

## Citation Analysis of Undergraduate Law Projects in Faculties of Law Libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria

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### Abstract

*Mainly this study sought to find out primary sources of law undergraduate law students cite in their research projects. It also sought to ascertain most frequently cited sources as well as their availability in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria. Five research questions guided the study. The research design was a survey. A total of 543 projects were used for the study. Instrument for data collection were checklist and interview. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages to answer research questions 1,2 and 3. Responses from the law librarians in research questions 4 and 5 were qualitatively analysed. Findings of the study revealed that most of the information sources cited were not available in the four law libraries studied. Problems which impinge on the provision and availability of these resources were highlighted. Finally strategies that will enhance the availability and use of these information sources in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria were recommended.*

**Keywords:** Citation Analysis, Research Projects, Law Libraries.

### Introduction

The word law conjures and evokes varied meanings in the minds of people. Used technically it means a complex system of formal rules, principles and processes regarded as necessary and enforced in an institutionalized manner based on the need to regulate social relations, so as to attain some social goal; the end being attainment of good life and regulated interaction between members of a given society. Law emanates from customs of a people. When a particular custom being observed or practiced over a period of time in a given society is imposed on that society as expected standard of behaviour, it acquires the status of law. A breach of that law attracts a sanction (Ikpeze, 2011).

While there is no universally accepted definition of law, it can be simply defined as a body of rules and regulations that guide human conduct and are accepted as binding by the society. Society directly enforces laws, breach of which exposes the culprit to punishment in the form of fines or imprisonment or redemption of damages awarded against the culprit. Every society, whether primitive or civilized, is being governed by a body of rules which the members of that society regard as expected standard behaviour. It involves the idea of obligation so as to conform to set rules properly referred to as law.

Before the legal profession was introduced in Nigeria, individuals pleaded and settled their disputes before elders, chief, emirs, and obas within a given community. With the British rule which was introduced in 1861 came the English legal system in Nigeria. The training of Nigerians as members of the legal profession ensued after. In Nigeria, the training of lawyers starts properly at the university. Legal education in Nigeria is twofold – academic and vocational. The academic stage, which starts at the university, leads to the award of Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B). The vocational stage is undertaken at the Nigerian Law School. Onadeko (Onadeko, 2005) rightly observed that legal education academic as well as vocational is a vital ingredient that affects the quality of the Nigerian justice system and role of lawyers in the political, economic and social development of the country. If the legal education is poor, it is impossible to produce world class jurists, practitioners or judges. There is therefore a direct relationship between the quality of legal education and quality of lawyers.

Legal research and ability to find the law is a most useful weapon without which no lawyer can survive and thrive in such an adversarial judicial system as practiced in Nigeria. Legal research is the search for authority and materials that are in the law books and publications stocked away in the various legal collections (Dada, 2011). The ability to perform legal research is one of the basic skills of a lawyer. This means that the use of the law library and the information resource centre should be part of his training right from his undergraduate days at the Faculty of Law and the Law School.

The primary tool of the lawyer is the book. Both the study and practice of the legal profession is book intensive. A lawyer will always make a poor submission if he does not refer to legal authorities. Similarly, a judgment will not be rich without referring to previous decided cases as authorities. These legal authorities are always obtained from a good law library. Through law libraries, members of the legal profession, even “unlearned” men keep abreast of legal developments in the country. In the words of Littlewood (2004), an under-trained and under-educated lawyer is a menace to his client, a danger to himself ...of little use to his society and a disgrace to his profession. This underscores some of the dangers inherent in a deficient system of legal education. A lawyer can only be as good as the system of legal education that produced him (Onadeko, 2005). This explains the rationale behind the accreditation of the various faculties of law in Nigeria by both the Council of Legal Education and the National Universities Commission.

Information resources in law can be categorized into two namely, primary sources and secondary sources. Primary sources are the rules of law that are binding upon the courts, government, and individuals. Examples are statutes, regulations, court orders and court decisions. They are generated by legislators, courts and administrative agencies. Secondary sources are commentaries on law that do not have binding effect but explain what the law is or should be (Legal Information Institute, 2010). The resources available to find legal authority are vast and complicated, leading many law faculties to require students to take a course on legal research.

## Statement of the Problem

Law libraries are not only essential but crucial to the study and practice of the legal profession. In spite of this role, these libraries currently appear to be under resourced due to the prevailing downturn of funding in the universities, information explosion, rising courses of study and steady rise in readership of Nigerian university law libraries. This situation becomes worrisome when one considers its impact on the quality of legal practitioners which are being produced in our universities and the future of the legal profession in Nigeria. It is however not known through research what primary sources of law are cited in undergraduate projects as well as their availability in the faculty of law libraries, particularly those in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria. Although citation analysis has been carried out in the past in some parts of Nigeria, none seems to have been carried out in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria. This gap in knowledge does not allow the law librarian to ascertain whether the law library supports the research effort of the faculty. These form the focus of this study.

### **Purpose of the Study**

This study sought to find out the:

- Primary sources of law cited in undergraduate research projects in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria.
- Primary sources of law that are most frequently cited in undergraduate law projects in these libraries.
- Availability of cited primary sources of law in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria.
- Challenges law libraries encounter in the provision of cited information sources to law students in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria.
- Strategies law librarians can adopt to improve the availability and utilization of cited information resources in undergraduate law projects in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

The following questions guided the study:

1. What primary sources of law are cited in undergraduate research projects in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria?
2. What are the most frequently cited sources of law in undergraduate law projects in these libraries?
3. What cited primary sources are available in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria?
4. What challenges do law librarians encounter in the provision of cited information sources to law students in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria?

5. What strategies can law librarians adopt to improve the availability and utilization of information sources cited in undergraduate projects in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria?

