Ethical Issues in the Access and Use of Information Sources in Public Libraries and Publishing Houses in Nigeria: A PAPA Model Analysis

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Abstract

Several ethical issues can impact the process of providing access to information materials for utilisation by the public. This study used the Privacy, Accuracy, Property and Accessibility (PAPA) model to investigate these ethical issues as they pertain to Nigeria. A survey research design using qualitative research method was employed through using interviews to collect data. Public library directors and publishers were targeted, and their responses were thematically analysed. Findings showed that publishing houses adhere to privacy requirements of authors and strive to ensure accuracy of information. Accessibility is provided for by libraries, though specific permissions are sometimes required to use information. Several challenges, such as plagiarism and piracy, were identified. Recommendations include the implementation of legal frameworks regulating the publishing process and the introduction of ethical course in the library school curricula.

Introduction

Ethics is multidisciplinary; therefore, it is applicable in virtually all the disciplines of human endeavour, including publishing, library and information organisations. Most definitions of ethics concur that it is a field of study dealing with the principles of morality, right and wrong behaviour in relation to self, others and the environment. For example, Britz (n.d.) defines ethics to be a 'branch of philosophy that studies human behaviour in terms of what is good or bad regarding relationship with themselves, others and their environment.' STANDS4 LLC (2013) posits ethics as the science which distinguishes between right and wrong doings and the moral sense by which they are discriminated. Thus, it is the philosophy or the code of conduct pertaining to what is ideal in human character and conduct, a situation where general activities of human beings are guided by what is perceived as best practices. Viewed from prescriptive ethics viewpoint, ethics provides a standard which governs the conduct of any person. Invariably, one can argue that it is the philosophical study of moral values and rules and about what is morally right and wrong. The role or purpose of ethics in the society is to promote the ideals and eliminate irregularities by providing norms and standards of

behaviour, based on human morals and values that are inclusive as opposed to exclusive by creating better moral agents (Ocholla, 2009).

Information ethics, according to the Institute for Information Ethics and Policy (2013), is the totality of issues that involves an individual's privacy and the public's "right to know". Broadly, information ethics (IE) is defined as a field of applied ethics that "provides a critical framework for considering moral issues concerning informational privacy, moral agency (e.g. whether artificial agents may be moral), new environmental issues (especially how agents should behave in the infosphere), problems arising from the life cycle (creation, collection, recording, distribution, processing, etc.) of information (especially ownership and copyright, digital divide)" (Information Ethics, n.d.). Capurro (2013) views information ethics from a narrow sense and a broader sense and largely from a technocentric viewpoint. From a narrower sense, he defines information ethics as dealing with the impact of digital ICTs on society and the environment, as well as with ethical questions dealing with the Internet, digital information and communication media (media ethics) in particular (Capurro, 2013). Broadly, he considers information ethics to be dealing with information and communication, including, but not limited to, digital media (Capurro 2013). Citing Ess, Himma and Tavani, Capurro categorises the main topics of information ethics to include: intellectual property, privacy, security and information overload, digital divide, gender discrimination and censorship. Information ethics also involves the access and use of the employee's documented information, email, personnel files, and other confidential information.

This study was aimed at identifying the issues associated with access and use of information resources by publishers and public library directors, using the PAPA (Privacy, Accuracy, Property, and Accessibility) model as a gauge.

Theoretical Background

Ethical issues relating to access and use of information sources in general and as applicable to publishers and public library directors in particular can be informed by at least three pillars. First is the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948) which is informed by duty-based ethical theories which view information access and use from a human rights perspective. Ocholla (2009) notes that right-based theories work according to the premise that "the right thing to do is determined by the rights that human beings have" as for example stated in the UDHR Article 19 which stipulates that: "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions free from interference and to seek and receive information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers" (United Nations, 1948). Second is the UNESCO/IFLA Public Library Manifesto (1994) which expounds that the fundamental human values of development, freedom and prosperity for all is tantamount to access to satisfactory education as well as "free and unlimited access to knowledge, thought, culture and information".

