

Impact of Academic Library Resources on Learning and Research among Nursing and Midwifery Students at the University Of Jos

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Abstract:

This study investigated impact of academic library resources on learning and research among nursing and midwifery students at the University of Jos. the study was guided by four objectives and the study also answered four research questions. The population comprised 515 undergraduate students from the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Jos, during the 2020/2021 academic session, encompassing students from 100 to 500 levels. A sample of 200 students was selected using proportional stratified sampling, ensuring representation from all levels and both genders. The sampling fraction of 0.24% was applied to each stratum to determine the sample size for each level. Data collection was facilitated through a researcher-developed structured questionnaire titled "Students' Questionnaire on Influence of Academic Library on Learning and Research among Nursing and Midwifery Students" (SQIALLRNMS). The questionnaire underwent expert validation to ensure relevance, accuracy, and adequacy. Reliability was established using the internal consistency form of reliability through split-half method, yielding a coefficient of 0.76. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive and inferential statistics via SPSS software. The study revealed among other things that, academic library has significant positive influence on learning of undergraduate nursing and midwifery students in the university of Jos. Also that, academic library significantly influences research writing and development among undergraduate nursing and midwifery students in the university of Jos among others. The study also recommended among other things that, students should be sensitized on the need to use library services and how to judiciously utilize the library to improve their learning and research and that, there should be training and retraining of library staff for their attitude and ways of assisting users to better use the library services among others.

Keywords:

Impact; academic library; library resources; learning and researcher

I. Introduction

Education, a transformative journey, encompasses formal and informal processes through which individuals acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for personal and professional development. For nursing and midwifery students, education equips them with foundational scientific knowledge, practical skills, and critical thinking abilities needed for effective healthcare delivery. Learning, a core component of education, occurs through experience, study, or teaching and involves active engagement and cognitive processes like memory and problem-solving. It is a dynamic, lifelong process influenced by motivation, environment, and prior knowledge, and is increasingly facilitated by technology, enabling flexible access to diverse learning platforms and resources.

At the peak of formal learning in any higher educational institution students are expected to undertake impactful research independently often geared towards solving problems or creating a novel knowledge. Students of nursing and midwifery are also expected to do same before graduating as research is a prerequisite for graduation. Research deals with problem solving and finding solutions to problems of the society and the world in nursing and midwifery. Bolayi (2019) sees research in nursing as a systematic process aimed at generating new knowledge to improve patient care, nursing practice, and healthcare systems. The importance of nursing research lies in its ability to provide the scientific foundation for evidence-based practice (EBP), which integrates the best available evidence, clinical expertise, and patient preferences to deliver optimal healthcare.

Conducting research and learning among nursing and midwifery student in the University of Jos like all other students in tertiary institutions requires sufficient information and materials for good and proper research. Although the students are faced with different challenges which includes poor access to materials, poor knowledge of research process and procedure and inability to understand basic rudiments and ethnics of research among other things. Writing and students ability to produce good research work largely underscores the place and importance of library. A Library, in its most fundamental sense, is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing (Sharma, 2022). It provides physical or digital access to material, and may be a physical building, room, or virtual space. The core purpose of a library is to support the information needs of its users through access to books, journals, databases, and other resources which are essential and key for research. Libraries have evolved significantly with the advent of digital technology over the years, but their essential function of information provision remains indispensable and sacrosanct.

There are several types of libraries, each serving different purposes and audiences. Public libraries are community-focused, providing access to a wide range of materials for all age groups and interests. Special libraries serve specific populations or focus on specialized topics, such as medical, law, or corporate libraries. School libraries support the educational needs of students in primary and secondary education. Digital or virtual libraries provide access to digital collections and resources, often accessible from anywhere with an internet connection. Academic libraries are affiliated with higher education institutions and support the curriculum and research needs of students, faculty, and staff (Cox, 2021). The academic library is essential to research and learning of nursing and midwifery students. This is because a lot of information and materials that the students require for their studies and research are largely found in the library in either digital part of the library or even the physical available books.

