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Mark Quaye Affum
Borsah Library Complex, Cape
Coast Technical University,
Cape Coast, Ghana

Reinforcing the most relevant themes that elevate lecturers, students, patrons teaching and learning

Mark Quaye Affum

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Abstract

School libraries play a major role in the teaching and learning of the students and the academic community as a whole it not surprising to see that schools with better resourced libraries perform better with as opposed to schools with very limited library materials, limited human resources capacity etc.

When it comes to reducing spending on the various departments within the academic environment, the library is the first department or faculty to be sacrificed. This is because it is not seen as having a direct impact on the success of students' achievements and the school enrolment as well. Meanwhile, school that recognize the input of the library in the success of students' performance in the area of learning materials, technological advancement, teaching, etc. do their best to place the library within the first department or faculty where funds are allocated to.

It is for this reason that academic institutions and schools should emphasize on stimulating and esteeming the factors that constitute a good school library.

Keywords: lecturers, students, patrons teaching

1. Introduction

1.1 Background study

School libraries has been the central media of information within any institution. it is a prerequisite for the establishment of any school or formal institution of learning. There are for crucial areas of the library that need utmost attention in order for a school library to meet the academic needs of the school.

A School library can be defined as any forms of structure be it digital or physical that is institutionalized and stuffed with both learning and educational resources such as digital materials and physical books that are meant to meet the teaching and learning needs of a school. The areas mentioned above if highly considered and given much attention by policy makers and school management will go a very long way to redeem the good image of the school library and also make it a more effective and efficient hub of information to the school community.

Teachers in schools have a huge need of the school library. One of them is through collaborating with librarians and digital librarians to develop academic programs, new technological advances etc. to meet the ever growing innovative demands of learning.

There is the need for school libraries to enrich their collection with all necessary library resources both digital and physical media in order to enhance its performance. Librarians are very much sought after. This is because it is a discipline which is much ignored especially in the developing countries.

Library and information science discipline is not regarded as a lucrative discipline like oil and gas, medicine, banking, telecommunication etc. As a result of this, a lot of individuals are not motivated to venture into its study.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The performance of students in the abundance of information has reduced dramatically especially in Africa the needed attention to be accorded the school library in order to fulfil its responsibility to the school community has not been met. It is evident in some selected schools in Africa especially Ghana that, due to fear of rank competition, jealousy, cost of upgrading or tuition of schools, tribalism and other social issues management do not allow subordinates to upgrade thereby reducing the number of qualified human resource or qualified school librarians within the school community.

Corresponding Author:
Mark Quaye Affum
Borsah Library Complex, Cape
Coast Technical University,
Cape Coast, Ghana

School teacher and lectures have become so engaged in other private activities in other to make their financial ends meet such that it has become very challenging for them to make time to schedule meetings with school librarians to plan programs that will enhance teaching and learning methods for the students, members of the library patrons and the school community as a whole. Also, the lack of information literacy on the part of teachers have also created ignorance of them the teachers do not see the need to meet with library staff for such purposes. Most teacher and lectures due to the lack of information literacy do not know the entire responsibility or schedule of the school library towards the school community.

The problem of fund embezzlement, corruption, the current noninvolvement of the school librarian in the activities of book acquisition or book procurement and the long bearocratic system in the education ministry have led to the reduction of school library volumes and other collections which could be either digital or physical.

1.3 Objectives

The aim of this study is to find appropriate means of merging the collaborative power of both school librarians and teachers in the school community in an effort to unleash the current teaching and learning opportunities available to patrons of the school library for maximum school library benefits.

1.4 Scope

There are a lot of factors that affect the performance of teachers and students including other staff and patrons of a library. There are equally other themes that could be dealt with to increase the standards of performance of students and patrons of a school library as well. Yet only four of these factors will be dealt with in this study. These factors to be concentrated on do not go beyond the four stated (A credentialed school librarian, Collaboration and co-teaching, Technology access, Collection size)

1.5 Limitations

There are lot of vices that go on within the public schools that if mentioned will affect the publication of this study. The research does not go beyond the stipulated for areas that need improvement to ensure the progress of a school library. Some of the other management creative areas that can equally make the library very useful with the school community such as library advertisement, promotion and marketing, financial frame work will be ignored for the purpose of strictly adhering the title of the research.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

I read a lot of journals, publications, articles, magazines and other research on the school library system. A journal looked at how to combine the work of the school librarian, the program that is being planned for students and patrons and the infrastructure and facilities that has been put together to ensure quality of service to the patrons and members of the school community.

