

**Utilization of Library Resources Among Undergraduate Business Education Students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, Nigeria**<sup>1</sup>Rafat Bukola Dauda, <sup>2</sup>Sulayman Dauda Gidado<sup>1</sup>[University of Ilorin, Nigeria](https://www.unilorin.edu.ng)<sup>2</sup>[Department of Business Education, Federal College of Education Zuba-Abuja, Nigeria](https://www.federalcollege.edu.ng)**Research Article****Citation Information:**

Dauda, R. B., & Gidado, S. D. (2024). Utilization of Library Resources Among Undergraduate Business Education Students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, Nigeria. *International Journal of Universal Education*, 2(1), 35–39. <https://doi.org/10.33084/ijue.v2i1.7512>

Received: March 2024

Revised: April 2024

Accepted: May 2024

Published: June 2024

**ABSTRACT**

This study was carried out to examine the utilization of library resources among undergraduate business education students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin. The study had three specific objectives and research questions. The population of the study consisted of all the 91 students who registered for business education programme in the 2023/2024 academic session at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin. The entire population was considered for the study. The data was collected with the use of a 44-item structured questionnaire which was designed by the researchers. Ninety-one copies of the questionnaire were administered through a research assistant. Only 80 copies of the questionnaire were returned by the respondents and used for the data analysis. The collected data were analysed using mean scores with a benchmark of 2.50 for accepting or rejecting a questionnaire item. The study revealed that there is availability of library resources for the consumption of undergraduate business education students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, the students use them for numerous purposes and the extent of their usage by the students is high. The study concluded that since the university provides the library resources which are needed and the students are utilizing them, it stands the chance of producing competent and qualified business education graduates who can contribute toward repositioning Nigeria to the path of progress. As a way forward, the study among others, suggested that there should be increased budgetary allocation for the library, workshops and orientations should be regularly organized for the students on the use of the library and the students should ensure that they continue to use the library resources for their academic advancement.

**Keywords:** Utilization, Library Resources, Business Education

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**Corresponding Author:**

Rafat Bukola Dauda

[University of Ilorin, Nigeria](https://www.unilorin.edu.ng)

1515, P.M.B, Ilorin, Nigeria

Email: [dauda.rb@unilorin.edu.ng](mailto:dauda.rb@unilorin.edu.ng)**INTRODUCTION**

The library performs the role of making available, organized materials that will enable an academic institution to achieve its set objectives. Hence, the university library is the nerve centre as well as the central and primary place of the institution's academic activities (Jacoby & O'Brien, 2005). According to Igwebuike and Agbo (2017), a library is a place where there is no barrier to learning in the sense that it serves the local community and provides books and other technological resources to the people who cannot afford them. This implies that it is a collection of sources of information and similar resources that are made accessible to a defined community for referencing or borrowing. The library provides physical or digital access to materials and maybe a physical building and or a virtual space. It also ranges in size from a few shelves of books to several million items. A deduction from Oyedipe et al (2018) also revealed that library resources include print, non-print, electronic and web-based resources. This shows that the collections of a library can include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, print documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, e-books, audiobooks, databases, and other formats.

The primary goal of a university library is to support the objectives of the university, which are the promotion of teaching, learning and research. The university library is meant to serve the undergraduates, post-graduates, lecturers and other members of the university community. In line with this, Ajuwon and Oshiname (2018) pointed out that the university library contributes to the quality of teaching and research and it is a principal academic resource which is established, sponsored and managed by the university to support the curriculum needs of the students and foster teaching and research. Alokuk (2020) also stated that academic libraries are the hearts of learning institutions which provide valuable resources for learners and teachers. This is because they create favourable environments for the learners and the teachers to respectively to advance their knowledge

and carry out research. This implies that they create opportunities for the students to get access to resources for complementing what they were taught in the classroom. In the same vein, they provide information, resources and services of sufficient quality and diversity to the teaching staff and research fellows to improve the quality of their teaching and research. The university library is essential for teaching and research, and its quality is measured by the services it provides (Arowolo et al., 2022).

Ternenge and Agipu (2019) emphasize that the utilization of library resources involves their proper use and achievement of the intended purpose. Arowolo et al (2022) revealed that the utilization of library resources looks at the extent to which the user uses the library to satisfy their information wants and it is a yardstick for retaining a document among the library collections. A library user is someone who utilizes library services at least once a year for their benefit (Haddow, 2013). Hence, people who go either to public, private, special, school or academic libraries for some genuine reasons, requiring the attention of the library staff, are known as library users or utilizers. Library users in the universities can be administratively divided into external and internal users. The internal users consist of undergraduate students, post-graduate students, lecturers, research fellows and other members of the tertiary institution, while the external users are those who are not members of the institution but are also served by the libraries under certain specific official arrangements. Users of academic libraries are mostly made up of subject readers who concentrate their use of library materials on subjects or fields they are working on or studying. Students belong to this subgroup of subjects' readers. Subject specialists or academic staff are also part of the subgroup. It is however worthy of note that students are the highest users of academic libraries.