The importance of academic libraries cannot be overstated. They serve as gateways to knowledge and culture by offering a wide range of materials that support education, literacy, and lifelong learning. Libraries play a crucial role in reducing information inequality by providing free access to resources and information and also provides information and access to needed materials for research. Academic libraries also provides a gateway for students of nursing to discover ways of conducting research and effective design to use in achieving their research studies (Goss, 2022). Through academic library and readings students of nursing and midwifery can discover gaps and problems to conduct research on which establishes the importance of academic libraries.

Libraries play a pivotal role in research for nursing students. Nursing, as a discipline, is heavily reliant on evidence-based practice, which requires access to the latest research and

clinical guidelines. Libraries provide nursing students with access to a wealth of academic journals, databases, and textbooks that are essential for their studies and research. Librarians often offer specialized support and training in information literacy, helping students to develop the skills necessary to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively. This support is critical in a field like nursing, where staying current with the latest research can directly impact patient care and outcomes. Moreover, libraries facilitate interdisciplinary research, which is increasingly important in the healthcare field. They provide access to resources across various disciplines, enabling nursing students to draw on a broad base of knowledge and research (Carless-Kane & Nowell, 2023). Libraries also offer access to specialized databases, such as CINAHL, PubMed, and Cochrane Library, which are vital for conducting comprehensive literature reviews and staying abreast of new developments in nursing and healthcare.

In recent years, the role of libraries in supporting nursing research has expanded with the integration of technology. Digital libraries and online databases have made it easier for nursing students to access resources remotely, which is particularly important given the demanding schedules of nursing programs. Additionally, libraries often provide access to software and tools for data analysis, citation management, and other research-related tasks, further supporting the research efforts of nursing students (Scala, Price & Day, 2016). In conclusion, libraries are indispensable resources that support education, research, and lifelong learning. For nursing students, libraries provide critical access to the information and resources necessary to support evidence-based practice, interdisciplinary research, and academic success. The role of libraries in nursing education is multifaceted, encompassing access to information, development of information literacy skills, and support for research and academic endeavors.

Considering the importance of academic library in learning and research among nursing and midwifery students it is clear that if nursing and midwifery students have access to library resources and utilize these resources effectively for learning and research purposes. The students will be able to come up with impactful studies and innovative research that will be significant to humanity and promote good health care in the country and world at large. It is based on this that the researcher intends to investigate how academic library is likely to influence learning and research among nursing and midwifery students in the university of Jos.

1.1 Statement of the problem

Student so nursing and midwifery in the university of Jos like every other institution of learning in Nigeria and the world are supposed to learn with ease by accessing all need facilities and resources that will aid their learning. These students are also supposed to be able to independently conduct research and quality research which will promote knowledge and add to knowledge in the field of nursing and health care across the world. But on the contrary students of nursing and midwifery particularly in the University of Jos are not doing the best when it comes to research. Lecturers in the department have complained about students always wanting to recycle research and not willing to embark on entirely new area or explore new frontiers of knowledge. Also the attitude towards learning and passion among the students is becoming lower year in year out. This is justified from the finding of Ross and Burrell (2019) where it was revealed that attitude of nursing students towards research is poor and need to be improved. Also Çetin and Howard (2016) in their study revealed that there is significant relationship between research and library among nursing students.

All these shows the evidence and importance of library in research among nursing and midwifery students. Even with this great importance students in the nursing and midwifery department are not fully tapping the potentials of the library in achieving successful and

impactful research as well as enhancing their learning. If the students continue to engage in research of recycling and poor utilization of library research in nursing and nursing education will continue to decline in quality in Nigeria. All these will eventually result to producing quack nurses and by implication result in poor health care services which will cause poor health population and increase mortality among the populace. Although government over the years and concerned stakeholders have made efforts to promote genuine research and learning in schools for proving scholarships and different grants to motivate students and support quality learning. All these have not yielded the required result as these problems still persist hence the need to conduct studies in this area as a gap. Thus the problem of this study can be subsumed under the following broad question; To what extent does academic library influences learning and research among nursing and midwifery students in the University of Jos.