### **Review of Related Literature**

The Nigerian legal system has a common law tradition. Common law system evolved from the study of court decisions (*stare decisis*) made by judges in the settlement of disputes during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries in England. Nigeria being a former colony of Britain has imbibed the tradition of *stare decisis* which enjoins that earlier decisions should be binding authorities for subsequent cases (Ibeh, 2011). By this principle, Nigerian courts are duty bound to observe and abide by the principle of judicial precedent. Similarly, the Nigerian legal system is characterized largely by English legal rules and principles. As a result of the colonial influence during its formative years and the subsequent imposition of English law, the Nigerian legal system has acquired a dual structure comprising customary law and English law.

The writing of research project is an essential requirement for the award of Bachelor of Law degree (LL.B). The project topics may cover a wide of range subjects in law. Usually these research works assume the form of long essay. Sometimes they are empirical in nature depending on the institution awarding the degree. These research reports are written under the guidance of assigned supervisors. At the completion of such works, oral defence is conducted and grades awarded. Information resources required for the production of such research reports can be sourced either from the faculty law library or other law libraries.

Research projects in law have some unique features which make them different from research projects in other disciplines. A typical research project in law is similar to law textbook. A research project in law has a separate reference section for table of statutes and table of cases consulted. The table of statutes indicates the title of the law cited and its effective date. This list is usually arranged chronologically. Whereas the table of cases is a long list of case laws cited in the work which is arranged alphabetically indicating the page numbers where the cases were mentioned in the work. Citation to a law report includes the parties to the case, the year, abbreviation of law report, volume number, the part and the page number. Both the table of statutes and table of cases (usually long) appear as preliminary pages before the main text. It is different from the bibliography to secondary sources listed at the end of the text. Thus citation pattern in law makes the number of citations in a typical research project in law a bulky one.

A citation is the acknowledgement one document receives from another. It is a bibliographical entry in a footnote, reference list, or bibliography of a document that contains enough information (author, title, publisher or journal title) to verify the original item (Leiding, 2005). While citation analysis is a bibliometrics technique in which works cited in publications are examined to determine patterns of scholarly communication, for example the comparative importance of books versus journals or of current versus retrospective sources in one or more academic disciplines (ODLIS, 2009). The citations in student research papers, theses and dissertation are also examined by librarians for purposes of collection evaluation and

development. According to Meho (**Meho,2007**), citation analysis is a branch of information science in which researchers study the way articles in a scholarly field are accessed and referenced by others.

Citation analysis is performed by counting how many times a paper or researcher is cited. It works on the assumption that influential scientists and important works are cited more frequently than others. Citation analysis assumes that references to a particular journal reflect a scholarly impact of that article on the author of the citing work. Another assumption is that the accumulated citations to a given author's work in some sense reflect the impact of that author on scholarship and research.

Since citation analysis derives its data from references made in a completed work, it is a useful tool for understanding subject relationship, author effectiveness, publication trend and so on. With citation analysis one can evaluate and interpret citations received by articles, authors, and other indications of scientific activity. Citation analysis is also a way to understand users.

Citation analysis is an effective tool for collection development. Sam and Tackie (2007) quoting Smith stated that citation analysis is now commonly used to determine what titles to purchase, to discontinue, or to weed. Librarians in various disciplines use it to eliminate costly low used/unused journals, purchase needed materials and ascertain core journals needed for patron use, and to reveal the most active research area in a particular area. Citation analysis is also useful in identifying core journals because of the bibliometric phenomenon known as the law of scattering, which describes the manner in which articles on a subject are dispersed through the periodical literature. A small percentage of journals normally accounts for a large percentage of cited articles in any given field. Citation frequency and impact factor could be helpful in determining the optimum make-up of special and general collections. This can serve as guide to determine the back files, binding and retention schedules of science journals (Oki, 2003).

The availability of information sources needed for such research in faculty of law libraries has been a source of worry to law librarians and all persons involved in the training of lawyers. Availability of information sources means ensuring their presence in libraries for immediate use (**Aguolu and Aguolu, 2002**).

## **Methodology**

The research design was a survey. The sample size comprised of 543 undergraduate projects in law drawn from four university law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria. Universities selected were University of Nigeria, Nsukka; Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka; Enugu State University of Science and Technology and Anambra State University, Uli. All the citations in the 543 projects were used for the study. Four law librarians were interviewed. The instruments for data collection were checklist and interview. The data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages to answer research questions 1,2 and 3. The results were presented in tables. Responses from the law librarians were qualitatively analysed. Decision rule to determine most frequently cited items was based on the mean score derived from each category of cited sources (law reports and statutes).

## Results

### **Research Question 1: What primary sources of law are cited in undergraduate research projects in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria?**

Table 1 presents analysis of the citations on type of primary sources law students cite in their undergraduate projects in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria. Citation from each type of primary sources cited from the four faculty of law libraries studied were added together and presented as shown in Table 1 below.

*Table 1:*  
*Type of Cited Sources*

Sources	ANSU	ESUT	NAU	UNN	Total	%
Law Reports	2482	2141	3742	3603	11968	55.25
Statutes	1226	1801	3761	2907	9695	44.75
Total	3708	3942	7503	6510	21663	100

Table I shows the type of primary sources undergraduate law students cite in their research projects. The study generated a total of 21663 citations. Out of this number, law reports has the highest citation of 11,968 which accounts for 55.25%. This is closely followed by statutes with 9695 citations representing 44.75%.

### **Research Question 2: What are the most frequently cited primary sources in undergraduate law projects in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu states of Nigeria?**

Tables 2-5 presents result of the analysis on most frequently cited sources. Most frequently cited sources are cited sources with more citation count than others. In this study, decision rule to determine most frequently cited sources was based on the mean score derived from each category of cited sources (law reports and statutes).

