VOL. 08 NO. 8,
MAY, 2025
E-ISSN 3026-8893
P-ISSN 3027-1061



African Scholar Publications & Research International
www.africanscholarpub.com

Journal of Education Research and Library Practice (JERLP)

Book Reading Preferences and Library Service Utilization during Holidays

Adebowale Jeremy Adetayo
Department of Library and Information Science, Adeleke University, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria
Corresponding Author: adebowale.adetayo@adelekeuniversity.edu.ng
DOI: https://doi.org/10.70382/ajerlp.v7i8.039

Abstract

This study investigated book reading preferences and library service utilization patterns among students during holidays. A quantitative survey approach was employed to gather data from 537 respondents. The findings revealed that academic books were the most frequently read category, followed by novels and magazines. Respondents expressed a strong preference for accessing e-books and digital library databases while at home during holidays, closely followed by traditional services like borrowing physical books and inquiring from librarians. Drones emerged as the overwhelmingly preferred delivery technology for home book delivery compared to driverless cars. However, significant challenges were identified in implementing these technologies, including poor road infrastructure, security concerns, and lack of technical expertise. The study concluded that frequent readers of academic books were more likely to borrow physical books and make inquiries from librarians, while motivational book readers tended to access e-books and seek librarian guidance. The study provides valuable insights into reading habits, library service demands, and technological considerations during leisure periods.

Keywords: Book Reading, Library Services, Holidays, E-Books, Drones, Driverless Cars, Library Technology, Information Access, Digital Literacy.

Introduction

Reading has long been recognized as a fundamental activity that fosters intellectual growth, personal development, and cultural enrichment across societies. Books, in particular, serve as vessels for knowledge, imagination, and the exchange of ideas, transcending generations and geographical boundaries. However, reading habits and preferences are influenced by various factors, including family reading culture, including the number of books, family reading education, and the overall reading atmosphere (Wang et al., 2022).

One context that may shape unique reading patterns is during leisure periods, such as holidays. These periods offer students a respite from academic obligations, allowing them to engage in recreational activities, pursue personal interests, and devote time to leisure reading. However, research exploring the nuances of reading preferences and library service utilization specifically during holidays remains limited, particularly in diverse cultural contexts worldwide.

Libraries, as repositories of knowledge and promoters of literacy, play a pivotal role in fostering reading culture and providing access to a wide range of reading materials (Adetayo et al., 2024). With the advent of digital technologies, libraries have adapted their services to meet the evolving needs of patrons across the globe, offering e-books, online databases, and digital resources alongside traditional physical collections (Adetayo, 2022; Okonoko et al., 2020).

In recent years, the integration of emerging technologies, such as drones has been explored as potential solutions for enhancing library services, particularly in the realm of book delivery (Adewojo et al., 2023; Joiner, 2018), and potentially driverless cars. These technologies hold the promise of improving accessibility, convenience, and efficiency, particularly during periods when students may be confined to their homes, such as holidays. However, the successful implementation of these technologies in diverse contexts may face challenges. Understanding these challenges and identifying strategies to mitigate them is crucial for ensuring the effective adoption and sustainable utilization of emerging technologies in library services worldwide.

Moreover, investigating the relationship between reading preferences and library service utilization during holiday periods offers valuable insights for libraries worldwide. Such insights can inform the development of more targeted services, effective promotional strategies, and data-driven resource allocation. Despite the significance of this topic, empirical research on reading and library use during holidays remains limited—especially within the Nigerian context. This study seeks to fill that gap by examining these dynamics in Nigeria, thereby contributing to a broader understanding of leisure-time reading habits, user demands, and the potential for integrating emerging technologies into library services during

non-academic periods. The findings can guide policy formulation, strategic planning, and innovation in library services, ultimately enhancing their accessibility, relevance, and impact on diverse communities globally.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective is to explore the book reading preferences and library service utilization patterns of Nigerian library patrons during holidays, and to assess the potential implementation of emerging technologies for book delivery.

Specific Objectives

1. To determine the types of books most frequently read by library patrons during holidays.
2. To investigate the preferred library services for home use during holidays, including borrowing books, accessing e-books/databases, and making inquiries from librarians.
3. To examine the preferred book delivery technology (drones or driverless cars) for home use during holidays.
4. To identify the challenges associated with implementing drones and driverless car technology for book delivery in Nigerian libraries.
5. To analyze the relationship between book reading preferences during holidays and the likelihood of utilizing different library services.

Literature Review

Book Reading Preferences and Trends

Book reading refers to the act of engaging with written materials, typically novels, fiction, or non-fiction books, for various purposes such as entertainment, education, or personal growth. It is a fundamental skill that plays a crucial role in cognitive development, knowledge acquisition, and personal enrichment.

