

A Comparative Analysis of the Availability of Information Resources on Ibibio Culture in the University Of Uyo And Akwa Ibom State Public Library

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ABSTRACT

This study reports the results of a survey of the available holdings of information resources on Ibibio culture in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Library. The specific objectives of the study were to determine the different size of information resources on funeral, fattening (Mbobo), taboos, myths as well as dissemination in the University of Uyo and Akwa Ibom State Libraries. Survey research design was used for the study. 3,854 information sources in the University of Uyo and Akwa Ibom State Libraries constituted the population of the study, with all estimated 2,276 (100%) forming the sample size of the study. Checklist was used to obtain data for the study. Chi-square was used for the data analysis. The major research findings based on the postulated objectives of the study revealed that there was a significant difference in the information resources available in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Library. The study concluded that libraries must oversee additional problems and increase the acquisition of information resources on Ibibio culture to further curb the dwindling nature of its collection and possible extinction of this information resources.

Keywords: Availability, Ibibio Funeral, Fattening (Mbobo), Taboo, Myths

Introduction

Information resources in libraries are strategic and a pivot around which the growth and development of individuals, organizations and nations revolve. The importance of information resources in the last decade has been further underscored with the increasing convergence of information and communication technology. Libraries have been referred to as the reserve of, and cradle for human civilization and culture (Hyun, 2006). This is why libraries preserve information on a more permanent basis and in most case is the supplier of background information resources, which is described as a social instrumentality created by the society to transmit knowledge about culture. Accordingly, Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) recognized the primary responsibility of any library as to conserve knowledge by its exhaustive and encyclopedic collection of all published materials relevant to the reason for which the library was set up.

Different kind of libraries provide different type of information resources geared toward particular needs of individuals, especially for the eclectic and heterogeneous clientele found in the public and the University library. The basic responsibility of the library is to identify the needs of their clientele and acquire, organize (catalogue, shelve etc.), then make available these information resources for effective dissemination to those who need them. The cultural motivation of libraries should be the promotion of wisdom in the individual and the community as a whole. Today's librarians are expected to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom by ensuring that information resources representing all points of view on any given issue are made available, not succumbing to any political, ideological, religious or moralistic persuasions. Individuals, students, lecturers and indeed organizations and governments often find themselves in situations where they must make decisions, answer questions, locate facts, solve problems or understand something's. Hence, availability of information resources means ensuring their presence in libraries for immediate use (Aguolu and Aguolu, 2002).

However, in the hunt for information resources from records of human culture, the user is usually confronted with the problems of inaccessibility, which could prevent the information resources from being of any use to him, even if they were available to him. Learning materials might be available, i.e., the library has acquired them, but inaccessible to those who need those for whatever reason (uncatalogued, miscatalogued, misshelved, etc.). Dike (2008) concludes that both variables have a relationship with the use of library resources. Consequently, the availability of various formats of information resources on Ibibio culture within the library

should be dependable on the information needs of the society. Especially, where the populace are either literate or non-literate dwellers. The richness and quality in their cultural expression are subsumed in the complexity and staggered diversity of the people's tradition. The assumption is that Ibibio people have over the year's packaged different dimensional cultural rendition to contribute to the awakening of interest on Ibibio culture through diverse resources by means of books, journals, video cassettes/disc, thesis/projects etc. The knowledge carried by these information resources in the society should not be beyond the reach of libraries, which is the backbone or bedrock of all information resources. The anticipation is that cultural information content on Ibibio culture be collated in the formats of ideas, beliefs, values and skills which are interdependent by the library and made available for proper dissemination to users.

Statement of the Problem

Akwa Ibom State is endowed with abundant information resources on Ibibio culture in the form of primary literature: journal articles, research reports, conference papers, grey literature, and thesis, market surveys, feasibility studies and so on. These are however scattered and uncoordinated, and not accessible to a great majority of the user groups. Libraries in Akwa Ibom State are deficient in Ibibio cultural resources, a problem that greatly affects our research efforts, quality of academic products, and continuity in the transmission of our cultural heritage, decision-making, and our overall national development plans. The effort of individual libraries and information centers in the state with regards information management is laudable bearing in mind the constraints in which they operate.

