



Newspaper use among undergraduate students at a college library at the University of Education, Winneba. Ghana.

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Abstract

Newspapers are among the information resources found in all types of libraries because they constitute an important source of information for users. The CODEL Library, recognising newspapers as an important source of information, subscribes to the newspapers in the print format. Visitors to the library use the newspapers to advance their knowledge. In light of that it is essential to examine the use of newspapers among undergraduate students. Therefore, the study sought to examine the use of newspapers by undergraduate students who patronise the library. The main instrument for data collection was questionnaires which included both open and closed-ended. A sample size of 437 was selected through a simple random technique and was used for the study. The students who were involved were from different faculties at the north campus were asked to respond to the questionnaire after the purpose of the study was duly explained to them. The analysed data was presented in frequency tables and percentages. The findings of the study showed that respondents acknowledged newspapers as good sources of information, useful for academic purposes, improves their writing and enhances their academic work. Generally, the study established that respondents have a positive attitude towards newspaper reading. In respect of challenges, the study revealed inadequate copies of newspapers and the inability to borrow among others. Recommendations made included, among others, adjusting newspaper collection development policies to include electronic newspaper subscriptions and creating another space solely for newspapers to allow for discussions.

Keywords: codel library, users, university of education, winneba, newspapers, academic libraries

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1.0 Introduction

The academic libraries in institutions of higher learning are considered the hub of the institutions, hence they are often described as the “heart” and “core” of the institutions into which they are located. Thus, all academic activities within the institutions revolve around the academic libraries. Academic libraries are considered an integral component of any educational system and play a vital role in the improvement of academic achievement (Maya, Rodrigues, & Bala, 2020). In positioning academic libraries within the institutions of higher learning, Aggarwal and Akhter (2015), also emphasise that academic libraries have a crucial role because academic institutions of higher learning are incomplete without a good library. In effect, the academic libraries as a service institution support the teaching, learning, and research activities within the institutions. The support roles of the academic libraries are done through the provisions of resources and services they provide to the academic community. The students, researchers and faculty are provided with useful and relevant information sources appropriate to their needs. One major important information sources provided by academic libraries for patrons are newspapers.

Newspapers constitute vital sources of information provided by academic libraries to enhance the knowledge of their varied patrons. Newspapers are a collection of articles about recent events usually published daily. They contain recent and current information as compared to textbooks (Hapney & Jerry, 2016). Thus, newspapers contain information on issues about health, economics, trade, and industries, and education among others. Furthermore, issues about the locality as well as world issues are all covered by newspapers. Some of the information covered by newspapers educate everyone within the society. In the views of Quadri and Quadri (2015), newspapers are the most attainable document to a large number of people from all walks of life. Thus, newspapers appeal to a larger number of individuals in society. In academic libraries, newspapers are normally kept at the Serial sections of the library.

The importance of the newspaper as a valuable information resource in academic libraries in the promotion of scholarship in higher institutions of learning cannot be underestimated. The significance of newspapers is well acknowledged by authors (Yadav, Dixit & Sandeep, 2018; Nagasampige & Nagasampige, 2016; Oyewumi, Alegbeleye & Onifade, 2015). The importance of newspapers is further advanced by Asare-Kyire, Borteye & Teye (2013). In academic libraries, newspapers provide a ready source of information. Geetali and Bhaumik (2021), opine that with the changing world, information becomes a valuable aspect of community and communication, and as a result, many students depend on print material such as textbooks and newspapers to obtain the right information.

On account of the importance of newspapers in the promotion of scholarship in the academic life of the university, the College of Distance and e-Learning library subscribes to newspapers for the users of the library. The CODEL library continues to invest in the subscription of newspapers, as such the usage of the newspapers should be of much concern to librarians. Okike and Oyenyi (2019), intimate that the use of the resources should determine its significance rather than the staggering number of its volumes. In light of this, it is important to assess how the newspaper collections in the library are being used by patrons. Consequently, this present study was conducted to examine the use of newspapers among undergraduate students of the CODEL library, to determine the most consulted newspaper, identify challenges concerning newspaper utilisation and proffering strategies for addressing the challenges.

