
**Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Research Staff of a Post Harvest
Research Institute in Nigeria**

Ibiwumi Khadijat Salawu
Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute,
Lagos zonal office,
Nigeria

&

Akande Femi Titus
Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute,
Headquarters, Ilorin,
Nigeria

The study determined the information needs and information seeking behavior of research staff of the Lagos zonal office of a postharvest research institute in Nigeria. A survey method was used for the study. The research instrument used was questionnaire. Total enumeration method was used to include 35 respondents who responded to the questionnaire used for data collection. All the questionnaires were retrieved and found valid for the study. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics. The findings showed that the 74.28% of the respondents indicated that they need information to meet different life endeavor around them. However, information on Education and research, health matters and technological inventions were the most prominent areas they needed information. The print information materials that are mostly used by the respondents are books, abstracts and journals. The electronic information most frequently used by the respondents to gather information is the Internet and social media. The respondents used information centers most to search for information. This is followed by libraries, museums and archives. Unstable electricity and weak Internet network were identified as the most disturbing challenges faced by respondents while they are seeking information. Based on the findings, recommendations were made to improve information delivery to the respondents.

Keywords- Information, Information sources, Information needs, Information seeking behaviour.

Introduction

Information is central to the life of human being. It is greatly acknowledged that the progress of the modern society is highly influenced by information and because of this, information providers are expected to give to the information users the right kind of information and in the right form it will be appreciated by the users. Everyone needs and seeks information to survive and thrive in the 21st century. The professionals, teachers, students and even the elderly desires

information for their everyday activities. Researchers of different disciplines working at the various states and federal institutes in Nigeria are no exception to the popular craving for information for their numerous projects geared towards contributing to sustainable national development. Information is a processed data which is got from different sources. An information source is where you get your information from. This can be print or electronic materials.

According to Urtz (2004), information sources can be grouped into primary, secondary and tertiary sources of information. The type of information needed will change depending on its application. Individuals generate information on a daily basis as they go about their work. In research institutions, researchers consult various sources of information. The choice of the source consulted is usually determined by the type of information sought. Libraries are established in research institutes system to provide high quality information services in support of research activities and acquisition of knowledge of the researchers. To achieve this feat, it is logical that information providers should at regular interval determine the information needs and information seeking behaviour of their users. Information need commences when a person identifies a problematic situation or what is otherwise called a knowledge gap, in which his or her knowledge and beliefs, and the representation of the environment fail to recommend a path towards the satisfaction of his or her goals (Case 2007). Ingwersen and Järvelin (2005) stressed that such identification of information needs may lead to information seeking and formulation of requests for desired information. The need to be an informed and knowledgeable individual leads to the process of identifying information needs. This process does not stand alone without the individuals knowing the way they articulate, seek, evaluate, select and use the information, which is commonly referred to as information seeking behavior. Kakai, *et al.*, (2004) defined information-seeking behaviour as an individual's way and manner of gathering and sourcing information for personal use, knowledge updating, and development. The information-seeking behaviour of researchers has been the focus of enquiry for decades. According to Acheampong and Dzandu (2015), information-seeking actions entail the actions that researchers are willing to take in the course of carrying out their research projects to fill research knowledge gaps

The study of the information-seeking behaviour of various populations is a well-known and major research area in the library and information science, but this concept is not exclusive to the library and information science discipline. It is based on this that this study is conducted to determine the information needs and information-seeking behaviour of research staff at the Lagos zonal office of the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI), Nigeria. The Institute's national mandate is to research to reduce post-harvest loss of crops in Nigeria. Though NSPRI has its national headquarters in Ilorin, Northcentral region of Nigeria, the Institute has research stations located at different locations in Nigeria, and the work stations are called zonal offices. The zonal offices have research facilities and human resources to research reduced post-harvest loss of crops grown in their zones and other regions of the country. The zones include Portharcourt (South-south Nigeria), Lagos (Southwest Nigeria), Kano (Northeast Nigeria), and

Ilorin (Northcentral Nigeria). The Ilorin office, also serve as the national headquarters of the post-harvest research Institute.

The Lagos zonal office

The research staff of the Lagos zonal office of the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute is interdisciplinary and their main official assignment is to research post-harvest management of crops.