Unfortunately, these efforts however do not satisfy the information needs and demands of their immediate user groups let alone the demand from outside. Experience has shown that despite the enviable importance of information resources on Ibibio culture, their availability in teaching and research is not encouraging as most libraries in Akwa Ibom State are unable to meet the required standard in the provision of these resources. Information resources on Ibibio traditional ceremonies appear as a neglected theme in libraries. Some of the ones available are very old and gradually dying out making our society to be on the verge of losing part of its heritage. It is these considerations that deemed this research which attempts to investigate the different holdings of information resources on Ibibio culture in the University of Uyo library and Akwa Ibom State library, Uyo.

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses formed the basis of this research:

- (1) There is no significant difference in the size of information resources on Ibibio funeral ceremony in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo.
- (2) There is no significant difference in the size of information resources on Ibibio fattening (Mbobo) ceremony in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Library, Uyo.
- (3) There is no significant difference in the size of information resources on Ibibio taboos in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Library, Uyo.
- (4) There is no significant difference in the size of information resources on Ibibio myths in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Library, Uyo.

Background to the study

The University of Uyo library, popularly known as Nyong Essien library has an active collection of 46,745 volumes of material and handles about 409,979 lending and reference queries annually. Its current journal stands at 271 representing all disciplines. It has reading space of 970.51 matters with seating capacity for 698 students. Currently, there are four main divisions namely; acquisitions, lending, processing and research. The public divisions deals directly with readers and regulates the use of library materials. It also handles references questions both on academic and cultural issues.

On the other hand, Akwa Ibom state public library, Uyo is one of the six types of libraries that are established to encourage members of the public, both young and old to cultivate the habit of reading in order to improve their standard of life by reducing illiteracy. Located at number three Brown street, off Udotung Ubo way, this library provides access to materials of general interest as it takes care of the needs of its heterogeneous clientele who fall under the following categories; pre-school children, young people, adults and special groups such as; the blind, the physically handicapped and the elderly.

The Ibibio are found in Akwa Ibom State in the South- South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. More specifically, "the area lies between latitudes 4°25' and 5°45' and longitudes 7°16' and 8°55'E (Inyang, 1991). With a population of about 4,000,000 (4 million) speakers living in Akwa Ibom, Cross River and in other states of the

Federation, they are described as the fourth largest ethnic group in Nigeria (Essien, 1990). Ibibio identifies a people and their language. Ibibio belongs to the Benue-Congo family. A further sub-classification shows Ibibio as belonging to the Lower Cross. Ibibio and other genetically related languages have been classed under what Essien (1990) refers to as Ibibiod, a term which in essence, captures the common origin/ history, culture of the language and the people (Urua, 2007). Ibibio people are very religious and largely moral, living in small villages connected together by language and kinship loyalties. These people pursue modernization through education. An average family takes provide in education from the primary to the tertiary levels. This satisfying educational needs and years of this great people prompted the government policy which cares on bound that public libraries be established in Uyo, Eket, Ikot Ekpene, Etinan and Abak.

Previous Study

According to Okon & Ansa (2012), availability survey is a cross sectional snapshot in time to sample the ability of the collection to satisfy demands, so in managing a collection for maximum dissemination, there is need to note that they are more concerned with estimating the availability of particular titles or groups of little a whole period of academic aridity. The culture into which one is born generally influences one's worldview. Udo (1993) notes that culture means the sum total of those elements by which man adopts himself to his immediate environment. These elements may be intellectual, economic, social, or demographic in nature: they embody a definite system of beliefs, custom, behaviors to a particular society.

For Omekwu (2003), the cataclysmic impact of the current changing information world on libraries and cultural values systems must be understood in the context of availability of cultural resources in libraries. Studies on availability of information resources on culture by Arne (2000), Henrica (2000), and Marian (2000) reveal that the library is assumed to be that garage where that vehicle (Information resources) with its luggage (Culture) is safely in custody. Similarly, Marian (2000) contend that it is obligatory for libraries to make available these information resources, because it is closely linked with quality and there is no other way of judging the significance of the works on culture than by making it available to the public. In the same vain, Gillette and Wright (2005) submit that the mission statement of the public library should be to provide divers cultural opportunities for learning, entertainment and reaching to all citizens of the community.