**Table 2**  
***Frequently Cited Foreign Law Reports***

	<b>Law Reports (Foreign)</b>	<b>No. of Projects</b>	<b>No. of Citation</b>
1	All England Law Reports	170	<b>566</b>
2	Law Reports (Chancery Division)	232	<b>532</b>
3	Yale Law Reports	76	<b>486</b>
4	Law Reports (Probate Division)	189	<b>335</b>
5	Law Times	151	<b>316</b>

Table 2 presents result of analysis on foreign law reports. It can be seen from the table that only 5 foreign law reports with a mean score of 190 and above were identified as most frequently cited foreign law reports. Top on the list is *All England Law Reports* with 566 citations. The high citation this English law report received points to the fact that it is a preferred choice in foreign law reports. It is a British-based report which covers case laws on all subjects of law in England. It is also among the foreign law reports in the checklist for every law library in Nigeria recommended by both National Universities Commission and Council For Legal Education. It was closely followed by *Law Reports (Chancery Division)* which received 532 citations. This law report together with *Law Reports (Probate Division)* and *Law Reports (Exchequer)*, *Law Reports (King's Bench)* and *Law Reports (Queen's Bench)* are published in series. *Law Times* cover reported English cases on various subjects of law. Most of these law reports are included in the list of recommended English publications which every faculty law library must have its collection.

**Table 3: *Frequently Cited Local Law Reports***

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Law Reports (Local)</b>	<b>No. of projects</b>	<b>No. of citation</b>
1	Nigeria Weekly Law Reports	592	<b>4647</b>
2	Supreme Court Cases	253	<b>766</b>
3	Nigeria Law Reports	181	<b>728</b>
4	All Nigeria Law Reports	177	<b>340</b>

Table 3 presents result of the result on local law reports. From the table, it can be seen that 4 local law reports with a mean score of 273 and above were identified as most frequently cited



local law reports in undergraduate law projects in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria. *Nigeria Weekly Law Reports* was outstandingly rated as the most cited local reports. It received 4,647 citations which is 53.33% of citations in that table. It is a weekly law report that covers a wide spectrum of subjects in law. The very high citation it received is an indication that it is a preferred choice of local law reports for law students. Two other law reports *Supreme Court Cases* and *Nigeria Law Reports* have very high citation of 766 and 728 respectively. When added together, these first three law reports account for more than 70% of the citation in this table. Following next is *All Nigeria Law Reports* with 340 citations.

**Table 4**  
***Frequently Cited Foreign Laws/Statutes***

S/N	Statutes/Laws (Foreign)	No. of Projects	No. of Citation
1	Sale of Goods Act, 1893	107	232
2	Convention on Elimination of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Women, 1979 (CEDAW).	44	211
3.	Beijin Declaration	59	132
4	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	86	103
5	African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHRR) 1981	90	97
6	ICJ	58	97
7	Convention on Rights of a Child	86	96
8	United Nations Charter on Child Rights	78	95
9	OAU Charter on the Rights & Welfare of the Child	50	90
10	ILO Convention NO. 87, 1948	66	87
11	United Nations Charter on Human Rights	70	75
12	ICSID Convention	50	71
13	International Labour Organisation, 1960	45	56
14	Halsbury Laws of England	46	46
15	ICSID Rules 1965	34	45
16	New York Convention ,1958	31	37
17	Companies Act	34	34
18	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	22	31
19	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crime of Genocide	7	27



In Table 4 result of analysis on the most frequently foreign statutes are presented. The analysis shows that a total of 19 statutes with a mean score of 25 and above were identified as most frequently cited foreign statutes in the undergraduate research projects in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria. It can be seen from the table that 4 statutes received 100 citations and above. Top on the list is *Sale of Goods Act, 1893* which had 232 citations while *CEDAW* received 211 citations. Ranking third in the list is *Beijin Declaration* with 132 citations. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* is fourth in the rank with 103 citations. Other most frequently cited statutes in the table had less 100 citations. They received between 97 citations and 34 citations. First in this category are *African Charter on Human and People's Right, 1981* and *ICJ* both of which received 97 citations each. The least citation in this table was received by *Companies Act* which had 34 citations. With the exception of *Sale of Goods Act 1893*, and *Halsbury Laws of England* the other foreign legal instruments are products of international conventions on human rights, labour related matters and arbitral awards. Nigeria is a signatory to most of these Conventions.

**Table 5**  
**Frequently Cited Local Laws/Statutes**

S/N	Statute/Laws (Local)	No. of Projects	No. of Citation
1	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.	399	<b>1086</b>
2	Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.	259	<b>949</b>
3	Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap. C20 LFN, 2004	105	<b>461</b>
4	Land Use Act 1978	70	<b>411</b>
5	Evidence Act Cap 112, 1990	160	<b>324</b>
6	Criminal Code C.38 LFN 2004	169	<b>323</b>
7	Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990	102	<b>304</b>
8	Criminal Procedure Act	81	<b>281</b>
9	Arbitration and Conciliation Act LFN 2004	220	<b>228</b>
10	Children and Young Persons Act	49	<b>209</b>
11	BOFIA	59	<b>164</b>
12	Anambra State Torts Law	96	<b>150</b>
13	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979	83	<b>113</b>
14	Matrimonial Causes Act Cap 220 LFN 1990.	42	<b>112</b>
15	Child Rights Act, 2003	44	<b>98</b>
16	Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and Lagos 1958.	46	<b>96</b>
17	Labour Act Cap L1 LFN, 2004.	34	<b>86</b>
18	Consumer Protection Act	35	<b>83</b>

S/N	Statute/Laws (Local)	No. of Projects	No. of Citation
20	NAFDAC Act	39	77
21	Investment and Securities Act Cap 124 LFN, 2004.	40	75
22	Penal Code	56	71

Table 5 presents analysis of citation on most frequently cited local statutes. From the table, it can be seen that 22 statutes with a mean score of 69 and above were rated as most frequently cited local statutes. Top on the list is the *1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* which received 1086 citations or 14.25%. This is the current constitution in force in Nigeria. It replaced the *1979 Constitution*. The second highest citation was received by *Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004* which had 949 or 12.46%. It should be noted that *Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990* is an earlier edition of the 2004 version. *Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004* is a collection of all federal laws in force as at December 2002. The high citation the first two cited sources received added together constitute more than 30% of the entire citations in this table. There is, therefore, a yawning gap between these two sources and the rest in the table. It should be noted that most of the laws in this table that did not exceed 2004 are chapters in the *Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004* with the exception of *Adoption Laws of Anambra State*, and *Contract Laws of Anambra State* which are state made laws. Both the *1979 Constitution* and the *Laws of the Federation 1990* are already overtaken by the LFN 2004 and the *1999 Constitution* except for historic purposes. Every other law made after December 2004 can be found in federal gazette compilation.

