



E-ISSN: 2707-6644
P-ISSN: 2707-6636
IJCPDM 2020; 1(1): 53-55
Received: 24-11-2019
Accepted: 26-12-2019

Mark Quaye Affum
Cape Coast Technical
University, Ghana, West
Africa

Making the library an attractive place for learning to patrons

Mark Quaye Affum

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/27076636.2020.v1.i1a.68>

Abstract

A complete reputable library must be able to house all the needed resources and materials for its patrons to consume. An attractive library meets all the needs of patrons.

A library is a curated collection of sources of information and similar resources, selected by experts and made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material, and may be a physical location or a virtual space, or both.

A lot needs to be done to make the library a more attractive place of learning. The library needs to be creative in bringing on board innovative activities such as open space reading environment, game centers, cafes, etc. Library staff should be moving around the various desks to assist staff to locate library materials. Students and patrons alike are facing a lot of issues that need to be addressed by the library. Patrons should also be allowed to use mobile phones and other electronic gadgets which will be helpful to them in the library.

Keywords: Making, library, attractive, place, learning, patrons

1. Introduction

1.1 Background study

A complete reputable library must be able to house all the needed resources and materials for its patrons to consume. An attractive library meets all the needs of patrons.

A library is a curated collection of sources of information and similar resources, selected by experts and made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material, and may be a physical location or a virtual space, or both. A library's collection can include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, ebooks, audiobooks, databases, and other formats. Libraries range widely in size up to millions of items. In Latin and Greek, the idea of a bookcase is represented by Bibliotheca: derivatives of these mean library in many modern languages, e.g. French bibliothèque.

The university library is seen as the heart of the university because the library can stand on its own, but the university cannot stand on its own. In universities, the three major infrastructure are laboratories, teachers/classrooms and libraries that contain rich and balanced information resources including equipment that can support the teaching, learning and research work (Ajibero, 2004). It is for this reason that Olanokun and Salisu (1985) described the library as the nerve centre of an educational institution and a place where information is provided to serve all patrons irrespective of their ages, political and ethical background, religion, sex, etc. It could be seen that the role of universities cannot be achieved without the presence of library that is adequately equipped with printed materials, information and communication technology and its related facilities, well trained staff and a high level of services to users that will satisfy their information needs.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Most of the time the library only becomes full during examination weeks or during mid-semester exams week. Students do complain of old outdated books or books with old copyright. Some patrons are interested in using the internet for research yet they do get access to internet in some libraries. Some libraries do have internet access but it's not swift enough for that kind of activity patrons may want to use it for.

Another problem why patrons do not see the library as attractive enough is due to the fact that there are not enough books available in the library. Some also complain of the lack of specific subject area that they are interested in.

Corresponding Author:
Mark Quaye Affum
Cape Coast Technical
University, Ghana, West
Africa

Take an institutional library like cap coast technical university, books in subject areas like purchasing and supply, catering, fashion, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering are all lacking in their shelves. This limits the number of students that patronize the place of learning.

1.3 Objectives

This research is aimed at finding out all the needed information that goes into making a library worth visiting. It also looks into other factors that repel patrons from visiting the place. Also the idea is to look into making a library attractive to patrons and also inviting to new members.

The library especially an institutional library has been less patronized by the public and students alike due to diverse reasons. The objective is to find out some of these reasons and solve it associated challenges in order to turn libraries around into more attractive ones.

1.4 Scope

The research scans around any library resource that makes the library a learning center. The study also encompasses institutional libraries, community libraries, public libraries, departmental libraries, national libraries, digital libraries/ repositories, online libraries, automated libraries etc.

1.5 Limitations

The challenges I will encounter during the research are:

The cost involved in making a library an attractive place of learning to patrons.

Inability to have physical contact with libraries outside Ghana to know more about international and high tech gadgets in a library.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

Studies conducted in these areas looks at different aspects of library attraction. There have been studies with the following titles; how to Make Your Library Great, Use of social media by the library, current practices and future opportunities, what do the public want from libraries? A practitioner guide.

2.2 Critique of the existing literature relevant to the study

In the literature review, all the experiments conducted by cryptanalyst were based on text

2.3 Summary of Literature Review

From the literature review, the presented simulation results showed that Blowfish has a better performance than other common encryption algorithms used. Since Blowfish has not any known security weak points so far, this makes it an excellent candidate to be considered as a standard encryption algorithm. AES and RC4 showed poor performance results since it requires more processing power. Using CBC mode adds extra processing time, but overall it was relatively negligible especially for certain application that requires more secure encryption to a relatively large data blocks. OFB shows better performance than ECB and CBC but require more processing time than CFB. Overall time differences between all modes were negligible.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

For this research I consulted a lot of focused groups with questions concerning this matter. I also visited and followed a number of libraries local, international and online library and compared them all to one particular library with low patronage.

What patrons want to find in the library?

Patrons have a lot of ideas in mind anytime they want to visit the library. It could be anything from watching movies, looking for old VCR OR CD or tape cassette, looking for a rare book, snack, internet access, computer games etc. A good library owes it a duty to provide all these resources in the library for patron's consumption. This creates a huge satisfaction for library members and also calls in new members as well.