The discipline of the research staff is essentially science and engineering and the least educational qualification among the researchers is Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Engineering. However, there is another supporting staff among them that holds a Higher National Diploma certificate (HND), this group of staff are technologists that work with researchers to implement their research work plan.

Statement of problem

Information plays a vital role in different aspects of life, like knowledge development, decision-making, cultural growth, economic planning, and development and research activities. The existence of science and technology depends on research which makes it essential to find out what the information needs and information-seeking behaviour of researchers are. Information sources and services are provided to researchers and non-researchers at the Nigerian Stored Products Research institutes (NSPRI) but it is uncertain if they are beneficial to the information needs of researchers. There is literature on information needs and information-seeking behaviour in academic and medical settings with few addressing researchers in an established federal agricultural research institution like NSPRI. Hence, this study seeks to provide a detailed investigation and analysis of the information needs of researchers at NSPRI as they seek information for research and suggests solutions for better provision of access to information in a beneficial direction. Therefore, the study filled an important research gap in the field of user studies and the use of information for research by researchers in the agricultural sector with intention of further enhancing national development in Nigeria,

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to examine the information needs and information-seeking behaviour of the research staff at the Lagos zonal office of a postharvest Research Institute in Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. find out the information needs of research staff in the Lagos zonal office of the postharvest Research Institute in Nigeria;
2. ascertain the information sources preferred by the research staff of the Lagos zonal office of the postharvest research institute;
3. determine the frequency of use of some information by the research staff of the Lagos zonal office of the postharvest research institute in Nigeria, and to

4. ascertain the problems encountered by the research staff of the Lagos zonal office of the postharvest Research Institute when they are seeking information.

Research Questions

Five research questions were raised to guide the study. The research questions are listed as follows:

1. What is the extent of the information needed of the research staff at NSPRI Lagos zonal office?
2. How often does research staff at the Lagos zonal office of the postharvest research Institute in Nigeria need information for their daily life activities?
3. What are the information sources research staff at the Lagos zonal office of a postharvest research institute in Nigeria consults when they are looking for information?
4. What is the frequency of use of information delivery organizations/establishments by research staff at the Lagos zonal office of a postharvest research Institute in Nigeria
5. What are the problems encountered by research staff at the Lagos zonal office of a postharvest research institute in Nigeria when they are seeking information?

Literature review

Information is considered a vital resource, alongside land, labour, capital, and skills. People need information for their day-to-day activities and the development of their environment and themselves. Weiss *et al.* (2000) described the information as the cornerstone of successful socio-economic development because it plays a key role in decision making. Human beings express diversified information needs in their day-to-day activities. Case (2012) explained information needs based on Taylor's four typologies that were derived from the four levels or phases that were put as seeking answers, reducing uncertainty, and making sense, as well as the spectrum of motivations.

Bruce (2005) described information need as a personal, psychological, sometimes inexpressible, vague, and unconscious condition. Bruce also articulated four levels of information need that an individual passes through before he or she makes formal encounters with an information system or the services of information professional. These levels are: visceral need, conscious need, formalized need, and compromised need. According to Doraswamy (2017), information needs refer to needs regarding the information needed by each person. Reitz (2010) defined information need as a gap in a person's knowledge, which when experienced at the conscious level as a question, gives rise to a search for an answer. Idiegbeyan-Ose *et al.* (2004) confirmed that researchers need and utilise the information for their research works. Rosenfeld and Morville (2002) stated that information needs can vary widely, and each type of information need causes users to exhibit specific information-seeking behaviour.

Information-seeking behaviour is expressed in various forms, from reading printed material to research and experimentation. Scientists, researchers, librarians, administrative staff of research Institutes seek current information from the various information collections available in libraries, like encyclopedias, journals, and more currently, electronic media. Researchers need a high rate of information from different sources of information like prints and non-print information resources: Nonprint information materials are one of the most prominent sources of information for researchers. Agarwal (2011) described an information source as a carrier of information that involves both traditional sources such as books and modern sources including predominantly digital libraries and search engines (such as Google, Yahoo, etc.) involving the use of electronic resources. Azadeh and Ghasemi (2016) also found that most researchers' information-seeking behaviours tilt towards using Internet-based resources to meet their information needs.

