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A NATIONAL ARCHIVES FOR ETHIOPIA – WHAT HOPES?

Degife Gabre Tsadik

*Institute of Ethiopian Studies,
Addis Ababa University,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*

ABSTRACT

The paper examines the need for the establishment of an autonomous National Archives for Ethiopia. It chronicles the efforts of distinguished scholars in the last thirty years at establishing a national archives. The role of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies in carrying out the functions of a national archives is highlighted. Although no law has yet been enacted, the Institute of Ethiopian Studies started to collect archival materials vigorously from within and abroad. The bulk of the archival materials that the Institute possesses, have been acquired since the Ethiopian Popular Revolution. The archival materials collected from Ethiopia are mainly originals while those acquired from abroad are in microformats.

These archival materials have attracted the attention of Ethiopian and foreign scholars who have come out with original researches in almost all fields of Ethiopian Studies.

INTRODUCTION

The growth and development of archive centres in the economically developed nations have been associated with historical research and development, and as such, record-handlers and management-initiators were mostly historians. Record centres were places where historical archives were collected, sorted, organized, stored and made available to researchers. As a result, these record centres were not directly linked with the day-to-day activities of government agencies.

According to Schellenberg, (1956) records are defined as:

All books, papers, maps, photographs, or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by any public or private institution in pursuance of its legal obligations or in connection with the transaction of its proper business and preserved or appropriated for preservation by the institution or its legitimate successor as evidence of its functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities, or because of the informational value of the data contained therein.

Record centres can be categorized into three major groups, textual, cartographic and pictorial. Textual records include letters, reports, diaries and the like. Cartographic records comprise cadastral, geological, topographic and other kinds of maps.

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Record centres can be categorized into three major groups, textual, cartographic and pictorial. Textual records include letters, reports, diaries and the like. Cartographic records comprise cadastral, geological, topographic and other kinds of maps.

They also include hydrographic, aeronautical and other kinds of charts, and various types of diagrams. Pictorial records include photographic prints and negatives, paintings and drawings, lithographs, etchings, engravings and the like.

Presently, record centres are entrusted with the responsibilities of collecting written documents, various recordings, films, maps, plans, outlines and the like, selecting and organizing them, and making them available to researchers according to set standards. The materials preserved are not only those produced by government agencies, but also by non-government agencies, companies, individuals and families.

Records in various formats have been preserved for ages and recent archaeological findings have shown that organized record keeping existed both in Egypt and Babylonia before 3000 B.C. In the case of France, it was during its revolution in 1789 that records were accorded utmost importance, and their preservation was recognized as essential. The French National Archives, the earliest in the world, was set up in 1790.

Considerable time elapsed, however, between the establishment of the French National Archives and the Public Record Office of Britain. Regarding the setting up of the Public Record Office J. H. Hodson wrote:

... what happened in France by political decree in 1796 has happened here a century and a half later by social process — through economic transformation, education, initiation, consent and stealth.

When we consider the question of records in the developing countries we see that people are not always certain of whether archives should be given priority over other basic needs that these countries are facing or not. Cultural matters tend to be neglected in favour of other questions. As regards policy planning and execution, emphasis is too often given to economic over cultural factors. Food, clothing and shelter are given priorities. In the same manner governments tend to give top considerations to health and education and other needs before cultural materials.

In an area where the concept of archives and record-keeping does not exist it is rather difficult to know or understand its usefulness. It is because of these and other factors that the developing countries have been late starters in the art of preserving and making records available to users.

THE HISTORY OF ARCHIVES IN ETHIOPIA

Records and manuscripts are the basis for the re-construction and interpretation of history. Such historical records include royal chronicles, lives of Ethiopian religious leaders, church and monastic documents. Early libraries and record centres all over the world were associated with temples, government offices, organized business and the collections by families of genealogical records. All have played their parts in shaping the history of Ethiopia.

Even though the media for writing may have differed over the centuries, both government and religious organizations kept records of various types, such as tax records, deeds and property transactions, laws and decrees, agreements, treaties, agreements between rulers, subordinate governor's reports and pleas for aid in time of difficulty correspondence between chief rulers and their underlings, etc. So also, religious organization collections included copies of sacred laws, rituals, songs, stories

of creation, biographies of gods, religious leaders and kings, as well as genealogical records. To these could be added codification of laws, accounts of military campaigns and histories of reigns of kings.

The history of Ethiopia reveals the existence of trade routes from all directions to the various inhabited areas, government centres as well as religious places of worship. In all these areas some sort of business records must have been kept, such as records of property, inventories, purchases and sales, tax and tribute, accounts of voyages, military and political events affecting trade and natural disasters.

The safe-keeping of books and records were associated with temples, government offices, organized business and collections of families or genealogical papers. Such organizations have played their parts in shaping the archival situation in Ethiopia. Various monasteries have served as the custodians of Ethiopian records. In addition to preserving actual letters, they have used the margins of manuscripts for making various types of notes, after the time when the manuscripts were written or copied. The contents of these marginal notes may reflect major events that occurred at particular moments in time. From what has been observed, Ethiopian manuscripts record such events as the crowning of kings, genealogical records, major events, such as droughts, famines, wars and locust plagues.

In some instances historical letters become a part of the chronicles of the kings, while in others they are kept independently. In Francisco Maria Estaves-Pereira's edition of *Historia dos Martyres de Nagran*, mention is made of the various letters written by King Constantine of Rome and Timotheo Pope of Alexandria, to King Kaleb of Ethiopia regarding the persecution of Christians by the Jews.

The chronicler of King Kaleb stated that there were a large number of merchant ships coming from Rome, Persia, and other countries, and that these vessels numbered one hundred and eighty. One could imagine that there must have been a large number of merchants associated with them. It is possible to assume that all the merchants, both Ethiopians and foreigners, have kept various types of records.

The Wangela Zarwarq is another source of Ethiopian records. In the true sense of the word Wangela means the Four Gospels. But additional blank pages are inserted at the end of where the history of a particular monastery is written, including a number of people who serve that monastery at various levels, movable and immovable properties and the like.

In cases where questions regarding the holdings of the monastery arise, the Wangela Zawarq is brought out as the testimony that the claim is just. However, one needs to remember that not all Wangela Zawarq have additional pages used for recording church affairs. For example the Wangela Zawarq of Aksum contains only the Four Gospels. There is a special registry where various church, government and other affairs are registered daily.

When we look at the Wangela Zawarq which Etege Mentewab gave to Qusqam Church at Gonder we see that in addition to the Four Gospels, it contains records of the gult, or land holding, of the church, the way the church is built and details of the various church properties. Ethiopia, being one of the oldest countries with its own alphabet, much has been written about its country and people. The problem of preserving records for posterity was and still is very acute, quoting the words of Dr. Sergaw Hable Selassie, 1972:

... the civilization of Ethiopia is not yet as well known as that of other countries ... she was often plagued by civil wars which occurred from time to time in Ethiopia and destroyed many historical monuments.

This is the plain truth about why letters, manuscripts and other written records were not preserved in Ethiopia and why, as indicated in the introduction, the preservation of the cultural heritage was not given priority over the material needs of the inhabitants. Moreover, various rulers spent much of their time fighting wars, and during most of their reigns they did not have the time to think about cultural development. Nevertheless, the office of the Court Secretary and Chronicler was always an important one. As its main task was writing despatches and instructions, as the title implied, it must have preserved copies of these.