**Research Question 3:** What cited primary sources are available in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria?

Tables 6-9 present results of cited sources as recorded in Research Question 2. These were cited sources that were available in the four faculty of law libraries studied. The analyses were presented on availability of cited law reports, and statutes. In the tables, (1) stands for availability while (0) stands for unavailability of the cited sources in the law libraries.

**Table 6**  
**Availability of Cited Foreign Law Reports**

S/N	Law Reports (Foreign)	NO.OF CITATION	UNIVERSITIES				TOTAL	% OF AVAILABILITY
			ANS	ESUT	NAU	UNN		
1	African Law Reports (Commercial)	4	0	1	0	0	1	25
2	All England Law Reports	566	1	1	1	1	4	100

3	C & P	<b>16</b>	1	0	1	1	3	75
4	Cox Law Reports	<b>8</b>	1	0	1	1	3	75
5	Criminal Appeal Cases	<b>45</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
6	Criminal Law Report	<b>65</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
7	Law Reports (Appeal Cases)	<b>125</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
8	Law Reports (Chancery Division)	<b>532</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
9	Law Reports (Exchequer)	<b>114</b>	0	1	1	1	3	75
10	Law Reports (King's Bench)	<b>143</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
11	Law Reports (Probate Division)	<b>335</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
12	Law Reports (Queen's Bench)	<b>123</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
13	Law Times	<b>316</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
14	Lloyd Law Report	<b>89</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
15	Times Law Report	<b>137</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
16	West African Court of Appeal Reports	<b>132</b>	0	1	1	1	3	75
17	Yale Law Reports	<b>486</b>	0	1	1	1	3	75
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3236</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>		
<b>PERCENT</b>			<b>76</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>		

Table 6 presents result of the analysis on availability of foreign law reports. From the table, 17 foreign law reports were cited. Out of this number, 11 law reports were available in all the law libraries. *African Law Reports* was available only in ESUT. In all, ANSU has 13(76%), ESUT 15(88%), while NAU and UNN have 16 (95%) each in their collection.

**Table 7**  
**Availability of Cited Local Law Reports**

S/N	Local Law Reports	UNIVERSITIES
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	<b>Law Reports (Local)</b>	<b>NO.OF CITATION</b>	<b>ANSU</b>	<b>ESUT</b>	<b>NAU</b>	<b>UNN</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>AVAI</b>	<b>LABI</b>	<b>LITY</b>
1	All Federation Weekly Law Reports of Nigeria	<b>73</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
2	All Nigeria Law Reports	<b>340</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
3	CCHCJ	<b>40</b>	0	0	1	1	2			50
4	East Central Law Reports	<b>20</b>	0	1	1	1	3			75
5	Eastern Nigeria Law Report	<b>20</b>	0	1	1	1	3			75
6	Federal Supreme Court Cases	<b>101</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
7	Federation Weekly Law Report	<b>127</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
8	ImoState Law Report	<b>24</b>	0	1	1	1	3			75
9	Lagos Law Report	<b>46</b>	0	1	1	0	2			50
10	Law Report of Western Nigeria	<b>26</b>	0	1	1	1	3			75
11	Mid Western States Judgment	<b>17</b>	0	1	1	1	3			75
12	Monthly Law Report	<b>35</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
13	National Constitution Law Reports	<b>59</b>	0	1	1	0	2			50
14	Nigeria Supreme Court Cases	<b>72</b>	0	1	1	1	3			75
15	Nigeria Constitutional Law Reports	<b>182</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
16	Nigeria Commercial Law Report	<b>103</b>	1	1	1	0	3			75
17	Nigeria Criminal Law Report	<b>34</b>	0	1	1	0	2			50
18	Nigeria Law Reports	<b>728</b>	0	1	1	1	3			75
19	Nigeria Monthly Law Reports	<b>250</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
20	Nigeria Supreme Court Cases	<b>135</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
21	Nigeria Weekly Law Reports	<b>4647</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
22	Northern Nigeria Law Report	<b>97</b>	0	1	1	1	3			75
23	Northern Nigeria Regional Law Reports	<b>69</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
24	Selected Judgment of High Court of Lagos	<b>55</b>	0	1	1	1	3			75
25	Selected Judgment of Supreme Court	<b>20</b>	0	1	1	0	2			50
26	Supreme Court Cases	<b>766</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
27	Supreme Court of Nigeria Law Reports	<b>240</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
28	University of Ife Law Reports	<b>111</b>	1	1	1	0	3			75
29	Weekly Law Report	<b>81</b>	1	1	1	0	3			75
30	Weekly Reports of Nigeria	<b>106</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100
31	Western Nigeria Law Reports	<b>41</b>	1	1	1	1	4			100

32	Western Region of Nigeria Law Reports	<b>65</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8730</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>		
	<b>PERCENT</b>		<b>56</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>78</b>		

In Table 7 result of the analysis is presented on availability of local law reports. From the table, it can be seen that 32 local law reports were cited by law students in their research projects. Fifteen local law reports were available in all the law libraries. They include *All Federation Weekly Law Reports of Nigeria, All Nigerian Law Reports, Federal Supreme Court Cases, Federation Weekly Law Reports, Monthly Law Reports, Nigeria Constitutional Law Reports, Nigeria Monthly Law Reports, Supreme Court Cases, Nigeria Weekly Law Reports, Northern Nigeria Regional Law Reports, Supreme Court Cases, Supreme Court of Nigeria Law Reports, Weekly Reports of Nigeria, Western Nigeria Law Reports and Western Region of Nigeria Law Reports*. The rest were available either in two or three law libraries. The availability report shows that out of the 32 local law reports cited, ANSU has 18 (56%), UNN has 25 (78%), and ESUT has 31 (97%) while NAU has 32 (100%).