Researchers have some characteristics that are peculiar to them. According to Ekwai (2015), the characteristics include strong observational skills, curiosity, logical reasoning, creativity, scepticism, and objectivity. Uzuegbu and Ezuegbu (2013) explanation revealed that the expansion of knowledge in modern society has made more information to be available to enhance the conduct of research in different areas of interest. As explained by Ekwai (2015) researchers have some processes they follow in their research work. Some of the processes are that their research usually originates through a question or a problem, it is expected to have a well-articulated goal; it is usually guided by a specific research problem, questions, or hypothesis. It also requires a specific plan for proceeding. To meet up with the steps of researching that the outcome will be a source of reference thereafter, research scientists must support their processes of researching with relevant information from different perspectives. The process of seeking information may require sources outside their discipline; some behaviour may be exhibited by their researchers through the processes of seeking information for a wider understanding of the scope of the study.

According to Sultana, Ayesha (2016), information seeking involves a set of actions. Among them are determining information needs, seeking information through different sources, evaluating and selecting information and finally using the information. Padmoati (2018) cited from (Kaushik 2011) states that information-seeking behaviour is the process engaged in by humans to change their state of knowledge. It is a high level of cognitive process that is part of learning or problem-solving. To seek information implies the need to change the states of one's knowledge because, through the new information sources and new information tools, users are expected to acquire new knowledge in the discipline where information was sought. Sue and Bidy (2017) concluded that there is a significant gap in the understanding of search engine functionality by both engineers and scientists even though it is the most heavily used resource for information seeking. Mugwisi (2013) revealed that most agricultural researchers sought information for research purposes and their major information sources are the following: journals, books, papers presented at conferences, theses/dissertations, abstracts, and indexes. Marouf and Anwar (2010) listed the purposes of using these sources to include personal development, keeping up-to-date, research activities, and consultation work. Leckie, Pettigrew, and Sylvain (1996) discussed the sources used by professionals and it including the library.

McGarry (2003) considers the library as the best among 56 sources of well-arranged resources that are efficiently used by users, including researchers.

Haines *et al.* (2010) also confirmed that online sources were overwhelmingly preferred by many scientists and researchers due to their conveniences and immediacy characteristics. Korobili *et al.* (2011) found out that the Internet has been used as the primary source of information by many researchers and that the issues of accessibility and convenience of access, as well as issues of time are challenges to researchers. Okonoko *et al.* (2015) provided insight into the challenges associated with the information-seeking behaviour of researchers in Nigerian libraries. The highlighted challenges include a scattering of information materials in too many sources, which the author said was a pointer to the challenge of information explosion resulting from the recent advancements in the field of ICTs. Also, Ojedokun (2007), said that epileptic power supply, limited computer/ information technology literacy, poor Internet connectivity, and lack of skilled manpower are the challenges to effective ICT application to information used in Nigerian libraries.

Methodology

This study examined the information needs and information-seeking behaviour of the research staff at the Lagos zonal office of a postharvest Research Institute in Nigeria. The research design employed for this study is the descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey research design according to Popoola (2012) requires the systematic and scientific collection of data or information from the population or sample of the population, through the use of personal interview or scale opinion questionnaire, or direct observation, or a combination of the stated methods. The population for this study consists of all research staff in NSPRI Lagos zonal office and the sampling method adopted in this study is the total enumeration sampling technique. The entire population of the research staff was sampled because the population is 35 and is manageable.

The research collection instrument was a structured questionnaire which was designed by the researchers. It was used to collect data from the respondents. The questionnaire was divided into five (5) parts. The first part seeks demographic information of the respondents which includes the name of the department, area of research specialization, educational qualification. The second part was on the information need of the respondents. The third part was on information resources used by the respondents which include print and non-print information resources. The fourth part was on the information service delivery organisation and the fifth part was on challenges encountered while seeking information. The questionnaire was administered to the respondents personally by the researchers. The researchers took permission from the zonal coordinator of the station. The questionnaire was distributed to 35 respondents that formed the population of the study. All the copies of the questionnaire were retrieved and found valid for the analysis of the study. The data collected through the questionnaire were analysed using tables, mean, and percentages.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Gender and qualification of the respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	20	57.14
Female	15	42.85
Total	35	100

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage-
Higher National Diploma (HND)	2	1.42
B.SC	12	34.2
Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)	4	11.42
M.Sc	17	48.5
M.Phil	0	0
P.hd	0	0
Total	35	100