The University of Education, Winneba is among the leading teacher education institutions in Ghana. It was set up in 1992 with the merger of 7 diploma awarding institutions. The University is charged with the mandate to produce professional teachers to spearhead a new national vision of education aimed at redirecting Ghana's efforts along the path of rapid economic and social development (Vice – Chancellor's Annual Report, 2019). One of the core values of the University is academic excellence, hence the main university library was set up in 1992 to support teaching, learning and research activities so that the mission of the University will be achieved. The Library had undergone massive infrastructural development with the sole aim of enhancing the scholarly needs of both students and faculty. In addition to the main Library, there are other departmental and faculty libraries to serve the varied information needs of users.

The College of Distance and e-Learning (CODeL) Library is one of the major libraries in the University of Education, Winneba and it is situated at the North Campus of the University. With the introduction of distance education in the university, there was a need for a library. Therefore, in 1994, with the assistance of the University library offering the needed expertise, the CODeL Library was set up. The library was set up with the sole objectives of serving the information needs of distance learners and faculty members within the distance community of the university (CODeL Library Manual 2015). The library is located on the first floor of the distance building. Due to its strategic location, it is heavily patronised by the conventional students, particularly those whose departments are located at the North Campus. As a matter of fact, the CODeL Library plays a complimentary role to the main and the North Campus libraries respectively. The staff at the library are courteous and provide efficient services to their users. The library has collections in the form of textbooks, quick reference materials such as encyclopedia and dictionaries, distance study modules and past examination questions. The library also houses serials publications; these include magazines, reports, theses and newsletters. Additionally, the library also has subscriptions for newspapers. These newspapers, are the Daily Graphic, Ghanaian Times, Spectator and the Mirror. The Graphic and Ghanaian Times are received daily, whereas the Mirror and the Weekly Spectator are received weekly. It is worth mentioning that these papers are always available from 9am till 5pm when they close for the day. Furthermore, the library provides access to electronic resources, such as online databases, e-books and these are accessible electronically from the wireless network spaces and other mobile devices. It is significant to mention that all the aforementioned resources are provided by the library to enhance the information needs of users of the library. The library operates basically as a Reference Library as such users are not allowed to borrow material including the newspapers for extended home use.

There is no doubt that newspapers constitute an important collection in academic libraries and for that matter the CODeL library at the UEW. The importance of newspapers as a vital source of information has been emphasised by several authors (Sharma & Saini 2019); Remy & KrishnaSwamy, 2016; Awuttey, 2020). Therefore, it can be argued that newspapers are among the best sources of information for everyone, particularly students. Given its significance, the library invests substantially in the subscription of the aforementioned newspapers to support the varied information needs of users. In the face of an economic downturn, it has become necessary that the library justifies the continued investment in the subscription of the printed newspaper. The researcher believes that it will be a great

waste of resources if the newspaper collections were not being utilised extensively by users. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to find out the extent of use of the newspapers collection and to find whether users prefer the online version of the newspapers. Specifically, the study was guided by the following research questions:

1.1 Research Questions

- What are the most consulted newspapers at the CODEL library?
- What type of information is sought in newspapers by users at the CODEL library?
- What are the benefits of newspaper use to users?
- What challenges do users encounter about the use of newspapers?
- Do you prefer print or online versions of newspapers?
- What are the challenges inhibiting the use of newspapers at the CODEL library?
- Are you satisfied with the print newspaper service at the CODEL library?

