BOOK SELECTION PROCESS AT

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN UGANDA,

KAMPALA CAMPUS LIBRARY

BY

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ABSTRACT

The main aim of the study was to examine the book selection process of University Libraries with reference to Islamic University in Uganda, Kampala Campus Library. The research was guided by the following objectives: to find out the criteria used for selecting books, to find out the selection tools used, to identify the key players in the book selection procedures and also to establish the challenges associated with book selection procedures.

The study adopted a case study design involving a qualitative approach with some aspects of quantitative approach. The study involved three categories of respondents namely the library staff, faculty staff and students, with a sample size totaling to 115. Questionnaire, interview, document review and observation methods were used to collect data. Data presentation was done through descriptive approach giving percentages where applicable, supported by tables and pie-charts.

The key findings were that the book selection policy at IUIU-KC was nonexistent. However there were procedures to cater for book selection. Course outlines were the mostly used selection tools, while content was the most considered criterion in the selection of books. The study also revealed that students were hardly involved in the selection of books. The selection of books was mostly done by the faculty academic staffs and senior library staffs. Lack of a book selection policy, financial constraints, time constraints, lack of cooperation between faculty and library staff etc. were some of the challenges identified which are associated with book selection.

The study concluded that most users were not satisfied with the outcomes of the book selection procedures since the book collection is unbalanced, there are irrelevant books, and books are inadequate compared to the students, and book acquisitions take long. This means that some courses are not catered for and the student book ratio is low, as a result students' performance is affected negatively. Therefore the book selection procedures have to be addressed to improve the library book collection.

The major recommendations of the study were: book selection procedures should be guided by a comprehensive and well written book selection policy. It also recommended the setting up online platforms/blogs where different stakeholders could submit their book requests. The study also recommended use of a variety of selection tools and also consulting other academic institution.