**Table 8**  
**Availability of Cited Foreign Statutes**

S/N	Statutes/Laws (Foreign)	NO.OF CITATION	UNIVERSITIES				TOTAL	% OF AVAILA
			ANSU	ESUT	NAU	UNN		
1	Acquisition of Assets Act, 1979	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
2	Administration of Estate Law	<b>2</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
3	African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHRR) 1981	<b>97</b>	0	<b>0</b>	1	1	2	50
4	Anglo German Agreement	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	1	1	25
5	Anti War Treaty of Non Aggression & Conciliation	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	1	1	25
6	Australian Corporation Act 1989	<b>3</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
7	Australian Matrimonial Causes	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0

8	Banking Act 1958	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
9	Beijing Declaration	<b>132</b>	0	<b>0</b>	1	0	1	25
10	California Evidence Code	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
11	Canadian Business Corporation Act	<b>3</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
12	Canadian State Immunity Act 1982	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
13	Common Law Procedure Act, 1854	<b>2</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
14	Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, 1901	<b>2</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
15	Companies Act	<b>34</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
16	Constitution of the United States of America, 1787	<b>23</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
17	CEDAW	<b>211</b>	1	<b>1</b>	1	0	3	75
18	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crime of Genocide	<b>27</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
19	Convention on the Territorial Sea	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
20	Convention on Rights of a Child	<b>96</b>	1	<b>0</b>	0	0	1	25
21	Convention of International Civil Aviation, Chicago	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
22	Convention on the Law of the Sea	<b>12</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
23	Criminal Evidence Act	<b>1</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
24	Deep Sea bed Hard Mineral Resources Act	<b>1</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
25	Defence of Marriage Act of America 1996	<b>7</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
26	Divorce Reform Act of England, 1969	<b>8</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
27	English Arbitration Act (27) 1950 (UK)	<b>5</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
28	English Company Act	<b>3</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
29	English Evidence Act	<b>2</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
30	Factors Act 1889	<b>7</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
31	Foreign Jurisdiction Act	<b>22</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0

32	Geneva Convention on Law of Wars	<b>20</b>	1	<b>1</b>	1	0	3	75
33	Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf	<b>1</b>	1	<b>1</b>	1	0	3	75
34	German Criminal Code	<b>1</b>	1	<b>1</b>	1	0	3	75
35	Gilbralter Arbitration Act 1975	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	1	0	1	25
36	Hague Convention	<b>21</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
37	Halsbury Laws of England	<b>46</b>	1	<b>1</b>	1	1	4	100
38	Hazardous Waste Rule, 1999	<b>3</b>	0	<b>0</b>	1	0	1	25
39	ICJ	<b>109</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
40	ICSID Convention	<b>71</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
41	ICSID Rules 1965	<b>45</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
42	ILO Convention NO. 87, 1948	<b>87</b>	0	<b>1</b>	0	0	1	25
43	Immigration Act	<b>12</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
44	Indian Divorce Act	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
45	Infant Relief Act	<b>3</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
46	Insolvency Act (Britain)1985	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
47	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	<b>29</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
48	Intestate Act 1980	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
49	International Criminal Tribunal for Sierra Leone	<b>3</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
50	International Labour Organisation, 1960	<b>56</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	1	1	25
51	Judicature Acts 1873 – 1875	<b>5</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
52	Kenyan Arbitration Act 1952	<b>3</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
53	Limitation Act	<b>13</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
54	Magna Carta	<b>9</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	1	1	25
55	Marriage Act	<b>2</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
56	Married Women’s Act	<b>19</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
57	Mental Health Act	<b>1</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
58	Misinterpretation Act 1967	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
59	New York Convention ,1958	<b>37</b>	0	<b>0</b>	1	0	1	25
60	OAU Charter on the Rights & Welfare of the Child	<b>90</b>	0	<b>0</b>	1	0	1	25
61	OPEC Resolution xvi 90 of 1968	<b>6</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0



62	Partnership Act, 1890	<b>10</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
63	Restrictive Trade Practices	<b>12</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
64	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	<b>9</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
65	Sale of Goods Act, 1893	<b>232</b>	1	<b>0</b>	1	0	2	50
66	Slavery Convention of 1958	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
67	Solvency Act of Britain, 1985	<b>5</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
68	Standard Contract Law 1964	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
69	Statute of International Criminal Tribunal	<b>8</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
70	Statute for the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia	<b>7</b>	1	<b>0</b>	0	0	1	25
71	Statute for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	<b>7</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
72	The Constitution of India	<b>1</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
73	The Constitution of United States of America	<b>2</b>	1	<b>0</b>	0	0	1	25
74	UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration	<b>5</b>	0	<b>0</b>	1	0	1	25
75	United Nations Commission on the Right of the Child	<b>5</b>	1	<b>0</b>	1	1	3	75
76	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law & Rules (UNCITRAL) 1976 and 1983	<b>4</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
77	United Nations Commission on Transnational Corporation	<b>6</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
78	United Nations Charter on Human Rights	<b>75</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
79	United Nations Charter on Child Rights	<b>95</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
80	United States of America Copyright Act 1979	<b>1</b>	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	2	50
81	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	<b>103</b>	1	<b>1</b>	1	0	3	75

82	Wages Board and Industrial Council Act, 1973	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2012</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>		
<b>PERCENT</b>			<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>		

Table 8 presents the result of the analysis on availability of foreign statute/laws in the law libraries studied. From the table, 82 foreign law sources were cited. Out of this number, 43 were not available in all the law libraries. Only *Halsbury Laws of England* was available in all the law libraries studied. The availability figure in each law library stands as follows: UNN 7 (9%), NAU 15 (18%), ESUT 20 (24%) and ANSU 24 (29%). This result reveals that none of these 4 libraries has up to 30% of the foreign law cited in its collection.

