

Citation Analysis of Postgraduate Students as a Measure of their Resource Preference

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Abstract

The study was designed to analyze citation of postgraduate masters' theses produced between the year 2000 and 2008 in the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology of Federal University of Technology Owerri with a view to determine their resource preference. It was undertaken as an update of similar study carried out in 2003 and 2004. Using checklist data contained thirty one (31) theses which were submitted in the University library between the year 2000 and 2008 were collated and analyzed using tables, graph, frequency count and percentages. The result revealed that: though the students cited monographs, journals, conference proceedings and; unpublished theses/ dissertations, newspapers, technical reports and newsletters, journals are cited most. The mean number of cited resources for each of the theses is 75.8 out of which 34.12% are journals hence, the students demonstrated preference for journal to other resources for research; current resources were not used by students for research since 53.23% of the resources cited were 20years older than the year the theses were produced; and the most preferred journal for research by the students was the Journal of Animal Production. Other journals which the students preferred for research included Journal of Science of Food and Agriculture, Agronomy Journal and Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry. Most of the preferred journals which were available in the Library had their subscription suspended before 1997. Recommendations were made based on the findings.