The advent of digital technology and the internet has significantly influenced reading habits and preferences, especially among younger generations. Chen (2019) found that 63.2% of college students primarily read digitally using mobile phones, with a relatively smaller portion relying on computers and e-books. This trend towards digital reading has gradually replaced traditional paper-based reading. Similarly, Yusof and Azimah (2021) reported that 44% of students prefer reading on websites, followed by print books and e-books, indicating a shift towards online sources. While digital reading has gained popularity, some studies suggest that a preference for printed materials persists, particularly in academic contexts. Alsaeedi et al. (2021) reviewed literature published between 2015 and 2020 and found a decline in book reading but a continued preference

for printed materials among university students. Carey and Pathak (2019) also observed that around 52% of their study participants preferred print books over e-books.

Several factors influence students' book reading preferences and habits. Wang et al. (2022) highlighted the significant positive impact of family reading culture, including the number of books at home, family reading education, and the overall reading atmosphere, on students' reading engagement and strategies. Additionally, course-driven mechanisms and an atmosphere that encourages reading within educational institutions positively influenced students' reading time and critical reading strategies (Wang et al., 2022). Gender differences in reading preferences have also been observed. Thelwall (2017) found that female reviewers on Goodreads.com tended to rate contemporary romance novels higher, while male reviewers preferred short stories. Furthermore, reviewers generally gave higher ratings to books authored by writers of their own gender, suggesting gender bias in book evaluations. Galyani-Moghaddam and Taheri (2020) also reported gender differences in reading preferences among young library users in Tehran, with males favoring adventure stories and fantasy genres. Cultural and socioeconomic factors also play a role in shaping book reading preferences. Sabri et al. (2020) conducted a cross-country analysis and found that geographical distance, linguistic distance, cognitive ability, intelligence quotient, and individualism were significantly associated with book preferences at the country level.

Library Services and Utilization Patterns

Libraries play a crucial role in providing access to information resources and services to support the academic and research needs of their users. Several studies have explored the extent of utilization of electronic library resources and services (EIRS) by students. Simon and Ogom (2015) evaluated the utilization of EIRS by undergraduate students at the University of Calabar, Nigeria, and found varying degrees of frequency and extent of usage, with benefits ranging from academic to social networking. Umukoro and Tiamiyu (2016) investigated factors influencing students' use and satisfaction with e-services sponsored by a telecommunication firm in a Nigerian university library. They identified factors such as system quality, service quality, information quality, e-library environment, computer/IT self-efficacy, and satisfaction as significant predictors of e-service usage.

The advent of digital technologies has led to the emergence of web-based reference services in academic libraries. Yang and Dalal (2015) conducted a study on web-based reference services and found that approximately 68% of the libraries in their sample stated reference services on the main webpage, and 74% used at least one technology such as email, phone, chat, instant messaging, text, or video chat for virtual reference. Coleman et al. (2016) examined relationships among reference service staffing changes, reference service innovations, adoption of reference technology, library type and size, and service

quality, revealing trends toward reduced use of librarians and increased use of student staff at in-person service points, as well as widespread increases in appointment-based and self-service reference.

Arshad and Ameen (2015) assessed the usage patterns of a university library website and found that the website was heavily used on campus, with free scholarly journals, resources downloaded, e-journals, e-books, and donated personal collections among the top-used resources and services. They emphasized the importance of assessing e-resource usage to determine the effectiveness of the library website in providing services to on-campus and distant users. Kang et al. (2017) investigated the circulation policies employed in the top 46 Chinese university libraries and found common trends, including lengthened checkout and renewal periods, increased number of items allowed for borrowing, and the establishment of amnesty days regarding overdue procedures. Vemali (2020) examined users' attitudes toward the usage of library services in degree college libraries in Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh, and found that students preferred book borrowing services heavily compared to other library services.

Harati et al. (2019) identified and designed an axial coding pattern of factors affecting the unplanned use behavior of users in academic libraries and information centers, including factors related to technology, environment, information resources, services, human resources, individual features, time position, cultural, and social factors. Jameson et al. (2019) analyzed students' usage and perceptions of library reference services, revealing patterns of reference service usage, perceptions of librarians, and barriers and facilitators to seeking help from a librarian. Groote and Scoulas (2021) examined differences in library use patterns (in-person visits, online use, reference transactions, library resource and services use) pre-COVID-19 and during the COVID-19 pandemic. They found a dramatic decrease in gate counts and students' frequency of library visits, while virtual support through email, chat reference interactions, and virtual consultations increased during the pandemic.

Technology in Libraries (e-books, drones, driverless cars)

Libraries have traditionally been repositories of knowledge, and with the advent of new technologies, they are exploring innovative ways to enhance their services and reach. The rise of digital technologies has led to the emergence of e-books, which offer a convenient and accessible alternative to traditional printed books. Okojie et al. (2019) discuss the utilization of mobile devices and e-book readers in Nigerian libraries, highlighting the potential of these technologies to create a portable library. They also identify challenges associated with the use of e-book readers and mobile devices, such as the need for infrastructure and awareness. Hahn (2017) explores the use of the Internet of Things (IoT) in libraries, including the integration of Bluetooth beacons to provide location-based

recommendations for e-books and e-journals based on the user's location in the book stacks.

Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), have emerged as a promising technology for libraries, offering various applications. Joiner (2018) explores the potential of drones in library services, highlighting their use in science and engineering programs, as well as collaborations with industries and companies that manufacture or use drones. Adewojo et al. (2023) investigate the potential use of drones in special library services, focusing on enhancing accessibility, services, and reliability. They discuss the synergy between drone technology and artificial intelligence (AI) in improving library operations, such as inventory management, book retrieval, security, surveillance, and outreach initiatives.

The integration of driverless cars, or autonomous vehicles (AVs), in library services is another emerging area of interest. Yildiz et al. (2021) investigate the use of drones for tracking cars on a test track, exploring the potential of vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication for transportation safety. While not directly related to library services, this research showcases the potential of drones and AVs working together, which could have implications for future library operations involving transportation or delivery services.

The integration of these technologies in libraries presents both opportunities and challenges. E-books offer convenience and accessibility, but there are concerns about infrastructure and awareness. Drones have the potential to enhance services, accessibility, and outreach, but challenges such as costs, privacy concerns, and regulatory frameworks need to be addressed. Driverless cars and V2V communication may also play a role in future library operations, particularly in the context of transportation and delivery services.

Method

Research Design

This study employed a quantitative research design using a survey methodology. This approach was chosen to gather numerical data and quantify the responses from a large sample of students regarding their book reading preferences, library service utilization patterns, and perceptions of emerging technologies during holiday periods.

Sampling and Data Collection

The target population for this study comprised 3,457 undergraduate students enrolled at Adeleke University, Osun State, Nigeria. To ensure representativeness, a multi-stage sampling technique was utilized. A comprehensive list of all undergraduate students was obtained from the university's database. A random sampling procedure was followed to select participants. Based on Omniconvert's (2023) recommendations, a sample size of 691 students (20% of the population) was calculated to be statistically significant and practical within study constraints.

Research Instrument

The research instrument was a structured questionnaire developed specifically for this study. The questionnaire consisted of Four sections:

1. Book reading preferences during holidays
2. Preferred library services for home use during holidays
3. Preferred book delivery technology
4. Perceived challenges

The questionnaire items were developed based on an extensive review of relevant literature and in consultation with subject matter experts, including librarians and researchers in the field of library and information science. The initial draft of the questionnaire was reviewed by a panel of three experts to assess its content validity, clarity, and appropriateness for the Nigerian context. To ensure the reliability and internal consistency of the instrument, a pilot study was conducted with a sample of 50 library patrons.

The data from the pretest was analyzed using Cronbach's alpha, and items with low reliability scores were revised or eliminated. The final questionnaire achieved an overall Cronbach's alpha of 0.82, indicating good internal consistency. The section on book reading preferences during holidays (Section 1) included a list of various book categories (e.g., academic books, motivational books, spiritual books, novels and magazines), and respondents were asked to rate their frequency of reading each category during holidays using a 4-point Likert scale (1 = Never, 2 = Rarely, 3 = Occasionally, 4 = Often). This section aimed to understand the types of books most commonly read during leisure periods. Section 2, focused on preferred library services for home use during holidays, presented respondents with a list of services (e.g., borrowing and returning books, accessing e-books and databases, making inquiries from librarians). Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with utilizing each service using a 4-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree). This section sought to identify the library services in highest demand during holiday periods when patrons may be confined to their homes.

In Section 3, respondents were asked to select their preferred book delivery technology (drones or driverless cars) for home use during holidays. Section 4 included a series of statements related to potential challenges in implementing these technologies in Nigerian libraries (e.g., infrastructure issues, security concerns, technical expertise). Respondents rated their level of agreement with each statement using a 4-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree). This section aimed to gauge the preferences for emerging technologies and identify potential barriers to their implementation. The questionnaire was designed to be self-explanatory, with clear instructions and definitions provided for each section.

Additionally, the researchers were available to address any questions or concerns raised by respondents during the data collection process. The survey was administered to the students using Google form. A total of 537 students responded, yielding a response rate of 77.7%.

Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, were calculated to summarize the responses for each section of the questionnaire. To investigate the relationship between book reading preferences and library service utilization (Objective 5), multiple linear regression analyses were conducted. The dependent variables were the three library services (borrowing and returning books, accessing e-books and databases, making inquiries from librarians), while the independent variables were the different book reading categories (academic books, motivational books, spiritual books, novels and magazines). The statistical significance level was set at $p < 0.05$ for all analyses. Effect sizes and confidence intervals were also reported to provide more comprehensive insights into the strength and precision of the observed relationships.

