

ABSTRACT

This study assessed the perceptions of student-visitors and non-student-visitors on the usefulness of the Jamaican Natural History museum collections in the teaching and learning of science based on the following aspects: as a teaching/learning tool, as engendering students' positive attitudes towards science, as encouraging curiosity in students, and as assisting students with the learning of specific science concepts. The sample consisted of 518 student-visitors and 76 non-student-visitors. The main findings were as follows:

1. The perceptions of the student-visitors and non-student-visitors in respect of the usefulness of Jamaican Natural History museum collections in the teaching and learning of science were highly positive .
2. There were significant differences in the student-visitors' perceptions of the usefulness of the museum collections for all four indicators based on gender in favour of the females.
3. There were no significant differences in the non-student-visitors' perceptions of the usefulness of the museum collections in the teaching and learning of science based on their gender, level of education attained, and their age.

Keywords: Lisa Henlin; museum, visitors' perceptions; teaching and learning of science