From what has been gathered to study the experiences of the developed countries and in an attempt to apply it to the Ethiopian situation, the following statement has been credited to Unesco (1989).

... Records and archives form an essential and significant part of a nation's information resources, and that programmes for their management and use are, or should be, integral parts of the national information system.

It is with this objective in mind that various people have been expressing the need for the creation of a national archives for Ethiopia in order to preserve the country's cultural heritage. Even though Ethiopia is one of the two countries in Africa with its own alphabet and writing system, it is one of those few countries of the world without an archival legislation. Emperor Tewodros in particular is known to have written many letters. However, the development of archives is associated with the establishment of modern bureaucracy in Ethiopia in 1907. This was also the year when Emperor Menelik opened the first modern secular school, as well as other modern administrative facilities, including a modern ministerial system of administration. As indicated above, though 1907 was the inaugural year of modern bureaucracy in Ethiopia, one could trace the existence of correspondence and letter-writing back to the period when people were using various mnemonic aids as a means of transmitting messages.

The earliest documentary materials are known to have appeared in the form of inscriptions on stone at Yeha, Safara, Deke Mehare (Hamassen) and Aksum. The second type of written materials are represented by manuscripts on parchment. The inscriptions and the manuscripts both have much to offer as far as the history of various aspects of Ethiopian life are concerned. The inscriptions tell of various wars fought and mentioned boundaries, and nationalities, while the manuscripts contain references to subjects such as religion, philosophy, politics, business, medicine, chemistry, art, administration, music, and the like. These historical sources offer a great contribution to Ethiopian Studies.

Printed documents appeared soon after the invention of the printing press in Europe. Ethiopian printing began in the West with the *Psalterium Chaldaicum sive potius Aethiopicum*, edited by Johan Potken, Provost of the Church of St. George at Cologne, and printed by Maicellus Silber successor to the early printer Eucharis Silber, on 10 September, 1513, in Rome (Gaselee, 1930).

The introduction of modern bureaucracy in Ethiopia led to that of the printing press which resulted in a large amount of works printed on paper. After appointing the first Ministers, Menelik laid down regulations for the Ministries. In these regulations archives and their safe-keeping was bestowed upon the Ministry of Pen. In the regulations given to the Ministry of Pen/Keeper of the Emperor's Seal/the first three chapters were devoted to archives and their safe keeping. These regulations state that this Ministry was in charge of the Emperor's secretaries, and was housed in the Emperor's Palace. It was the duty of this Ministry to see that all papers written from the Palace were copied in a ledger, and anything which was not so copied should not be despatched. Copies of all letters, as well as early books were to be kept in the Emperor's safe (Meskel 1949).

Belaten Geta Heruy Wolde Sellassie in his *Catalogue des livres Ethiopiques rediges en langue greeze et amharique* published in 1928 mentioned in the introduction the opportunity that he had of visiting the Great Britain in 1903 E.C. (1907 G.C.). He stated that he had seen the Oxford University Library, especially the collection of Ethiopian manuscripts which had been taken during the British Mekdala Expedition. Even though Belaten Geta Heruy tried to arouse the interest of Ethiopians by urging them to preserve their national heritage 80 years ago, the response was not impressive.

The National Library of Ethiopia was officially opened on the 5th of May 1944. This day was exactly three years after the end of the Italian rule. The inaugural ceremony was made in the presence of the Emperor, other notables and diplomatic corps members. Emperor Haile Selassie made a key-note address to the public regarding the opening of the National Library. In his speech he said:

It is perhaps, especially suitable that on this day of national liberation we should open this first National Library of Our Empire. As we celebrate the liberation of our people, we lay the foundations for the liberation of their minds.

He also gave guidelines as to the kind of service that the National Library was to render. Among the various objectives was that: the National Library was to give special attention to the collection and conservation of materials of historic interest. These materials were to be collected and preserved as the national heritage and inspiration of the people. A library to serve its full purpose was expected to become a centre where the learning of the world can be made available to all. The Emperor closed his speech by saying:

The world of a library is the world of knowledge. The world of knowledge is the world of the search after truth. It is a world which is truly international.

The Archives Unit of the National Library was created at the same time as the National Library in 1944. This could be seen from the Library Regulations which were issued in June 1945. However, it was after the Ethiopian Revolution in 1974 that this section got recognition and the Unit was able to acquire many records which belonged to the government and to individuals. Among the major archival collections it has acquired, mention should be made of the Crown Prince's private archives and those of Ras Asrate Kassa.

Coming closer to modern history, Professor M. Abir (1967) wrote an article entitled *The Problem of Source Material for the History of Ethiopia*. In this article he listed three important sources that historians all over the world draw upon for their work. They are, written materials, archaeology and oral tradition. Abir stated that African historians were at a disadvantage in not finding their answers in written materials. It is obvious that Abir was stating the situation as it existed in African countries with the exception of a few. Ethiopia is out of this generalization, as he clearly recognized: "In Ethiopia we have the advantage of both archaeological remains and written material". (Abir, 1962).

However this may be, one can see what is being done to the archival collections of the various ministries and other organizations where the older materials have not been given special care in relation to the current ones. Current records are given priorities over the old ones which are pushed aside to make space for the new ones. According to a recent survey of twenty Ministries and Government Organizations conducted, it was found that 45% of them had space of less than 250 square metres while their file-holdings ranged from ten thousand to no less than one hundred thousand. (National Archives Committee, 1989).

The Ministry of Education, one of the twenty Ministries where the survey was conducted, showed that its Archives were filled with more files than it can accommodate and one could see records kept under tables as well as along the corridors. In addition to these, they had constructed a store made of corrugated iron which could accelerate the destruction of records both during the dry and wet seasons.

The Ministry of Finance is another centre where records were kept in different stores because of space shortage. Those records that were not in current use were housed temporarily in two different places, at Shola and near the cement factory. In these temporary shelters, the records are exposed to all sorts of hazards—such as climatic variations, dust, insects and pests, and human destruction. The records kept at Shola are said to have never been examined for the last thirty years.

EFFORTS OF SCHOLARS AT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ARCHIVES FOR ETHIOPIA

Various organizations and individuals from within and abroad at various times have suggested the importance of preserving records in Ethiopia. Dike, (1968) conducted a survey on the situation of libraries and archives, and suggested that immediate action should be taken in setting up a National Archives. This was further re-enforced in 1975 by Professor G. Gregory of Syracuse University when he recommended the creation of a National Archives to the President of Haile Selassie University, (now Addis Ababa University). In this report, Professor Gregory argued that the establishment and maintenance of a National Archives were obviously important to the national interest. The best means of preservation was to put the records into a central repository where they could be kept under ideal conditions, and used only under strict supervision. (Gregory, 1973).

Dr. Akilu Habte, President of the then Haile Selassie University, wrote a letter to Prime Minister Akilu Habte Wolde on August 16, 1973 regarding the setting up of a National Archives. He suggested the creation of an autonomous National Archives - (Akilu, 1973). On June 26, 1974, Addis Zemen published an editorial article on the establishment of the Ethiopian National Archives. It stated that there are no organizations without records and actions taken about anything or its retardation depended on the set up of record centres. (Addis Zemen, 1974). The article enumerated various problems encountered in record centres, such as the dust, the low educational background of the employees and the unregulated accessibility of records to individuals, who were even allowed to take items home. In order to over-come these problems it was suggested the establishment of a National Archives. Eshete (1980) expressed a similar opinion.