2.3 Critique of the existing literature relevant to the study: The literature on school libraries are a lot especially those concerning the performance of students using the school library. It is very important to note that, one literature

looked at school library guidelines that should be adhered to in order to meet the desired performance of student and the members of the school community. One article writes on school library's work.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

For this research I used discussion groups of school library staff, teaching staff, students, and members of the school, patrons, questionnaires and qualitative research method. I met with the school librarian of Cape Coast Technical University and the teaching staff to have a look at the relevant themes that are crucial to the teaching and learning of the school community.

3.2 Relevant Themes

a. A Credentialed school librarian

According to the teachers they recognized a successful collaborative link between a certified school librarian and themselves. Both teachers, students and staff of the school community were able to confess that a trained and qualified school librarian:

- Support and promote reading by orienting students to books in all formats, including print, audio, and e-books and how to locate a particular subject within the shelves
- Teach information and information literacy skills
- Organize, manage, and maintain a collection of valuable resources
- Provide resources and activities for students that are meaningful now and in the future
- Share the findings of reading research with teachers for their publication and research purposes
- Promote resources and activities that spark student interest in reading, learning, and achievement throughout the school years
- Maintain a supportive and nurturing environment in the library and network environment to increase student satisfaction and achievement.
- Collaborate with teachers regularly to provide resources and activities for course, unit, and lesson integration
- Provide leadership in the school for achieving school missions, objectives, and strategies
- Manage information by providing intellectual and physical access to information in print, media, and online resources, either local or web-based

b. Collaboration and co-teaching

The collaborative effort between the teacher and the librarian brought out the needed teaching and learning program outline that need to be taught to student for effective teaching and learning. Again co-teaching by credentialed school librarians means an added and new information to students and

c. Technology access

The access to technology and knowing how to use it ethically is the responsibility of the librarian and school management. This is one crucial area that needs urgent attention as far as the performance of both the school library and the community which it serves is concern. The access to technology is not only limited to computer, servers, phones, Wi-Fi, etc. There are equally other crucial and important technology that enhance teaching and learning and other

performance of both students, patrons and other members of library users and the school community at large.

The access to technology will allow students to easily inquire about subjects they did not understand earlier in class and also research into other important topics that are being treated in their departments for deeper understanding.

d. Collection size

For a complete library to be able to serve all the needs of students and teachers, it should have books and other collections that serve the needs of all the subjects available. A LIBRARY collection lacking in one or two subject areas will also lack the patronage of students who needs or who use such subject areas.

The performance of both students and teachers in such subject areas will be low as a result of the lack of enough information in the subject available for proper training.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Results

At the end of this search the researcher found out that the high performance of school teachers and students largely goes up when the school library is given the needed support and the four most important themes mentioned above

4.2 Recommendations

The school library collection should meet all the subject areas which is being treated in the school. There should be regular check up on all subject libraries to ensure there is enough books and other digital collections that satisfy both teacher and student needs. Annual budgets should be able to capture all subject area collections being taught in the school.

The collaboration between both teacher and the librarian is exceptionally crucial in order to develop new learning techniques and other ways of researching to benefit both student and teacher progress in academia. There is a lot that teachers stand to gain as they discuss research methods and other ways of finding information with librarians.

Technology and new technology brings to the door step of teacher and student convenience and access to knowledge, information and learning materials that is important to the academic performance of both. This should be stressed on by management and responsible individuals when drawing up policies and plans for the school library.

There should always be in-service training, workshops, conferences, lectures, online programs and courses, funded study leaves, scholarships etc. for librarians to train and retrain them in the current trends in the book industry.

The staff of the school library should be motivated and remunerated well to make the place attractive to staff.

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