1.2 Aim and objectives of the study

The aim of this study is to investigate the influence of academic library on learning and research among nursing and midwifery students in the University of Jos. The study objectives include to;

1. determine the influence of academic library on learning among nursing and midwifery students
2. find out the influence of academic library on research among nursing and midwifery students in the University of Jos
3. identify the challenges of using academic library for research among nursing and midwifery students in the University of Jos
4. suggest ways of improving the use of academic library for better learning and research among nursing and midwifery students

1.3 Research questions

The following research questions were answered in the study

1. What is the influence of academic library on learning among nursing and midwifery students?
2. What is the influence of academic library on research among nursing and midwifery students in the University of Jos?
3. What are the challenges of using academic library for research among nursing and midwifery students in the University of Jos?
4. What are the ways of improving the use of academic library for better learning and research among nursing and midwifery students?

1.4 Significance of the study

The findings of this study will hopefully benefit different stakeholders such as students, teachers, Liberians, parents, society, government and policy makers as well as future researchers in the academia.

1.5 Theoretical framework

This study is anchored on Information-Seeking Behavior Theory propounded by Thomas Wilson in 1981. Wilson is considered one of the key proponents of this theory, with significant contributions in later years. He refined and expanded upon his initial ideas through various publications, particularly in the 1990s and early 2000s.

The theory primarily explores how individuals identify, search for, and use information to meet specific needs or solve problems. It posits that information-seeking is not a simple, linear process but a dynamic interaction between the user and the available resources. One key

characteristic is that it considers the individual's perceived information need, which drives the search behavior, often influenced by personal, situational, or environmental factors. The theory also highlights the importance of context—such as the user's academic, professional, or social setting—in shaping their information-seeking strategies. Furthermore, it emphasizes the role of barriers, like time constraints or resource availability, in determining the success or limitations of the information-seeking process. Another central feature is the recognition that people often use a combination of formal and informal sources to gather information, relying not only on libraries or academic databases but also on personal networks or online platforms. Thus, the theory underscores a complex interplay of cognitive, emotional, and social elements in how people access and utilize information for learning and research.

The Information-Seeking Behavior Theory is relevant to this study because it provides a framework for understanding how these students engage with library resources to fulfill their academic needs. Nursing and Midwifery students require access to specific, evidence-based materials for both theoretical learning and practical research, and the theory helps explain how they actively seek, utilize, and navigate these resources. It also takes into account the factors that influence their information-seeking process, such as their perceptions of resource availability, the ease of access to library materials, and external barriers like time constraints or technological limitations. By applying this theory, the research was able to examine how library resources support undergraduate nursing and midwifery students' academic success, help them overcome challenges in accessing information, meets their information needs, and ultimately contributing to improved learning outcomes and above all research writing and capacity at the University of Jos Nigeria.

II. Review of Literature

2.1 Importance of Library

According to Martzoukou (2021) libraries have long held a crucial role in society, serving as repositories of knowledge, fostering learning, and supporting community development. The importance can be understood across various dimensions, including education, access to information, cultural preservation, intellectual freedom, social interaction, technological advancement, and lifelong learning. Firstly, libraries are integral to education Bliss and Smith (2017), they provide a wide range of resources, from textbooks and academic journals to multimedia materials, enabling students of all ages to access information for their studies. This democratizes education, making learning materials available to those who might not have the means to purchase them. Libraries offer unparalleled access to information. In the digital age, misinformation is rampant, and libraries play a vital role in curating reliable and credible sources of knowledge. They guide individuals in navigating the vast sea of information, fostering critical thinking and information literacy skills.