Webb (1996), Mabawonku (1992), Ugwuanyi (1998) and Ukpe (1998), identified size, nature, and content of the library collection to depend upon the objectives of the library and the needs of the clientele. The authors maintain that this social responsibility has always defined their service orientations, culminating in their nomenclature e.g. University library (for an academic community), public library (for community use and researcher) etc. With these factors in mind, the librarian selects and acquires materials required to carry on the library programme in keeping with established policies and procedures of making information available. Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) and Kayoma (2005) mention that libraries have natural responsibility to their environment, which is to provide services to the people in their immediate community.

For the future, modern life has become sacred, central to our learning process. Udo (1993) is of the notion that one of the most interesting ways in which Ibibio traditional belief and taboo blends in this modern life is the complex ways in which they are all interwoven into the secular needs of Ibibio communities and geared towards the solution of practical problems of day to day life in Ibibio land. Ezomo (2002), Shoki and Oyelude (2006) conclude that culture and language are factors that come into play in the information resource storage, information dissemination and information use cycle. Massman (1996) and Gray (2002) perceive that it is quite interesting to note that the volume of information on culture continues to grow, more so the human population multiples as a result of marriage and birth, thus the problem of information resources availability and dissemination increases, especially as its concerns Ibibio beliefs and taboos. So, libraries must recognize the importance of oral and visual tradition.

Research Methodology

The survey research design was adopted for this study because of the anticipated number of information resources on Ibibio culture. According to Uzoagulu (2011) the big advantage of survey research is that it has the potential to provide us with a lot of information obtained from quite a large sample of individuals' population of the study. Information resources formed the population of the study. Record showed that for the period under review only 2,276 information resources were found. The purposive sampling technique was used for the study. Available records show that there are five (5) public libraries in Akwa Ibom State. For this study, the main public library located at Udotung Ubo was used. Also the University of Uyo Library has four (4) branch libraries. For the benefit of doubt, only the information resources of the main library of the University of Uyo Library, in the main campus and that of Akwa Ibom State Library, Uyo formed the entire population for the

study. The instrument for data collection for this study was a checklist. The checklist was designed to identify information resources availability in these libraries on Ibibio culture.

Major findings of the survey are:

The data presented and analyzed in this section consisted of the 2,276 resources found in the library using checklist. The table below presents the obtained X^2 – value as 15.2041. In order to test for significance, this value was compared with the critical X^2 – value (7.815). The obtained chi-calculated was found to be greater than the chi-critical. Hence the result was significant.

Table 1: Chi-square analysis showing the different information resources available on Ibibio funeral ceremony in the University of Uyo and Akwa Ibom State Libraries

Library	Journals	Newspaper	Textbook	Project/Thesis	Disser.	Total	X^2
UNIUYOL	48(48.5357)	24(36.5680)	134(124.3313)	659(655.5649)			
							15.2041*
AKSPL	25(24.4643)	31(18.4319)	53(63.6687)	327(330.4351)		436	
Total	73	55	187	986		1301	

*Significant at 0.05; df = 3, critical X^2 – value = 7.815

(NB: Disser. – Dissertation, UNIUYOL-University of Uyo Library, AKSPL-Akwa Ibom State Public Library).

The hypothesis in table one stating a non-significant difference in the size of information resources on Ibibio funeral ceremony in the University of Uyo and Akwa Ibom state public library was rejected. The result of the investigation showed that a significant difference was found to exist amongst the two libraries mentioned. The result therefore proved that the most available information resources on Ibibio funeral ceremony were projects/thesis/dissertation which stood at (659 for UNIUYOL and 327 for AKSPL). This was followed by textbooks of varying types which stood at (134 for UNIUYOL and 53 for AKSPL) the third information resources on Ibibio culture were academic journals with a stand of (48 for UNIUYOL and 25 for AKSPL), while the least was newspapers (24 for UNIUYOL and 18 for AKSPL).

Also, the data presented and analyzed in table 2 below presents an obtained X^2 - value of 18.6611. In order to test for significance, this value was compared with the critical X^2 – value (7.815).The obtained chi-calculated was found to be greater than the chi-critical. Hence the result was significant.