The Revolutionary Government responded, and a Committee was set up on July 30, 1974, under the direction of Ministry of Culture and Sports Affairs, National Antiquities Administration. It is certain that this Committee must have come out with suggestions and recommendations regarding the formation of a national archives. Another committee was set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Berhanou on 28 August, 1976. The committee members had divergent views on the organization under which the national archives should be set up. The majority of the committee members preferred the setting it up under the Ministry of Culture and Sports Affairs.

Dr. Aleme Eshete, however, stood alone by saying that the National Archives should come under the Addis Ababa University because of the ease of access to researchers and the availability of trained manpower in the field of library and information science.

In 1976, the Government set up an ad hoc committee to elaborate a scheme for the establishment of the archives. Dr. Wilhelm Lenz of the International Council on Archives Secretariat, who visited Ethiopia from 24-30 March, 1976, said in his report:

The records of the so-called Chancery, formerly under the supervision of the Ministry of Pen, are deposited in the Old Palace. They consist of two separate groups; the older one comprise records from the end of the last century when Addis Ababa became the capital Ethiopia. . . until 1936. Apparently this very precious archival group has suffered great losses, particularly during the Italian occupation when, it is assumed, many documents were transferred to Italy.

Mention is also made in the report that even though there was a general awareness of the urgent need of National Archives in Ethiopia it has not been included in the national development plan. However, one could see that Ethiopia's Ten Years Perspective Plan, 1983/84 - 1993/94 which was issued almost eight years after Dr. Lenz' report, states the objectives and strategies of culture as follows:

Ethiopia's cultural heritage, although immense and rich in its diversity, has never been systematically identified and registered, preserved and presented. Whatever was identified and preserved is to be found scattered in churches, mosques, palaces and in private hands. The government is to preserve records on history, economic and social issues.

Eight years have elapsed since this issue was put on paper. One may ask what has been done within these seven years regarding the preservation of records. It is undeniable that a number of archival Committees were set up and have submitted reports. As to the outcome of the various studies there is nothing yet to show to the world.

In April 1980 the Ministry of Culture and Sports Affairs wrote an 18 page report together with draft legislation for the formation of a National Archives. The report was divided into four major headings:

- (a) Historical development of National Archives;
- (b) Archives services;
- (c) Importance of archives to the research needs of history, education and planning; and
- (d) Priorities in the development of National Archives.

Following the request of the Ethiopian Government, the Director-General of UNESCO arranged for a consultant to visit Ethiopia from June 15 to July 8, 1982. The terms of reference given to the Consultant, Mr. A. W. Mabbs, were (a) to study the present situation of the National Archives in Addis Ababa giving particular attention to the legislation and regulations now in force and the structure, functions and activities of its various services; (b) to advise the National Archives on measures to be taken for the conservation of its collection of manuscripts; (c) to prepare a short and long-range plan with assigned priorities for the development and modernization of the National Archives services, including the training of professional staff and technicians, particularly in conservation and modern techniques such as records management; (d) to prepare a summary of recommendations for activities to be implemented in order to ensure a continued development of the archival services. Mr. Mabbs discussed the situation with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Sports Affairs and other concerned individuals, and included in his report a time-table for the development of the National Archives Service.

Later again, Professor Richard Pankhurst wrote a letter, dated 16 December 1987 to the Council of Ministers regarding the records in the various Ministries and his worries about their future fate. As a remedy to his worries, Professor Pankhurst suggested that a National Archives be established. The response to his letter was written on 4 January 1988 and further correspondences took place. Based on the recommendation of Professor Richard Pankhurst, two different committees were up in 1988, one after the other at interval of about six months.

The first Committee was created in March 1988, chaired by the Deputy-Minister of the Ministry of Culture. The committee members were grouped into four sub-committees and each started its work according to guidelines laid down by the Council of Ministers. The work of these sub-committees included drafting legislation and public notices, structure, finance and budget, internal organization and foreign assistance. The sub-committees were expected to find relevant documents, as well as consulting various organizations and individuals who were expected to shed light on the development of a National Archives for Ethiopia.

The second committee was formed on August 23, 1988, before the first committee submitted its final report. The terms of reference of the second committee were

slightly different from those of its predecessor. The new committee was entrusted with the task of studying the problems associated with the large accumulation of documents which over the years have never been sorted out or in any way classified. As a result of which it has hindered the making of these documents available for administrative, legal and historical purposes. The committee is:

- a) to devise guidelines in order to facilitate the smooth running of offices and to sort out those documents which are not important, but the retention of which resulted in large expenses, as well as waste of human power.
- b) to suggest ways and means of using modern technologies in acquiring, classifying and making documents available to users, as well as preparing schedules to dispose of those documents which need not be retained for posterity.
- c) to pave the way for the formation of a national archives and drafting the law

The work of these three sub-committees were discussed for over a month. Experts in various fields were invited to give talks. Various questions were raised and discussed. The discussions, though long, were fruitful. At the end of their work, the draft report was submitted to the main committee in September 1989.

INSTITUTE OF ETHIOPIAN STUDIES

While the struggle for the establishment of a National Archives continues, the Institute of Ethiopian Studies has been performing the functions of a national archive in the last twenty-five years.

The Institute of Ethiopian Studies came in time to save the records of the Election Board, the Haile Selassie I Foundation and the Haile Selassie I Prize Trust. Their documents were transferred to the Institute intact. The Institute, an arm of the National Archives, Addis Ababa University, collects rare manuscripts, records and materials from individuals, as well as from some government offices. Such records collected include originals, microfilm and microfiche copies, photographs, slides, film-strips, manuscripts, about 9,221 letters, reports, telegrams, video recording, posters, invitation-cards, maps, post-cards, identity cards, calendars, speeches, agendas, notices, visiting-cards, and the like. Faculty members, university students and external researchers have all used these collections and as a result a large number of senior essays, Master's dissertation, Ph.D. theses and conference papers have been produced. Some of these documents have been classified while others are not yet registered. Among those that have been registered are some of the papers generated from the Menelik II period, others cover the period 1930-74 and a few are of the past revolutionary period 1930-7.

The Institute of Ethiopian Studies has acquired a unique collection of records. The Department of Manuscripts and Documentation of the Institute in 1973 had 350 manuscripts and scrolls and few archival documents. By the end of the year, the number had risen to 720. However, after the Popular Revolution many valuable documents were gathered from different places, especially from Harar and Dire Dawa. These included books and documents written in Arabic, dealing with court cases, and

various municipal records, as well as official and personal letters of Haile Selassie I and his family. The holdings of the department rose as a result to 2,140 writings, 7,400 different official and personal letters, 6,750 reels of micro-films filmed, by the SAREC, 1,230 reels of micro-films from State Archives and libraries in Britain, Italy, France, U.S.A., USSR, Egypt, and etc.

Besides the Attorney General's collection, the Institute owns the archives of Belata Ayele Gebre, who was Governor of Harar and later, the Minister of Justice, the Election Board, the HSSI Prize Trust, the HSI Welfare Organization, and a large collection of Archives from the Rent House Administration, as well as a huge collection of historical and ethnographic photographs. All these collections could form the base for the future national archives of Ethiopia.

Through close contact and willing co-operation, the Institute has also acquired a large collection of archival materials from the Rent House Administration. Most of these documents were the property of former Government and personal offices which have been taken over by the Revolutionary Government. These documents include a few letters from the period of Emperor Menelik II, as well as enemy properties, Government properties, Haile Selassie Bete Rest, Tenagne Work Haile Selassie Bete Rest, Sahle Selassie H.S. Bete Rest, and Empress Menen Bete Rest.

