IMPORTANCE OF RESOURCE SHARING IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: 
A CASE STUDY OF KISII UNIVERSITY.

BY

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Declaration

Declaration by Student

This research is my original work and has never been submitted to any other university or institution for any award.

Sign---------------------Date----------------------------------

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Reg no. INP02/20026/10


Declaration by Supervisor

This research has been submitted for examination with my approval as the university supervisor.

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Acknowledgements

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My special thanks goes to the Almighty God for seeing me through this far.
Dedication

This work is dedicated to my family, The Magaks’ for their continuous encouragement, financial support and prayers during the study.
### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPAC</td>
<td>Online Public Access Catalogue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CALICA</td>
<td>Cape Library Cooperation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIP</td>
<td>Library and Information Plan.</td>
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<td>RRS</td>
<td>Rethinking Resource Sharing initiative.</td>
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<td>IFLA</td>
<td>International Federation of Library Associations</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information Communication Technology</td>
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<td>CDs</td>
<td>Compact Discs</td>
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<td>KSU</td>
<td>Kisii University</td>
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<td>ILL</td>
<td>Inter-Library Loan.</td>
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Abstract

The objective of any library is to ensure that they satisfy information needs of their users to an effective and efficient extent but due to diminishing budget allocation to libraries high cost of information materials and the ever increasing diversity of library users’ information needs, the libraries have opted to initiate resource sharing so as to be in a good position of satisfying information needs of their users. The researcher focused his research on the importance of resource sharing in academic libraries: a case study of Kisii University library. The data was collected in KSU library and its environment and not beyond. A case study was chosen for this research as it allowed the researcher to collect the required information. The researcher used questionnaires and interviews as the instruments of collecting data which were administered randomly to the selected sample population. The result of this research was interpreted and represented using tables, bar graphs and pie charts. From the findings of the researcher, resource sharing is a good initiative which libraries should take serious and put strategies in place to ensure its success meets its objectives. The problems libraries are facing while engaging in resource sharing should be addressed so as to overcome them with view of ensuring that libraries are able to meet their users’ information needs as expected.
CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Background Information.
Academic libraries all over the world are established to support their parent institutions in actualizing their objectives of teaching, learning and research in different formats. No library, not even the largest and most comprehensive can fulfill all its users’ information needs. One of the objects of resource sharing is to enable the cooperating libraries to save money and make their budgets go further and at the same time maintain or improve the level of set output, increase in bibliographical access of literature through internet and offline database on CDs, and in many cases decreasing budgets along with high cost of published output have made it virtually impossible for libraries and documentation/information centers to fulfill information needs of their primary clientele.

These have forced the libraries, KSU library included to explore strategies such as resource sharing with greater intensity in order to provide more of the technology growth that enables libraries to construct a powerful infrastructure of sharing.

Resource sharing is therefore one of the methods for demonstrating wise management of resources, diversity of ideas and methods of management at different levels in the library and information centers.

Nwalo (2008) stated that the idea of resource sharing as part of consortium building has become a critical success factor in the effectiveness and substantiality of academic and research library service.

He sees resource sharing as a method whereby libraries with common interest pool their materials, physical and human resources together in order to meet their clientele needs much more than they could have done were they to depend on individual effort.

Nwalo (2008) also define library resource sharing as a cooperative association of libraries of different types and its purpose is to share human and information resources so that the collective strength of the institutions facilitates the resource and learning of members constituents.
Kisii University has mainly embraced resource sharing with its parent institution i.e. Egerton University and its constituent colleges like Chuka University and Nakuru town campuses. They have embarked on sharing of both information and human resources.

Historically, resource sharing is not a new phenomenon world wide, only that it has not recorded so much success. For instance, in 1992, South Africa established the first formal library consortium called Cape Library Cooperation (CALICA) in which five academic library consortia were established and their objectives were to promote formal relationship between members to foster collaboration and networking.

United Kingdom Library and Information Plan (LIP) was launched with the philosophy that LIP services are a national heritage and requires conscious national effort to maintain them. In order to promote resource sharing, the United States in 2005 launched a concept called Rethinking Resource Sharing initiative (RRS) which seeks to inspire libraries to meet user expectations through innovative resource sharing services, collaborative collection development and management are essential means of coping with shrinking acquisition budget and enhancing the library resources available to all participants.

1.2 Statement of the Problem.

Nwalo (2008) noted that the global information explosion, the cut in budgetary allocation from the government and sponsoring institutions and organizations, the rising cost and complexities of information resources as well as the imperative to provide the library user community with optimal access to needed information make resources sharing initiative indispensible.

