceeding particular ailment and dealings had wholly remained initiated collaboratively with the resource center (Dollfuss, 2012). All of these need the intervention of doctors and experienced nurses. Occasionally the resource centers work with physical speech therapists, occupational; social worker; besides technicians. All work forwards initiating awareness about required measures on how malaria can be curtailed.

Health Information Literacy

The word literacy has been used in different ways even among health sectors. Information centres have played a vital part on the literacy teaching and have started to map in places in the innovative ground of information on malaria literacy. Meanings to terms of literacy are debatable. It is mindful to comprehend the possibility of problem in demand to enhance the communication also, programme through the society.

Genuine definition of malaria information literacy is “the established skills required to: know malaria information requirement; spot probable malaria information source and use it to collect relevant information; scrutinise the quality of information and its necessities towards particular condition; and analyse, comprehend, and usage of information to brand quality well-being results” (Silva, & Ribeiro, 2012). The issues of literacy and malaria information literacy maps an extensive range of users. Library is regarded as an institution that participates in various events that have been organised by groups in the health institution to promote the awareness of malaria infection problem or to supply information about precise disorders such as world malaria day, world health day and public lectures given by professional

Challenges Facing Libraries in Malaria Information Services

Abdulkarim (2010) carried out a study on the current situation of the provision of malaria information services in Nigeria by the libraries, the result shows that malaria information services have declined dramatically over the past year due to the effect of both the economic and political situation in the country. The financial crisis has affected the structure and maintenance of the building, the size, and the contents of the collections and the overall provision of malaria information services. Therefore, the main library activity now is just to serve as reading and study rooms for students, who in the majority of cases use their own materials and do not consult the library collections.

The presence of ICTs, major library in the 21st century have been transforming from traditional library settings and provision of information services to the digital or electronic library settings, especially academic libraries. This is however not true of most public libraries in Nigeria. Most public libraries have not been able to computerise their collections, not to even talk of using computers to provide malaria information services, but rather they are still indulging in the use of traditional library setting to provide services to clientele.

Another picture of libraries in Nigeria is that, it lacks distinct plans (Smith, & Caruso 2010). This is crucial, if malaria will be curtailed among undergraduate students. Most academic libraries only

make provision of information service that targets the academic needs of their users, neglecting the health needs of their users.

Ready reference service was once a popular service of the library used in providing malaria information services to library users, but the internet has now taken away these services from the library (Ajuwon, 2015). In delivering current awareness service in the libraries' one of the pride services generally is to provides the latest additions of the library (Abdulkarim, 2010). Similarly, the advent of the internet has posed a great challenge to the library, as the users received direct information as it relates to malaria symptoms, treatment, control etc. At present, search engines, online bookstores and online databases are providing SDI proficiently. The libraries are unable to compete with them. However, Kumar, (2014) disagreed that present-day OPACS have many new features, but the developmental activities should be accelerated to compete with the other information discovery tools. All identified problems are common for all libraries irrespective of their size and type.

Research design

This study adopted a descriptive design called correlation. Onwukanjo (2017), states that this type of study seeks to establish the relationship that exists between two or more variables. Usually such studies indicate the direction and magnitude of the relationship between the variables. The researchers have no intention to manipulate any of the variables but will study the effect of the independent variables on the dependent variables.

Population of the study

The entire number of undergraduate students using the library in Federal University of Technology Minna is **19,421**.

Table 1: Population of Undergraduate library users in FUT Minna.

NAME OF SCHOOL	SCHOOL POPULATION								Total
	FUT MINNA	SEET	SAT	SEMT	SLS	SET	SPS	SICT	
LIBRARY USERS	3979	2537	945	1802	3622	3550	1177	1809	19,421

Source: Information.Technology Service Department, Federal University of Technology. Minna as at 2018/2019 Academic session

- School of Engineering and Engineering Technology – SEET
- School of Agricultural and Agricultural Technology -- SAAT
- School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology-SEMT
- School of Environmental Technology – SET
- School of life Science-SLS
- School of Information and Communication Technology-SICT
- School of Physical Science-SPS
- School of Science and Technology Education-SSTE

Sampling technique and sample size

The entire number of FUT Minna Undergraduate students as at 2018/2019 academic session was Nineteen thousand, four Hundred and twenty-one (19,421) however, the researchers cited Onwukanjo (2017) who cited Krejcie and Morgan (1970) which states that for a population of (150000 to 200000) a sample size of three hundred and seventy-six (376) should be used. The researchers used a sampling fraction of 2.2% to select 376 undergraduates from the total population using simple random sampling technique.