The academic library supports teaching, learning and research in ways consistent with, and supportive of the institution's mission and goals. Thus, the institution's mission and goals are enhanced by the academic library's provision of resources and services. In light of this, academic libraries make provision for newspapers. The newspapers provide information on varied issues on the economic situation, trade and industry, political, social and sports to mention but a few. Thus, newspapers report happenings and events locally and internationally. Newspapers contain information that can be used by students to conduct their assignments and to conduct their research. Therefore, the valuable role of newspapers in educational empowerment cannot be downplayed. Commenting on the importance of newspapers, Oyewumi, Alegbeleye and Onifade (2015), assert that newspapers help university students to make connections among different fields, topics, issues and events and help them ask the right questions. The users of the library are supposed to use the newspaper to meet their information needs. This study is concerned with the questions? Are the students using the newspaper to enhance their academic work? Can the expenditure on print newspapers be justified in terms of use by users? Against this backdrop, it has become necessary to find the usage of newspapers among undergraduate students of the university of education, Winneba.

1.2 literature Review

It is an undeniable fact that the newspaper collection in academic libraries plays a significant role in the academic life of the university. Students and staff in the institutions of higher learning are supposed to use newspapers because they are made available in the libraries attached to the institutions. This prompted several authors to explore how the newspaper collections are being utilised by patrons to enable them to use the findings to correct anomalies regarding newspaper services in academic libraries. Thus, there is a dearth of literature on the subject of newspaper use in academic libraries worldwide including Ghana. Accordingly, the literature focuses on newspaper use among students from different parts of the world. In separate studies by Edegoh, Ezech, and Aniebo, (2015) and Sharma and Saini (2019), their studies established that the majority of the respondents 54% and 69% respectively read newspapers daily, only 1% read newspapers monthly, whilst 14.28% rarely used newspapers. In another development, Monsuro and Otunba (2015), conducted a study on the influence of newspapers on the development

of student's reading culture in two university libraries in Nigeria. The results indicated that the majority of the students 55.0% and 42.2% from both university libraries read newspapers daily. The rest did not indicate anything which meant that they did not use it at all. These findings were supported by Quadri and Abomoge (2013), who concluded that students read newspapers and other serials daily.

On time spent on reading newspapers, Majumder and Dipika (2013), surveyed newspaper use among students. The findings of the study revealed that the majority of the students (51.1%) indicated that they spent less than one hour reading newspapers, while only (15%) representing the respondents spent more than two hours daily reading newspapers. Touching on the same issue, Remy and Krishnaswamy (2016), pointed that an overwhelming majority (74.10%) representing respondents used less than one hour to read newspapers at the library, whereas 20.86% of respondents used two hours to read newspapers. Again, Nagashetti and Kenchakkanavar (2015), found that 102 (47.22%) representing respondents spent between one to two hours on newspaper reading, whereas 54 (25%) spent two to three hours in a day on newspaper reading. The study revealed that only 15 (6.9%) spent three to four hours on newspaper usage. The study concluded that the majority of the students surveyed spent between one to two hours on newspaper reading. On the other hand, Njeze (2013), study on newspaper use among students discovered that (33.5%) of respondents spent less than an hour reading newspapers, followed by a majority (42.8%) who spent over an hour reading newspapers. The rest, (23.7%) of respondents spent three hours on newspaper reading.

Users of academic libraries consult newspapers to gather varied information. Thus, recent studies conducted by Sharma and Saini (2019), discovered that several respondents 45.91% sought education information, while 22% also sought information on current affairs. It was found that a few of them 2.04% sought information on jobs. Another recent study by Bhadra and Kumar (2018), indicated that several respondents 45.91% and 42.91% who were sampled in various institutions used newspapers to obtain general knowledge. Other earlier studies by Njeze (2013), and Asokan and Dhanavandhan (2013), also revealed that the majority of the respondents surveyed in different institutions used the newspapers for educational purposes, 46% of the students used newspapers for general knowledge and only a few of them 13% used to pass leisure time. All these results affirmed the importance of newspapers in the promotion of scholarship in institutions of higher learning. In several of the literature reviewed, it turned out that the majority of the respondents consulted popular local newspapers within their locality. These were confirmed by authors (Nagashetti & Kenchakkanavar 2015). On the other hand, the findings of Kumar and Prabhakar (2017), showed that respondents were rather interested in some international newspapers. At the same time, it was realised in the literature that apart from the fact that the popularity of the newspapers influenced the use of the paper more often, in some cases the specific newspapers were consulted regularly due to the content of that particular newspaper.

