

Professional skills in library and information science and entrepreneurial interest among students of universities

Ekeng, Matina Ekpenyong^{1*}, Inyang, Obia Gopeh²

^{1,2}Lecturer, ¹University of Calabar, Library, University of Calabar, ²Africana Library, University of Calabar

*Corresponding Author: Ekeng, Matina Ekpenyong

Email: martinaekeng001@gmail.com

Abstract

This study sought to find out the relationship between professional skills in library and information science and entrepreneurial interest among students of universities in and Cross River States. Correlational survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 284 undergraduates and this was also used as sample. A validated research-made questionnaire with reliability range of 0.71-0.79 was used for data collection. The data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the analysis showed that acquisition of the following variables: Publishing skills ($0.05 < 0.194$) significantly relate to entrepreneurial interest while acquisition of printing skills ($0.05 > 0.028$) was not significantly related to entrepreneurial interest. It was recommended among others that Library and information science professional skills thought in library schools should be more practical and less theoretical.

Keywords: Publishing skills, Printing skills, Students and entrepreneurial interest.

Introduction

In Nigeria, unemployment of graduates has become a serious problem. Graduate unemployment in our country is cumulative. It increases as institutions turn out graduates annually. The rate at which young people are leaving school and seeking employment continuously outpaces the capacity of the economy to provide employment. The value system of the Nigerian society has changed due to the transition from school to work to earn a living.

Library and information science students in Nigeria universities who would qualify to become library professionals take these library skills as courses at Bachelors' degree in Library and information science department. According to Combes (2011), new graduates are key stakeholders in library and information science.

The possibility of undergraduates taking entrepreneurship course to become future entrepreneurs has become a major concern within the academic community, as many of them never turn out to become one. Only a small percentage of these graduates become entrepreneurs after graduation. Library programme appears to be helping the government to achieve this goal by introducing library professional skills to assist undergraduates to be self-employed after graduation instead of waiting for white collar jobs. How far this has been achieved appears vague. There seem to be no empirical evidence to show how library professional skills correlate with entrepreneurial interest of undergraduates of Universities in Cross River and Akwa Ibom States.

Publishing skill is the ability to plan, select, cut, design, produce, market (promotion, sales and distribution) of printed materials such as books, magazines, newspapers and including electronic products (Okwilagwe, 2001). Publishing is the process of production and dissemination of literature, music and activity of making information available to the general public (Igbeka, 2008). In other words, publishing is refers to the circulations of printed

works such as books, journals, magazines, newspapers literary works musical works, software and other works, as such contain information, including the electronic media (Issa, Uzuegbu & Nwosu, 2014). Publishing is a term that encompasses book publishing, journal publishing and electronic publishing.

Printing skills is the ability to process for reproducing text and illustrations, traditionally by applying ink to paper under pressure. The printer could decide to use the binder to complete the binding aspect or chose to bind it himself. The printer has nothing to do with the content but to reproduce exactly what is being handed over to him by the owner of the job. The printer determine the book design, size of the page, quality of the paper, type arrangement, page layers and colour of the ink. Printing is a process of producing printed material by means of inked type and a printing press or by similar means (Issa, Uzuegbu & Nwosu, 2014). Printing is in two forms namely desktop printing and commercial printing. With desktop, a digital file is sent to an inkjet or laser printer connected to a computer (or its network) and the printed page is available in a short while. While in commercial printing, a printing service prints a file using one of the varieties or methods, often involving a printing press and printing plates.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to find out the relationship between acquisition of library skills and entrepreneurial interest among students of library and information science of universities in Cross River and Akwa Ibom states, Nigeria. Specifically, the study objectives was to:

Determine the relationship between acquisition of publishing skills and entrepreneurial interest among students of universities in Cross River states, Nigeria;

Ascertain the relationship between acquisition of printing skills and entrepreneurial interest among students of universities in Cross River and Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria.

Hypotheses

There is no significant relationship between acquisition of publishing skills and entrepreneurial interest among students of universities in Cross River and Akwa Ibom states, Nigeria.

There is no significant relationship between acquisition of printing skill and entrepreneurial interest among students of universities in Cross River and Akwa Ibom states, Nigeria.