To further these ideals, public libraries are seen as local gateways providing access to knowledge and serving as promoters of lifelong learning and the development of independent decision-making among individuals or groups. Publishing firms as the main suppliers of information materials to libraries therefore play an important role in providing access to information materials that can be used by the general public, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language, and social status. This includes providing access to particularised materials to users, such as linguistic minorities and people with disabilities who cannot use regular information materials (UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, 1994). The third pillar is viewed from an ethics prescriptive focusing on professional ethics as expressed in the IFLA code of ethics for librarians, publishers and other information workers (2016). This code functions as a tool which librarians and other information workers can utilise in order to form policies, address dilemmas they experience, to improve professional self-awareness and to ensure that their conduct towards their users and society in general is transparent. The code of ethics focuses on six issues: access to information; responsibilities towards individuals and society; privacy, secrecy and transparency; Open access and intellectual property; neutrality, personal integrity and professional skills; and colleague and employer/employee relationship. Mason's (1986) Privacy, Accuracy, Property, and Accessibility (PAPA) model is echoed in these six

principles. Using four variables, this model illustrates the impairment that can befall an individual as a result of the unethical or misuse of information or information technology (UKEssays, 2017). According to Mason (1986), privacy explains the nature and the type of information that people can keep to themselves and which they may not be forced to reveal to others except if directed by the court of law. Accuracy, he notes, refers to the person(s) liability to be held responsible for errors, authenticity and fidelity of the information, while property deals with ownership issues, the fair prices for the exchange of information and access to the resource. Accessibility, in the author's view, describes the right or privilege of an individual or an organisation to obtain information and under what conditions. Thus, the PAPA model conceptualises what type of information a person must reveal and with what kind of safeguards, the nature and the type of information one can keep to oneself, and who is responsible for errors, authenticity, fidelity and accuracy of information. It also addresses the issue of property ownership in terms of who has the copyright to the channels through which information is transmitted and accessed. Lastly, the type, the nature and the amount of information a person or an organisation has the right or privilege to access and use under what safeguards.

Context of the Study

In Nigeria, the public library system functions at three levels: Federal, State, and Local. At the Federal level, the National Library of Nigeria is categorised as a public library because it is serving all categories of users at the national level (Ogbonna, 2010). At the state level, all public libraries are generally under the umbrella of the State Ministry of Education; in some cases, it could be under the Ministry of Information or the Ministry of Science and Technology. Whichever ministry that supervises public libraries in the state, they are administrated by library boards. The Library Board is responsible for budgetary and all administrative responsibilities, while selection and acquisition of information materials are the responsibilities of the professional librarians. By 2015, there were 316 public libraries in Nigeria (Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria, 2015), including the 36 public library boards

in all of the six geopolitical zones headed by a director. At the local level, the majority of public libraries are either affiliated or supervised by local governments, communities or individual proprietors; in some cases they serve as branches of state library boards. Provision of information sources, service delivery and all administrative activities are channelled through the State Library Board. In line with the recommendations of the IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines, the public libraries provide access to information materials regardless of any discrimination to all community members (Koontz and Gubbin, 2010). Though mainly concentrating on providing print materials, provision of e-books and the Internet is becoming more and more a feature in public libraries (Salman, 2016).

Publishing firms in Nigeria are fast growing in number. Olaniyi (2012) identified ten major publishing firms in Nigeria, out of which five were adjudged and rated top, based on their prominence, experience, reputation, and integrity. These firms are: University Press PLC, Literamed Publication, Kachifo Limited, Evans Publishers Limited, and Cassava Republic Press. Others include: Onibonoje Publishers, Havilah Books, Heinemann Publishers, Oxford Press, and Gaskiya Press. All these publishing firms have their head offices located in Ibadan in the south west geopolitical zone of Nigeria. These publishing firms publish both print and non-print information materials. Common materials published are academic textbooks, fiction, monographs, grey literature, biographical works, among others. They either solicit manuscripts from reputable authors who have made a mark in their areas of specialisations or accept unsolicited manuscripts from authors, which are then subjected to the normal editing processes before publication.

Within the recent social history of Nigeria, unethical behaviour seems to have become entrenched among members of society. Ogundele et al, (2010) identified these as a breakdown in morals, work ethics, discipline, social responsibilities and general civility. According to Ezendu (2010), for the Nigerian society to re-develop an ethical culture, conflict of interests need to be eliminated; in addition, the following need to be in place: equitable action towards all stakeholders, the appropriate application of technology for development and full acceptance of responsibility for actions or in-actions. Ezendu (2010) partly blames some of the problems on poor

organisational culture, lack of integrity and educational deficiency by Nigerian citizens. From this background, it is clear that access to information and the effective utilization thereof as espoused by the PAPA model and the IFLA code of ethics for librarians and other information workers can play a major role in enhancing society's understanding of their human rights and roles in creating a society that is just and fair to all citizens in the country.