Regarding the benefits of reading newspapers to the user, Monsuru and Quadri (2015), revealed that a significant number of respondents 82 (82%) maintained that reading of newspapers enabled them to have access to information on politics, while (74%) also asserted that the newspapers assisted them to gain information on education-related matters. Again, in a study by Owusu-Ansah, Yeboah and Katsepor (2016), in two academic libraries from two institutions, respondents (33%) opined that the reading of newspapers keep them informed of current affairs, while

(27%) also intimated that the newspapers help them in their academic work. The remaining respondents (22%) maintained that there was an improvement in respect of their vocabulary as a result of the reading of newspapers. Concerning users' satisfaction with newspapers services in academic libraries, available literature revealed that users were satisfied with newspaper services at their various academic libraries. Monsuru and Quadri (2015), investigated newspaper-reading culture in two universities in Nigeria. The results of the study were that majority of the students 54% and 53% respectively in both institutions were satisfied with the newspaper service in their respective institutions. It came out that only a few 19.3% and 16.0% were less satisfied with the newspapers. This finding was also endorsed by a recent study by (Okike & Oyeniyi 2019). They surveyed the perceived impact of newspaper usage on the academic performance of students in an agricultural university in Nigeria. The findings of the study revealed that the majority of the respondents 76% were satisfied with the newspaper service at the library. Only a few 10.7% indicated their dissatisfaction with the newspaper service. The online version of newspapers is gradually creeping into our society and some academic libraries provide access to online versions of newspapers. In 2016, Kobusingye surveyed the use of newspapers at the Makerere university library in Kenya. The study results showed that the majority of the respondents 62% preferred printed newspapers as compared to 38% who preferred online newspapers. However, further findings indicated that improvement in online newspapers would provide multiple access if internet services were improved as well as providing special computer services specifically for newspapers. Among the reasons, they advanced their preference for the print; easy access, and the fact that they were not affected by technological problems. In the same vein, Yadav et al. (2018), conducted a survey in Jhansi on newspaper usage. The study reported that the overwhelming majority 74.67% affirmed that they preferred print newspapers to online. Only, 19.48% intimated their preference for an online newspaper. Similarly, in another recent study by Sharma and Saini (2019), on the usage of newspapers among students, the findings corroborated the earlier one that 56% of the respondents preferred to read printed newspapers, while 40% also preferred online newspapers. The author, however, concluded that the students made proper use of technology although the majority indicated their preference for a print newspaper. On the contrary, Haruna's (2018), study of online newspaper usage among Nigerian students showed that the majority 40% of the respondents used online newspapers. Only a few, 25% used print newspapers. The author concluded it was not surprising because the younger generation is making technology much of their culture.

Different factors account for the challenges experienced by users as far as newspaper use is concerned in academic libraries. The study by Kobusingye (2016), found that the majority of the respondents' preference was the print newspaper, nevertheless, they encountered challenges. Thus, 26% of the respondents indicated that there were limited copies of the newspapers in their libraries, while 21% opined that the staffs open the serials section where the newspapers were kept for a limited time. Again, Owusu Ansah, Yebowaa, and Katsekor (2016) studied the newspaper reading behaviour of students in two institutions of higher learning in Ghana. The findings of the study revealed that inadequacy of newspapers, inability to borrow newspapers and unavailability of preferred newspapers was their biggest challenge as far as using newspapers is concerned. Other challenges were lack of chance for

discussion, insufficient copies, and newspapers not being lent out. This finding was reported by (Okike & Oyeniyi, 2019).