With the kind co-operation of the present Attorney-General and his assistants, the Institute likewise acquired the old records of the Office covering the 1955-78 E.C. These documents are of fundamental importance for the understanding of Ethiopian legal and other developments in this highly significant period and should prove of immense value to both the Graduate Programme and the Faculty of Law. The records of the office are in 5,000 folders, each containing an average of 45 files. The number of pages per case varies from a few pages to a little over 200. In all, there are 240,000 individual cases. A cursory look at some of these documents shows that they vary from cases of ordinary robbery to major crimes against the state, and enable one to see, and assess, what was going on in Ethiopia for a quarter of a century, including the first few years after the Popular Revolution.

It is not without reason that the Institute claims to house the most rare and unique collections of letters, diaries, memoranda, circulars, programmes and the like which are difficult to estimate in terms of money. These documents include original handwritten letters of H. I. M. Haile Selassie in which are treasures for the present generation as well as for posterity. The institute has also spent a large sum of money in obtaining microfilm copies of archival materials from Britain, France and Italy, through a generous grant from The Swedish Agency for Regional Co-operation (SAREC).

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that an organization should be created whose responsibility would be to give proper guidance to the various record centres. This body could give guidance as well as follow up the outcome of the action taken. It could also issue guidelines to organizations wishing to dispose of documents. A unified system of discarding

unnecessary records should be devised from a central authority rather than allowing each organization to take independent decisions.

As a prerequisite for the creation of a National Archives there is the need to train staff on the job as well as the public at large. The importance of archives needs to be understood by all so that proper care be given to records. Professional training at a lower level could be given at home, while top managers could be trained abroad. The allocation of sufficient budgets to the record centres should be considered essential, as this would facilitate training of the required personnel.

It is clear that records are exposed to natural and man-made disasters, and should be protected by all means. The government needs to provide the facilities for adequate storage and management of resources. This paper hopes that all concerned, individuals, government officials and educators, will focus attention on the need to promulgate archival legislation in Ethiopia.

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*Degife Gabre Tsadik is the Librarian of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University. He is a graduate of Haile Sellassie University and the Western Michigan University, Kalamezoo. He holds B.A. and M.A. Librarianship.

PROSPECTS OF PRICED INFORMATION SERVICES IN PUBLIC-FUNDED LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA

Dr. B. Eziukwu Edoke

Department of Library Science

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

ABSTRACT

This work was undertaken in order to highlight trends and possibilities for priced information services in Nigeria. Data was solicited by a brief questionnaire distributed to the existing 31 university and 20 state libraries. Usable responses were received from 17 university and 13 state libraries, thus, 58.8% overall response rate was achieved. The services for which fees are charged or planned by 73% of the respondents include photocopying, interloan, telex, longer enquiries, reading lists and bibliographies, abstracting, document delivery, current contents, online information service and business/industrial information. The exigencies of prevailing economic crunch make it compelling for public sector libraries to embark on systematic priced information services in order to survive.

INTRODUCTION

It is perhaps not in doubt to any information professional in public-funded libraries in Nigeria that budgetary allocations for running the libraries are grossly inadequate. While the country continues to experience spiral inflationary trends, government subventions for library and information services have witnessed severe cuts. This ugly situation has come about in consequence of harsh economic realities prevailing in most African countries including Nigeria. Nwafor, 1990, has summarised the overall situation neatly:

Massive foreign debts; debilitating debt repayment schedules; greatly devalued currencies; more borrowing from International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; stringent and controversial economic measures that bring in their trail social and other upheavals; food riots; strikes and demonstrations aimed at bettering the standard of living; these are the items on the current agenda of the developing nations.

The nauseating effects of this economic crunch on the overall library and information services are not far to see: new books are hardly purchased; journal subscriptions cannot be renewed; worn out resources are not replenished; staff vacancies cannot be filled. In general, there is evidence of decline in resources and services of the libraries. Yet, there is pronounced increase in demand for information for studies, research, recreation and economic activities.

In the face of this noticeable decline in resources and services resulting from difficult economic conditions, are there possibilities for generating funds in the public sector libraries? In posing this question one is not unmindful of the resistance that can generate.

The whole idea of paying fees for information services may seem repugnant to champions of free library and information services. One must not gloss over the conventional posture of the library. A major feature of the public library is the provision of information materials (in print or non-print formats) to meet the individual and group needs of the community for information, self-realisation, recreation and cultural growth. Indeed, the most prominent element usually stressed in defining a public library is that its use should be free to all residents of the community on equal terms. The UNESCO Public Library Manifesto minced no words in proclaiming that "The public library is the principal means whereby the record of man's thoughts and ideas, and the expression of his creative imagination are made freely available to all" (Unesco, 1983). In the universities, the situation is somewhat similar. Library and information services are traditionally free to the *bona fide* library users, i.e., students, lecturers and researchers of the institution.

However, the prevailing economic crunch has driven many public establishments to critically review their operations, re-examine their services and relations with patrons and devise arrangements for generating some funds internally. Governments are indeed compelling its agencies to reach out to fund themselves or at least generate some funds to support their operations or services. One does not look far to observe this trend. In many public hospitals, patients now pay fees for registration and prescribed drugs. In addition to taxes and rates, separate fees are now charged in many states for various municipal services as garbage collection.

Libraries as government agencies may not resist this urge for too long. The various governments that fund the libraries are asking them to generate funds. As recently in December 1990, the Deputy Governor of Imo State in response to the usual request for increase in government subvention, urged the library board "... to strive and generate fund internally". This is by no means an isolated incident. Lagos State has urged all its parastatals including the library board to generate funds and there are similar injunctions by some other governments.

ANTECEDENTS

In several developed economies, there are noticeable efforts to initiate or widen the scope of priced information services in public-funded libraries. The "free or not" debate generated by this development appears to be settling in favour of systematic priced information services. IFLA position on this matter is evident in the 1987 resolution of IFLA Council: when it re-affirmed the concept of public library as a place where information is freely available for the borrowing and consultation of library materials, including the provisions of assistance and advice by professional librarians. IFLA also recommended that charges for computerized information retrieval should only be passed on to the user when added value services are provided at the express wish of the client (IFLA 1987).

The phrase "added value services" is being used increasingly to qualify services that are priced. The protagonists of free library services may well argue that any service worth providing should be offered free to the user. However, the reality of the prevailing financial constraints in many libraries appears to be compelling libraries to reach out for other means of raising funds. While individuals are not denied free access to the usual library services, there are increasing opportunities for fee-based information services. The trend in the United States was aptly summarized thus:

At the first FISCAL (Fee-based Information Service Centres in Academic Libraries) meeting in January 1983 approximately five people in the room actually had a fee-based service, and the rest were thinking about it. In 1987 about half of the 60 people attending FISCAL had some type of fee-based service. (Baubien, 1990).

In the United Kingdom, the situation is somewhat similar: in fact in recent times several public and a few academic libraries have advertised for new positions of business information librarians for the purpose of running priced information services. The result of a study carried out in 1986 by Birmingham Polytechnic is revealing. One hundred and forty seven responses were received from university, college and polytechnic libraries. Sixty-two of these libraries offered services to business or industry, of those 62, 92% were providing answers to quick enquiries, 58% answering longer enquiries, 73% carrying out online searches and 27% preparing reading lists and bibliographies. Professional interest in this matter has been on the increase as evident in increased attendance and participation at conferences and seminars on priced information services.