According to Britz (n.d.), there are quite a number of positive ethical opportunities in the access and use of information by publishers and public library directors such as electronic monitoring of workers in their respective places of work with the use of electronic means which has been proved to increase productivity of the employees. The digital revolution also averts the trouble of physically carrying large volumes of conventional information around. Apart from the electronic information access and use, a lot of ethical opportunities can also be derived from the access and use of conventional information services. In Nigeria, most academic and school libraries are not normally open during the holidays and weekends.

A public library serves as the only major alternative for students to carry out assignments, read and organise themselves in order to support their academic activities (Salman 2016). Civil servants, artisans, politicians, clergy, retired persons, businessmen and businesswomen, and children can all benefit from these numerous information opportunities which in most cases should be free of charge. Abubakar (2013) posits that one of the opportunities in the access and use of public library information services in Nigeria is the alleviation of poverty. Public library services in Nigeria can go a long way in poverty alleviation if full access and use of their services is guaranteed. Users can entertain, inform and educate themselves in the public library. They could get employment opportunities, information on management of small scale industries, personal information for development, on-line publishing, social interaction, and any other business opportunities.

Problem and Purpose of the Study

As indicated above, the unethical use or misuse of information often results in the impairment of an individual or, as in the case of Nigeria, a society. Libraries and publishers, as the primary sources for the production and dissemination of information materials to libraries, could play an important role in the development and strengthening of a society's core values and understanding of human rights by making accessible information materials to all without any discrimination. Through the accessibility and the utilisation of these materials, the social, cultural and economic well-being of a society can be sustained, improved and further developed. However, Fairbairn (2012) found that despite the availability of more than two hundred and thirty thousand public libraries in the developing countries of the world, their services are largely untapped to reach people with vital information in areas such as agriculture, health, employment, education, and poverty reduction. In contrast, Aina (2012) established that countries that have a well-developed public library system perform better in all areas of human development.

Though a number of articles have been written on the ethical issues in information access and use (Mason, 1986; Focht and Thomas, 1994; ALA, 2009; ALA, 2010; Parrish, 2010; Taherdoost et al, 2011; and Britz, n.d.), they are limited in scope, not addressing ethical issues in the access and use of information resources as applicable to publishers and public library directors in developing countries, and modeling PAPA. Nigeria shares a lot with the world in relation to information ethics issues such as dealing with copyright, plagiarism, usage, social media, ownership, digital divide, privacy, accuracy, property and accessibility, which is likely to be affecting the professional activities of publishers and directors of public libraries in carrying out their daily activities. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to investigate ethical issues in the access and use of information resources as it affects publishers and public library directors in Nigeria, adopting the PAPA model analysis.

The following research questions were considered:

- What are the nature and type of information being acquired/published in relation to privacy? **(Privacy)**

- Who is held responsible for errors associated with the access and use of information? **(Accuracy)**

- How is the issue of copyright managed in accessing and using information?
- How is licensing and industrial property managed/adhered to in accessing and using information?
- How is plagiarism managed in accessing and using information? **(Property)**
- What are the procedures and processes involved in accessing and using information? **(Accessibility)**
- What are ethical challenges in the access and use of information resources by publishers and directors of public libraries?

Research Methodology

A survey research design was adopted for this study, while interpretivism research paradigm was deployed. The qualitative research method was selected as the researchers wanted to gain a deeper understanding of the ethical issues experienced in information provision to their identified clients or user base, by both the groups identified for the study. Interviews, done in 2014, were used as the data gathering instruments. The population of the study consisted of thirty-six (36) public library directors representing each federal state in the 6 geopolitical zones, and the publishers from the 10 Nigerian publishing firms identified by Olaniyi (2012). Six (6) public library directors, each representing one geopolitical zone, and five (5) senior staff members from the 5 top-rated publishing firms were purposively selected based on the researchers' judgment of their expertise to provide meaningful answers to the questions. Appointments to conduct the interviews were made before it was physically conducted to the eleven (11) respondents. The data gathered were thematically analysed and discussed.