Table 1 Revealed Demographic and qualifications of the respondents:

The respondents are research staff in the Lagos zonal office of the postharvest Research Institute in Nigeria. They include male and female research staff, the results show that male respondents are more than female respondents by a percentage difference of 14.29%. Analysis of the educational qualification result indicates that 17 (48.5%) have a master's degree, 12 (34.2%) have B.Sc degree, 4(11.42%) have a postgraduate diploma in education (PGDE), 2(1.42%) have HND. From the analysis 48.5%percentage of the respondents have a master's degree, which shows that more than half of the respondents have an M.Sc degree.

Research question 1: To what extent do the respondents need information for their daily activities?

TABLE2 Information needs of the respondents

S/N	Level of seeking for information by respondents for daily activities	FREQUENCY	PECRCENTAGE	MEAN
-----	--	-----------	-------------	------

1.	Very high extent	26	74.28	55
2.	High extent	8	22.85	10
3.	Low extent	1	3.70	1
4.	Very low extent	0	0	0
5.	TOTAL	35	100	74

Table 2 revealed that of the 35 respondents, 26 (74.28%) with mean=55) needed information to a very high extent, 8 (22.85%) with the mean=10 reported they needed information to a high extent level. This implies that researchers in NSPRI Lagos zonal office need the information to carry out their daily activities operations which are expected to include the development of ideas and decision making at different levels. This is in agreement with Weiss *et al.* (2000), who described the information as the cornerstone of successful socio-economic development because it plays a key role in decision making.

TABLE 3. Information needs of the respondents on highlighted life activities.

Research question2: How often do you think you need information on the highlighted life activities?

	Life activities	Very often (freq. & %)	Often	Occasio nally	Not at all	Mean
a.	Religion	17 48.5%	10 28.5%	5 14.2%	3 8.5%	2.17
b.	Politics	24 68.5%	6 17.14%	3 8.5%	2 5.7%	2.48
c.	Health matters	25 71.14%	7 20%	3 8.5%	0 0%	2.62
d.	Agriculture	20 57.4	10 28.5%	1 2.85%	4 11.42%	2.31
e.	Education and Research activities	30 85.7%	5 14.2%	0 0%	0 0%	2.85
f.	Community & Rural Development	11 31.4%	10 28.5%	10 28.5%	4 11.42%	1.8
g.	Social events e.g. Nollywoods, etc	14 40%	10 28.5%	9 25.7%	2 5.71%	1.77
h.	New inventions technologies, discoveries	24 68.5%	5 14.2%	2 5.71%	4 11.42%	2.4

i.	Sports	15 42.8%	2 5.72%	3 8.5%	15 42.8%	1.48
j.	International issues	13 37.1	9 25.7%	9 25.7%	4 11.42%	1.62
k.	Your Professional information	18 51.4%	5 14.2%	5 14.2%	8 5.71%	1.97
l.	Economics	4 11.4%	18 68.5%	3 14.2%	2 5.71%	1.85
m.	Entrepreneurship	10 28.5%	12 44.44%	4 11.42%	1 2.85%	1.65

Table .3 shows the views expressed by the respondents as follow The areas of life activities the respondents desire information most include education and research activities 30 (85.7%), next are health matters and new inventions , technology and discoveries both have 25 (71.14 %). the last three life activities which are of less interest to the respondents are: International issues 13 (37.1%) , enterpreneurship 10 (28.5) and economics 4 (11.4)..This study revealed that researche staff in NSPRI Lagos zonal office needs information most on education and research activities ,health matters, news on inventions and technologies and agriculture at mean greater than 2.3 which reveals that research staff at Lagos zonal office of NSPRI do seek information towards the mandates of the Institute where they are working. This finding in this study is also in agreement with the work of Mugwisi (2013) which revealed that most agricultural researchers usually seek information for research purposes. Hence, research staff who are respondents in this study are likely going to value information on past and current research works to innovatively extend the frontiers of knowledge through new research work.

Research question 3: What are the information sources research staff at the Lagos zonal office of a postharvest research institute in Nigeria consults when they are looking for information?