Dada, (2022) in his work on the important of library notes that cultural preservation is another key aspect of libraries. They house historical manuscripts, rare books, and archives that contribute to preserving a society's heritage. These materials offer insights into the past, enabling future generations to learn from history and make informed decisions. Libraries also uphold the principle of intellectual freedom. They provide a safe space for individuals to explore diverse perspectives, challenge conventional ideas, and engage in open dialogue. This fosters a society that values free thought and encourages the exchange of ideas (Oniovosa, 2014). Moreover, libraries are hubs for social interaction. They create a sense of community by hosting events, book clubs, workshops, and lectures. These gatherings facilitate connections among people with shared interests, fostering a sense of belonging and social cohesion. In the modern era, libraries are at the forefront of technological advancement. They provide access

to computers, the internet, and digital resources, bridging the digital divide and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from technological tools. Library equally promotes lifelong learning by providing the opportunity for continuous learning and the information required to achieve such.

2.2 Concept of academic library

An academic library is a specialized library serving the information and research needs of a college or university community. Its primary mission is to support the educational and research programs of the institution by providing access to a wide range of resources, including books, journals, databases, and other scholarly materials. Academic libraries play a crucial role in the academic life of their institutions, offering students, faculty, and researchers access to the information they need to advance their studies and produce new knowledge. The resources available in an academic library are carefully selected to align with the curriculum and research interests of the institution (Bell, 2018). This includes a vast collection of print and digital materials, such as books, academic journals, theses, dissertations, and specialized databases. These resources are essential for conducting research, completing assignments, and staying current with developments in various fields of study.

In addition to providing access to resources, academic libraries offer a range of services to support the academic community. These services include reference and research assistance, information literacy instruction, and interlibrary loan services, which allow users to borrow materials from other libraries if they are not available locally. Academic libraries also provide study spaces, computer labs, and often house special collections and archives that contain rare and unique materials (Bruns, 2021). The role of academic libraries has evolved significantly with advancements in technology. Modern academic libraries increasingly focus on providing digital resources and services, including access to electronic journals, e-books, and online databases. They also offer digital repositories where the institution's scholarly output, such as research articles and data sets, can be archived and made accessible to a broader audience. Furthermore, academic libraries play a vital role in fostering information literacy among students and faculty. They offer instruction on how to effectively locate, evaluate, and use information, which is crucial for academic success and lifelong learning. Librarians collaborate with faculty to integrate information literacy skills into the curriculum, ensuring that students develop the competencies needed to navigate the complex information landscape of the 21st century. An academic library is a cornerstone of higher education, providing essential resources and services that support the teaching, learning, and research missions of an institution. Its evolving role in the digital age underscores its importance in facilitating access to information, fostering academic success, and contributing to the advancement of knowledge.

2.3 Importance of academic libraries

Academic libraries play a crucial role in the educational and research landscape, serving as the backbone of intellectual growth and scholarly activity. They provide access to a vast array of information resources, including books, journals, databases, and digital media, which are essential for students, researchers, and faculty members. These libraries are not merely repositories of books but dynamic spaces that foster learning, research, and collaboration. One of the key aspects of academic libraries is their support for research. They offer access to a wealth of scholarly materials that might otherwise be inaccessible due to cost or geographical barriers. Through subscriptions to numerous academic journals and databases, libraries enable researchers to stay updated with the latest developments in their fields, facilitating cutting-edge research and innovation (Patil, 2024). Additionally, libraries often provide specialized services

such as interlibrary loans, which allow users to access materials from other institutions, further expanding the scope of available resources.

Moreover, academic libraries are instrumental in promoting information literacy. They offer training and resources that help students and researchers develop critical skills in locating, evaluating, and using information effectively. This educational role is vital in an era where the volume of information can be overwhelming and the ability to discern credible sources from unreliable ones is increasingly important (Burkhardt, 2017). By teaching these skills, libraries empower users to become more self-sufficient and competent in their academic pursuits. In the digital age, academic libraries have also embraced technology to enhance their services. Many have developed robust digital libraries, providing remote access to electronic books, journals, and other resources. This accessibility is particularly important for distance learners and those who cannot frequently visit the physical library. Furthermore, digital repositories maintained by libraries preserve and disseminate the scholarly output of their institutions, ensuring that valuable research is available to the global academic community.