Table 2: Chi-square analysis showing the different information resources available on Ibibio fattening (Mbobo) ceremony in the University of Uyo library and Akwa Ibom State library, Uyo

Library	Journals	Newspaper	Textbook	Project/Thesis	Disser.	Total	X^2
UNIUYOL	13(11.3297)	8(10.6216)	32(42.4865)	78(66.5622)		131	
							18.6611*
AKSPL	3(4.6703)	7(4.3784)	28(17.5135)	16(27.478)		54	
Total	16	15	60	94		185	

Significant at 0.05;df=3, critical X^2 - value = 7.815

(NB: Disser. – Dissertation, UNIUYOL-University of Uyo Library, AKSPL-Akwa Ibom State Public Library).

The hypothesis in table 2 stating a non-significant difference in the size of information resources on Ibibio fattening (Mbobo) ceremony in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Library, Uyo was rejected. The result indicates that there exist a significant differences. This result therefore means that information resources on Ibibio fattening ceremony in the University of Uyo library are significantly higher than that of Akwa Ibom state public library, Uyo. The summary of the result proved that most available information resource on Ibibio fattening ceremony stood at (78 project/thesis/dissertation for UNIUYOL and 32 for AKSPL). This was seconded by textbook which stood at (104 for UNIUYOL and 40 for AKSPL). The third were academic journals which also stood at (40 for UNIUYOL and 15 for AKSPL), while the least was newspapers standing at (25 for UNIUYOL and 20 for AKSPL).

Furthermore, the data presented and analyzed in table 3 below shows the critical X^2 - value of 4.5599. In order to test for significance, this value was compared with the critical X^2 - value of 7.815. The obtained chi-calculated was found to be less than the chi-critical. Hence, the result was found not to be significant.

Table 3: Chi-square analysis showing the different Information Resources available on Ibibio Taboos in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Library, Uyo.

Library	Journals	Newspaper	Textbook	Project/Thesis/Disser.	Total	X ²
UNIUYOL	12(14.4138)	5(5.3103)	37(39.4483)	56(50.8276)	110	
						6.1552*
AKSPL	7(4.5862)	2(1.6897)	15(12.5517)	11(16.1724)	35	
Total	19	7	52	67	145	

Significant at 0.05; df = 3; critical X² – value = 7.815

(NB: Disser. – Dissertation, UNIUYOL-University of Uyo Library, AKSPL-Akwa Ibom State Public Library).

The result in table 3 stating a non-significant difference in the information resources available on Ibibio taboos in the University of Uyo Library from Akwa Ibom State public library, Uyo was upheld. This implies that the parameters considered under Ibibio traditional taboos system in the University of Uyo library does not significantly differ from Akwa Ibom State public library, Uyo. The result also revealed that the most available information resources on Ibibio traditional taboos are project/thesis/dissertation which stands at (56 for UNIUYOL and 11 for AKSPL). This was seconded by textbooks (37 for UNIUYOL and 15 for AKSPL). The third was academic journals (12 for UNIUYOL and 7 for AKSPL), while the least was newspapers (5 for UNIUYOL and 2 for AKSPL).

In the same vain, the data presented and analyzed in 4 below shows the critical X² - value as 6.1552. In order to test for significance, this value was compared with the critical X² - value 7.815. The obtained X² - value (84.26604) was found to be higher than the critical X² - value 7.815. Hence, the result was not significant.

Table 4: Chi-square Analysis showing the different Information Resources on Ibibio Myths available in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Library, Uyo.

Library	Journals	Newspaper	Textbook	Project/Thesis/Disser.	Total	X ²
UNIUYOL	47(60.0138)	30(22.1103)	89(164.2483)	29(211.6276)	458	
						6.1552*
AKSPL	28(24.5034)	17(9.0276)	48(67.0621)	94(86.4069J)	187	
Total	78	47	137	386	645	

Significant at 0.05; df = 3; critical X² – value = 7.815

(NB: Disser. – Dissertation, UNIUYOL-University of Uyo Library, AKSPL-Akwa Ibom State Public Library).

The result in table 4 stating a non-significant difference in the information resources of Ibibio traditional myths in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo was upheld. The result therefore means that, information resources on Ibibio traditional myths in the University of Uyo Library is not significantly higher than that of Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo. The result further proved that the available information resources on Ibibio traditional myths are project/thesis/dissertation which are (292 for UNIUYOL and 94 for AKSPL). This was seconded by textbooks which stood at (89 for UNIUYO and 48 for AKSPL). The third category was academic journals which stood at (47 for UNIUYOL and 28 for AKSPL), while the least was newspapers (30 for UNIUYOL and 29 for AKSPL).