The paradigm shift from owning specific physical information items in a local collection to providing access to many information resources regardless of their format and location is a worldwide trend which university libraries in Kenya including Kisii University library cannot afford to ignore. The problem in this study is to identify and foster management of Kisii University to realize the essence of enhancing resource sharing to all academic libraries in promoting resource sharing for effective access and utilization of information and human resources between different academic libraries in Kenya.

1.3 Objectives of the Study.

i) To establish the status of resource sharing in university libraries.
ii) To establish the benefits of resource sharing to university libraries.

iii) To investigate the problems hindering resource sharing in university libraries.

iv) To establish whether there is any documented policy on resource sharing in university libraries.

1.4 Research Questions.

i) What is the status of resource sharing in university libraries?

ii) What are the benefits of resource sharing to university libraries?

iii) What problems are hindering efficiency of resource sharing in university libraries?

iv) Is there existence of any documented policy on resource sharing in university libraries?

1.5 Significance of the Study.

Given that no library, be it a small library or a large one can independently satisfy information needs of its users, the study will enlighten all university libraries in Kenya to see the need of having resource sharing between them so as to improve information service provision to their clientele. The study will also try to find out problems hindering effectiveness and efficiency of resource sharing among university libraries so that they can address them and embrace this idea of resource sharing with view of improving its information service provision to their clientele.

The study will help university management to establish the various strategies to put in place so as to ensure resource sharing is carried out in an effective and efficient manner among them.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study.

The study covers specifically the essence of resource sharing in university libraries, specifically Kisii University library. The limitations of the study included the following:

i) Limited time of conducting the research as the researcher had to attend classes while still carrying out the research.

ii) Insufficient funds to cater for all the expenses included during the research period.

iii) Uncooperative respondents who were not ready to give required information as some of them took long period of time to respond.

1.7 Assumption of the Study.

i) It is assumed that all the information given by the respondents was true.
ii) It is assumed that through this study all the university libraries will see the essence of embracing resource sharing in their domain so as to improve their information provision to their library patrons.

iii) It is assumed that this study will enable university management to understand the barriers to effective resource sharing so that they can address them thus improving the phenomenon of resource sharing in our university libraries.

1.8 Definition of Terms.

**Resource sharing** – The activities that result from an agreement, formal or informal, among a group of libraries (usually a consortium or network) to share collections, data, facilities, personnel, etc., for the expense of collection development.

**Consortium** - An association of independent libraries and library systems established by formal agreement, usually for the purpose of resource sharing. Membership may be restricted to a specific geographic region, type of library (public, academic, special) or subject specialization.

**Collection development** – The process of planning and building a useful and balanced collection of library materials over a period of years, based on an ongoing assessment of the information needs of the library’s clientele. It includes the formulation of selection criteria, planning for resource sharing, and replacement of lost and damaged items, as well as routine selection and deselection decisions.

**Interlibrary loan** – This is a form of resource sharing that depends on the maintenance of union catalogues.
CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Literature Review.

The need for access to information to support academic activities has shown libraries that this need could not be supplied with their own holdings due to money, manpower and space. As a consequence of the perception of this situation, libraries started organizing networks and consortia with this aim of resource sharing.

Lawal et al (2008), emphasis on a new humanistic resource sharing idea which considers love, sympathy and mutual aid as more important aid elements in human development. They further advised that cooperative enterprisers probably more logical and easier among individual entities whose resources, problems, and aspiration are somewhat similar.

Nwalo (2001) in his discussion mentioned that area of resource sharing deserved by two libraries include exchange of personnel, inter-library lending and joint financing of mutually beneficial projects especially pertaining to accessibility to electronic resources.

Reitz (2004) explained that resource sharing is the activity that results from an agreement, formal and informal among a group of librarians to share collections, data facilities, personnel etc. for the benefit of the library users and to reduce the expense of collection development.

Usuman (2006) in explaining the formalized arrangement of resource sharing made by the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) (2002) stated that this arrangement is a common feature of collaboration between two or more libraries especially when the geographical and political borders separate the participants for sharing to be successful, there should be mutual objectives, joint decision making processes and continuous improvement for all participants.

Adekunle (1978) states that resources sharing among libraries are imperative as no single library can acquire all it needs. Globally, no library can claim bibliographic completeness placed in perspective of entire collection, resource sharing seems an important option out. Consortium supports resource sharing and provides services to users through programs in cooperative acquisition, access to electronic resource, access to physical collection, enhance interlibrary loan and document delivery (Nwalo, 2008). He also noted that advancements in ICT have facilitated
resources sharing through computer networks, and noted further that more and more information is being made available by publishers through resource sharing.

2.1 Barriers to Resource Sharing
Nwalo (2008) in his study noted that lack of funding and improper planning are the major problems hindering resource sharing among university libraries in Nigeria.