Academic libraries also serve as collaborative spaces where ideas can be exchanged and intellectual communities can thrive. They often provide spaces for group study, seminars, and workshops, creating an environment conducive to collaborative learning and interdisciplinary research. By fostering a sense of community and facilitating academic interactions, libraries contribute to the overall educational experience (Cooke, 2018). The importance of academic libraries is underscored by recent trends in higher education and research. As the demand for open access to scholarly materials grows, libraries are at the forefront of advocating for and implementing open access policies. They support institutional repositories and open access journals, making research findings more widely available and promoting the democratization of knowledge. Academic libraries are vital to the functioning of educational and research institutions. They support research by providing access to a vast array of resources, promote information literacy, embrace technological advancements to enhance accessibility, foster collaboration, and advocate for open access to knowledge. These functions underscore the indispensable role of academic libraries in fostering intellectual growth and advancing scholarship. The role of academic library in research for students at tertiary institution is very crucial (Sejane, 2017). This is because through the library, students have access to a lot of information and research materials. If the students use this opportunity judiciously research writing will be easy and the students will have sufficient materials to consult while writing their research work in school. From the foregoing, it is clear that, academic library plays a significant roles and function in the process of research writing in tertiary institution and the accessibility is for students.

2.4 Challenges faced by nursing students in research

Research is a pre-requisite activity for every student to acquire a degree or a level certificate in Nigeria. The process of research is systematic and scientific and it is often geared towards problem solving or establishing a new knowledge. Through research students acquire new knowledge, establish existing knowledge and equally validate existing knowledge or theories. Nursing and midwifery students face several challenges when engaging in research, reflecting both the complexity of the research process and the specific demands of these healthcare fields. These challenges can hinder their ability to effectively contribute to the body of knowledge that informs practice and policy (Smith & Noble, 2014). One significant challenge is the limited time available for research activities. Nursing and midwifery programs are often intense, with rigorous academic and clinical requirements. Students must balance coursework, clinical placements, and personal commitments, leaving little room for research activities. This time constraint can limit their ability to deeply engage with research projects,

conduct comprehensive literature reviews, collect and analyze data, and write up their findings. The demanding nature of clinical practice, in particular, can make it difficult to find uninterrupted time for research.

Nursing and midwifery students face numerous challenges in research, including limited research skills, inadequate access to resources, ethical complexities, insufficient mentorship, financial constraints, and psychological stress. Many students lack prior research experience, struggling with study design, statistical analysis, and report writing, while curricula often fail to provide sufficient practical training. Access to essential research resources, such as journals and statistical software, is frequently hindered by institutional and budgetary limitations. Ethical requirements, including securing IRB approval, add procedural burdens that can delay progress. Moreover, insufficient mentorship, compounded by faculty workloads, leaves students feeling unsupported and overwhelmed. Financial constraints further complicate research activities, and difficulties in translating findings into clinical practice highlight gaps in implementing evidence-based approaches. These challenges are compounded by the psychological pressures of meeting academic standards and deadlines, leading to anxiety and burnout. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive institutional support, including enhanced training, mentorship, funding, and psychological care, to empower students for successful research endeavors.

2.4 Ways of improving learning and research among nursing and midwifery students

The declining quality of research among students in tertiary institutions has become a significant concern, impacting both the standard of education and societal development. In the field of nursing and midwifery, addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach that includes integrating experiential learning, enhancing research training, and fostering a culture of academic inquiry. Experiential learning, such as clinical placements and simulation-based education, equips students with hands-on experience and prepares them for real-world scenarios. Simulation labs with advanced technology can improve clinical skills and decision-making, ensuring students gain competence and confidence. Research training should go beyond theoretical instruction to focus on practical methodologies, supported by workshops, access to resources, and interdisciplinary collaboration within dedicated research hubs.

Mentorship is vital in guiding nursing and midwifery students through research complexities, with experienced researchers providing personalized guidance and constructive feedback. Institutions should also prioritize financial support through grants and scholarships, easing the burden of research-related expenses. Time constraints can be addressed by incorporating dedicated research periods into the curriculum, allowing students to focus on projects without overwhelming academic and clinical responsibilities. Fostering a research culture through conferences, awards, and networking opportunities motivates students and highlights the significance of their contributions to advancing healthcare practices.