The services for which fees can be charged very considerably. Indeed, it is feasible to price virtually every kind of information service. Online services are almost invariably priced, usually from the inception of such services. The reasons for charging such services even where other services are freely available are related to costs of installing and operating online services. Further, online services are invariably individualised. With other services, much depends on the notion prevailing about fees in specific environments. The report of the study by Birmingham Polytechnic reveals some of the services that can be priced.

THE PROBLEM

In the light of the foregoing considerations this study was formulated to determine the following:

- (a) The extent to which priced information services are available or planned in Nigerian public-funded libraries.
- (b) The reasons for or against initiating priced information services.
- (c) The factors considered in fixing prices for services, and
- (d) Strategies employed to advertise priced information services.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

There are several categories of public-funded libraries in this country: state libraries, local government libraries, special libraries, academic libraries and so on. However, this study is restricted to university and state libraries. Since this study is a pioneering effort, a decision was taken to confine it to university and state libraries. At the

present level of library and information development in the country, it was reasonable to expect that, in view of their leadership positions, university and state libraries have personnel and material resources that can accommodate priced information services.

METHODOLOGY

Data for the major component of this work were obtained by means of a brief questionnaire designed specifically for that purpose. The questionnaire was in three parts. The first part, completed by all respondents, sought information on major users of the library and whether or not it charges fees for any of its information services. The second part of the questionnaire, for libraries that offer fee-based information services, sought information on the services that are priced, reasons for pricing the services, factors considered in fixing prices and strategies employed in promoting such fee-based services. Part three, designed to be completed by the respondents that do not offer fee-based services, asked whether or not there were plans to introduce specific priced information services and the reasons for planning or not planning for such services. Finally, space was provided for respondents to make comment if they wished.

The questionnaire was subsequently pretested to improve on its clarity and validity. The questionnaire in its final form was mailed to all university librarians and directors of state libraries in Nigeria. Altogether, 51 copies of the questionnaire were distributed: 31 to university libraries and 20 to state libraries. Thirty usable responses were received and incorporated in this study. Of the 30 responses, 17 were from university libraries and 13 from state libraries. The overall response rate was 58.8%. In spatial context, responses were received from libraries in 17 (81%) of the 21 states of the Federation.

PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Table I gives insight into the normal users of the libraries. The situation is perhaps somewhat obvious. In the university libraries, the principal users are students and academics. The 13 state libraries are open to the general public. It seems pertinent to note that business men/industrialists patronise four of the university libraries and six of the state libraries.

Table 1: CATEGORIES OF USERS OF LIBRARIES SURVEYED

Type of User	Number of Libraries		Total
	University	Public	
General public	—	13	13(43)*
Students	17	10	27(90)
Academics	17	8	25(83)
Businessmen/Industrialists	4	6	10(33)
Researchers and others on application	4	—	4(13)
Rural dwellers	—	1	1(3)
Primary school pupils	—	1	1(3)

*Percentage (%) in Parenthesis N = 30

The characteristics of library users can be an important consideration in deciding whether or not to price specific information services. It is of course feasible to mount fee-based services for targeted groups of people in the hope that such groups can be lured to patronise the services.

The responses show that 12 of the university libraries offer fee-based information services while only five do not. Even though fees are not charged in these libraries, there are indications that fees are paid for some specific services. For example one of the five observed that "... fees are charged for obtaining photocopies of articles from other libraries". The number of state libraries charging fees is considerably low. Nine of the state libraries responding, do not charge any fees for their information services while the remaining four generate revenue from some of such services. In all 16(53%) of the responding libraries offer some form of priced information services.

Table 2: TYPES OF PRICED INFORMATION SERVICES PROVIDED

Service	Number of Libraries		Total
	University	State	
Photocopying	12	4	16(100)*
Interloan	2	1	3(19)
Telex	2	—	2(13)
Longer enquiries	—	1	1(6)
Reading Lists & Bibliographies	—	1	1(6)
Abstracting	—	1	1(6)
Document delivery	—	1	1(6)
Computer Search (through British Council)	—	1	1(6)
Business/industrial information	—	1	1(6)
Quick enquiries	—	—	—
Current Contents	—	—	—
Online information	—	—	—

*Percentage (%) in Parenthesis. N = 16

Table 2 reveals the types of services for which fees are charged in the libraries responding. The table confirms the rather well-known phenomenon that fees are charged for photocopying services in our libraries. Photocopying thus becomes the single service for which prices are paid in the majority of libraries. Twelve university libraries and four state libraries charge fees for photocopying documents. In other words, all the 16 libraries that offer priced information services charge fees for photocopying services. Also, fees are paid for telex services in two university libraries. For each of the following services, fees are charged in one of the state libraries: answers to longer enquiries, reading lists and bibliographies, abstracting services, document delivery, computer search and business/industrial information. The study reveals that none of the respondents charge fees for answers to quick enquiries, current contents, and online information service, if it is available at all.

Some of the respondents that offer priced information services have plans to increase the number of such services. This situation is highlighted in Table 3. Two university libraries plan to charge fees for compiling reading lists and bibliographies. One university library and a state library are proposing to charge clients for abstracting services. Four university libraries plan to charge fees for one information service each, i.e. current contents, document delivery, interloan and online services. One state library plans to initiate the rather lucrative business/industrial information services for fees.

Table 3: SERVICES FOR WHICH FEES ARE PLANNED

Service	Number of Libraries		Total
	University	State	
Reading lists and bibliographies	2	—	2(13)*
Abstracting	1	1	2(13)
Current contents	1	—	1(16)
Document delivery	1	—	1(16)
Online information	1	—	1(16)
Interloan	1	—	1(16)
Business/industrial information	—	1	1(16)

*Percentage in Parenthesis.

REASONS FOR FEE-BASED INFORMATION SERVICES

When respondents were asked the reasons for initiating fee-based services or imposing fees on existing ones, the responses were revealing as highlighted in Table 4. The most prominent reason was to recover the cost of fee-based services. Eight university and four state libraries identified this as reason for introducing fee-based service.

Table 4: REASONS FOR FEE-BASED SERVICES

Reason	Number of Libraries		Total
	University	State	
To recover cost of fee-based services	8	4	12(75)*
To improve quality of priced services	6	3	9(56)
To earn more money	5	2	7(44)
To make up shortfall in government subvention	5	2	7(44)
To reduce pressure of demands on services	2	2	4(25)
To provide added-value (specialised) service	3	1	4(25)
To complement services offered by wider organization	2	2	4(25)
To enable the rich pay for services received	—	—	—

*Percentage (%) in Parenthesis N = 16

university libraries and three state libraries charge fees in order to improve the quality of such services. In all, seven university and state libraries price information services in order to earn more money. To make up shortfall in government subvention is the reason given for priced services in five university and two state libraries. In view of the pronounced cuts in government grants for library and information services one would have expected more respondents to identify this as the reason for fee-based information service. Perhaps some of the respondents may well reason that funds realised from priced services do not add up to something substantial.