2.0 Methodology

The study aimed to investigate the use of newspapers at the College of Distance and e-Learning (CODEL) Library by undergraduate students of the University of Education, Winneba. The target population comprised of undergraduate students at the North Campus who used the library extensively according to our usage statistics. The rationale for the undergraduate was that they constitute the majority of the readership of the library. The present study used a quantitative approach through the use of a survey design. It was adopted because according to Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2016), survey is appropriate in descriptive and explorative studies such as this present study. From January up to March, a total of three thousand one hundred and eighty -five had used the CODEL Library at the University of Education, Winneba. Therefore, through systematic simple random sampling technique, twenty per cent (20%) of the students were sampled for the study. The sample size was based on the recommendation by Babbie (2005), who recommended that for a population of 1000 and above, a sample size of 10-20% is admissible. The students were from the following faculties; Educational Studies, Social Science, School of Creative Arts and Home Economics Education. In all, 437 constituting 20% participated in the study. The data collection tool was questionnaires with both open and closed items on the subject. The questionnaire was administered within two weeks in the first semester of the 2021 academic year. The researcher was assisted by one research assistant who administered the questionnaires to the participants at the entrance of the library. Before the questionnaires were administered, the researcher explained adequately the purpose of the study to them and those who agreed were given copies of the questionnaires after their anonymity was assured by asking them not to identify themselves in any way. The participants filled the questionnaires and were retrieved right in the library. Hence, the response rate was very high.

3.0 Results and Discussions

Presentation of the results of the study was done based on the research questions. Of the respondents, 291(66.6%) were male, 146 (33.4%) were female. All the respondents were undergraduate registered users of the library. Data were analysed into simple percentages and frequencies. Gender distribution is shown in Table 1.

3.1 Demographic characteristics of respondents

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	291	66.6%
Female	146	33.4%
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

Table 2: *Academic levels of Respondents*

Levels of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
100	121	27.7
200	105	24.0%
300	110	25.3%
400	101	23.0
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

Table 2 shows that among the 437 respondents 27.7% were in level 100, while 24.0% were in level 200, followed by 25.3% representing level 300, 23.0% represented respondents in level 400. This shows that all the levels in undergraduate were fairly represented.

Table 3: *Faculty of Respondents*

Faculty	Frequency	Percentage
Faculty of Social Science	117	26.8%
Faculty of Educational Studies	101	23.1%
School of Creative Studies	121	27.7%
Faculty of Home Economics Education	98	22.4%
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

The results of the study depict that 27.7% were from the School of Creative Arts, followed by 26.8% from the Faculty of Social Science. Additionally, the responses indicate that 23.1% were from Educational Studies and 22.4% were from Faculty of Home Economics Education. This confirms that the faculties located at the north campus where CODEL Library is located were fully involved in the study

Table 4: *Most consulted newspapers*

Faculty	Frequency	Percentage
Daily Graphic	128	29.3%
Ghanaian Times	115	26.3%
The Mirror	99	22.7%
The Weekly Spectator	95	21.7%
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

In Table 4, the respondents were asked to indicate the most consulted newspapers. The results reveal that a total of 128 (29.3%) indicated that the Daily Graphic was the most consulted newspaper. Again, the Ghanaian Times came as the second most consulted newspaper by respondents 115 (26.3%). The third most

consulted newspaper was the Weekly Mirror 99(22.7%). The last was the Weekly Spectator 95(21.79%). The responses show that all the available newspapers at CODEL Library are patronised by users of the library

Table 5: *Frequency of newspapers reading*

Frequency of Reading Newspaper	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	89	20.3
Once a Week	127	29.0
Twice a Week	183	41.8%
Once in a Month	25	5.7%
Occasionally	13	2.9
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

In Table 5, the respondents were quizzed on how often they use the newspaper at the library. The majority of the respondents read newspapers twice a week, 183 (41.8%), while 127 representing (29.0%) indicated that they use the newspapers once a week, followed by respondents 89 (20.3%) who pointed that they use the newspapers daily. Others, 25 representing 5.7% emphasised that they use the newspapers occasionally. The least respondents 13 (2.9%) were emphatic that they use the newspapers occasionally. The findings are an indication that the newspapers were being used by respondents who visit the library.