Findings

This section presents the key findings from the survey investigating book reading preferences and library service utilization patterns among students during holidays**.**

Table 1: Types of Books Read During Holidays

Category	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Mean	Standard Deviation
Academic Books	213 (39.7%)	236 (43.9%)	75 (14.0%)	13 (2.4%)	3.21	0.769
Motivational Books	137 (25.5%)	259 (48.2%)	115 (21.4%)	26 (4.8%)	2.94	0.813
Spiritual Books	164 (30.5%)	222 (41.3%)	123 (22.9%)	28 (5.2%)	2.97	0.862
Novels & Magazines	238 (44.3%)	157 (29.2%)	107 (19.9%)	35 (6.5%)	3.11	0.944

Mean Decision Rule: 1.00-1.49(Never), 1.50-2.49(Rarely), 2.5-3.49(Occasionally), 3.5-4.00(Often)

Table 1 showed that Academic Books emerged as the most frequently read category during holidays, with the highest mean of 3.21. This suggests that a substantial portion of respondents prioritize academic reading even during leisure periods, perhaps driven by intellectual curiosity or work-related obligations. The second highest mean was observed for Novels & Magazines (3.11), aligning with the notion that holidays are often associated with recreational reading and keeping up with popular publications. Spiritual Books (mean: 2.97, SD: 0.862) and Motivational Books (mean: 2.94, SD: 0.813) ranked lower in terms of frequency but still within the "Occasionally" range.

Table 2: Preferred Library Services for Home Use During Holidays

Library services	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean	Standard Deviation
Borrowing and returning of book	207 (38.5%)	210 (39.1%)	94 (17.5%)	26 (4.8%)	3.11	0.862
Access to library databases e.g ebooks	264 (49.2%)	231 (43.0%)	35 (6.5%)	7 (1.3%)	3.40	0.670
make enquiries from librarian	173 (32.2%)	275 (51.2%)	74 (13.8%)	15 (2.8%)	3.13	0.746

Table 2 revealed that respondents expressed the strongest preference for accessing library databases, particularly e-books. This is evident from the highest mean score of 3.40 for "Access to library databases e.g., ebooks," which falls within the "Agree" range according to the scale provided. Additionally, respondents also indicated a favorable inclination towards traditional library services. Specifically, "Make enquiries from librarians" had a mean of 3.13, and "Borrowing and returning of books" had a mean of 3.11, both within the "Agree" range. This suggests that respondents generally agreed with utilizing these services during holidays, albeit with slightly less enthusiasm compared to accessing digital resources. The findings indicate that respondents expressed the strongest preference for accessing e-books and other digital library databases while at home during holidays, closely followed by a favorable inclination towards more traditional services like making inquiries from librarians and borrowing/returning physical books.

Table 3: Preferred Book Delivery Technology for Home Use During Holidays

Delivery Technologies	Frequency	Percent
Drone	410	76.4
Driverless Cars	127	23.6
Total	537	100.0

The data in table 3 clearly shows that drones were the overwhelmingly preferred delivery technology for home use during holidays, with 76.4% of respondents selecting this option. In contrast, only 23.6% preferred driverless cars for book delivery.

Table 4: Challenges of Implementing Drones and Driverless Car Technology in Nigerian Libraries

Category	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean	Standard Deviation
It is too expensive for Nigeria libraries to purchase	224 (41.7%)	194 (36.1%)	96 (17.9%)	23 (4.3%)	3.15	0.863
Poor road infrastructure for driverless cars to navigate	307 (57.2%)	193 (35.9%)	35 (6.5%)	2 (0.4%)	3.50	0.635
Risk of technology theft due to security challenges	303 (56.4%)	204 (38.0%)	25 (4.7%)	5 (0.9%)	3.50	0.632
Poor maintenance culture of Nigerians	262 (48.8%)	215 (40.0%)	52 (9.7%)	8 (1.5%)	3.36	0.717
Lack of technical knowhow to operate and repair technology when damaged	266 (49.5%)	195 (36.3%)	70 (13.0%)	6 (1.1%)	3.34	0.744

The findings in table 4 reveal several significant challenges in implementing drones and driverless car technology for book delivery in Nigerian libraries. The categories with the highest means of 3.50 were "Poor road infrastructure for driverless cars to navigate" and "Risk of technology theft due to security challenges," indicating strong agreement among respondents regarding these issues. Other notable challenges included "Poor maintenance

culture of Nigerians" (mean: 3.36) and "Lack of technical know-how to operate and repair technology when damaged" (mean: 3.34), with means in the upper range of "Agree." While "It is too expensive for Nigerian libraries to purchase" had the lowest mean of 3.15, it still fell within the "Agree" range.

Table 5: Relationship Between Book Reading and Library Service Utilization During Holidays

Variable	Borrowing & Returning Books	Access to E-Books	Make Enquiries from Librarian
R	0.226	0.226	0.233
R-square	0.051	0.051	0.054
Adj. R-square	0.044	0.044	0.047
Sig. (Model)	0.000	0.000	0.000
(Constant)	2.000	2.650	2.176
Academic Books	0.131 (0.009)**	0.012 (0.749)	0.116 (0.007)**
Motivational Books	0.054 (0.279)	0.125 (0.001)**	0.121 (0.005)**
Spiritual Books	0.047 (0.309)	0.060 (0.096)+	0.038 (0.332)
Novels & Magazines	0.127 (0.001)**	0.053 (0.082)+	0.036 (0.296)

Note: Table entries for variables are unstandardized coefficients; values in () are p-values. $p < 0.05$, **