Table 4 Information resources consulted by the respondents

Table 4a PRINT INFORMATION MATERIALS							
	Information resources	Very High (freq. & %)	High	Moderately	Low	Not At all	Mean
a.	Books	24 68.5%	6 17.14%	5 11.11%	0 0%	0 0%	3.5
b.	Periodicals e.g. Journals, Magazines, newspapers	18 51.4%	7 20%	6 17.4%	4 11.42%	0 0%	3.1
c.	Research Bulletins	17 48.5%	9 25.7%	2 5.71%	0 0%	7 20%	3.4
d.	Technical Reports	15 42.8%	7 20%	3 8.5%	2 5.71%	8 22.8%	2.5
e.	Government Publications	6 17.14%	15 85.7%	10 28.5%	3 8.5%	1 2.85%	2.6
f.	Maps	15 85.7%	6 17.14%	4 11.42%	1 2.85%	9 25.7%	2.4
g.	Reference materials, Directories, Autobiographies	10 28.5%	7 20%	10 28.5%	4 11.42%	5 14.2%	2.5
h.	Charts	11 31.4%	10 28.5%	7 20%	3 8.5%	4 11.42%	2.5
i.	Abstracts	25 71.4%	4 11.42%	3 8.5%	1 2.85%	0 0%	2.6
4b NON-PRINT INFORMATION MATERIALS							
	Information Resources	Very High (freq& %)	High	Moderately	Low	Not At all	Mean
k.	Audio tape	7 25.9%	8 29.6%	16 44.44%	4 7.40%	0 0%	2.5
l.	Radio Broadcast	20 55.5%	7 25.9%	5 11.11%	3 7.40%	0 0%	3.25

n	DVD	4 7.40%	23 13.1%	3 8.5%	7 25.9%	18 25.9%	2.8
n	VHS	5 11.11%	1 2.85%	5 11.11%	5 11.11%	15 42.8%	1.37
o	Television programmes	5 11.11%	5 11.11%	20 57.4%	5 11.11%	0 0%	2.28
p	Social Media	25 71.4%	6 17.14%	3 7.40%	1 2.85%	0 0%	3.57
q	Internet	27 77.1%	1 2.85%	7 7.40%	0 0%	0 0%	3.85

From Table 4a it can be confirmed that the three information resources most appreciated by the respondents include books (mean =3.5), abstracts with (mean = 2.6), and periodicals with (mean=3.1). The three least appreciated information resources by the respondents include government publications with a mean (2.6), reference materials with (mean=2.5), and charts with (mean2.5). For non-print information materials, Table 4b revealed further that the respondents appreciate the use of the Internet most. The mean is (mean= 3.85), social media followed with a (mean= 3.5), and radio broadcast followed with (mean 3.25). The least preferred non-print information materials by the respondents are audiotape with (mean= 2.5), a television programme with (mean = 2.28), and DVD with (mean 2.8).). Haines *et al.* (2010) confirmed that online sources (internet) were overwhelmingly preferred by all types of scientists and researchers due to their convenience and immediacy characteristics. Acheampong and Dzandu (2015) also discovered that research scientists prefer journal articles in electronic format to print format:

Research question 4: What is the frequency of use of the services of the information delivery organizations/establishments by the respondents?

Table 5: Frequency of the use of information delivery organizations by the respondents

	Information delivery establishments	Very often (freq. & %)	Often	Occasionally	Not at all	Mean
a.	Libraries	7 20%	5 14.2%	20 57.4%	5 14.2%	1.4
b.	Museum	3 8.5%	2 5.7%	5 14.2%	25 71.4%	0.8
c.	Archives	5 14.5%	7 20%	18 51.4%	5 14.2%	1.34
d.	Information centre	20 57.4%	5 5.7%	3 8.5%	7 20%	2.25

From table.5 Information centers is the most preferred establishment for seeking information by the respondents with a mean of (2.25), the next preferred source the respondents further indicated to seek information is Libraries with (mean=1.4) and archives with (mean=1.34). The least preferred source the respondents indicated is the use of museums with (mean=0.8) to seek information. Acheampong and Dzandu (2012) revealed that researchers at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Crops Research Institute in Ghana preferred to access most of the information they need for their research using their computers (accessing electronic resources).

Research question 5. How often will you say you encounter the under-listed problems while you are seeking information?