Table 6: *Time respondents spent on reading newspapers*

Time	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1 hour	141	32.3%
1 hour	132	30.2%
2hours	119	27.2%
3hours	43	9.8%
Above 3hours	2	0.5%
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

Table 6 captured the time spent on reading newspapers by respondents. It is seen that the majority 141 (32.3%) spent less than one hour reading newspapers in the library, 132 representing (30.2%) used one hour to read newspapers, while 119 (27.2%) respondents spent two hours to read newspapers. Only a few 43 (9.8%) used three hours to read the newspapers. The least 2 (0.5%) indicated that they spent more than three hours reading newspapers. This finding confirms the fact that newspapers are a vital source of information for the respondents.

Table 7: *Information sought from newspapers by respondents*

Type of Information	Frequency	Percentage
Business and Trade	45	10.3%
Educational	102	22.3%
Sports	65	14.9%
Current Affairs	55	12.6%
Religious	17	3.9%
Health/Nutrition	20	4.6%
Politics	42	9.6%
Local/International	28	6.4%
Jobs/Employment	30	6.9%
Fashion and Cosmetology	25	5.7%
Others	8	1.8%
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

It was necessary to find from the respondents the type of information they sought from newspapers to satisfy their information needs. As the data in the Table depicts, the majority of the respondents, 102 (22.3%) use newspapers to obtain education-related information. Further, 63 respondents representing (14.9%) gather information on sports to answer their information needs, while 55 (12.6%) seek information on current affairs from the newspapers. Again, 42 respondents representing (9.6%) seek information on politics to meet their information requirement. The next sought-after information was on jobs and employment. Other information respondents seek from newspapers included; local and international news, fashion and cosmetology, and religion. The least, 8 (5.7%) indicated they seek information on other issues which they did not specify. The findings are an indication that newspapers play a significant role in the life of students in institutions of higher learning.

Table 8: *Benefits of newspaper used to respondents*

Benefits	Frequency	Percentage
Improves vocabulary	87	19.9
Broadens knowledge	90	20.6
Boosts my academic work	96	22.0
Sharpens writing skills	84	19.2
Enhances research work	80	18.3
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

Table 8 demonstrates the benefits of reading news to respondents. It is obvious from the responses that newspapers contribute significantly to scholarship. The majority, 96 (22.0%) intimate those newspapers aid them in their academic work, while others 90 (20.6%) stated that the newspapers broaden their knowledge. Furthermore, 87

(19.9%) maintained that the newspapers improve their vocabulary, followed by 84 (19.2%) who maintained that their writing skills had been sharpened through newspaper reading. Others, 80 (18.3%) agreed to the assertion that newspapers of the newspaper as a promote scholarship in academia.

Table 9: *Challenges of newspaper use*

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage
Insufficient copies of newspapers	163	37.3%
Inability to borrow	175	40.0%
Unavailability of preferred	87	20.0 %
Lack of chance for discussion	12	2.7%
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

Data in Table 9 represents the challenges respondents experience concerning newspaper usage in the library. Eight challenges were consequently raised and respondents were asked to give their opinion. The majority of respondents indicated that the inability to borrow the newspapers for extended home use was a challenge to their use of the newspapers as indicated by 175 (40.0%), following closely was insufficient copies of the newspapers as indicated by 163 (37.3%), whilst 87 respondents representing (20.0%) maintained that unavailability of their preferred newspapers was a challenge to the use of newspapers. Few respondents 12 (2.7%) stated that the lack of chance for any discussion concerning the reading of the newspapers was a challenge.

Table 10: *Users preference for online/ print newspaper*

Preference	Frequency	Percentage
Print Newspaper	223	51.0%
Online Newspaper	214	49.1
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

There is no doubt that online resources are convenient and easily accessible for individuals who are hooked to the internet at any point in time. The majority of respondents 223 (51.0%) preferred the online newspaper to print newspaper. The remaining respondents 214 (49.1%) stated their preference for the print newspaper.