The regression analysis in table 5 aimed to understand which types of book reading during holidays are associated with the likelihood of utilizing different library services. For those who often read Academic Books, the results indicate they are more likely to borrow and return physical books ($\beta = 0.131$, $p = 0.009$) as well as make inquiries from librarians ($\beta = 0.116$, $p = 0.007$) during holidays. This suggests a preference for traditional library resources and interactions among frequent readers of academic materials. Respondents who frequently read Novels & Magazines were more inclined to borrow and return physical books ($\beta = 0.127$, $p = 0.001$) during holidays. However, their propensity to access e-books or make inquiries from librarians was not significantly associated with this reading habit. Interestingly, those who often read Motivational Books were more likely to access e-books ($\beta = 0.125$, $p = 0.001$) and make inquiries from librarians ($\beta = 0.121$, $p = 0.005$), suggesting a preference for digital resources and seeking guidance related to their reading interests. While the models had modest explanatory power, the significant associations highlight how different reading preferences during holidays may influence the demand for specific library services among patrons.

Discussions

The finding that academic books emerged as the most frequently read category during holidays is consistent with some prior research. A study by Erinjeri and Lobo (2023) found that leisure time activities, including physical, social, reading, dating/relationship, and recreational activities, positively impact academic performance among college students aged 18-30. The second highest ranking for novels and magazines aligns with the common notion that holidays are a time for recreational reading and keeping up with popular publications, as supported by several previous studies. Study by Hussain and Munshi (2011) found that secondary school students enjoy reading various materials for pleasure, emotional gratification, and to pass time during holidays and weekends. Their preferred genres include religion, literature, novels, storybooks, romance, travel stories, science, autobiographies, and drama. However, it's important to note that these studies were conducted in different cultural contexts. The lower rankings for spiritual books and motivational books suggest these genres are less appealing compare to academic books, novels and magazines during leisure reading periods.

The strong preference expressed by students for accessing library databases, particularly e-books, aligns with broader trends observed in prior research, notably the significant shift towards digital reading formats. Chen (2019) found that 63.2% of college students primarily read digitally using mobile phones, and Yusof and Azimah (2021) reported that 44% of students prefer reading on websites, with e-books being a key part of this digital preference. Despite this digital trend, a notable portion of students still prefer print books, especially in academic contexts, as noted by Alsaeedi et al. (2021) and Carey and Pathak (2019). These studies collectively underline the growing inclination towards digital reading while acknowledging the continued relevance of printed materials in specific settings.

The favorable inclination by students towards traditional library services, such as making inquiries from librarians and borrowing/returning physical books, is consistent with findings from several previous studies. Vemali (2020) found that students heavily preferred book borrowing services over other library services, underscoring the continued relevance of physical book access. Adetayo (2023) found that students still expressed their intention to seek reference assistance from librarians despite AI technologies such as ChatGPT. These studies emphasize the enduring value and demand for in-person library services, particularly among certain user groups who appreciate the human interaction and tangible experience of physical books. Nonetheless, it is essential to acknowledge that preferences for traditional versus digital services may vary across different contexts and user populations. For instance, a study by Zhu and Cho (2019) found that consumers' preferences for obtaining information products vary by age, content type, and purpose of

use, with college students preferring access more than older users, but older users are equally adaptable to digital format.

The overwhelming preference for drones (76.4%) over driverless cars (23.6%) as the preferred book delivery technology for home use during holidays is an interesting finding. However, there is limited prior research specifically examining user preferences for these emerging technologies in the context of library services and book delivery. Some studies have explored the potential applications of drones in various domains, including logistics and last-mile delivery (Adewojo et al., 2023; Joiner, 2018). These studies have highlighted the advantages of drones, such as enhancing accessibility, services, and reliability. However, they have also raised concerns about costs, privacy concerns and regulatory frameworks. These studies primarily focused on technical feasibility and did not directly investigate user preferences or perceptions. The current study's finding suggests that students may be open to embracing innovative technologies like drones for book delivery services. This could be influenced by factors such as the novelty factor, perceptions of efficiency, or the desire for convenient access to library materials during leisure periods like holidays.

The challenges identified regarding the implementation of drones and driverless cars for book delivery in Nigerian libraries resonate with findings from several prior studies across different contexts. The top-rated challenges of "poor road infrastructure for driverless cars to navigate" (mean: 3.50) and "risk of technology theft due to security challenges" (mean: 3.50) align with concerns raised in previous research. For instance, a study by Gbadamosi and Olorunfemi (2016) highlighted the significant infrastructural deficits in many parts of Nigeria, including poor road conditions and inadequate transportation networks, which could hinder the delivery services. Additionally, Enidiok et al. (2019) have underscored the security challenges faced in Nigeria, such as theft and vandalism of public infrastructure This could pose risks to the safe operation and maintenance of emerging technologies like drones and driverless cars. The challenge of "poor maintenance culture of Nigerians" (mean: 3.36) resonates with findings from a broader study by Abiodun et al. (2016), which identified a lack of maintenance culture as a significant barrier to the successful nation’s development. Furthermore, the concern about "lack of technical know-how to operate and repair technology when damaged" (mean: 3.34) was also noted. However, it is important to acknowledge that these challenges may not be unique to Nigeria. Studies from other developing and emerging economies have also identified similar barriers to the adoption and implementation of advanced technologies, such as inadequate infrastructure, security concerns, lack of maintenance culture, and skill gaps (Phaphoom et al., 2015; Rathore et al., 2022; Sayem et al., 2022).