**Table 9**  
**Availability of Cited Local Statute/laws**

Statute Laws (Local)	NO.OF CITATION	UNIVERSITIES				TOTAL	% OF AVAILIBILI
		ANSU	ESUT	NAU	UNN		
1 Acquisition of Lands By Aliens Law, 1957	43	0	0	1	0	1	25
2 Adoption Laws of Anambra State	57	0	0	1	0	1	25
3 Adoption Laws of Lagos State	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Adoption Laws of RiversState	21	0	0	1	0	1	25
5 AnambraState Torts Law	150	0	0	1	0	1	25
6 Arbitration Law of AnambraState	5	0	0	1	0	1	25
7 Arbitration and Conciliation Act LFN 2004	228	0	0	1	1	2	50
8 Arbitration Law Cap. 10 Laws of Eastern Nigeria, 1963	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Associated Gas Re-injection Act 2004	14	0	0	1	0	1	25
10 Bankruptcy Act A1 – B2 2004	47	1	0	1	0	2	50
11 BOFIA	164	0	0	1	0	1	25
12 CBN Guidelines in Electronic Banking in Nigeria, 2003	51	0	0	1	0	1	25
13 Central Bank of Nigeria Act, 2007	55	0	0	1	0	1	25

14	Central Bank of Nigeria Act 2004	<b>47</b>	0	0	1	1	2	50
15	Children and Young Persons Act	<b>209</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
16	Child Right Act, 2003	<b>98</b>	0	0	1	1	2	50
17	Clifford Constitution	<b>7</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap. C20 LFN, 2004	<b>461</b>	0	1	1	1	3	75
19	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1960.	<b>29</b>	0	1	1	1	3	75
20	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1963.	<b>30</b>	0	1	1	1	3	75
21	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979	<b>113</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
22	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.	<b>1086</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
23	Consumer Protection Act	<b>83</b>	0	1	1	0	2	50
24	Contract Laws of Anambra State Cap 32, 1999	<b>53</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
25	Contract Laws of Western Nigeria 1959	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Control of Rent Law Cap. 27 (Eastern Nigeria)	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Copyright Act LFN 1990	<b>56</b>	0	1	1	1	3	75
28	Criminal Code C.38 LFN 2004	<b>323</b>	1	1	1	1	4	100
29	Criminal Procedure Act	<b>281</b>	1	1	1	0	3	75
30	Defamation Law, Laws of Eastern Nigeria	<b>5</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
31	Defamation Law, Laws of Western Nigeria	<b>5</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act	<b>15</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Economic and Financial Crime Commission Act ,2004	<b>26</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
34	Electoral Act 2006	<b>77</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
35	Enugu State Torts Law 1991	<b>14</b>	0	1	0	0	1	25
36	Environmental Impact Assessment Act	<b>63</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
37	Evidence Act Cap 112, 1990	<b>324</b>	1	1	0	0	2	50

38	Failed Bank (Recovery of Debts) & Financial Malpractices in bank Decree 1994	<b>46</b>	0	1	1	0	2	50
39	Federal Environmental Protection Agency Act	<b>40</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Forestry Act	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Harmful Waste Act LFN 1990	<b>49</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Homicide Act	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	Illiterate Protection Act I 920 Cap 83 LFN, 1958.	<b>31</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
44	Infant Law Cap 49, Laws of Western Nigeria 1959.	<b>5</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	Infant Relief Act	<b>52</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	Independent Corrupt Practices Act	<b>1</b>	1	0	0	0	1	25
47	Insurance Act Cap 117, LFN 2004.	<b>36</b>	0	0	0	1	1	25
48	Insurance Act No. 1, 2003.	<b>36</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
49	Interpretation Act, Cap 1, LFN 2004.	<b>62</b>	0	0	1	1	2	50
50	Investment and Securities Act Cap 124 LFN, 2004.	<b>75</b>	0	0	1	1	2	50
51	Kolanut Tenancy Act	<b>10</b>	0	0	1	1	2	50
52	Labour Act Cap L1 LFN, 2004.	<b>86</b>	0	0	1	1	2	50
53	Land Registration Act, Cap 99 LFN 1958.	<b>4</b>	0	0	0	1	1	25
54	Land Tenure Law Cap 59, 1963.	<b>1</b>	0	1	0	1	2	50
55	Land Tenure Law of Northern Nigeria, 1962.	<b>3</b>	1	1	1	0	3	75
56	Land Use Act 1978	<b>411</b>	0	1	0	0	1	25
57	Law Reform Act	<b>1</b>	0	1	0	0	1	25
58	Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and Lagos 1958.	<b>96</b>	0	1	1	1	3	75
59	Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990	<b>304</b>	0	1	1	1	3	75
60	Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.	<b>949</b>	0	0	1	1	2	50

61	Limitation Act 1966.	<b>37</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
62	Lunacy Act Cap 112 LFN 1958.	<b>5</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
63	Marine Insurance Act Cap M2 LFN 2004	<b>13</b>	0	1	1	0	2	50
64	Marriage Act Cap 218 LFN 1990	<b>16</b>	1	0	1	0	2	50
65	Matrimonial Causes Act Cap 220 LFN 1990.	<b>112</b>	1	0	1	0	2	50
66	Medical & Dental Practitioners Act	<b>4</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
67	Mineral and Mining Act, 2004	<b>29</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
68	Minerals Act	<b>28</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
69	Minerals Oil Act	<b>22</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
70	Motor Vehicle Insurance Act Cap 2331990	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
71	NAFDAC Act	<b>77</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
72	Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation No. 22, 1988.	<b>22</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
73	Nigeria Enterprises Promotion Act 1977	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
74	Nigeria National Oil Corporation Decree No 30 1971	<b>15</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
75	Nigerian Urban & Regional Planning Act	<b>6</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
76	Oil in Navigable Waters Act cap 06 LFN 2004	<b>51</b>	0	0	1	1	2	50
77	Oil Pipe Line Act 1965	<b>9</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
78	Oil Pipe Line Act 1969	<b>9</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
79	Oil Pipe Line Act 1990	<b>25</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
80	Penal Code	<b>71</b>	0	0	1	0	1	25
81	Petroleum Drilling & Production/Regulation 1969	<b>29</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
82	Police Act P.19 LFN 2004	<b>9</b>	0	0	0	1	1	25
83	Prison Act	<b>3</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
84	Privacy Act 1998	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