Findings and Discussion

The findings of the study are discussed in the following sections. Demographic data captures the demographic characteristics of the respondents in terms of their designation, organisation, years of experience, and qualifications. The second part of the analysis is the application of PAPA model concept and the responses from the two categories of the respondents.

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The demographic information of respondents is presented in table 1 below.

Table 1: Demographic information of the respondents

Respondent	Designation	Organisation	Years of Experience	Highest Qualification
Directors of Public Libraries				
R 1	Director	Public Library	28	Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS)
R 2	Director	Public Library	32	Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS)
R 3	Executive Director	Public Library	23	Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS)
R 4	Deputy Director	Public Library	34	Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS)
R 5	State Librarian/ Director	Public Library	24	Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS)
R 6	Executive Director	Public Library	31	Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS)
Publishers				
R 7	Senior Editor	Publishing Company	16	Master of Arts (English) (MA)
R 8	Senior Manager Production	Publishing Company	12	Postgraduate Diploma (Graphic) (PGDG)
R 9	Acting General Manager (Publishing)	Publishing Company	21	Master of Arts (English) (MA)
R 10	Senior Editor Company	Publishing	17	Master of Communication Arts (MCA)
R 11	Senior Manager Production	Publishing Company	14	Master of Communication Arts (MCA)

Table 1 above indicates that though there is a variance in title description, all of the library respondents were senior managers in the libraries; and as such, they have the same responsibilities and roles in the provision and dissemination of public library services. The respondents from the publishing houses were also mainly senior staff responsible for either the production or the publishing of materials.

Though the findings showed that the respondents from the public libraries had more years of work experience than the publishers, the respondents from the publishing houses were also highly experienced individuals as the least experienced has 12 years of service. All the respondents were also found to be educationally well qualified for their positions, as there were seven (7) respondents with master's degrees, one (1) with a postgraduate diploma in graphic, and three (3) with bachelor's degrees. Thus, all the respondents possess a first degree and above in their various disciplines.

PAPA Model Concept and Applications

Privacy

In the first question, the respondents were asked to describe the nature and type of information acquired or published and how issues of privacy are addressed.

With respect to both the libraries and the publishing houses, the respondents revealed that educational books for schools and colleges were mostly acquired or published. Respondent 5 stated that "materials such as fiction, reference, serial publications and recreation are the type of information we acquire in this library." Respondents 2 and 8 also revealed that relatively few digital information sources were either acquired by the libraries or produced by the publishing houses. Within the libraries, the respondents indicated that privacy issues were addressed by complying with the Nigerian Copyright Act of 2004, while respondent 7 from a publishing house indicated that "they ensure that the content of the information materials is not revealed until it is officially launched". The publishing house respondents also indicated that they adhere strictly to the author's wish or instructions in respect of privacy issues in order not to violate his or her right over the publication. In this regard, Britz (n.d) warns that the right of the author to control certain personal and private information must be acknowledged and adhered to by information professionals, while Luk (2012) points out the necessity to deal with cases of misconduct against information privacy with a well-defined disciplinary mechanism so as to curb unethical acts. However, depending on the policy of each specific journal/ publishing house, authors can be expected to supply certain information such as a declaration of author contributions, conflict of interest statement and a declaration that the work has not previously been published either as a whole or in part. (Elsevier, 2019; NISC, 2019). Isaacs (2015) clearly points out the pitfalls that can befall a publisher who is not vigilant in doing careful checks before accepting materials for publication.

Accuracy

Other than the issue of who is responsible for the accuracy of information published or acquired, the Mason's (1986) variable "accuracy" also concerns who will be held accountable for the accuracy of the information. The second question therefore wanted to establish who is responsible to ensure authenticity and that errors are traced before making available for access and use.