The regression analysis revealed some interesting patterns in how different book reading preferences during holidays relate to the likelihood of utilizing specific library services.

Frequent reading of academic books was associated with a higher likelihood of borrowing physical books and making inquiries from librarians. This makes sense given that those engaged in academic or scholarly pursuits likely value traditional library resources and guidance from library staff to support their research needs. However, frequent academic book reading did not show a significant link to accessing e-books, which one might expect for research-oriented activities. On the other hand, frequent reading of motivational books was linked to a higher likelihood of accessing e-books and making inquiries from librarians. This could be because individuals seeking self-improvement or personal growth tend to use digital resources and seek guidance to support their reading interests and goals in this domain. Interestingly, frequent readers of novels and magazines were more inclined to borrow physical books, but did not show an association with accessing e-books or making inquiries from librarians. This contrasts with the expectation that recreational readers might prefer the convenience and portability of digital formats. It is important to note that the modest explanatory power of the regression models suggests that other factors beyond book reading preferences may also influence library service utilization during holidays. These could include demographic variables, technological proficiency, access to digital resources, and personal preferences, among others.

Conclusion

The findings of this study provide valuable insights into the reading habits and library service preferences of students during holiday periods. It is evident that academic pursuits and intellectual curiosity remain a driving force for many students, as academic books emerged as the most frequently read category during holidays. However, the findings also highlight the significant role of recreational reading, with novels and magazines being widely consumed. This underscores the importance of libraries catering to diverse reading interests and providing resources that cater to both educational and entertainment needs. Notably, the study revealed a strong inclination towards digital resources, with respondents expressing a preference for accessing e-books and library databases while at home during holidays. This trend aligns with the growing adoption of technology and the convenience offered by digital platforms. As such, libraries should prioritize expanding their digital collections and ensuring seamless access to electronic resources, enabling patrons to engage with reading materials from the comfort of their homes.

The overwhelming preference for drone delivery over driverless cars suggests that students are open to embracing innovative technologies for book delivery. However, the successful implementation of these technologies is contingent upon addressing the identified challenges, such as poor road infrastructure, security concerns, and lack of technical expertise. Collaborative efforts between libraries, government agencies, and technology providers are necessary to overcome these hurdles and facilitate the safe and

efficient deployment of drone and driverless car services. Furthermore, the study's findings regarding the relationship between book reading preferences and library service utilization can inform targeted marketing and service strategies. For example, libraries could tailor promotional campaigns and resource recommendations based on patrons' reading interests, thereby enhancing engagement and satisfaction.

Recommendations

1. Invest in expanding digital collections and improving the accessibility of e-books and library databases to meet the growing demand for digital resources during holidays.
2. Collaborate with technology companies and government agencies to develop robust security measures and infrastructure for the safe implementation of drone and driverless car delivery systems.
3. Prioritize training programs and capacity-building initiatives to equip library staff with the necessary technical skills to operate and maintain emerging technologies effectively.
4. Conduct targeted marketing campaigns and personalized recommendations based on patrons' reading preferences to enhance library service utilization and engagement.
5. Foster partnerships with educational institutions and community organizations to promote reading culture and raise awareness about the library's diverse offerings during holiday periods.
6. Continuously assess patrons' evolving needs and preferences through regular surveys and feedback mechanisms to ensure that library services remain relevant and responsive.

Implications for Policies and Practice

The study's findings have implications for policies and practices within the library sector globally. As the demand for digital resources continues to grow, policymakers worldwide should prioritize the development of robust digital infrastructures and allocate resources to support the digitization of library collections. This may involve collaborating with technology providers, internet service providers, and other stakeholders to ensure seamless access to digital content across various platforms and devices, bridging the digital divide and promoting equitable access to information. Furthermore, the findings highlight the need for policies that encourage the adoption of emerging technologies, such as drones and autonomous vehicles, for library services like book delivery. While addressing the identified challenges of infrastructure, security concerns, and technical expertise, policymakers should create regulatory frameworks that foster innovation and

support the safe implementation of these technologies. This could involve establishing international guidelines, standards, and protocols for drone operations, as well as promoting cross-border collaborations and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

In terms of practice, libraries worldwide should prioritize the development of user-centric services that cater to the diverse reading preferences and needs of their patrons. This may involve collaborating with subject matter experts, authors, and community organizations across various cultural and linguistic backgrounds to curate relevant and engaging content. Additionally, libraries should explore innovative ways to promote reading culture and library services, such as organizing virtual book clubs, author talks, or community reading challenges that transcend geographical boundaries. Moreover, the study's findings underscore the importance of continuous professional development for library staff globally. As technology continues to evolve, it is crucial for librarians and library personnel to receive ongoing training and upskilling opportunities to stay abreast of emerging trends and technologies. This could involve partnerships with educational institutions, professional associations, and technology providers to offer specialized training programs, workshops, and certifications that are accessible and inclusive, fostering a culture of lifelong learning within the library profession.

