



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

STUDENTS ATTITUDE TOWARDS CATALOGUING AND CLASSIFICATION IN GUJARAT UNIVERSITY: CASE STUDY OF STUDENTS ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Arts

KEY WORDS: Cataloguing, Classification, Students Attitude, library and information science students.

Dr. Yogesh Parekh

Librarian, Central Library, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad

ABSTRACT

This article adopts the case study approach to examine the attitude of library and information science students towards cataloguing and classification. The population of this study comprises students in Gujarat University for a period of six months. The sample size comprises of the thirty students since they are not much in size is used for this study. Structured questionnaire were used for data collection and the analysis were done using simple frequency. Findings reveal among a negative attitude towards cataloguing and classification. To overcome this type of negative development, it is recommended that practical training on cataloguing and classification should be put in place and viewed seriously at the training level of librarian in training. The experienced cataloguers like lecturers or professors should serve as motivators to the young students so that the entire society will be interested in joining the profession.

INTRODUCTION

The role of cataloguing and classification is to create easy and quick access to available resources in the library. To achieve this well trained librarians are infinite in the area of cataloguing and classification which are very important in the library management system. The method of describing, organizing and providing access to library resources available in a library is called cataloguing and classification.

Literature Review

Chukwu (2002) acknowledges that there are too many materials available for the most energetic and hardworking expert to handle even in his own little field of study. Therefore, this indicates that the amount of information that is available today is too large to be easily accessed without proper organization which is cataloguing and classification.

Fijabi (2011) observes that this enables us to create an information workforce that are professionally skilled, knowledgeable and educated of worldwide condition to succeed (yield) positive result. The libraries need the right number of staff with a certain level of skills and attitude to carry out its functions.

Aina (2012) describes cataloguing as a complex process used in providing access tools to materials in a collection, to enable users have access to materials. This implies that the collection of a library is useless without the cataloguing. He described that there are various tools such as Anglo American cataloguing rules (AACR), resource description and access (RDA), an index language such as LCSH, SEARS list of subject heading and so on which are used in the process. Cataloguing is done by professional librarians who are called cataloguers, who are responsible for the intellectual analysis of information materials before it could be identified and retrieved by users

Rahman (2012) states that for successful and meaningful project, the contribution of human factor involved in the process is significant looking at the importance of human factor in organizational development, including the libraries.

Yusuf (2012) states that cataloguers are expected to provide effective and efficient services that will enhance information retrieval and increase the use of library resources. According to him, it may be difficult to achieve if the cataloguers do not possess sufficient knowledge and skill since there will not be a good connection between users and the library collections.

Lawal (2013) notes that every organization needs the right number of employees with the right level of skills, in the right job at the right time and performing the right activities in order to accomplish its predetermined objectives.

Kosoko (2014) observes that attitude is made up of three components, that is the affective, behavioural and cognitive which

indicate how individuals feel about a particular issue, what they intend to do about it and what they believe about it. Positive attitude are necessary for any successful and significant achievement. Thus, for any organization to succeed, members have to demonstrate good attitude towards their jobs. The act of cataloguing and classification involves a lot of patience and concentration.

METHOD

This study is the case study approach to survey the attitude of students of library and information science in the Gujarat University. The total population for this study comprises 30 Students for the 2017-18 academic sessions. The sample size comprises of 30 students purposively adopted for the study since they are not much in size. Data for the study were collected through a questionnaire administered to students of library and information science from Gujarat University between 2017-18 sessions. Also, interview was conducted to obtain necessary information from the respondents. The questionnaire had two main sections. The first section consisted of four questions, which sought background information about the respondents. The second section consisted of fourteen questions inquiring about their attitude towards cataloguing and classification, reasons for their feelings, problems faced if any. Out of the 30 copies of questionnaire distributed at the different intervals, all 100% were collected and found usable. Simple descriptive statistic method in terms of frequency was used for analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Course background

Table 1: Course background of the respondents

No.	Subject background	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Art	13	43.33
2.	Commerce	10	33.33
3.	Science	7	23.34
	Total	30	100

Source: Survey, 2018

Table 1 shows that 13 (43.33%) respondents indicate Arts, 10 (33.33%) commerce students, while sciences had 7 respondents (23.34%). This shows range of subject background of the respondents and the multi-disciplinary nature of the course which encourages a unique learning environment.

Academic level

Table 2: Academic level of the respondents

No.	Categories of respondents	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Undergraduate	22	73.33
2	Postgraduate	8	26.67
	Total	30	100

Source: Survey, 2018

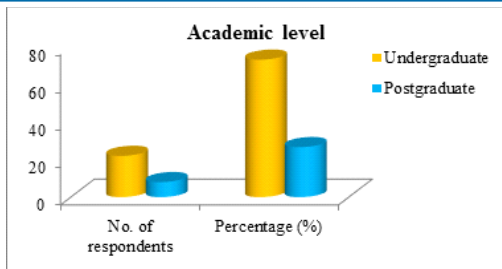


Chart 2: Academic level of the respondents

Table 2 indicates that 73.33% of the respondents were undergraduate students while the remaining 8% were postgraduate students. The table shows that respondents were students from the Gujarat University.