In fixing prices for fee-based services, what are the factors taken into consideration? Responses to this question are distilled in Table 5. To recover running cost is clearly the most important factor determining the prices charged on fee-based services. The concern in six university and two state libraries is to recover equipment maintenance cost, presumably to ensure the continued availability of the service. Only a few libraries considered the idea of making profit important in fixing prices for fee-based services. This stance seems to have a direct bearing on the perception of the library as a social service that should be freely available to users. As in Table 4 above, the respondents were silent on the idea of pricing specific services in order to obtain funds from wealthy users.

Table 5: FACTORS CONSIDERED IN FIXING PRICES

Factor	Number of Libraries		Total
	University	State	
To recover running cost	10	5	15(94)*
To recover equipment maintenance cost	6	2	8(50)
To make profit for overall library improvement	3	2	5(31)
To recover equipment cost	3	1	4(25)
To pay for staff time	1	2	3(19)
To obtain funds from wealthy users	—	—	—

*Percentage (%) in Parenthesis N = 16

PUBLICITY

For any priced information service to be fully utilised, its potential users must be aware of its availability. This calls for ability to discern and apply appropriate channels of communication. In all, five university and four state libraries publicise the availability of fee-based information services in one way or the other. Seven university libraries and one state library do not advertise priced services in any way, perhaps feeling that those who need such services will somehow come to ask of them. The other respondents were silent on whether or not they advertise their fee-based services.

The channels of communication utilized by the libraries that advertise fee-based services are highlighted in Table 6. Leaflets and handbills are utilised by four university and three state libraries. Seven of the libraries rely on good public relations to sell

their priced information services. Two state libraries advertise such services on the electronic media, namely, radio and television. Most of the establishments publish regular information bulletins and can be freely used to advertise priced services. However, the table shows that only one university library advertises in the institutional news bulletin.

Table 6: PUBLICITY CHANNELS

Channel of Communication	Number of Libraries		Total
	University	State	
Leaflets/handbills	4	3	7(44)*
Good public relations	3	4	7(44)
Radio/television advertisements	—	2	2(13)
University bulletin	1	—	1(6)
Newspaper advertisement	—	—	—

*Percentage (%) in Parenthesis N = 9

PLANS FOR PRICED SERVICES

Among the 14 responding libraries that do not offer priced information services, 5 indicated that they plan to introduce such services. One is university library while the other five are state libraries. In effect, 20% of the 30 responding libraries have plans to start priced services. The remaining eight have no plans to introduce fee-based services at least for now.

The university library indicated it had plans to introduce priced service by charging fees on its external users. The five state libraries with plans for fee-based information service have priced photocopying service top on their lists. In addition, three of the five plan to introduce fees for interloan services. Two hope to impose fees on document delivery. One newly established state library has a rather ambitious plan to provide a wide range of services: these include photocopying, interloan, current contents, reading lists and bibliographies, abstracting, document delivery, printing and book binding, consultancy, registration of readers, workshops and seminars, publishing an online information service. One hopes that this library would muster the resources to initiate these services in the first instance.

The reasons for planning to initiate priced information services seem to reflect the prevailing financial difficulties of the libraries. Accordingly, the four state libraries plan priced information services in order "to make up the shortfall in government subvention". The urge "to earn more money for the library" is motivating two state libraries to initiate priced information services. Another 20% of the libraries plan to introduce priced services. In effect 27% of the libraries responding do not plan to introduce fee-based services.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The information services that are priced at all in descending order of importance are photocopying, interloan, telex, longer enquiries, reading lists and bibliographies.

abstracting services, document delivery, computer search through British Council. The information services planned to be priced by some libraries are similar to those for which fees are charged.

There is no doubt that the need to raise more funds for the overall library improvement is at the root of initiating or planning to offer priced information services. This cardinal point was expressed in different ways as presented in Table 4. Since the need for more money is the underlying consideration, it is indeed appropriate to examine the extent of funds realised in relation to specific or overall library services. More studies are definitely required in this and related areas. However, given the present levels of fee-based services, it is unlikely that prices paid for such services are enough to maintain them, let alone make profit. To pay its way, one must not just think in terms of equipment maintenance or replacement. It seems appropriate to include costs of staff time in planning and operating the services as well as overhead costs such as accommodation and electricity. Viewed from this angle, it looks uneconomical to offer priced information services as of now.

However, there is no doubt that the full potentials of priced information services have not been explored, let alone realised. Library and information services are traditionally offered free of charge. This conception is still very much alive. Even where priced services are offered or contemplated, the commensurate will and drive for such services to succeed are hardly mustered. It is necessary for libraries to imbibe and develop positive approach to fee-based information services. That will not in any way diminish or lower the level of free services. In these libraries opportunities abound for priced services without in any way jeopardising the level of free services. In the universities and the public at large, there are always individuals very ready to pay for specific information services that match their information needs.

Some, particularly in the universities, attract robust funds as consultancy and research fees from governments, petroleum oil industries and so on. Consultants, researchers and information handlers know very well that libraries complement and support such studies and services. Invariably libraries provide the basic information required for the take-off of such projects. Usually, however, such information is freely given. It seems proper for libraries to demand economic fees for such services. In this way information service will begin to feature in consultancy budget proposals just as computer usage for instance.

At the same time, the range of information services that can be priced offers libraries abundant opportunities. Improved services will still be freely available to *bona fide* users. However, in the environment of every state or university library, there are always special users willing to pay the price for their special information needs. By responding to such needs, the library will be seen to be responding to the economic and overall development of the community. For instance, in the United Kingdom, the University of Warwick's Business Information Service is very highly rated. Opportunities for the development of similar information services for profit abound in Nigeria. In another paper, I have pointed out the need for industrial/business information service in Nnewi, a growing urban area in Anambra State of Nigeria, widely reputed for its automobile industry and business (Edoka, 1989)

Even then, it appears that university and state libraries cannot survive for too long without constructive priced information services. We have already seen that the libraries are under pressure from funding authorities to generate income internally. This demand is made at university convocation ceremonies, inaugural board meetings and other opportune moments. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Babangida (1991) personally emphasised this matter again recently pointing out that "universities the world over generate a great percentage of their income through an aggressive pursuit of consultancies for industries, government and private organisations." Similar calls by state governors and other government functionaries are regularly reported by the news media. If other government parastatals are responding to these demands in order to survive, libraries must positively devise ways of generating funds from specific services. Creative and positive designs that are sensitive to the specialised information needs of the community will in due course yield tangible results.

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*B. Eziukwu Edoka is a senior lecturer and Acting Head of the Department of Library Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He is a graduate of the Universities of Nigeria, Nsukka, Ibadan and Loughborough. He holds B.A. (Hons.), P.G.D.L., M.A., and Ph.D.

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF RESOURCE SHARING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Cephas Odini

*Faculty of Information Sciences
Moi University
Eldoret, Kenya.*

ABSTRACT

The paper discusses the fundamental obstacles to resource sharing in developing countries which include the inadequacy of existing resources, the lack of information about them and the unco-operative attitudes and policies. The paper highlights the various planning and administrative factors which developing countries need to consider when designing their library resource sharing programmes. The paper finally concludes that resource sharing programmes based on computerised networks are not often technically feasible in developing countries and suggests that the skills of librarians, more than anything else, will determine the success of such in developing countries.