85	Privatisation & Commercialisation Act	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Property and Conveyancing						
86	Law Cap 160, Laws of Western Nigeria 1959.	1	0	0	0	0	0
87	Recovering of Public Property Decree No. 3, 1995.	5	0	0	0	0	0
88	Registration of Titles Act, 1935.	3	0	0	0	0	0
89	Registration of Title Act, Cap 181 LFN 1958	20	0	0	1	0	1
90	Rent (Increase) Restriction Law Cap 111 (Western Midwestern Regions).	2	0	0	0	0	0
91	Rent (Restriction) Ordinance Cap 93, 1948 and 1963.	4	0	0	0	0	0
92	Rent Control and Recovery of Premises Law No.1, Laws of PlateauState, 1998.	7	0	0	0	0	0
93	Rent Control and Recovery of Residential	8	0	0	0	0	0
94	Rent Restriction Ordinance and Rent Control Act of Lagos, 1965.	6	0	0	0	0	0
95	Revised Laws of AnambraState 1991	1	0	0	0	0	0
96	Sale of Goods Act	50	0	0	1	0	1
97	Securities & Exchange Commission Decree	22	1	0	1	0	2
98	Standard Organisation of Nigeria Act	25	0	0	1	0	1
99	The Penal Code of Northern Nigeria.	46	0	0	1	0	1
100	The Police and Evidences Act	8	1	0	1	1	3
101	The Republican Constitution 1963	1	0	0	0	0	0
102	The Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act, 2007.	7	0	0	1	0	1
103	Torts (Interference with Goods) Act, 1977	31	0	0	1	0	1

104	Trade Dispute Act Cap T.8 LFN 2004	28	0	0	1	0	1	25
105	Trade Dispute Act 1976	31	0	0	1	0	1	25
106	Trade Malpractices Act 1992	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
107	Trade Union Act Cap T. 14 LFN 2004	14	0	0	1	0	1	25
108	Trade Union and Relations Consolidation Act 1992	17	1	0	0	0	1	25
109	Trade Union Act Cap 437 LFN 2004.	17	1	0	0	0	1	25
110	Trademarks Act T. 13 LFN 2004	24	1	0	0	0	1	25
111	Urban and Regional Planning Act 2004	31	0	0	1	0	1	25
112	Workman's Compensation Act Cap W.6 LFN 2004	53	0	0	1	0	1	25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7683</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>23</b>		
<b>PERCENT</b>			13	17	54	21		

In Table 9 result of the analysis is presented on availability of local laws cited by undergraduate law students. A total of 112 local law sources were cited. In all 29 laws were not available in any of the law libraries. Only the 1979 and 1999 *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* was available in all the law libraries. The availability record of the local laws cited shows that ANSU has 15 (13%), ESUT 19 (17%), UNN 23 (21%) and NAU 61 (54%).

#### **Research Question 4: What challenges do law librarians encounter in the provision of cited primary sources to law students in faculty of law libraries in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria?**

##### ***Funding***

The law librarians interviewed in the four law libraries reported that fund is a major barrier in the acquisition of information sources in their libraries. This also affects the payment of staff salaries. In the four law libraries, there is no separate budget for faculty of law libraries. The university librarian controls the library fund and consequently the law library budget. They also reported that the major source of fund for these law libraries is government subvention. From the interview each law library has its own peculiar funding problem. Paucity of fund is even worse in the state university. Enugu State University failed National Universities Commission accreditation in 2012 as a result of inadequate facilities. In all, responses gathered during the interview show that law libraries owned by the federal government is better funded than law libraries in state universities. Both the selection and acquisition of information sources is



centrally done at the main university library. This causes delay in the processing of acquired resources as well as their availability in the law libraries.

**Research Question 5: *What strategies can law librarians adopt to improve the availability and utilization of information sources cited?***

The four law librarians recommend that the university management should either create a separate or dedicated book vote for acquisition of information resources at the law library. The need for improved funding was also stressed. Subvention to the university and the law library in particular should be increased in view of current economic reality in Nigeria. State government subvention to state universities should be improved for enhanced collection development at the law libraries. In view of the paucity of fund in many government establishments in Nigeria, they recommend that law libraries should explore other avenues for improved funding through internally generated revenue. This suggestion was made in view of the fact that law has two regulatory bodies- the Council for Legal Education and the National Universities Commission. Each of these accrediting bodies has its requirement/standard which every faculty of law in Nigeria must satisfy during accreditation.

They also recommended that granting the law library a degree of viable autonomy whereby the law librarian and the dean of law will be at liberty to determine what and how information resources will be procured for the law library. This will improve the current situation. They also recommend that acquisition of information resources at the faculty of law libraries should be a continuous exercise. Such acquisition should reflect both the Council of Legal Education recommended texts for law libraries and the National Universities Commission Benchmark for faculty of law.

**Discussion of Results**

The result of the findings showed that law students cite more from law reports, than from other sources in their undergraduate research projects. Another primary source of law that received very high citation was the statute/laws. It should be noted that law reports and statutes are the primary sources of law. The finding corroborates the study by Obidimma and Ezeh (2011) in which they identified law reports and statutes as primary source materials for legal research. Statutes include Acts, Laws, Decrees and Edicts while law reports are reports of more important cases decided by the superior courts which form a part of the primary sources of information in law researching.