Type of books and stock is the answer

Books are still the main reason why most people use libraries. Self-help books, expensive books, entertaining magazines, pamphlets, lecture notes, pdfs just to mention a few are some of the books library patrons look out for when they visit the library. The books of a particular title should be of large quantities, they should be best sellers and the time frame for borrowing should be long enough to encourage more borrowing.

Increase your services - understand your patrons and meet their desires, don't change stocks. just add other forms of entertainment

As long as the core service is free, the public would pay for extras or 'premium' subscription services. As much as some patrons of a library desire new editions of books others also prefer old stock. Getting rid of old stock will only make patrons look elsewhere for these books or library materials. It is very important that library keep old stocks in the archives library to give access to patrons who may have need for them.

Use of social media by the library current practices and future opportunities

Social media has the potential to facilitate much closer relationships between libraries and their patrons – wherever users are based, and however they choose to learn about and access library services and resources. Current usage of social media by the library community generally remains ad hoc and somewhat experimental, but the uptake of these tools is accelerating, and they will likely play an increasingly important role in library service provision and outreach in the future

All library patrons appreciate good and quality services in the library but they will immediately antagonize bad services. Social media such as Facebook and WhatsApp has a way of advertising libraries to its patrons.

This is a very important department in every library. All work and no play, makes jack a doll boy. 90% of patrons who leave the library after every 40minutes is for recreational purposes or relaxation. If library are create recreational spaces as part of their library architectural designs, I believe it will form part of the measures that will call in and retains library users.

Libraries are supposed to help the community by leveraging it

There are most communities with children and people who cannot afford the cost of schooling. The library owes it a duty in creating a learning hub for such individuals. Some people are self-learners who have registered for examinations but with no tutorships. The library will be an excellent place of learning for such people. Moreover there are other people too who do not have proper place of learning or reading rooms in the various homes. The library creates such learning environment for all these individuals. Libraries can also organize community services and training programs for the community in order to educate them.

Children and teens are important for libraries today and in the future

Cultivating reading habits in people starts from the children and it should begin from the library.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Results

A lot needs to be done to make the library a more attractive place of learning. The library needs to be creative in bringing on board innovative activities such as open space reading environment, game centers, cafes, etc.

Library staff should be moving around the various desks to assist staff to locate library materials.

Students and patrons alike are facing a lot of issues that need to be addressed by the library. Patrons should also be allowed to use mobile phones and other electronic gadgets which will be helpful to them in the library.

Staff in the library should be hospitable and helpful to patrons in order to encourage them in the library use. Another factor is the time schedule for the opening and closing of the library. The library should be able to operate 24/7 in order to allow patrons to use the place anytime any day.

4.2 Recommendations

Strong internet access should be made available to all patrons via Ethernet, Cisco or Wifi.

Patrons should be allowed bring in water and drinks and food. A café should provide where patrons will be allowed to take their meals there.

A library club should be introduced for interested patrons to join. Washrooms in the library should be made clean and tidy for patrons to use.

A library should be located at the center of the community or an institution in order to foster interest in the patrons and motivate new customers to be members.

Patrons of the library should be allowed to do extra activities in order to calm down their nerves or for relaxation purposes.

5. References

1. Attracting library non-users, 'Get it Loud in Libraries' toolkit, increasing the attractiveness of libraries for adult learners, Chatter books, www.chatterbooks.org.uk
2. Branching out reader development project, The Literacy Trust, www.literacytrust.org.uk
3. Love Football Love Reading Toolkit, The Man Booker Prizes, www.themanbookerprize.com
3. Branching Out, CIPFA Social Research, www.cipfasocialresearch.net
4. Bite-sized marketing: realistic solutions for the overworked librarian, The Library Journal, www.libraryjournal.com
5. Build an identity that works in the age of the superstore Audiences UK, www.audiencesuk.org
6. Communicating with users, Promoting your services, Coventry University www.coventry.ac.uk, Lanchester Library Communications Policy, Motivations not barriers, Opening the Book Ltd, www.openingthebook.com
7. Customer profiling and segmentation tools, TBI Communications, www.tbicomunications.com
8. Guidelines and research into stock selection, management and promotion, Opening the Book Ltd, www.openingthebook.com
9. Information & Libraries Scotland, www.slainte.org.uk
10. Making partnership work better in the Culture & Sport Sector, Good customer experiences, Opening the Book Ltd, www.openingthebook.com
11. MLA Visitor experience questionnaire, Society of College, National and University Libraries, www.sconul.ac.uk
12. Marketing the library (using technology), Sheffield University, dis.shef.ac.uk
13. Marketing library and information services, Not about users and non users JISC TechDis Service, www.techdis.ac.uk
14. Man Booker reading groups and events toolkit, Museums Libraries and Archives Council, www.mla.gov.uk
15. Public Library User Surveys, National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, www.nesta.org.uk
16. Resources to help libraries develop their collections, Expanding the offer The Reading Agency, www.readingagency.org.uk
17. Reading and Health, Museums Archives and Libraries Council, www.mla.gov.uk
18. The challenge of co-production, Museums Archives and Libraries, Council, www.mla.gov.uk