Embracing digital tools and forming partnerships with healthcare organizations and academic institutions further enhances the learning and research experience. Online platforms and virtual simulations offer flexibility and interactivity, improving educational outcomes. Collaborative initiatives with healthcare providers provide diverse clinical settings and encourage multidisciplinary research, addressing real-world healthcare challenges. By implementing these strategies, institutions can empower nursing and midwifery students to excel in their academic pursuits and contribute effectively to the healthcare sector.

III. Research Method

The study employed a quantitative, cross-sectional survey research design to collect data on a specific problem from a sample, allowing for the extrapolation of findings to a larger population. This approach was chosen for its suitability in analyzing the current state of a social phenomenon to predict future trends. The population comprised 515 undergraduate students from the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Jos, during the 2020/2021 academic session, encompassing students from 100 to 500 levels. A sample of 200 students was selected using proportional stratified sampling, ensuring representation from all levels and both genders. The sampling fraction of 0.24% was applied to each stratum to determine the sample size for each level.

Data collection was facilitated through a researcher-developed structured questionnaire titled “Students’ Questionnaire on Influence of Academic Library on Learning and Research among Nursing and Midwifery Students” (SQIALLRNMS). The instrument consisted of two sections: Section A captured respondents’ demographic data, while Section B contained 20 items addressing the study’s research questions, scored on a 4-point Likert scale. The questionnaire underwent expert validation to ensure relevance, accuracy, and adequacy. Reliability was established using the split-half method, yielding a coefficient of 0.76 through Pearson Product Moment Correlation. Data collection involved direct administration of the questionnaire, with prior approval obtained from relevant authorities. The researcher personally distributed the questionnaires to respondents, ensuring they completed them independently to avoid external influence. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive and inferential statistics via SPSS software. Respondents’ demographic data were analyzed using simple percentages, while research questions were addressed through mean and standard deviation computations.

IV. Results and Discussion

Answering the research questions

Research question one: What is the influence of academic library on learning among nursing and midwifery students?

Table 1. Mean Responses of Respondents on Influence of Academic Library on learning of Nursing and Midwifery Students

S/N	ITEM	N	MEAN	SD	DECISION
1	Library promotes learning	200	2.90	1.082	Accept
2	Library makes learning easy	200	2.74	1.154	Accept
3	Through academic library students can learn new things	200	2.85	1.108	Accept
4	Learning becomes interesting with academic library	200	2.90	1.127	Accept
5	Students learning in nursing gets better with academic library	200	2.88	0.945	Accept

The table 1 above depicts the mean responses of respondents to research question one which seeks to find out the influence of academic library on learning among nursing and midwifery students in the University of Jos. The analysis revealed that, academic library makes

learning easy, ease learning process, provides materials for learning of the students and also makes learning better. The implication is that, academic library has positive influence on the learning and learning process of nursing and midwifery students in the university of Jos.

Research question two: What is the influence of academic library on research among nursing and midwifery students in the University of Jos?

Table 2. Mean Responses of Respondents on Influence of Academic Library on Research Among Nursing and Midwifery Students

S/N	ITEM	N	MEAN	SD	DECISION
1	Academic library provides information for research	200	2.62	1.020	Accept
2	Research is easier for nursing students who use library judiciously	200	2.48	1.022	Accept
3	Nursing students can use library to carry out their research	200	2.70	1.152	Accept
4	Library materials can support good research and provide information for nursing students	200	2.81	1.058	Accept
5	Library is a place to get research information for nursing students	200	2.69	1.123	Accept

The table 2 above depicts analysis of respondents to research questions two which seeks to find out the influence of academic library on research among nursing and midwifery students in the university of Jos. The analysis revealed that, academic library is a good source and place for improving and developing research among students of nursing and midwifery. It also shows that, students of nursing and midwifery can get a lot of information about research in the library and even develop their research in the library. The implication is that academic library are very important to research writing and development among nursing and midwifery students in the University of Jos.