In this study, most frequently sources are cited sources with more citation count than others based on their mean citation score. Among the various categories of information sources cited, law reports have the highest number of citations- 11968 representing 55.25%. A total of 9 law reports were identified as most frequently cited; out of which 5 are foreign law reports. *All England Law Report* was the most frequently cited foreign report with 566 citations. Others that also received very high citations in the rank are *Law Reports (Chancery Division)*, *Yale Law Reports* and *Law Reports (Probate Division)*.

It is important to note that both the Council of Legal Education and the National Universities Commission recommended these law reports in the list of foreign reports every faculty of law library in Nigeria must have in its collection. The *All England Law Reports* covers English case laws. Although it is a foreign report, the Nigerian legal system has a common law tradition as such faculty of law libraries in Nigeria are bound to acquire them.

Apart from the foreign reports, 4 local law reports were also identified as most frequently cited sources. *The Nigerian Weekly Law Reports* received the highest rating of 4647 citations. *The Nigerian Weekly Law Reports* is a weekly publication and covers important judgments delivered in Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Nigeria. It also covers matters on all subjects of law. The high citation it received is a clear indication of its relevance and importance as the most desired local law reports in faculty of law libraries in Nigeria.

Statute is another primary source of law which received high citation count of 9695. A total of 41 statutes were identified as most frequently cited in law projects. Out of this number, 19 are foreign statutes while 22 are local. Among the local laws, the *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999* has the highest citation. It received 1086 citations. It was closely followed by *Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004*. The *1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* is the current constitution in force in Nigeria. It is therefore not surprising that it received the highest citation. It is also mandatory for every law library to have copies of the Nigerian constitution in its collection.

The result of the finding on availability of law report is encouraging. It showed that 49 law reports were cited. Out of this number, 17 are foreign law reports. Each of the four law libraries has 11 foreign law reports in their collection; while 26 local law reports were available in all the law libraries. These include *All Federation Weekly, Law Reports, Federal Supreme Court Cases, Federation Weekly Law Reports, Monthly Law Reports, Nigeria Supreme Court Cases, Nigeria Weekly Law Reports, Northern Nigeria Regional Law Report of Nigeria, Western Nigeria Law Reports*. In as much as these listed law reports were available in these law libraries, a greater percentage of other local law reports including those recommended in the checklist for faculty of law library accreditation by both the Council of Legal Education and the National Universities Commission were not available in these libraries.

The unavailability of the cited law reports and statutes in these law libraries portends some danger for both the law students and law library. It is either the students starts purchasing these information sources on their own in which case they are forced to spend more money than they ought to on reading materials or they will source for it elsewhere. When this is the case, they will develop cold feet in going to the law library.

Interview conducted on the law librarians revealed that one of the major problems law libraries face in the provision of information sources to law students is paucity of funds. Faculty of law libraries are under the control of university librarians. There is also no separate book vote for the law library; as such all purchases are carried out at the main university library. The problem of poor funding is even worse at the state universities namely Enugu State University of

Technology, and Anambra State University. The major source of fund in these libraries is subvention from the state government.

The bureaucratic arrangement which empowered the university librarian to control the acquisition of resources for the law library according to the law librarians is responsible for the late arrival of the acquired materials at the law library. In the National Universities Commission Benchmark, it was clearly stated that in the acquisition of library holdings in the law library, law faculties must be consulted and their recommendations seriously considered. In other words, acquisitions by law libraries should be guided by the recommendations of the faculties. It further stated that the need to update the holdings of law library should be boldly underlined. New issues of law reports and journals and current editions of books should be acquired from time to time.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- Since law students rely heavily on law reports, statutes when writing their undergraduate projects, emphasis should be placed on the acquisition of these information resources in law libraries. There is need for improved funding and change in the acquisition policy of most of these law libraries to enhance the provision of current information resources in these libraries.
- Faculty of law libraries should also use the identified frequently cited sources as guide during the acquisition of information sources so as to meet the research needs of law students. Most frequently cited sources are likely information materials that are in high demand. Priority attention should be given to such materials during the selection and acquisition of law library resources.
- To enhance the availability of cited information sources in undergraduate projects, faculty of law libraries should endeavour to subscribe to prescribed online databases in law such as Westlaw, Lexis Nexis, Hein Online, Law Pavilion and Legalpedia. These databases have relevant and current electronic versions of law reports, statutes, textbooks, journals, and other reference sources which will supplement the unavailability of print media.
- Autonomy of faculty of law libraries can no longer be compromised. Incidentally this administrative arrangement is a creation of the law establishing the university which vested the control of all faculty libraries on the university librarian. Time has come for a review and amendment of this law in Nigerian universities. However this should be handled with caution as complete autonomy may create another problem when people with questionable characters are in charge of the law library or the faculty of law
- The procedure for the selection and acquisition of information sources at the law library has been prescribed by the 2007 NUC Benchmark. What is now required is the enforcement in all faculty of law libraries in Nigeria.
- Faculty of law library development should be included in the critical area of the TET fund project. Faculty of law libraries through advocacy visits to the university authorities

should endeavour to be included in the membership of the committee on TET Fund. This will help to improve the facilities of the law libraries.

- Paucity of funds is endemic in virtually all government establishments in Nigeria. Time has come for faculty of law libraries to look inwards and devise strategies on how to raise funds through fee based services and partnership with some donor agencies.
- Staff of the library should be regularly sponsored to conferences, seminars, workshops and in service training. This will help to check lethargy among law librarians and also help them keep abreast with recent developments in law librarianship.
- Accreditation exercise in the universities by both the National Universities Commission and the Council of Legal Education should be carried out on a regular basis. It can be discerned from the interview of the law librarians that frantic effort universities make to meet up with the demands of the accrediting bodies has helped to improve the facilities in faculty of law libraries in Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

This study sought to find out primary sources of law undergraduate law students cite in their research projects. The study found out that law students in Anambra and Enugu States of Nigeria rely heavily on law reports and statutes in the writing of their undergraduate research projects. It however discovered that most of the information resources cited were not available in the four law libraries studied.

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