



Nurturing reading cultures and literacies in post-pandemic ecosystems

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The role of the academic library in promoting a reading culture to meet sustainable development goal 4

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Introduction

The Continental Education Strategy for Africa was embraced to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all in Africa.

Dr Beatrice Njenga - Without wide reading, learners cannot develop skills of locating, selecting, organising, manipulating, analysing, evaluating, and processing information.

National Literacy Trust - If reading is to become a lifelong habit, then people must see themselves as participants in a community that views reading as a significant and enjoyable activity.

Mr. Mesfin Tessema - the development of the reading culture in Africa is an issue of high importance, but yet unanimously given insufficient regard especially in Africa.

Problem Statement

Link between academic performance and reading culture.

- However, more documented literature is on school, public, and national libraries.

Collection development in academic libraries is done to support educational programmes and curriculum.

- Not necessarily leisure reading.

Aliteracy i.e. lack of reading habits in capable readers.

Objectives

Assess the role of academic libraries in achieving SDG 4.

Scrutinize how academic libraries are promoting a reading culture in Zimbabwe to meet SDG 4.

Analyse the challenges faced by academic libraries in promoting a reading culture to meet SDG 4.

Methodology

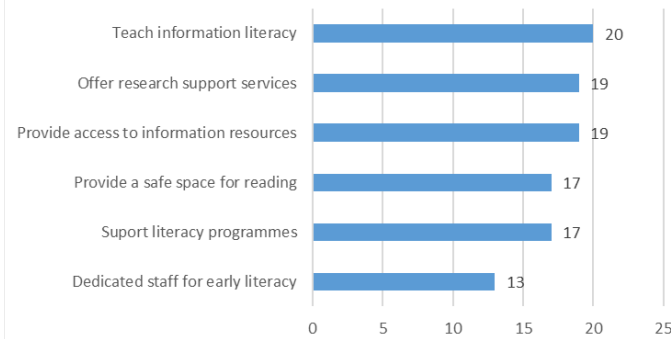
Survey using quantitative methodology.
Online questionnaire on google forms.

Academic libraries in Zimbabwe.
20 Information services academic librarians.
Purposive sampling used.

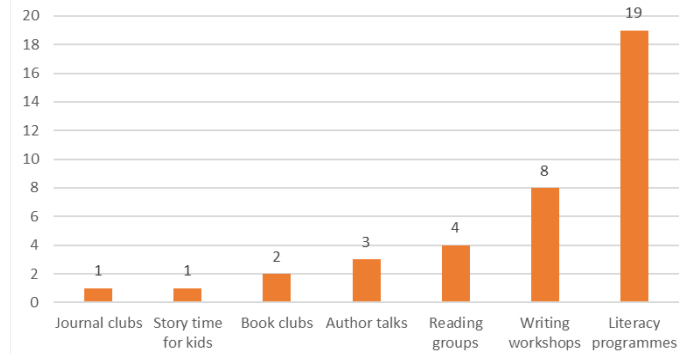
100% response rate.
Data analysed using R data analysis software.
Results presented thematically.

Results

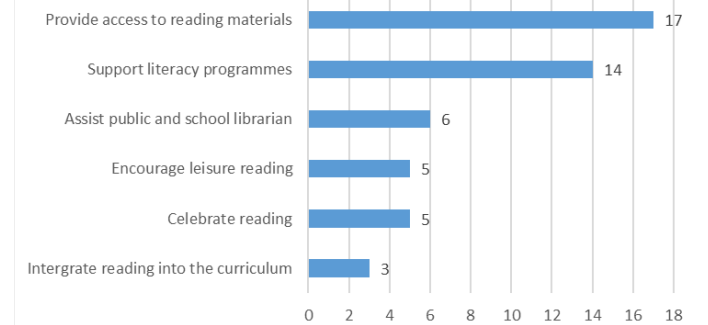
Services offered to achieve SDG 4



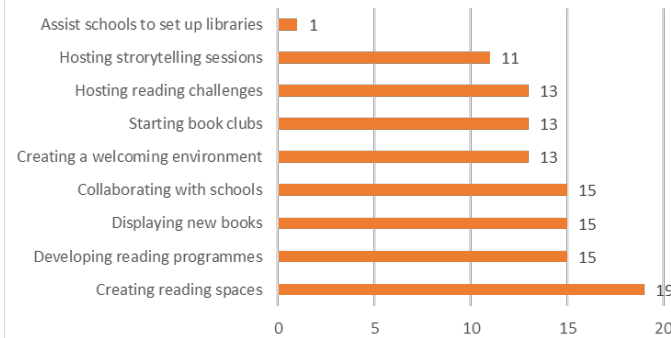
Services that promote a reading culture



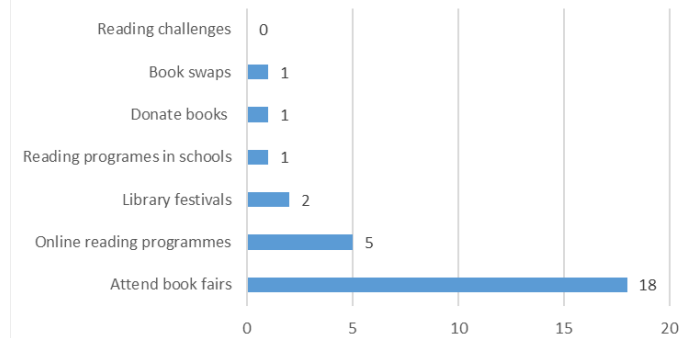
Policies promoting reading culture



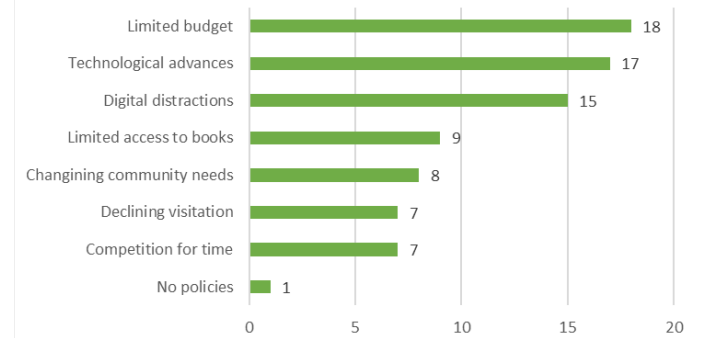
Activities to improve reading culture



Reading culture programmes attended



Challenges in promoting a reading culture



Conclusions

Academic librarians provide information resources to promote a reading culture and achieve SDG 4.

Academic libraries partner with other stakeholders to offer reading programmes.

The major challenges being faced are lack of funds, and enabling policies.

Recommendations

Enabling Policies

National Library and Documentation Services Act revision.

Appointment of a Director with a LIS background.

Scrap book taxes.

Librarians

Strengthen national library association.

Continuous professional development.

Advocate for funds and be innovative.

More reading programmes

Drop everything and read, books clubs, book festivals, book fairs.

Reading competitions, reading and writing workshops.

Celebrate literacy days.

Thank you

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