Attitude toward cataloguing and classification activities

Table 3: Attitude of respondents toward cataloguing and classification activities

No.	Attitude	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Positive	24	80
2	Negative	06	20
	Total	30	100

Source: Survey, 2018

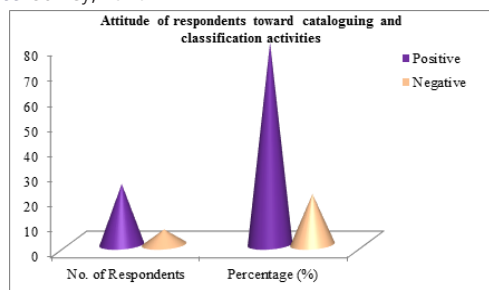


Chart 3: Attitude of respondents toward cataloguing and classification activities

Table 3 indicates that out of the 100% of the respondents 80 % of students showed positive attitude to cataloguing and classification while only 20 % manifested negative attitude to cataloguing and classification. The number of those who showed negative attitude was lower than those with positive attitude.

Reasons for negative attitude

Table 4: Reasons for negative attitude towards cataloguing and classification

No.	Reasons for negative attitude	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Lack of interest because it is not straight forward like other courses.	4	13.33
2	It is time consuming/Boring	3	10.00
3	It is a tedious task	1	03.00
4	Procedure is cumbersome	4	13.33

Source: Survey, 2018

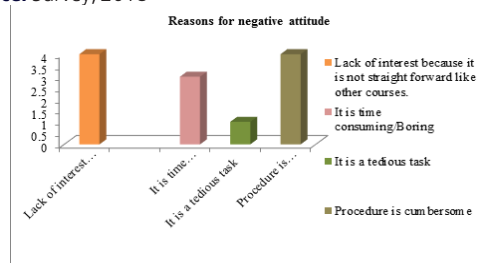


Chart 4: Reasons for negative attitude towards cataloguing and classification

Table 4 indicates that the 4 (13.33%) respondents develop

negative attitude towards cataloguing and classification due to lack of interest because it is not straight forward like other courses, while 10 % indicate it is tile consuming/ boring as the reasons for their negative attitude. Minority of the respondents (3 %) considered cataloguing and classification as a tedious task,

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study looked into the attitudinal disposition of Library and Information Science Students in Gujarat University. Based on the findings of the study, it could be concluded that librarian have unfavorable attitude to cataloguing and classification. They showed non-challant attitude when it comes to cataloguing and classification of information materials. The need have to correct the negative attitude which must start from library training. In other to encourage the development of positive attitude to cataloguing and classification, it is recommended that the curriculum of Gujarat University should be harmonized and practical in cataloguing and classification should be emphasized, this will enable the students to master the skills. There is requiring being a balance between the practical and theoretical approach. Learning facilities like that Classification Schedules, List of Subject Headings, Anglo- American cataloguing Rules (AACR) should be provided in library at least for teaching original cataloguing/ classification.

Major recommendations are;

- Training and retraining in cataloguing and classification in other to develop students' knowledge and skills is required, this will enable them to discover their potential.
- Teachers should show positive attitude to teaching of cataloguing and classification.
- The students should be exposed to Online Cataloguing.
- This is knowledge age; librarians should automate their libraries and provide internet facilities for their students and users.
- The cataloguing and classification section of the Gujarat University should take a proactive step to salvage the situation by getting involved especially.

REFERENCES

1. Aina, L. O. (2012). Mentoring in cataloguing: Bridging the gap between the young and adult Paper Presented at the 32nd Annual Seminar/Workshop Organized by Nigerian Library Association, Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Section, from October 21 - 26.
2. Chukwu, O. C. (2002). Information explosion and the challenge of package in the new millennium: The role of bibliographic control in computerization of library operations in the information age. Proceeding of the cataloguing, classification and indexing section of Nigeria library Association, 1-13.
3. Fijabi, M. N. (2011). Contemporary issues and themes in library and information science education in Nigeria. Paper presented at the 1st International Conference Organized by Colleges of Education Staff Union (COEASU), 1-15.
4. Kosoko, A. A. (2014, August 5th). Components of attitude towards improving service delivery. Paper presented at workshop on attitudinal change toward service delivery in Lagos State Polytechnic.
5. Nnadozie, C. O. (2013). Graduating students' perception of cataloguing and classification courses: A study of library schools in south eastern Nigeria, The Nigerian cataloguer, 1(1), 16-37.
6. Rahman Jakaria, A. I. M. (2012). Library' professionals' attitude toward IT: University libraries in Bangladesh, LAP Lambert Academic Publishing.
7. Saroja, G., and Ambedkar, B. R. (2009). developing competencies of library and information professional: An evaluation of LIS Curriculum of ODL Ins in India. Retrieved from <http://www.wikieducator.org>.
8. Yusuf K. F. (2012). Preparedness of cataloguing section for library automation in academic libraries in Lagos state, Nigeria. Journal of Research in Education and Society, 3(2), 119- 125.