Factors that might motivate an individual to use a library include the quantity and quality of available information and how easily it can be used. The ease of use is an important factor to consider when a user is contemplating using a library. It is therefore better to devise an information retrieval system that will not make it difficult for a student to have access to information. Ease of use is sometimes ranked ahead of the quality of information expected from a particular source. Provision of library catalogues that are easy to use, adequate guides to library collections and adequately shelved books enhance and facilitate library use. Abubakar (2011) recommend that staff should be continuously motivated and professionally challenged through in-service training, seminars, workshops, and conference attendance. Ternenge and Agipu (2019) identified challenges in library resource utilization, including poor material arrangement, staff attitudes, lack of books, funding, accommodation, orientation, restricted hours, and non-ICT integrated libraries.

Al-Hikmah University Ilorin is a private university established in 2005 with three faculties: Humanities, Management Sciences, and Natural Sciences. It now has seven faculties, including Agriculture, Education, Health Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, Law, Management Sciences, and Natural Sciences. The university runs over thirty academic programs, including business education, which aims to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and values needed in the business world. To achieve these goals, Al-Hikmah University established a functional library to serve all areas of knowledge taught in the university. The library is decentralized, with the main library coordinating departmental and faculty libraries. The university's goal is to transform Nigeria and reposition the country on the path of progress.

A deduction from CIn et al (2015) shows that all the Nigerian universities were created based on the philosophy and objective of creating opportunities for progress, production and developing manpower needed for different fields of human endeavours. It is therefore based on the relevance of the library to the realization of the objectives and goals of the university system and business education programme in particular, that this study focuses on the utilization of library resources among undergraduate business education students in Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin.

#### Statement of the Problem

It is generally expected that academic libraries will be fully utilized to enhance teaching and learning. But, when library resources are not properly used by the students, they may not be well groomed in their fields of specialization which could result in the production of half-baked graduates. Available studies on the utilization of library resources by students include those conducted by Igwebuikwe and Agbo (2017) which emphasized strategies for effective utilization of library resources and services by Distance education students in National Teachers Institute in Enugu State, Nigeria, Ajuwon and Oshiname (2018), which focused on the use of library resources by undergraduate students from two tertiary institutions in Southwest, Nigeria, Oyedipe et al (2018), titled "use of library resources and services by part-time undergraduates in Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ogun State, Nigeria", Alokluk (2020), with emphasis on the attitude of students towards the use of library facilities: a case study, Ternenge and Agipu (2019), which focused on the utilization of library resources by secondary school students: a case study of Britarch secondary school library and Arowolo et al (2022), titled "utilization of library resources by undergraduates of a public university in Ogun State". It is therefore worthy of note that to the best of the research's knowledge, there is no available study on the utilization of library resources among undergraduate business education students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin. The problem of this study is thus, to empirically determine the library resources available for use by undergraduate business education students in Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, the purpose for which the resources are used by the students and the extent to which they use them.

#### Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of this study is to find out the use of library resources among undergraduate business education students in Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin. The specific objectives of the study are however as follows:

1. To find out the types of library resources, available for use by undergraduate business education students in Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin.
2. To determine the purpose for which the undergraduate business education students use the library resources at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin.
3. To determine the extent to which library resources are used by undergraduate business education students of Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin.

#### Research Questions

This study was guided by the following questions:

1. What kinds of library resources are available for use by undergraduate business education students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin?
2. Why do undergraduate business education students use the library resources at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin?
3. What is the extent of usage of library resources by undergraduate business education students in Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin?

## METHOD

The study adopted the survey research design. The research design for this study was judged appropriate because it ought to explain and communicate what is discovered in a particular investigation. The population of this study comprised all the 91 (100 to 400 level) students who registered for the Business education programme at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin in the 2023/2024 academic session. The whole population was used for the study because Umoru and Bala (2018) reported that it has been suggested that the entire population should be used if it is not more than 250. The instrument employed in gathering the data for this study was a 44-item 4-point rating scale questionnaire designed by the researchers. The data was gathered through a research assistant who administered the questionnaire and gave the respondents one week to respond and return them. Only 80 copies were however returned and used for the analysis. Mean scores with a benchmark of 2.50 were used as the criterion for accepting or rejecting a questionnaire item.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Results

This study examines library resource utilization among undergraduate business education students at Al-Hikmah University Ilorin, Nigeria. It aims to identify patterns, preferences, and challenges related to resource usage, providing insights for strategies to improve library services and academic outcomes. The results and discussions will provide insights into the current state of library resource utilization.

#### Research Question One

What kinds of library resources are available for use by undergraduate business education students at Al-Hikmah University Ilorin?