Table 9 *Respondents satisfaction of print newspaper service*

Degree of Satisfaction	Frequency	Percentage
Satisfied	298	68.2
Very satisfied	130	29.7
Dissatisfied	9	-
Very Dissatisfied	-	-
Total	437	100%

Source: Field Survey,2021

User satisfaction of any service or product is of crucial importance because services are meant for users to patronise. Thus, respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction over the current print newspaper services at the CODEL library. A significant number of respondents 298 (68.2%) indicated that they were satisfied with the print services. Similarly, 130 representing 29.7% out pointed that they were very satisfied with the print services. The results showed that only 9(2.1%) indicated that they were not satisfied with the current newspaper services at the library. No response was indicated for being very dissatisfied. The implication was that respondents generally were satisfied with the newspaper services at the library.

3.2 Discussion of Findings

This study highlights the use of newspapers among undergraduate students at the CODEL Library of the UEW. It also identifies the challenges encountered by students regarding the use of newspapers, among others. A significant finding of the study was that majority of the students use the Daily Graphic and all the other newspapers which include the Ghanaian Times, The Mirror, and the Weekly Spectator are well patronised. It is worth mentioning that these newspapers are national newspapers, hence, it is assumed that the information they carry is factual, credible, and authentic. This could be the reason for the high patronage of the newspapers by respondents. The results are reassuring that the students patronise the newspapers on subscription because the subscriptions run into millions of cedis. The finding agrees with Nagashetti and Kenchakkanavar (2015), who found that students patronised the local newspaper in their country. The findings also show that respondents consult the newspaper frequently. This is evidenced by 41% using it twice a week, and 29.0% consulting it once a week and finally 20.3% making use of the newspapers daily. Though this finding is positive, it is, however, contrary to the findings by earlier researchers, (Kumar & Prabhakar, 2017; Edegoh, Ezeh & Aniebo, 2015; Sharma & Saini, 2016). They all found from the research they carried out that the majority of the respondents used newspapers daily. Notwithstanding, their findings, the fact remains that the respondents sampled patronise the newspapers. Thus, these findings affirm the fact that newspapers are an essential source of information to students at all levels of education.

Furthermore, it emerged from the study that some of the respondents (32.3%) spent less than one hour reading newspapers, while others also used (30.2%) in digesting newspapers. Surprisingly, (27.2%) spent more than two hours reading newspapers. This points to the importance respondents attach to newspapers and, therefore, spent quality time to obtain the necessary information they need. Several earlier studies (for example, Remy and KrishnaSwamy 2016; and Nagashetti and Kenchakkanavar, 2015) agree with this finding on time spent on newspaper reading. The studies conducted by these authors revealed that the majority of the respondents spent less than one-hour reading newspapers. On the other hand, Njeze (2013), found that the majority of the respondents spent one hour reading newspapers.

It is important to mention that readers use newspapers to seek different information. The analysis of the data obtained from the questionnaire brought to light that an appreciable number of readers use newspapers to seek educational information, followed by sports and current affairs, among others. It means that users are very much aware of the range of information in newspapers. This is evidenced by (23%) of them who use newspapers to seek educational related information. The results are in total agreement with several authors, (Sharma & Saini ,2019);

Njeze, 2013; Asokan & Dhanavandhan, 2014). The studies done by them supported this finding that majority of the respondents they studied generally used newspapers to seek educational information. In terms of the benefits of newspapers to respondents, responses suggest that respondents acknowledge that newspaper contributes significantly to building up their vocabulary. Other responses were that their writing skills were enhanced through the reading of newspapers. It came, (22%) maintained that newspapers help to boost their academic work. The present finding corroborates the findings by (Monsuru & Quadri, 2015; Owusu-Ansah, Yebowaa, & Katsekor, 2016). They found that users maintained that newspaper use has impacted positively on their lives, which included among others, enhancing their academic work. Newspapers play key functions of informing, educating and entertaining the public and supporting students and academic work (Kobusingye, 2016). Along these lines, newspapers use is inevitable in the life of students in higher institutions of learning. One salient finding that came up in the analysis was that though responses suggest that they prefer online newspapers but other responses suggest otherwise.