Table 6: Problems encountered by respondents while seeking information

	Possible problems	Very often (freq. & %)	Often	Occasion ally	Not at all	Mean
a.	Unstable electricity	29 82.8%	6, 17.14%	0 0%	0 0%	2.82
b.	Lack of online search skill	3 8.5%	5 14.2%	11 2.2%	15 42.8%	0.71
c.	Unbearable distance covered to get to the point to get information	0 0%	6 17.14%	6 17.14%	25 71.4%	0.51
d.	Non availability of current information	3 8.5%	4 11.42%	25 71.4%	3 78.5%	1.08
e.	Non availability of comprehensive information	5 14.2%	9 25.7%	3 8.5%	18 25.7%	1.02
f.	Poor human relation of staff providing information	3 8.5%	6 17.14%	10 28.5%	16 45.7%	0.88
g.	Non-conductive environment of places where information are sought	29 82.8%	6 17.14.%	0 0%	0 0%	2.82
h.	Language of most information material available are not written in English language	0 0%	3 8.5%	4 11.42%	27 90%	0.28
i.	Enormity of official workload does not give enough time to seek	3 8.5%	3 8.5%	4 11.42%	24 68.5%	0.54

	desired information					
j.	Information service providing establishments do not have enough computer terminals	30 85.7%	3 8.5%	2 48.9%	0 0%	2.8
k.	Information service providing establishments do not have stable 5internet network	30 85.7%	5 14.2%	0 0%	0 0%	2.85

Table.6 revealed that unstable electricity with (mean =2.82), the non –conductive environment where information is sought (mean =2.82), Information service providing establishments do not have enough computer terminals with (mean=2.8), and Information service providing establishments do not have a stable network with (mean= 2.85) are the major challenges faced by the respondents. While unbearable distance covered to get to the point to get information with (mean=0.51), the language of most information material available is not in the English language with (mean =0.54) and enormity of workload does not give enough time to seek desired information with (mean=2.8) are the least challenges faced by the respondents. The finding concurs with Ojedokun (2007), who also indicated that epileptic power supply, limited computer/ information technology literacy, poor Internet connectivity, and lack of skilled manpower are among the challenges to effective ICT application in Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The study revealed that the research staff in the Lagos zonal office of NSPRI in Nigeria has more male research staff than females. The result shows that male research staff is more than female research staff by a percentage difference of 14.29%. The analysis of the educational qualification of the respondents indicates that 17 (48.5%) have a Masters’ degree, 12(3.2%) have a BSc degree, 4 (11.42%) have a postgraduate degree in education (PGDE). Also, 2 (1.42%) have HND. The finding shows that more than half of the respondents have a Masters’ Degree. Also, the study revealed that 26(74.28%) of the respondents with a mean =35 expressed that they need information at a very high extent for their daily activities. The area of life activity the respondents indicated they desire information most is in the area of education and research activities with 30 respondents (85.7%) in this category.

The study revealed that books are the most appreciated print information resources respondents like to consult most. While the Internet is the most appreciated non-print information resources desired most by the respondents. The mean of the respondents that indicated that they preferred books as the main source of print information is (3.5) while those that preferred the Internet most as non print information source is (3.85). The most preferred establishment by the respondents to seek for information is information café with mean (2.25) . The greatest challenge indicated by the respondents that they experienced while seeking for information particularly at information café is epileptic power supply which has a mean= (2.82)

Recommendation

In line with the finding of this study, the following recommendations are made: Access to comprehensive and current information is important to meet the demands of life endeavours and research activities of the respondents. Given this, the following recommendations are made:

The library at the Lagos zonal office of NSPRI should be provided with current books where research staff can assess current and comprehensive information that will further enhance their research work.

The zonal office should subscribe to a good Internet service provider. The management should also create a conducive environment with necessary equipment like computer terminals, tables chairs, air conditioners, or fans so that respondents can access information through the Internet for their research work and other important life activities.

Conclusion

This study has been able to reveal the information needs and information-seeking behaviour of research staff at the Lagos zonal office of the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute. To further enhance the performance of the research staff in their bid to conduct research and develop relevant technologies that will help to reduce postharvest loss of crops in the Lagos zone and Nigeria in general. It is expected that the management of the Lagos zonal office will support the research staff who are the respondents in this study to improve on the process of accessing their desired information. This can be achieved through improvement of the zonal office library collections and provision of Internet services and computer terminals for ease and constant accessibility of information by the respondents. The provision of the highlighted facilities by the management of the NSPRI Lagos zonal office will improve the conduct of research, development of more innovative ideas and technologies for the reduction of postharvest loss of crops in Nigeria. This will further enhance making Nigeria a healthier nation.