Suggestion for Further Study

This study focused on exploring book reading preferences and library service utilization patterns among Nigerian students during holidays. However, further research could investigate the potential impact of demographic factors, such as age, gender, educational background, and socioeconomic status, on reading habits and library service preferences. Such an analysis could reveal valuable insights into the specific needs and preferences of different demographic groups, enabling libraries to tailor their services and resources more effectively. Additionally, future studies could examine the role of digital literacy and technological proficiency in shaping patrons' attitudes towards emerging technologies like drones and driverless cars for book delivery. Understanding these factors could inform targeted educational and training initiatives to bridge potential gaps and ensure equitable access to technology-enabled library services.

Conflict of interest: There is no conflict of interest to declare.

Funding: There was no funding for this research.

References

Abiodun, T. S., Olayemi, A. A., & Joseph, O. O. (2016). Lack of Maintenance Culture in Nigeria: The Bane of National Development. *Civil and Environmental Research*, *8*(8), 23–30. https://www.iiste.org/Journals/index.php/CER/article/view/32321

Adetayo, A. J. (2022). Are Physical Libraries Popular for Research in the Internet Age Post COVID-19? *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, 1–15. https://doi.org/10.1080/10875301.2022.2090044

Adetayo, A. J. (2023). ChatGPT and Librarians for Reference Consultations. *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*. https://doi.org/10.1080/10875301.2023.2203681

Adetayo, A. J., Kehinde Alawiye, M., Oluwafemi Emmanuel, S., Omotoso, A. O., & Bello, T. O. (2024). Exploring University Students' Library Engagement: Reading Habits, Preferences, and Gender Dynamics. *Journal of Digital Learning and Education*, *4*(1), 15–29. https://doi.org/10.52562/JDLE.V4I1.884

Adewojo, A. A., Dunmade, A. O., & Akanbiemu, A. A. (2023). Drones and special libraries in the fifth industrial revolution. *Library Hi Tech News*, *ahead-of-print*(ahead-of-print). https://doi.org/10.1108/LHTN-09-2023-0160/FULL/XML

Alsaeedi, Z. S., Ngadiran, N. B. M., Kadir, Z. A., & Altowayti, W. A. H. (2021, July 4). An Overview of Reading Habits and Medium Preference among University Students. *2021 International Congress of Advanced Technology and Engineering, ICOTEN 2021*. https://doi.org/10.1109/ICOTEN52080.2021.9493486

Arshad, A., & Ameen, K. (2015). Usage patterns of Punjab University Library website: A transactional log analysis study. *Electronic Library*, *33*(1), 65–74. https://doi.org/10.1108/EL-12-2012-0161/FULL/XML

Azimah, D., Yusof, A., Abdul, T., & Library, R. (2021). Reading Habits Among Students in the Digital Era. *Journal of Academic Library Management (AcLiM)*, *1*(1), 43–54. https://doi.org/10.24191/ACLIM.V1I1.5

Carey, J., & Pathak, A. (2019). Book Format Preferences of Community College and Four-Year College Students: Results from Two Urban Campuses. *Urban Library Journal*, *25*(1). https://academicworks.cuny.edu/ulj/vol25/iss1/2

Chen, H. (2019). Digital reading habits of college students and countermeasures of university libraries. *Frontiers in Educational Research*, *2*(4), 68–72. https://doi.org/10.25236/FER.034019

Coleman, J., Mallon, M. N., & Lo, L. (2016). Recent Changes to Reference Services in Academic Libraries and Their Relationship to Perceived Quality: Results of a National Survey. *Journal of Library Administration*, *56*(6), 673–696. https://doi.org/10.1080/01930826.2015.1109879

De Groote, S., & Scoulas, J. M. (2021). Impact of COVID-19 on the use of the academic library. *Reference Services Review*, *49*(3–4), 281–301. https://doi.org/10.1108/RSR-07-2021-0043/FULL/XML

Enidiok, M. S., Bassey, A. Ben, & Olalekan, O. M. (2019). Vandalism and security problems in academic library: A case study of lagos state polytechnic library, Lagos, Nigeria. *IP Indian Journal of Library Science and Information Technology*, *4*(1), 31–36. https://doi.org/10.18231/J.IJLSIT.2019.009

Erinjeri, M. J., & Lobo, L. (2023). The Impact of Leisure Time Activities on the Academic Performance among College Students. *International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRA)*, *11*(1). https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2023.48600

Galyani-Moghaddam, G., & Taheri, P. (2020). Public library circulation records: What do they reveal about users' reading preferences? *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, *53*(2), 328–337. https://doi.org/10.1177/0961000620949643

Gbadamosi, K. T., & Olorunfemi, S. O. (2016). Rural Road Infrastructural Challenges: An Impediment to Health Care Service Delivery in Kabba-Bunu Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria. *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*. https://doi.org/10.5901/AJIS.2016.V5N2P35

Hahn, J. (2017). Chapter 3. Location Services Technology and the Internet of Things. *Library Technology Reports*, *53*(1), 17–22. https://journals.ala.org/index.php/ltr/article/view/6177/8005