Aina (2001) also observed that many of the university library cooperation failed due to adoption of wrong strategies. The plethora of problems facing academic and resource libraries in Nigeria have no doubt resulted in the ineffectiveness of the libraries as studies have shown.

According to Tanvir (2005) success in exploration of new means of resource sharing can help overcome the financial constraints faced by most of our libraries and information centers.

Nwalo and Ikem (2001) further notes that major obstacles to resource sharing and access among university libraries in Nigeria, included lack of finance, lack of well developed ICT infrastructure, lack of requisite skills in ICT, wrong strategies, unstable power supply and low level conversation of local content.

2.2 Need for Resource Sharing.
The study conducted by Okzagu and Okeagu (2008) Edem (2010) and Nwalo (2008) have shown that the global information explosion, the cut in budgetary allocation, the rising costs and complexities of information resources as well as the imperative to provide the user community with optimal access to needed information make resources sharing initiative indispensable. The paradigm shift from owning specific physical information resources regardless of their format and location is a worldwide trend which university libraries all over the world cannot afford to ignore.
CHAPTER THREE

3.0 Research Methodology.
This chapter outlines how the research was carried out and the scope of the undertaking that the researcher was involved in during the research. The chapter also presents methods used in collecting data, recording, analyzing and presenting the information. The research was strictly carried out in KSU main library and its respective campuses.

3.1 Research Design.
The research problem was carried out using the survey method where questionnaires were administered randomly to the selected population. A case study was chosen for this study as the research focused only on the essence of resource sharing in university libraries. The case study was most appropriate as it allowed the research to collect considerable amount of data on resource sharing.

3.2 Location and Sample Population.
The target population was about five hundred people. The population consisted of ten library staff members and a large group of library users from different courses in the six faculties found in the university college ranging from the certificate courses, diploma, degree and masters degree courses. The population was large enough to form a representative sample for the study. Kisii University College is a constituent college of Egerton University and is found in south-western part of Kenya about 324 kilometers from Nairobi. It is also situated 2kilometres from Kisii town center along the Kisii-Kilgoris road.

3.3 Sampling Technique.
Purposive sampling was used as the research focused only on the library staff members and the library users; this enabled the researcher to illustrate the features which the researcher was interested in. The sampling was done putting into consideration the number of students per course and the position of the staff members.

The sample size was 500 people which is almost ten percent of the whole population of students in the university college, then sampling was done as follows:

Number of students in each course X 10/100
3.4 Instrumentation.
The researcher used observations and questionnaires to collect the information. By observation, the researcher moved around to collect information on how resource sharing was done in the library.

On the side of questionnaires, the questionnaires were administered randomly on the selected sample of staff and students who were expected to fill them and return them to the researcher.

3.5 Data Analysis and Preparation.
Data collected was analyzed and represented using bar graphs, pie charts, and tables.
CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Results and Discussion

In this chapter, the results of the research are analyzed, interpreted and discussed. The data collected was mainly through questionnaires and interviews. The results have been discussed under two categories: Library staffs and the Library users.

4.1 The Library Staff.

The library staff members play a critical role in ensuring that the library functions well in any activity it’s engaged in with view of providing effective and efficient information services to its library patrons.

4.1.1 Existence of resource sharing in the library.

In assessing whether the staff members were aware of the existence of resource sharing in the library, the study found out that 60% of the respondents were aware of resource sharing in the library, 30% of the respondents were partially aware while 10% of the respondents were not aware of existence of resource sharing in the library.

4.1.2 Benefits of resource sharing to the library.

On the benefits of resource sharing, the researcher established that the library has been able to gain through it being involved in resource sharing. Respondents indicated that through resource sharing the library has been able to get information materials it does not have hence assisting it in the satisfaction of information needs of its patrons. At the same time through resource sharing the library has been able to get expertise from other universities to assist it in the installation of new technologies in the library like OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue), D-space.
4.1.3 Problems hindering resource sharing.

This question was meant to assess the challenges library is facing which are hindering it from doing effective and efficient resource sharing. Respondents noted the following as the main challenges hindering effective resource sharing in the library and they included:

i) Lack of adequate funds for facilitating resource sharing.

ii) Obsolesce of equipment in assessing digital information.

iii) Catalogue data not being in a standard machine readable form.

iv) Lack of documented policy on resource sharing in most libraries involved in resource sharing.

v) Inability of the libraries to adopt the right strategies towards resource sharing.

vi) Maintenance of union catalogue has not been taken serious.

vii) Inability and unwillingness to pay for library resource sharing by most libraries involved in the exercise.

viii) Vast distance separating the libraries involved in resource sharing.

ix) Restrictions of information materials e.g. items on research collection.

x) Poor infrastructure for transporting information materials among libraries involved in resource sharing.