Recommendations

In line with the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made: Information is regarded as being very important to life endeavors, This can be seen from the outcome of the study concludes that an intensive effort is necessary to improve the state of the institute's library, it is recommended that the management of the institute should provide information resources centre at the Lagos zonal office of the institute. The information centre, apart from having varieties of information resources, Journals, and Abstracts in the area of the mandate of the Institute, it should have current information resources on health matters, education and research

activities and technological innovations maximum utilization of the library, the management should also provide the Internet services using a very reliable network service provider that will provide a stable network and .also, the library in the zonal office should also be provided with a reliable source of electricity so that the research staff and other staff can maximize the use of the resources in the library to enhance their research work and their other life endeavour.

References

- Aina, L. O. (2004). Library and Information Science Text for Africa. Pub. *Third World Information Services Ltd., Ibadan, Nigeria*. Pp. 2.
- Acheampong, LD. & Dzandu, M. (2015). Information-seeking behaviour of crops research scientists in Ghana. Available at: <http://www.iiste.org/Journals/index.php/IKM/article/view/22295/22800>
- Azadeh F and Ghasemi S (2016). Investigating information-seeking behavior of faculty members based on Wilson's model: case study of PNU University, Mazandaran, Iran. *Global Journal of Health Science* 8(9): 26-36.
- Case, DO. (2007). Looking for information: a survey of research on information seeking, needs and behaviour. Amsterdam: Elsevier
- Case, DO. (2012). Looking for information: a survey of research on information seeking, needs, and behaviour (3 rd ed.) London: *Emerald Group*.
- Doraswamy, N.A (2017). Information needs and Information Seeking Behavior of Faculty of JNTUH Affiliated Engineering colleges with reference to special reference in Telangana state.
- Ekwallman (2015). Basics of Research Methodology. Pub. *New India Pub. Agency*.
- Kakai, M., Ikoja-Odongo, R., & Kigongo-Bukenya, IMN. (2004). A study of the information students of Makerere University, Uganda. *World Libraries*, 14(1), 544-564.
- Idiegbeyan-Ose, J., Okoedion, I., & Nwadioha, E.(2014). Information needs utilisation by science and technology researchers in Edo and Delta State Nigeria. *International Journal of Innovation and Applied Research*, 2(6), 144-150.
- Kumar, D. (2010). Analytical study of information seeking behaviour among agricultural scientists in SordarVallabbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 18 (2), 164-168.
- Korobili S Malliari A and Zapounidou S .(2011). Factors that influence information-seeking behavior: the case of Greek graduate students. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* 37(2), 155-165
- Marouf, L. & Anwar, MA.(2010). Information seeking behaviour of the social sciences faculty at Kuwait University. *Library Review*, 59(7), 532-547.
- McGarry, K. (2003). Libraries. In J, Feather & P, Sturges. *International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science*. New York: Routledge: 371-374.
- Okonoko, V, Njideka NO., & Mazah, D. (2015). A comparative study of information seeking behaviour of researchers in Nigeria libraries: librarians' perspective. Available 292 at: <http://www.idpublications.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/A-COMPARATIVESTUDY-OF-INFORMATION-SEEKING-BEHAVIOUR-OF-RESEARCHERS-IN-NIGERIA-LIBRARIES.pdf>.

Padmvate, S.Tubaci (2018). Information seeking behavior: Ann overview
Sue , W. & Bidy, C. (2017).An exploration into the information seeking behavior of Engineers and Scientist. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*,51(2),:https://doi.org/10:1177/0961000061774246
Uzuegbu, C. P. & Uzuegbu, C. L. (2013).Community Information Center Services: A Prospective Pathway to National Transformation and Development of Nigeria. In the provision of Library and Information Services to users in the Era of Globalisation.

Author Biography



Dr. Akande Femi Titus is the current director of the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute's Information and Documentation department.



Salawu Ibiwumi Khadijat works as a librarian I at the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute. She is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Tai-Solarin University of Education in Ijebu Ode State.