Discussion of Findings

The result of the investigation showed that a significant difference was found to exist amongst the two libraries mentioned. This result in table 1 revealed a significant difference. This implies that the size of library's information resources is depends on the library's collection which is in consonance with what was reported by Arne (2000) who premise that there must be a never ending effort to make knowledge including artistic visions, cultural resources available and accessible to every human being as part of the universal priorities of libraries. Hence, these findings also agrees with what was reported by Marian (2000) who advised that libraries should provide these information resources to enhance availability, because it is closely linked with quality and there is no other way of judging the significance of the work on Ibibio funeral ceremony than by making it available to the public.

Also, the result in table 2 indicated that there existed significant differences in the information resources between the two libraries under study. This result therefore means that information resources on Ibibio fattening ceremony in the University of Uyo library was found to be significantly higher than that of Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo. The implication of this findings is that there is a serious disparity in their holdings with regards to Ibibio cultural resources. This findings can be corroborated with what was reported by Webb (1996) who observed that despite the promise by libraries, the accelerated rate of economic and social change has created an information vacuum as change itself which has outpaced the supply of information on which to base decision that would assure prudent and successful development. This findings is in agreement with what was reported by Ugwuanyi (1998) who attested that the services of any library depends, to a large extent on the quality of cultural resources available in the library, if the collection is good, the library will be patronized.

In the same vain, the result in table 3 indicated that there is no-significant difference in the information resources on Ibibio taboos in the University of Uyo Library from Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo. The implication of this is that the parameters considered under Ibibio traditional taboos system in the University of Uyo Library does not significantly differ from Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo. The implication of this findings shows that libraries whether academic libraries or public libraries are supposed to make available information resources on Ibibio culture. These findings can be corroborated with what was reported by Gray (2002) who reported that a culturally balanced folklore resource enriches an academic institution since it provides valuable tools for reconstructing a historical or literary reality. In the same vain Massman (1996) noted that libraries must recognize the importance of oral and visual traditional especially as it concerns taboos in Ibibio culture.

Finally, the null hypothesis stating a non-significant difference was upheld. Table 4 indicated that a non-significant different in the information resources of Ibibio traditional myths in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo. This therefore implies that the result was not significant. The result therefore means that, information resources on Ibibio traditional myths in the University of Uyo Library are not significantly higher than that of Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo. This findings can be corroborated with what was reported by Wikipedia (2006) which observed that it is necessary that the concept of universal availability of publication be adopted to commensurate the existing needs of users, on their cultural beliefs and myths. Hence, it agrees with Adimorah (1992) who noted that libraries plan should have an Ibibio myths information sector weaved into it which should be futuristic to enable easy manipulation of plans and predictions of probable future events that may lead to failure.

Conclusion

From the research findings the following conclusions were drawn. The study found that the first two hypotheses tested proved significant, implying that information resources on Ibibio culture in the University of Uyo Library was higher than that of the Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo. This was attributed to study carried out by students in the forms of projects/thesis/dissertation, while a few textbooks and academic journals were seen to these sources. Newspapers' being the least was found to be in the University of Uyo Library than Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo. While the remaining two hypotheses tested were found not to be in significant, implying that these information resources on Ibibio culture are almost of the same size considering their quantity. From the foregoing, it was concluded that though minimal, the information resources on Ibibio culture in the University of Uyo Library was higher compared with that of Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo, except in two aspects where the hypotheses proved insignificant.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, which has established that fact that very significant differences exist in the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Library, Uyo on their collection of information resources on Ibibio culture. The following recommendations were made in order to bridge that missing gaps in the area of research.

1. In developing and implementing its programme of service, the University of Library and Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo should come together through inter-library agreement which will enable each library have access to another's resources, so as to enhance availability of this very important artifacts.
2. These libraries should work out a modality in their plans that would enable them team up with local institutions within the state like the ministry of culture and tourism, Akwa Ibom State Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC) etc, to be able to harness the cultural resources in these institutions and make them available in their libraries.
3. Finally, the University of Uyo Library and Akwa Ibom State Public Library, Uyo should plan for the incorporation of information and communications technology (ICTs) center with internet connectivity

to enhance access to the internet. This would enable them have access to a myriad of information resources on Ibibio culture within the libraries.

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