INTRODUCTION

Rydings (1977) defines library resource sharing as the process whereby the resources of a group or network of libraries is made available to the sum total of the persons entitled to use any one of those libraries. Resource sharing is a wide phrase embracing library co-operation, library systems, and networking. It is an omnibus expression to cover co-operation, co-ordination, interlibrary loans, co-operative acquisition, co-operative storage and processing. Resource sharing may appear to be nothing more than a new term for the familiar concept of library co-operation. True, many of the same activities are included, but there is a significant difference in the approach. The earlier term takes the existence of libraries for granted and describes how they can achieve their objectives better by working together. The new term appears rather to assume a range of physical, intellectual and conceptual resources on the one hand and a body of people with library and information needs on the other, and covers the activities involved in organising the one into a set of optimum relationships to meet the needs of the other. Resource sharing may be seen as a term for working out inter-institutional relationships for the benefit of users in a profession which is frequently described as changing from materials-orientation to client-orientation.

The basic function of the library is to match the information needs of users with information contents of documents. The proper performance of this function requires the services of library staff and the provision of library facilities in the accommoda-

tion and equipment. These in turn need the support of an infrastructure comprising administrative authority — sometimes in the form of legislation — an organisational structure and adequate finance. All these elements — finance, organisation, authority, accommodation, equipment, manpower and collections of documents — may be regarded as library resources, and thus, as the legitimate subjects of resource sharing programmes.

Information is essential for national development. But the exponential growth of information in recent years has surpassed the ability of individuals and institutions to cope with it. How to tap this wealth of information in a systematic way so that it can be applied to increase knowledge, guide research and formulate policy has become one of the most pressing problems of the 1980's.

For centuries, librarians have pursued the unattainable goal of gathering, in a single library, all the resources necessary for information and research in their country or institution. Once a fond hope, this has become an impossible dream. If libraries are to continue to meet the demands of their users, increased co-operation and resource sharing are vital. While resource sharing programmes in the developed world have been successful, there are many fundamental obstacles to attaining the objectives of resource sharing programmes in the developing countries, and yet the benefits of resource sharing programmes are tremendous. They include avoidance of unnecessary duplication, possibility of access to a wider range of materials, collections and services, and the satisfaction of national and community objectives.

CONSTRAINTS OF RESOURCE SHARING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

There is no doubt that resource sharing programmes have a significant role to play in developing countries, given the problems of scarce resources in the developing countries especially with regards to human, material and financial aspects. Some of the most significant constraints are identified below:

First is the lack of a firm national policy on libraries, thus information services are seldomly rated among many priorities. As a result, library budgets are correspondingly low, thus making it impossible for libraries to provide optimum services.

Secondly most developing countries, according to Parker (1977) lack the data on the present library situation, and this constitutes a serious obstacle to effective planning whether of library development in general or of resource sharing programmes in particular. The lack of data on the present library situation is one of the main obstacles to effective planning. Many countries do not know how many libraries they have, where they are, or their locations, how many workers are employed in the libraries, at what levels; what their collections contain, or what use is made of them; how many library users or potential users exist and what their needs are. Such data can only be collected with the willing co-operation of librarians in all kinds of library in all parts of the country. Resource-sharing, at least of manpower, is thus not merely a desirable, but an essential element in the data collection process on which successful planning depends.

Thirdly, the rapid escalation in the price of materials, particularly periodicals, also means that the already meagre library budgets lose purchasing power from year to year. In addition, exchange control regulations in many countries make the purchase of foreign materials very difficult. The physical collection of documents is hindered by lack of an efficient book trade and by gaps and delays in reporting new publications in national bibliographies, where these exists.

Another constraint is the lack of facilities for rapid communication among national libraries and documentation centres, inefficient equipment for producing photocopies and microforms, poor telephone and postal services and restrictive customs regulations also hamper access and exchange of information.

A fifth constraint is poor transport and communication facilities in most geographical locations in developing countries.

PROSPECTS OF RESOURCES SHARING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Resource sharing cannot be possible when resources are as limited as to be only adequate for the immediate use of local clients, as this is the most common characteristics of libraries, archives and information centres in developing countries. The success of any resource sharing venture depends not only on having appropriate goals and objectives, but also on creating and operating a service within the right legal, administrative and fiscal framework. Indeed, regard must also be paid to the political background in the case of any resource sharing scheme which includes a number of countries in a region. Even within a single country, resource sharing has political implications, since information is a national asset and library or information network is a public utility.

In countries with a federal type of government, additional political and legal considerations arise, since because of its very nature, library resource sharing cannot be confined to any one state or province. The means of establishing appropriate levels of government control or involvement in a country with a federal government, may include the use of state agencies for distributing federal funds and a federal interstate compact for schemes involving more than one state. Whatever the constitution of a country, statutory bodies such as a national council or commission, or parastatal institutions, such as a national library, should have a key role as instruments for implementing government policy in developing countries. Specific legal considerations may include: the law relating to the free flow of information, legal deposit, access to government documents, patent information, the checking and safeguarding of data in machine readable form, the translation and reproduction of books published abroad, and the control and use of telecommunications networks, if they exist.

One legal matter which is of special significance for resource sharing relates to copyright. The concept of "fair dealing" in making copies of articles in periodicals or extracts from monographs has proved adequate for several decades, holding in balance the interests of authors and publishers on the one hand and on the other,

users of information and libraries acting on their behalf. In some countries, legislation may be needed to take personal responsibility from the librarian if books lent either to individuals or to institutions are lost. Such enactments need replacing by administrative measures designed to ensure a proper control of library materials such as is consistent with the provision of reasonable access to them.

Developing countries which set up national bodies of the type described will be in good position to identify the needs for basic local and institutional services, for supplementary centralised services and for other resource sharing arrangements. These bodies will of course require their own input of data on which to base their decisions and their own channels for receiving specialist advice. As they will normally report to a central organ of government, they will have the official plan and the broad range of data on which these plans were based. When the national planning and co-ordinating body takes up its responsibilities in a developing country, it is likely that some limited progress in resource sharing will be achieved. There is the need therefore to have a national body for the planning for resource sharing, with a view to planning favourable conditions for such, developing a professional ethic which will provide an influential pressure group that will establish an effective information network including library, information and archive services, and appropriate educational and training agencies. This will be in line with the Unesco recommendation that there should be establishment of representative national bodies of appropriate status.

While resource sharing programmes in developing countries are desirable, they should not be rushed into without good planning. Thus, the points listed below should be taken into account before embarking on resource sharing programmes that will aid the provision of optimum service among the co-operating libraries.

1. Clarify objectives in advance. Co-operating libraries should try to assess potential demands for library services by studying the nature and extent of users' needs.
2. Recognise that resource sharing requires money, staff and commitment to the common purpose;
3. Devise programmes from which all participants, including large libraries will benefit.
4. Assume that there is no one best approach. Consider various forms of co-operation and devise programmes that can be carried out with resources available.
5. Be familiar with approaches tried elsewhere, but not to assume that they can be transplanted. While some can be accepted with modification, others should be rejected in favour of better ones that are more suitable to local conditions;
6. Recognise and make allowances for problems that will arise from limitations of infrastructure, e.g. postal and telephone service, photocopying, equipment maintenance etc;
7. Consider the possibilities of multi-country programmes where there are solidly based national systems on which to build; and

8. Be sceptical about elaborate computerised systems as the only sound approach, but at the same time, willing to experiment with computerised networks where conditions seem favourable.

CONCLUSION

The development and exploitation of technology offer the hope that networks for knowledge will one day bring the resources of the greatest libraries within the reach of users of the smallest collection in developing countries. Machinery alone will not do the magic. The skill, determination and patience of librarians will be required in the future, as they are today, if the maximum potentials of library resource sharing are to be realised.