Table 2: Sample size

NAME OF SCHOOL	SCHOOL POPULATION								Total
FUT MINNA	SAT	SEET	SEMT	SLS	SET	SPS	SICT	SSTE	376
LIBRARY USES	49	56	40	36	54	52	43	46	

Instrument for data collection

The researchers used questionnaire as a research instrument for data collection for this study. The selection of the instrument was because of its dependability and validity as it allows independent responses. The research instrument contains structured questions divided into six sections. The first section contained information that deals with demographic information about respondents and also the second section to six section contains information that will allow the collection of data pertinent to the research questions.

Validity and reliability of the instruments

The Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the reliability coefficients of the instruments. The values obtained were 0.85 for Malaria Reduction Questionnaire (MRQ), 0.91 for Information Services Provision Questionnaire (ISPQ).

Method of data analysis

The data in the study with respect to research questions were analysed using descriptive statistics of percentages, mean and standard deviation, while the inferential statistics of Pearson product moment correlation coefficient was used to determine the relationship between the variables, the socio-demographic information was also analysed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages.

Data Presentation and Analysis of Research Questions

Table 3: Summary Table Showing Response on Library Information Services on Malaria

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>	<i>Rank</i>
malaria health awareness programme	375	1	4	3.1573	0.74883	1 st
current awareness service on malaria	375	1	4	3.1493	0.76633	2 nd
online public access catalogue on malaria information resources	375	1	4	3.016	0.95333	3 rd
selection dissemination of information on malaria	375	1	4	2.8107	1.0127	4 th
malaria enquiries services	375	1	4	2.7493	0.99523	5 th
inter-library cooperation with medical libraries for accessibilities to malaria information	375	1	4	2.5627	1.0651	6 th
compilation of malaria bibliographic texts	375	1	4	2.5093	0.82364	7 th
Ask a librarian on malaria	375	1	4	2.4693	1.05643	8 th
Indexing and abstracting of malaria information sources services	375	1	4	2.424	1.07672	9 th

Table 3: shows the descriptive statistics on library information services on malaria. From the table the mean of the individual questions lies between values of the minimum and maximum (1 and 4). Questions with their mean closer to the maximum 4 infers strongly agree. And questions with their mean closer to the minimum range 1 infers disagree. It is shown from the table that the students responded positively high that information services should be provided through *malaria health awareness programmes*, *current awareness service on malaria* and by *online public access catalogue on malaria information resources* using their mean and ranks from the table to justify.

Table 4: Summary Table Showing Response on Malaria Information Resources in Library

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>	<i>Rank</i>
medical dictionary	375	1	4	2.1627	0.9907	1 st
conference proceedings	375	1	4	1.96	1.28379	2 nd
internet resources	375	1	4	1.832	1.11674	3 rd
Newspaper	375	1	4	1.608	0.91537	4 th
journal articles on malaria	375	1	4	1.5893	0.97119	5 th
Textbooks	375	1	4	1.544	0.78254	6 th
Magazines	375	1	4	1.5413	0.85766	7 th
Encyclopedia	375	1	4	1.392	0.71533	8 th

Table 4. shows the summary table on malaria information resources in the library. From the table the mean of the individual questions lies between values of the minimum and maximum (1 and 4). Also, questions with their mean closer to the maximum 4 infers strongly agree. And questions with their mean closer to the minimum range 1 infers disagree. It is shown from the table that the students responded positively high that information resources in the library include *medical dictionaries, conferences on internet resources* using their mean and ranks from the table to justify.