Research Method

The research design adopted for the study is the correlational survey design. This design is suitable for this study because the study aimed at finding out the relationship between acquisition of library skills and entrepreneurial interest among undergraduates of library and information science in Cross River and Akwa Ibom states. This research was carried out in Cross River and Akwalbom States of Nigeria with specific attention to the University of Calabar and University of Uyo. The census procedure was used to select the whole 200 to 400 levels undergraduates of the University of Calabar and University of Uyo. They were chosen because it is assumed they have reasonable knowledge about library professional skills. A research instruments titled "Printing Skills and Information Brokerage Skills Questionnaire" (PSIBSQ) was used to gather data for the study. Section A sought information on the bio- data of the respondents like gender, age, level of study and type of programme. Section B contained information on the independent variables of the study which are Printing Skills and Information brokerage.12 items ranging from much help needed, moderate help needed, little help needed to no help needed. Section C contained information on the dependent variable of the study. 10 items on the four-point likert scale responses ranging from strongly Agree, Agree, disagree to strongly disagree was used. The validity of the instrument was determined by five experts in the two institutions who specialises in LIS. Data obtained from a pilot test of the instrument were analysed using Cronbach Alpha Co-efficient to determine its internal consistency. The reliability figures for the different sub-scales range from 0.71 to 0.79showing that the instrument was high enough for it to be used for the study.

Table 1: Pearson product moment correlation analysis of relationship between acquisition of publishing skills and entrepreneurial intention (N=284)

Variables	Mean	SD	$\Sigma X^2, \Sigma Y^2$	ΣXY	r	P-V
Acquisition of publishing skills	13.32	2.79	3116.64			
Entrepreneurial interest	66.96	6.23	15495.36	735.52	0.106	0.030

P<0.05 df=282

Table 2: Relationship between acquisition of printing skills and entrepreneurial interest

Variables	Means	SD	$\Sigma X^2, \Sigma Y^2$	ΣXY	r	P-V
Acquisition of Printing Skills	11.87	2.91	3373.24			
Entrepreneurial Interest	66.96	6.23	15495.36	201.92	0.028	0.573

P>0.05 df=282

Results

The findings for the study are presented based on the hypotheses posed to guide the study.

Hypothesis One

There is no significant relationship between acquisition of publishing skills and entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates of library and information science. The two major variables were acquisition of publishing skills and entrepreneurial intention. The data were analysed using Pearson product moment correlation analysis as presented in the Table 1.

In Table 1, acquisition of publishing skills with a mean of 13.32 and SD of 2.79 and entrepreneurial interest with mean of 66.96 and SD of 6.23 is significant at P<0.05 The correlation between acquisition of publishing skills and entrepreneurial interest is r = 0.106 at df of 282 showing that acquisition of publishing skills is positively correlated with entrepreneurial interest among undergraduates of library and information science. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. This shows that the acquisition of publishing skills is directly significantly proportional to entrepreneurial interest among undergraduates of library and information science.

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant relationship between acquisition of printing skills and entrepreneurial interest among students of universities in Cross River and Akwa Ibom states, Nigeria.

The Table 2 above, shows that the acquisition of printing skills with a mean of 11.87 and SD of 2.91 and entrepreneurial interest with mean of 66.96 and SD of 6.23 is significant for P >0.05 from a correlation coefficient of r = 0.028 at df of 282 shows that acquisition of printing skills has a very week positive correlation with entrepreneurial interest among students of library and information science. Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted. This result indicates that acquisition of printing skills has no significant relationship with entrepreneurial interest among students of library and information science.

Discussion of Findings

The result in the data analysis in table 1 was significant because the calculated r-value was greater than the critical r-value at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study showed that there is a significant relationship between acquisition of publishing skills and entrepreneurial interest among undergraduates of library and information science. This means that acquisition of publishing skills will enable graduates of library and information science to survive in the world of business. The result also agree with the findings of Aina (2004) whose study showed that entrepreneurial skill is one of an essential skill that is acquired by library and information professional's in order to create jobs for themselves in the knowledge age, this shows that there is a significant relationship between acquisition of publishing skills and entrepreneurial interest. This also corroborates with the findings of Kuratko and Hodgetts (2004) that entrepreneurial skill is an important factor for a successful entrepreneurship development which also covers entrepreneurial interest.