Harati, H., Nooshinfard, F., Isfandyari-Moghaddam, A., Babalhavaeji, F., & Hariri, N. (2019). Factors affecting the unplanned use behavior of academic libraries users: Towards an axial coding pattern. *Aslib Journal of Information Management*, *71*(2), 138–154. https://doi.org/10.1108/AJIM-04-2018-0092/FULL/XML

Hussain, I., & Munshi, P. (2011). Identifying Reading Preferences of Secondary School Students. *Creative Education*, *2*(5), 429–434. https://doi.org/10.4236/CE.2011.25062

Jameson, J., Natal, G., & Napp, J. (2019). Evolving and Enduring Patterns Surrounding Student Usage and Perceptions of Academic Library Reference Services. *College & Research Libraries*, *80*(3), 366. https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.80.3.366

Joiner, I. A. (2018). Technology Column: Is there a Drone in Your Library's Future? *Public Library Quarterly*, *37*(1), 103–110. https://doi.org/10.1080/01616846.2017.1379349

Kang, Q., Wang, P., & Wang, Q. (2017). The state of circulation policies and practices in Chinese academic libraries. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, *51*(3), 601–611. https://doi.org/10.1177/0961000617742454

Okojie, V., Orim, F., Oluwatoyin, O., & Tella, A. (2019). Opportunities and Challenges of E-Book Readers and Mobile Devices in Libraries. In *Handbook of Research on Digital Devices for Inclusivity and Engagement in Libraries* (pp. 208–230). https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-5225-9034-7.CH010

Okonoko, V. N., Abba, M. A., & Arinola, A. E. (2020). Users' Expectation of Library Services and Resources in the COVID 19 Pandemic Era: A Comparative Study of Two Academic Libraries in Nigeria. *Library Progress (International)*, *40*(2), 236–246. https://doi.org/10.5958/2320-317X.2020.00027.6

Phaphoom, N., Wang, X., Samuel, S., Helmer, S., & Abrahamsson, P. (2015). A survey study on major technical barriers affecting the decision to adopt cloud services. *Journal of Systems and Software*, *103*, 167–181. https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JSS.2015.02.002

Rathore, B., Gupta, R., Biswas, B., Srivastava, A., & Gupta, S. (2022). Identification and analysis of adoption barriers of disruptive technologies in the logistics industry. *International Journal of Logistics Management*, *33*(5), 136–169. https://doi.org/10.1108/IJLM-07-2021-0352/FULL/PDF

Sabri, N., Sadeghian, S., & Bahrak, B. (2020). A cross-country study on cultural similarities based on book preferences. *Social Network Analysis and Mining*, *10*(1), 1–12. https://doi.org/10.1007/S13278-020-00695-Y/METRICS

Sayem, A., Biswas, P. K., Khan, M. M. A., Romoli, L., & Dalle Mura, M. (2022). Critical Barriers to Industry 4.0 Adoption in Manufacturing Organizations and Their Mitigation Strategies. *Journal of Manufacturing and Materials Processing 2022, Vol. 6, Page 136*, *6*(6), 136. https://doi.org/10.3390/JMMP6060136

Simon, B. R., & Ogom, O. J. (2015). Evaluation of the Extent of Utilization of Electronic Library Resources and Services by Undergraduate Students in University of Calabar Library, Calabar – Nigeria. *Education Journal*, *4*(2), 82–89. https://doi.org/10.11648/J.EDU.20150402.15

Thelwall, M. (2017). Reader and author gender and genre in Goodreads. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, *51*(2), 403–430. https://doi.org/10.1177/0961000617709061

Umukoro, I. O., & Tiamiyu, M. A. (2016). Determinants of e-library services' use among university students: A study of John Harris Library, University of Benin, Nigeria. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, *49*(4), 438–453. https://doi.org/10.1177/0961000616653176

Vemali, A. N. (2020). Usage Pattern of Library Services in Degree College Libraries in Visakhapatnam District: A Survey. *Indian Journal of Information Sources and Services*, *10*(1), 18–26. https://doi.org/10.51983/IJISS.2020.10.1.482

Wang, X. W., Zhu, Y. J., & Zhang, Y. C. (2022). An empirical study of college students' reading engagement on academic achievement. *Frontiers in Psychology*, *13*, 1025754. https://doi.org/10.3389/FPSYG.2022.1025754/BIBTEX

Yang, S. Q., & Dalal, H. A. (2015). Delivering Virtual Reference Services on the Web: An Investigation into the Current Practice by Academic Libraries. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, *41*(1), 68–86. https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ACALIB.2014.10.003

Yildiz, M., Bilgiç, B., Kale, U., & Rohács, D. (2021). Experimental Investigation of Communication Performance of Drones Used for Autonomous Car Track Tests. *Sustainability*, *13*(10), 5602. https://doi.org/10.3390/SU13105602

Zhu, X., & Cho, M. (2019). Buy, Subscribe, or Borrow? Consumers' Use Preferences for Information Products. *Library Services*. https://doi.org/10.5703/1288284317043