



Student Community Health Officer, Bo

How long have you been a member?

I have been a member of this library about 2 years now because I joined the library in 2016, March.

Why did you join the library?

I joined because it was recommended by my Head of Department. I like reading, reading is my hobby, so I registered with the regional library and so they gave me a document to take to my Head of Department to sign, so while the HoD was signing he recommended that there is a very good medical library at the Regional Hospital so they carried take me here. So I came and I saw that this one is more equipped and it is more good for me as a medical student than the regional library, so that is why I joined. I use the library to do research.

What do you use the library for?

I use the library for doing my research. Whenever I have presentations to do I come to the library to get materials. I also use the library books for my clinical practice. Most times with my diagnosis, like this one is very very good for diagnosis [MSF Clinical Guidelines]. I use this one. I also use it in prescription. Most of the diagnostic books also give prescription. And most importantly, when I want to pass my exams. When I have exams I come to the library to study, because I don't have money to buy most of the books or most of the materials, so the library is very helpful in that area too, and I passed my exam.

Can you give me an example of where something you have read in a book has changed what you have done in clinical practice?

Most times, like, if you look at antibiotic use, in Africa it is very bad and it is being misused. Especially in the area of when people get influenza they just like to use antibiotics, and that has been the common practice of medical workers too. But with the help of the books in the library it helps me know how to approach the influenza patient. Like, when to use antibiotics. There was one time when somebody had a sore throat and they reported to me. So I was like, oh, how can I diagnose. But when I read this book it helps me to that if someone has a sore throat and a sudden fever then that is a bacterial infection, and that I should give amoxicillin and paracetamol. So, I give that and the person gets cured. So I feel good about that, that I used the book to also diagnose and treat. That is good.

If library wasn't here, how would you get your health information?

Well to me, except by faith I would have said there would have been a way. But I think it would have been very bad. Because, like the first library, the regional library where I registered, there are books there, there are health books, but mostly they deal with the public health, you just read and they want to teach. But, to get practical materials it would have been very difficult for me, like currently in my course I did not even have money to buy internet phone, so to download things is not easy. When I want to do internet stuff, except I have to borrow a computer and get what I want and then present. But with the current library, a lot of things I can get access to, and I would not have got access to if the library was not here, especially my clinical practice. So it is very good, the library is very important, especially to me, in finding myself in a poor country like this and wanting to do a medical course, so the library is helpful to me. Yes, most of the materials I get in the library really meet my study. So they are good, they are quality. Except if you think there would be better ones instead of these ones, then you can also find those. That would be good.

What is your favourite book?

My favourite book, it used to be this one: Clinical Guidelines, Diagnosis and Treatment. It used to be my favourite book. But when I came across the Principals of Medicine in Africa, it is now my favourite book, so it is in my house!

Anything else you want to tell us?

The only thing I want to say is that the library is good but there are also some improvements that we need, like if you look at the area it is small. Most times when you come – this is empty because it is holiday – but if you see in term you will see students all over so it is very small. And also when we come to study, we would like to spend some time here, but if you look at the area, the library does not have a toilet facility, so if a person wants to ease themselves, unless he feels uncomfortable, so we do not like to spend too much time in the library. So if improvement could be made in those areas it would be fine. It would be very fine.