The responses from the publishing houses revealed that in the publishing industry all stakeholders such as publishers, authors, readers/ assessors, and printers could be held responsible for errors, authenticity and fidelity of information when it is either published or made accessible to the public. The respondents indicated that errors can occur at any stage of information creation, processing and dissemination process, but that they strive to ensure that before any information is published, the reliability and the authenticity of the contents are authenticated. One of the respondents indicated that a workshop was organised involving five African countries with the aim of identifying the challenges concerning errors, finding lasting solutions to these challenges, and looking for ways to handle the errors and to establish who should be responsible for such errors in the process of information processing and communication. This was acknowledgement that errors can and, sometimes, do occur in the provision of access to information to the public. These errors can be committed by any of the stakeholders in the information provision sector. The respondents also indicated that proper management of errors is important in addressing ethical issues. These findings are supported by Enago academy (2019) who indicated that ethical challenges such as errors could occur at any stage of the publication process and could range from simple typographic errors to the wilful manipulation of a study's results or its findings. Jain (2010) confirms that falsification or fabrication of results can occur from time to time especially in the medical field, which erodes the confidence in the results of some publication in this field, thus affecting the utilization of the information materials. Respondents 9 and 11 alluded to the fact that before any information is acquired and published by their publishing houses, the reliability and the authenticity of the contents are ensured whereby the information is assessed by a competent person(s) before a final decision is taken. There is no mention of peer review of papers before publication which is an important tool for accuracy monitoring

Among the library respondents, respondents 1 and 6 indicated that before acquiring any materials for their libraries they try to establish the authority of the author and the reliability of the content during the collection development process by way of checking the credentials of the authors

Property

The aim of the question was to establish how are the issues of copyright (moral and material), plagiarism, and licensing managed in the process of providing access to materials and the use thereof.

On the issue of property, respondents 7, 9 and 11 from the publishing houses revealed that copyright belongs to the publisher of such manuscript if it has been bought. This implies that property rights become that of the publisher when the information is bought from the author, though the author's name still appears on the information material. The respondents from the public libraries indicated that according to them the property rights always belong to the author or originator of such information. The respondents also indicated that any information materials published based on author-publisher's relationship attracts both moral and material rights for the two parties, i.e., the author keeps the original copyright of his work, while the librarian or the publisher helps to protect these rights. Hansen (n.d.) explains that while respecting the rights of the author, copyright laws provide libraries the right to collect and make accessible copyrighted materials; and that based on the principle of fair use, certain amounts of copyrighted materials can be made available to users without having to obtain the permission of the copyright holder. Mason (1986:9) points out that despite continued efforts to safeguard the intellectual property rights of authors by way of copyright, patents, encryption and oaths of confidentiality, problems in this regard are still very common, and they are becoming more so with the continued digitisation of information.

Plagiarism is increasingly considered to be a major blow to intellectual property with arguments whether open access increases or decreases plagiarism or both (Ocholla and Ocholla 2016). The respondents from both the libraries and the publishing houses revealed that plagiarism is handled through appropriate legal actions. Jain (2010) points out that plagiarism is but one of the forms of misconduct experienced by publishers and needs to be addressed using appropriate measures. According to the author, once a document is presented to an editor, it goes through a chain of events between the author and the editor in order to prevent misconduct. Proper attribution of sources of information or content is quite essential -for preventing plagiarism

The respondents from the publishing houses indicated that the user of the information is expected to pay the price for exchange of the information. Respondent 9 indicated that this was because the user of the information is benefitting from the intellectual property of the author, while respondent 10 indicated that the price for exchange of the information is a win-win situation for both the author and the publisher, because the author receives royalty, while the public receive value for their money. Millcity Press (2017) advocates that in setting a price for information materials, it should be taken into account that the retail price should befit that of similar materials in the author's genre, especially as prospective buyers are spoiled for choice. . Unfortunately authors of scholarly publications such journal articles, monographs and book chapters hardly or never receive royalty at all. Publishers still enjoy the material benefit of publications while authors largely enjoy the moral benefit by the virtue of retaining their names in publications.

Accessibility

Access information is a human right that should not be taken for granted as highlighted in the theoretical background of this paper. The respondents were asked to identify the processes involved in accessing and using information. The purpose of a public library - as also articulated in UNESCO public library Manifesto is to provide access to information sources and services to the general public and the ability to utilise these sources either in the library or at home. The library respondents indicated that the target audience was provided with adequate and effective access to the information once such information is acquired and made available in the library. This viewpoint was also voiced by respondents 10 and 11 from the publishing houses. According to the library respondents, once a source was made available, the libraries provide access to it and with it the possibility to use it. According to Kibugi (2014), the Tshwane Declaration on Information Ethics (a first African contribution to addressing ethical issues) declared the right of all people to have access to information, and that they should have the ability to benefit from it. This should be made available, accessible and affordable in an equitable manner to the benefit of the community as a whole. This is in line with the

ethical principles as espoused by IFLA to guide the ethical behaviour of library and information professionals (IFLA 2007). These principles state that libraries are responsible for providing their users with access to the library's holdings and access to any other publicly accessible information materials. In addition, barrier- free access should be ensured.