Research question three: What are the Challenges of Using Academic Library for Research Among Nursing and Midwifery Students?

Table 3. Mean Reponses of Respondents Towards the Challenges of Using Academic Library for Research Among Nursing and Midwifery Students

S/N	ITEM	N	MEAN	SD	DECISION
1	Poor facilities	200	3.03	1.025	Accept
2	Poor attitude of librarians	200	2.82	1.151	Accept
3	Lack of updated materials	200	2.79	1.129	Accept
4	Unwillingness of library staff to assist and guide users	200	2.57	1.128	Accept
5	Poor library time and space	200	3.09	0.769	Accept

Table 3 above depicts the responses of respondents to research question four which seeks to find out the challenges of using the academic library for research among nursing and midwifery students in the University of Jos. The analysis revealed that, there are different challenges facing the use of academic library for research among nursing and midwifery students which includes; poor facilities, poor library time, poor attitude of librarians and lack

of updated materials among others. The implication is that, different factors affects nursing and midwifery students use of academic library for learning and research.

Research question four: What are the ways of improving the use of academic library for better learning and research among nursing and midwifery students?

Table 4. Mena Responses of Respondents on Ways of Improving the Use of Academic Library for Better Learning and Research Among Nursing and Midwifery Students

S/N	ITEM	N	MEAN	SD	DECISION
1	Expanding research databases.	200	2.69	1.109	Accept
2	Providing user education and training.	200	2.77	1.083	Accept
3	Upgrading library technology and infrastructure.	200	3.00	0.911	Accept
4	Extending library hours.	200	2.59	0.953	Accept
5	Proper funding and training of library staff	200	2.79	0.997	Accept

Table 4 above depicts the responses of respondents to research question four which seeks to find out the ways of using academic library for better learning and research among nursing and midwifery students in the university of Jos. The analysis revealed that, learning and research among students can be improved by expanding research database, providing user education and training and also extending library hours among others. The implication is that, the learning of students and research can be improved with better use of academic library.

Discussion

The analysis of research question two demonstrated that the use of academic libraries significantly enhances research activities among undergraduate nursing and midwifery students at the University of Jos, as effective library utilization improves their research skills and outcomes. However, challenges such as inadequate funding, outdated facilities, unhelpful library staff, and limited operational hours hinder their effective use of the library. Addressing these issues through increased funding, infrastructure upgrades, staff training, and expanded library resources could foster better research outcomes. This aligns with Bell (2018) and Diaz (2020), who emphasize the central role of academic libraries in advancing research and knowledge development among students.

Summary of findings

The following findings were revealed from the study

1. That academic library has significant positive influence on learning of undergraduate nursing and midwifery students in the university of Jos
2. That academic library significantly influences research writing and development among undergraduate nursing and midwifery students in the university of Jos
3. That certain factors like poor funding, poor training, poor attitude of librarians and short library times affects the access and use of academic libraries among undergraduate nursing and midwifery students
4. That undergraduate nursing and midwifery students can improve their learning and research ability by having better access and use of academic library and the library should be equipped to provided needed materials for the students

V. Conclusion

From the study and the data collected as well as analysed in the study which results to the findings of the study. The study concludes that, academic library plays significant role in the field of education as libraries provides the information, record and resources needed for learning to triumph and succeed. Thus, academic is important to improve students learning and research among students. However, where academic library has dearth of materials and restricted access students may not learn and cannot benefit from such library.

Recommendations

Based on the basis of data analysis and results obtained, the following recommendations are tenable:

1. Students should be sensitized on the need to use library services and how to judiciously utilize the library to improve their learning and research
2. There should be training and retraining of library staff for their attitude and ways of assisting users to better use the library services
3. School administrators should take into cognizance the need for updating library materials for better learning and research among students
4. Government should provide the needed atmosphere in terms of policy and flexible framework that will promote convenient space and library infrastructure that will promote library services

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