Among the challenges that came up in the findings included; limited copies of newspapers, inability on the part of the users to borrow newspapers for extended home use, non-availability of preferred newspapers, and the fact that users lack the opportunity to discuss issues they read in newspapers with their colleagues. These findings were confirmed in the literature. It is discernible that users would have wished to borrow newspapers and also to hold discussions with colleagues on issues in the newspapers, nevertheless, these were impossible. The CODEL library is a reference library, hence materials are not borrowed. On the question of users' preference for online or print version of newspapers, users indicated their preference for online newspapers though the difference between the online and print was not great. One salient finding was that even though a majority of the respondents (51.0%) preferred online newspapers, an appreciable number 214 (49.1%) also indicated that they preferred the print newspaper. The findings are in line with (Kobusingye 2016; Yadav & Sandeep, 2018). However, the findings of Haruna (2018), and Geetali and Amiya, (2020) tend to be contrary to this finding. These researchers found from their studies that the majority of users preferred online newspapers to print newspapers. The findings of these authors found that respondents favoured print newspapers over online newspapers. Those who preferred online newspapers were of the view that online newspapers could be accessed anywhere and at any time once the person is hooked to the internet. On the other hand, respondents in favour of print newspapers intimated that print newspapers carry every item of news, unlike online newspapers which contain fewer cues concerning news. There is no doubt that the pertinence of print newspapers in institutions of higher learning cannot be disputed. In the same way, as evident in the analysis, there is the need for online newspapers to be embraced by the library to address the changing needs of users. The study finally revealed that a significant number of respondents 298(68.2%) regardless of the challenges they enumerated were satisfied with the current newspapers services at the CODEL Library. The findings are in agreement with earlier ones by Monsuru and Quadri, (2015); Oyeniya, (2019), and Kobusingye, (2016) as mentioned in the literature.

4.0 Conclusion

This study was aimed to investigate the use of newspapers at the CODeL library by undergraduate students at the University of Education, Winneba. It also investigated the challenges they encounter in respect to newspaper use at the library. The study established that all the national newspapers on subscription by the library were patronised by the users. It also emerged from the study that users consult the newspapers frequently and spent enough time reading the newspapers to obtain information ranging from educational- related news to sports and current affairs. In addition, the study revealed how beneficial the newspapers were to the users. The study further affirmed limited copies of newspapers, unavailability of preferred newspapers and inability on the part of users to borrow were some of the challenges experienced by users concerning newspaper usage at the library. Additionally, users had a preference for the online newspapers, while this is significant, it was clear that several users still prefer the print newspaper. Finally, it came out from the analysis that users were satisfied with the current print newspaper services at the library. In totality, this study has shown that print newspapers continue to be instrumental sources of information to students for their academic work. The onus lies on the library to ensure that all the issues raised in the study would be addressed to make the service more appropriate to the users.

5.0 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study and the above conclusion, the researcher made the following recommendations:

- The study recommended that CODeL Library should as a matter of urgency create a new space within the library exclusively for newspaper service to allow users to hold discussions.
- Since the library cannot subscribe to all newspapers published at the national and international levels, the library must make provision for electronic content of newspapers to satisfy users who are technology-driven so that users can access it anywhere and at any time. Additionally, distance learners who are far away from the CODeL Library could also have access to the newspapers to meet their information needs.
- There is a need for the library to continue to create awareness of the newspapers among the user groups within the university community.
- Periodic assessment of the newspaper services should be conducted by the library so that the feedback could be used to improve the newspaper services.
- Certainly, the CODeL should reconsider their policies regarding the borrowing of newspapers so that if anything at all users could borrow the newspapers to meet the changing demands of users. This is important in the sense that newspapers some users would prefer to read the newspapers at a convenient time to them.
- Finally, it is suggested that the library subscribes to online newspapers to enable those at distance, particularly distance students to also have access to newspaper to enhance their academic work.

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