The result in table 2 revealed that there is no significant relationship between acquisition of printing skills and entrepreneurial interest because the acquisition of printing skill has a very weak positive correlation with entrepreneurial interest of library and information science undergraduates. Therefore this result agree with Shane (2003), Shastri and Sinha (2010) which found that exploitation of entrepreneurial opportunity also depends on the entrepreneur's level skills or knowledge acquired through training. However, the study is in line with the finding of Ahmed, Aamir and Ijaz (2011) in their study, they found that even though acquisition of printing skills can motivate an individual to become an entrepreneur, but there is no significant relationship between printing skills and entrepreneurial interest. This is also in line with Rufai (2013) and Dasmani (2011) which shows that entrepreneurship graduates could not get employment because they possessed low skills exposure while in school.

Conclusion

In the course of this study, two hypotheses were tested, and it was discovered that acquisition of publishing skills is positively correlated with entrepreneurial interest among students of library and information science. Acquisition of printing skills has a negative correlation with entrepreneurial interest among students of library and information science. Acquisition of publishing skills is positively correlated with entrepreneurial interest among students of library and information science. Acquisition of printing skills has a very weak positive correlation with entrepreneurial interest among students of library and information science. Based on the findings, it is concluded that acquisition of publishing skills will enable graduates of library and information science to engage in business or

businesses after graduation. While acquisition of printing skills should be more of practical and less theoretical so that undergraduates of library and information science will learn more about printing skills.

Recommendations

1. Credit facility and support should be granted to school leavers that have passion and intention to set-up business ventures upon graduation. This will help to encourage the interest of graduates towards entrepreneurial activities in library schools.
2. Graduates should be provided with psychological and moral support, this will help in addressing the perceived pride of university students that have negative attitude towards entrepreneurial activities upon graduation.
3. Library professional skills thought in library schools should be more practical and less theoretical.

Conflict of Interest: None.

References

1. Ahmed, I., Aamir, M., & Ijaz, H. A. External factors and entrepreneurial career intentions: Moderating role of personality traits. *Int J Acad Res* 2011;2:203-213.
2. Aina, L. O. Library and information science text for Africa. Ibadan: Third World Information Sciences. 2004.
3. Combes, B. Are you really ready? What the new graduates reveal about their first years in the work place. ALIA 5th New Librarians symposium, Perth, Australia, 16-18 September. 2011.
4. Dasmani, A. Challenge facing technical institutions graduates in practical skill acquisition in the upper east region of Ghana Asia-Pacific. *J Corporative Educ* 2011;12(2), 67-77.
5. Igbeka, J. U. Entrepreneurship in Library and Information Science. Ibadan, Nigeria: Sterling-Horden Publishers Ltd. 2008.
6. Issa, A.O., Uzuegbu, C.P. & Nwosu, M.C. Entrepreneurship Studies and Practices in Library and Information Science. Umuahia, Nigeria: Zed Communications Publisher Ltd. 2014.
7. Kuratko, D., & Hodgetts, R. Innovation and the entrepreneur. *Entrepreneurship* 2004;138-50.
8. Okwilagwe, O.A. Book publishing in Nigeria. Ibadan: Stirling-Horden Publishers (Nig.) Ltd. 2001.
9. Rufai, A. Technical vocational education institutions and industries partnership: Necessity for graduates' skill acquisition. Cambridge: Cambridge University press. 2013.
10. Shane, S. Developing entrepreneurship through entrepreneurship education. *J Home Econ Res* 2003;7;50-54.
11. Shastri, R. K., & Sinha, A. The socio-cultural and economic effect on the development of women entrepreneurs (with special reference to India). 2010.

How to cite this article: Ekpenyong EM, Gopeh IO, Professional skills in library and information science and entrepreneurial interest among students of universities. *Indian j Libr Sci inf techno* 2019;4(1):11-13.