

Provision, Accessibility and the Use of Scientific and Technical Information (STI) for Scientific Research: A Case Study of Nigerian Scientists

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the information needs of scientists in Nigeria. Seven hundred and fifteen (715) of Scientists were randomly selected from both teaching, research and applied science fields within the country for this study.

From the analyses of responses, most of the scientists affirmed (as one of the major recurring problems of libraries in developing countries) that resources in their respective institutional libraries and documentation centres were grossly inadequate for their research needs, hence they resulted to building personal collections which have now been almost impossible due to high costs of printed information resources, which in most cases have been attributed to devaluation of local currencies.

The study concluded by recommending a possible re-activation of the 1980s type of clearing house to cater for the production and distribution of information products to meet the desired needs of researchers to ensure that African scientists are not isolated from their counterparts in the rest of the world.