Table 5: Summary Table Showing Response on Education Program on Malaria Awareness

	<i>N</i>	<i>Minimu m</i>	<i>Maximu m</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviatio n</i>	<i>Ran k</i>		
The library participates in world health day in promoting health awareness through user education	37	5	1	4	3.112	0.73364	1 st	
The library teaches its user on how to identify and access malaria by providing malaria information services	37	5	1	4	2.84	0.85343	2 nd	
The library participates in world malaria day in promoting health awareness through user education	37	5	1	4	2.768	1.08566	3 rd	
The library promotes health awareness through user education	37	5	1	4	2.669	3	0.82895	4 th

Table 5 shows the summary table on education program on malaria awareness. From the table the mean of the individual questions lies between values of the minimum and maximum (1 and 4). It is shown from the table that the students responded positively high to all the questions on education program in malaria awareness. It is shown that *library participate in world health day in promoting health awareness through user education* followed by *library teaches its user on how to identify and access malaria by providing malaria information services*.

Table 6: Summary Table Showing Response on Student Perception in Providing Malaria Information Services

	<i>N</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>	<i>Rank</i>
the information services provided by the library has helped me to curb malaria parasite infection	375	1	4	3.336	0.63259	1 st
the library participates in health awareness programme such as world malaria day	375	1	4	3.0827	1.89739	2 nd
the library provides medical information resources	375	1	4	2.7413	0.73475	3 rd
I use the library for health purpose	375	1	4	2.7253	1.04537	4 th
the library staff do not have knowledge on health information services	375	1	4	2.432	1.2127	5 th
I am not aware if the library rendering any health information services	375	1	4	2.0933	1.14897	6 th
the library renders health information services	375	1	4	2.024	0.96015	7 th

Table 6: shows the summary table on education program on student perception in providing malaria information services. From the table the mean of the individual questions lies between values of the minimum and maximum (1 and 4). It is shown from the table that the students responded positively high by ranking the mean of response for the questions on perception of providing malaria information services. It is shown from the table that information services provided by the library have helped me to curb malaria parasite infection followed by library participation in health awareness programmes such as world malaria day and lastly that library provide medical information resources.

Discussion of Research Findings

Finding from the research showed that there are varieties of services provided on malaria as affirmed by majority of the respondents. These services range from compilation of malaria bibliography, inter-library cooperation with medical libraries for accessibility to malaria information, malaria health awareness, ask a librarian on malaria, malaria enquiry services, current awareness services on malaria, selection dissemination of information on malaria, indexing and abstracting. Effort must however be made by the library Management to sustain and improve upon these services so as to create more efficient malaria awareness.

The research findings also show that different information material on malaria are available in the library. Among them include journal article on malaria, newspapers, magazines conference proceedings, medical dictionaries and textbooks.

In terms of educational programmes awareness provided by library to its users, the diversity was well spread. These include the health awareness through user education, participation in world health malaria day in promoting health awareness through user education, teaching its users on how to identify and access malaria information by providing malaria information services.

Finally, the perception of students as regards to malaria information services is low. Only a few use the malaria information services, it therefore, means that something must be done to entice the students to increase their rate of library usage, if actually the library should play its role in the malaria reduction in its community. However, the findings agreed with Onyeneho et al. (2015) which studied the perception and attitudes of people towards prevention of malaria infection. Result showed that some of the people were ignorant of what to do to prevent malaria infection.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The conclusion from the study therefore, is that the role of library as a factor for malaria reduction through information services cannot be overstressed. This means that more health awareness can be provided by libraries, if the needed environment is made available, for academic libraries to thrive.

The following recommendations are hereby made;

1. Library Management and relevant stakeholders in educational sectors should do all that is possible to ensure proper funding of academic libraries so as to enable them function as a veritable medium in malaria awareness campaign and sensitization.
2. ICT and other equipment should be provided for libraries to enable librarians process data and store them into relevant information materials for student effective use on malaria eradication.
- (3) Malaria awareness, sensitization and enlightenment should be carried out for students to know more regarding malaria ailments and how to tackle them.

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