Table 1. Mean Responses on the Kind of Library Resources that are Available to Undergraduate Business Education Students at Al-Hikmah University Ilorin

S/N	The library resources available for undergraduate business education students include:	MEAN $\bar{X}$	DECISION
1	Journals	3.00	Accepted
2	Bulletin	3.21	Accepted
3	Transaction and Proceedings	3.33	Accepted
4	Research Monographs	3.50	Accepted
5	Research Reports	3.88	Accepted
6	Technical Bulletin/report	3.90	Accepted
7	Dissertations	3.50	Accepted
8	Letters	3.11	Accepted
9	Diaries	3.20	Accepted
10	Memoranda	3.70	Accepted
11	Thesis	3.12	Accepted
12	Internal Research reports	3.30	Accepted
13	Indexes/abstract	3.00	Accepted
14	Biographies	3.10	Accepted
15	Gazetteers	3.40	Accepted
16	Guide & travel books	3.23	Accepted
17	Text Books	3.75	Accepted

18	Magazines	3.00	Accepted
19	Periodical	3.14	Accepted
20	Internet services	3.03	Accepted
21	CD ROMS	3.13	Accepted
22	Cassettes (Audio)	3.25	Accepted
23	Video cassettes	3.15	Accepted
24	Encyclopedia	3.13	Accepted
25	Dictionaries	2.80	Accepted
26	Atlas, Maps & globes	3.12	Accepted
27	Manuals	3.00	Accepted
28	Extension video shows	3.42	Accepted

Table 1 shows that all the library resources listed above are available for the consumption of undergraduate business education students at Al-Hikmah University Ilorin. This is because the mean scores for all the responses were not below the benchmark mean of 2.50.

#### Research Question Two

Why do undergraduate business education students use the library resources at Al-Hikmah University Ilorin?

Table 2. Mean Responses on Why Undergraduate Business Education Students Utilize Library Resources in Al-Hikmah University Ilorin.

S/N	I utilize the library resources	MEAN $\bar{X}$	DECISION
1	to consult reference Materials and books	2.80	Accepted
2	to develop students, note	2.90	Accepted
3	to read newspapers	3.00	Accepted
4	to borrow Books	3.25	Accepted
5	for research purposes	3.10	Accepted
6	to read personal note	3.50	Accepted
7	to cultivate self-study habit	3.60	Accepted
8	to use the internet	3.70	Accepted
9	to be up-to-date in my field of study	3.25	Accepted
10	to get information for doing assignments	2.90	Accepted

Table 2 shows the mean responses relating to the reasons why undergraduate business education students use library resources at Al-Hikmah University Ilorin. The table shows that they use the library resources for all the items listed in the table. This is because the mean scores for all the items were not less than the benchmark mean of 2.50.

#### Research Question 3

What is the extent of usage of library resources by undergraduate business education students in Al-Hikmah University Ilorin?

Table 3. Mean Responses on the extent of utilization of Library Resources by Undergraduate Business Education Students in Al-Hikmah University Ilorin.

S/N	The extent of utilization of the following library resources by undergraduate business education students is :	X	DECISION
1	Books	3.90	High
2	Journal	3.20	High
3	Newspapers/magazines	3.33	High
4	Research Monographs	3.18	High
5	Research reports	3.33	High
6	e-resources	2.70	High

Table 3 shows that the undergraduate business education students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin are highly utilizing the library resources. This is because the mean responses for all the items were not less than the benchmark mean of 2.50.

#### Discussion of Finding

The findings about the research objective and question one revealed there is an availability of library resources for the consumption of undergraduate business education students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin. The findings are in line with the findings of Oyedipe et al (2018) and Arowolo et al (2022) which revealed that textbooks, newspapers/magazines, encyclopedias, dictionaries, dissertations/theses, abstract/indexes, novels, internet service, multimedia, e-books, journals and conference proceedings are among library resources available to undergraduate students in universities. In the case of the findings for the research objective and question two, they showed that undergraduate business education uses library resources for purposes including but not limited to borrowing books, keeping themselves up to date in their areas of study, use of internet service and reading newspaper/magazines. These findings corroborated those of Alokuk (2020) which revealed that students use the library to read study materials, borrow books, read newspapers, stay up to date in their area of study and enjoy internet services. Finally, the findings about objective and research question three found that the extent to which undergraduate business

education students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin use the library resources is high. These confirmed the findings of Ajuwon and Oshiname (2018) and Aloklok (2020) which respectively revealed that 86% and 92% of the students make use of the library. The findings were also in line with those of Arowolo et al (2022) which showed that the frequency of usage of library resources by undergraduate students is high.

## CONCLUSION

The library plays an important role in the university system. This owes to the fact that it adds to the quality of research, teaching and learning. This study revealed that the undergraduate business education students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin have access to library resources which are made available by the university, they use the resources for many purposes and the extent of their usage of the resources is high. The implication of these is that since the university is making the required library resources available and the students are making effective use of the resources, it stands a better chance of producing competent and qualified business education graduates who will be empowered to be self-reliant and generate job for others or work in the office or industry thereby contributing towards repositioning Nigeria to the path of progress. The study recommends that increasing university library budgets, providing relevant resources for business education, and organizing workshops and orientations will increase operational hours, and keep students informed about new resources. It also encourages judicious use of library resources for academic development and prompt disposal of obsolete resources by library management.

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### Information about the authors

**Rafat Bukola Dauda** – University Ilorin-Nigeria. E-mail: [dauda.rb@unilorin.edu.ng](mailto:dauda.rb@unilorin.edu.ng)

**Sulayman Dauda Gidado** – Department of Business Education, Federal College of Education Zuba-Abuja, Nigeria