4.1.4 Training of staff members

This study found out that 52% of the respondents indicated that they are well trained on how resource sharing is done in the library, 12% indicated they are partially trained while 36% indicated they are not trained at all on how resource sharing is done in the library.
4.1.5 Documented policy on resource sharing

The study determined the awareness of the existence of documented policy on resource sharing as follows; 30% of the respondents indicated they were aware of existence of documented policy on resource sharing while 70% of them indicated they were not aware of documented policy on resource sharing.

4.2 Library Users

Library users form a basic part of the library so libraries try as much as they can to satisfy their information needs in an effective and efficient manner. In that regard, libraries are engaged in resource sharing with view of satisfying their clientele’s information needs.

4.2.1 Existence of resource sharing

In assessing whether the library users were aware of existence of resource sharing, 55% of the respondents indicated that they were aware of existence of resource sharing in the library, 20% of the respondents were partially aware while 25% of the respondents were not aware of existence of resource sharing in the library.
4.2.2 Benefits of resource sharing to library users.

This question was meant to assess of what benefits resource sharing is to library users. Respondents indicated that through resource sharing, the library users have been able to get access to information materials that the library does not have hence being in a good position to satisfy their information needs in a most effective and efficient manner.

4.2.3 Library users involvement in resource sharing

This question was meant to assess whether the library users are involved in deciding information materials to be engaged in resource sharing. 42% of the respondents indicated that they are involved in deciding information materials in resource sharing while 58% of the respondents indicated that they are not involved in deciding information materials of resource sharing.

4.2.4 Challenges of Library users in resource sharing.

This question was meant to assess the challenges library users are facing as the library engages in resource sharing. The respondents indicated that despite the library engaging in resource sharing,
they are not able to get access to some important information materials they need like research projects, thesis and dissertations, journal articles:

At the same time the respondents, indicated that they are not made aware of resource sharing available in the library hence they are not able to make use of them when they are available.
CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion
The diminishing funds allocation to libraries, the increased price of information materials as well as increased clientele’s information needs, has forced many libraries to engage in resource sharing. Thus resource sharing is a wise path to meeting library’s endless information needs.

There are many forms of resource sharing and libraries are consciously or unconsciously engaging in one form or the other. Like many other useful initiatives resource sharing is faced with many challenges but there are ways out of overcoming these challenges. If libraries begin to appreciate the usefulness of resource sharing to their patrons, their services will beat the obstacles and forge ahead towards satisfying their clientele.

Some of these ways to beat obstacles are proper planning, adequate funding ad having a policy on resource sharing in place.

In this electronic age, resource sharing seems to be the fastest method and the most economical way of a library demonstrating its relevance in the environment.

5.2 Recommendations

For resource sharing to be done in an effective and efficient manner among libraries with view of satisfying clientele’s information needs, the following additional efforts towards resource sharing needs to be done:

All academic libraries should computerize their services and this will enable the libraries to benefit from the rich information resources available electronically.
All academic libraries should have a documented policy which should be guiding them on how to engage in resource sharing among them.

All libraries should have a coordinating body which will be in charge of overseeing how resource sharing is done among libraries thus making those libraries engaged in resource sharing to take the initiative very serious.

Library users should be involved in deciding information materials to be engaged in resource sharing with view of satisfying their information needs in an effective and efficient manner.
REFERENCES


QUESTIONNAIRE

Part A: Questionnaire for Library Staff.

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a study being carried out by a Diploma of Library and Information Science student of Kisii University. You are kindly requested to participate in answering the following questions, which will be used in establishing the level of adoption of resource sharing in academic libraries and improving the major areas of concerns. Any information provided will be used for academic purposes only. Please feel free to express your thoughts.

(Insert a tick where necessary e.g. (√))

1. Are you aware of existence of resource sharing in the library?
   a. Yes ☐  b. No ☐

2. What are the benefits of resource sharing to the library at large?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

3. What problems are hindering effectiveness of resource sharing in the library?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. a) Are you well trained on how resource sharing is done in the library?
   a. Yes ☐
   b. No ☐

   b) What is your educational level?
   a. Certificate ☐
   b. Diploma ☐
   c. Degree ☐
   d. Masters ☐
5. Is there a documented policy on how resource sharing should be done in the library?

Part B: Questionnaire for Library Users.

1. Are you aware of existence of resource sharing in the library?

2. a.) Does resource sharing of information materials have any positive impact on you as a library user?
   a. Yes □  b. No □
   b.) Briefly substantiate your answer.

3. What challenges are you facing in the process of the library engaging in resource sharing?

4. a.) Do you suggest resource sharing to be continued in the library?
   a. Yes □  b. No □
   b.) Briefly give reasons for your answer.

Thank you for participating in this study.