However, respondent 3 indicated that access to and utilisation of information is not always automatic because in some cases permission must be sought by individuals or organisations from the author or the originator of the information to use some of the information, for example, to use the lyrics of songs or to reproduce sections of a published work.

Ethical Challenges in the Access and Use of Information by Publishers and Public Library Directors

The fifth question wanted to establish what challenges are faced by publishers and libraries regarding privacy, accuracy, property and accessibility in providing access and the ability to use information.

The respondents revealed that a number of factors were responsible for the challenges experienced in providing access and use of information resources and services. Challenges identified were the following: lack of sufficient competent professionals responsible for the publication of information, lack of respect for legal frameworks that protect access and use of information, a depressed economic situation, insufficient information materials, high cost of acquiring information, and prevalent piracy and plagiarism activities. Among all the respondents, but more specifically the library respondents, lack of skills in digital information management was mentioned as an issue. The librarians mentioned that they lacked the technical skills to create, maintain and curate collections in a digital format. Some of these challenges were also mentioned in a study by Mbofung and Popoola (2014) among Nigerian university librarians who indicated low awareness and endorsement of legal and ethical issues such as privacy, confidentiality, equal access to information, accuracy and copyright of information. This also seems to be the case in public libraries. According to Hoq (2012), the extreme proliferation of information materials and the explosion of ICT tools providing access to information bring to the fore issues such as privacy, piracy, the right to access to information, and freedom of expression. These issues require the information professional to be skilled and experienced enough to find solutions to these ethical dilemmas in order to keep providing equitable and just access to information.

The last question wanted to find out from the respondents how these challenges can be overcome.

The general consensus among the library respondents was that improving the educational level of the populace and awareness of information and knowledge accessibility and use will go a long way in overcoming some of the challenges identified. Among the respondents from the publishing houses, respondents 7 and 10 suggested ensuring that information resources were error- free through the process of editing and re-editing; engagement of external assessors (peer review) - as also articulated in UNESCO public library Manifes to for manuscript review; and the implementation of the legal deposit law by encouraging authors to make deposits of the prescribed number of copies of their publications with the National Library of Nigeria or the public library. They also suggested that government should intensify its efforts in the war against piracy and empower the appropriate bodies with adequate financial and material resources to deliver information sources to their users. Both groups of respondents mentioned that digital skills are important for both publishers and public library directors so that they can be well acquitted with how digital information are managed, accessed and use.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Ethical principles and issues as modelled by Mason's (1968) PAPA model seem to be adhered to in part by most of the library directors and the publishers. For instance ethical issues in the access and use of information sources and services such as privacy, accuracy of information services, property and accessibility are to some extent respected. It was however not clear from their answers how private information as pertaining to the authors and library users are safeguarded against misuse. It can therefore be speculated that strong legal frameworks or ethical guidelines for the ethical behaviour of

both publishers and library managers were not in existence; and if available, it was not strongly enforced. Several challenges identified such as lack of sufficiently competent professionals, lack of respect for intellectual property high- acquisition cost leading to insufficient information materials, piracy and plagiarism impact on the provision of services of a high ethical standard. The kinds of responses received from the respondents also beg the question whether the concept of information ethics and the ethical issues involved in the provision of access to information materials for utilization by the public are clearly understood by these information professionals. It is on this premise that this study is suggesting the following recommendations:

1. That information ethics as a course should be included in the academic curriculum of Nigerian library schools or be part of continuous professional development (CPD) activity.

    This will clarify the ethical issues concerned with the whole process of the provision and dissemination of information. Gaining this knowledge will assist these future information professionals in their efforts to implement properly the legal and the moral frameworks governing the publication and making accessible information materials to the public in Nigeria.

2. Practising information professionals should be sensitized about ethical issues as espoused by the PAPA-model by way of attending seminars and other similar trainings or workshops.

3. The Federal Government of Nigeria should as a matter of urgency set up an information ethics committee whose members consist of information professionals, legal practitioners and IT experts to address issues concerning ethics in the information sector.

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