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*Cephas Odini is a lecturer in the Faculty of Information Sciences, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya. He attended the Universities of Nairobi, Wales and Sheffield. He holds B.Ed. and M.A. Librarianship.

UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS (UAP): A CASE STUDY OF DEVICES FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION RESOURCES OF NIGERIAN SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Ken M. C. Nweke

*Department of Library Science
University of Nigeria, Nsukka.*

ABSTRACT

It is noted that stimulation of the user awareness of the available information resources in the special libraries is a major strategy of special libraries to ensure that users have maximum access to their available information resources. This is a study of simple efficient procedure for providing access to information resources in selected special libraries in Nigeria. The problems militating against improved access to information resources of the special libraries enumerated by respondents are catalogued and suggestions made on how to solve the problems.

INTRODUCTION

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) brochure describes UAP as Universal Availability of Publications. It is expected that every one who has need for any published document can obtain a copy irrespective of his or her domicile. A major policy objective of IFLA, UAP is a programme for all libraries, which aims to serve all readers. There is no library and no aspect of librarianship to which UAP is not relevant. National plans for UAP are directed towards ensuring comprehensive collection and effective interlending policies and systems. The methods of attaining the ultimate goal of UAP is either through central acquisition or co-operative acquisition schemes. There is also the need to ensure that once acquired, documents are not only made available for immediate use but are also retained for future use. UAP, which emphasizes availability of documents published in a country from that country, live or photocopied, nationally and internationally, is seen as part of a broader concept of Universal Access to Information, (UAI). "The aim is to improve access to publications by increasing the availability and speed of interlending services and by developing simple and efficient procedures". (IFLA, 1975).

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

A combination of questionnaire and interview instruments was used to collect information from the chief librarians of 45 selected special libraries in Nigeria. The questionnaire was administered personally and the interview conducted directly by the author

with 32 head librarians. The remaining 13 head librarians located in distant parts of the country were sent copies of the questionnaire with a letter of explanation by mail. Appendix 1 gives the names of libraries surveyed.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION RESOURCES

The result of the analysis of information as presented in Table 1 shows that the special libraries investigated provide access to information resources to users through the card catalogues — author/title, subject and shelf list. Access through the card catalogues is supplemented in many cases with written directions and arrows pointing to the shelves. Lists of holdings of shelves are also posted on the side of the shelves.

Most of the special libraries also provide direct assistance to users. In this case staff-members responsible for reference service are involved directly in locating documents or particular information sought by users. They instruct clients on how to use the card catalogues, locate the information sought to operate equipment such as micro-reader, computer terminals and optical coincidence retrieval systems, to exploit non-printed types of information resources.

Devices	Number of Special Libraries Responding	Percent of Responding Special Libraries
Catalogue cards (author/title, subject and shelf list)	45	100.0
Document copying	41	91.1
Library Publications	41	91.1
Direct assistance to users	38	84.4
Specialised lists of library holdings	36	80.0
Selective dissemination of information	36	80.0
Displays and exhibitions	34	75.5
Interlibrary loan	32	71.1
Bibliographies	32	71.1
Abstracts	14	31.1
Document translation	10	22.2
Indexes	9	20.0

Access to information resources available in special libraries according to respondents (91.19%) is also provided by photocopying documents requested by users for them. A method of providing access to information resources located by users from exchanged accession lists, union lists and catalogues by inter-library loan among co-operating Nigerian special libraries. Informal inter-library loan arrangements exist among special libraries having common interests. For example agricultural

and medical libraries have established some forms of inter-library co-operation among themselves.

Another major form of device for access to information resources is published or computer print-outs (of specified types) of each holdings. Examples of such publications or computer print-outs listed by respondents are lists of serials holdings, lists of serials currently received, recent addition lists, accession lists and specialised publications. Examples of such include the *List of publications of Nigerian authors in science and technology* and *List of translations on Africa in the social sciences*; *Union list of scientific and technical periodicals in Nigerian libraries* and *Union catalogue of scientific and technical serials in National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) libraries*. Others are subject bibliographies on subjects like cocoa, cowpea, entomological research, hides and skins, and specialized bibliographies on such varied subjects as, the military in economic and political development, farming systems in Africa, Nigerian sculpture, economic development, management for development and organization effectiveness for a dynamic economy.

Nigerian special libraries according to some respondents also provide access to their information resources by issuing indexes to contents of current issues of periodicals and other publications like the *Index to veterinary research*, *Index to all legislations and subsidiary legislations*, *Index to church history*, *Index of articles from periodicals received in the library*. Indexes of current contents, some respondents indicated, enhance accessibility as well as inform users of the latest developments in their areas of specializations. Some Nigerian special libraries provide abstracting services and research reports in the areas of science and technology. Translation of documents from other languages into English — the official language of Nigeria, is also carried out in some of the special libraries for easy access to the information contents of the documents.

Other current awareness services available in Nigerian special libraries for enhanced access to their information resources are library displays and exhibitions through which information is provided from time to time on information resources available on selected subjects of interest for their maximum exploitation. Displays of new books and topical subject displays are the types of special library displays listed by respondents as services offered in their libraries.

Some respondents said that user profiles are maintained and selective dissemination of information to individual users are offered in their libraries as means of providing access to information resources and also to draw their attention to current information. Clippings from newspapers and other periodicals of feature articles, pictures and all items of relevant information to users of Nigerian special libraries are also circulated as leads to the detailed information.

Specialized publications like technical memoranda, monthly library records, newsletters or library notes, short reviews of books and articles in in-house library journals, library bulletins as devices for access to the information resources of their libraries. The stimulation of user awareness of the available resources in Nigerian special libraries is thus a major strategy to ensure that users have maximum access to their information resources.

SOME PREVAILING INHIBITORS

A major problem of access to the information resources of Nigerian special libraries mentioned by respondents is lack of fund to enable the special libraries maintain up-to-date locating tools for access to their available information resources, to contribute union lists and catalogues and to participate effectively in the exchange of other locating tools such as accession lists and lists of other specified information resources of the libraries. The inability to purchase and maintain facilities for interlibrary loan e.g. interlibrary loan forms, vans for courier services, photocopying machines has also been attributed to lack of adequate funding.

Respondents also expressed that most available locating tools in Nigerian special libraries are manual. These are unsatisfactory for the present level of special library services worldwide. Manual systems are slower in operation. With the present information explosion, Nigerian special libraries should be able to employ skilled personnel to operate mechanized systems.

The informality of the existing arrangement for the exchange of information resources among the special libraries depending solely on the goodwill of the respective head librarians is also mentioned as a problem of access to the information resources of Nigerian special libraries. This is worsened by the fact that each special library specializes in a very narrow subject area which makes more meaningful cooperative arrangement among larger number of them less desirable.

Some respondents also noted that the transportation systems — by air, rail and road — throughout the country are inadequate and unreliable. The services of the Nigerian Postal System (NIPOST), are slow and as such mails take more than a month to travel from one part of the country to another and often get lost in transit. The congested and unreliable telephone and telex systems are also listed as the special librarians' headache. The panacea for improved communication systems in Nigeria is beyond special libraries as the poor communication systems also affect other aspects of the national economy. Therefore, even if formal networking for operation and resource sharing among special libraries is worked out, effective document delivery system cannot be assured among the special libraries in the very foreseeable future if it has to rely on the available communication infrastructure in Nigeria.

Some respondents have also indicated that some library staff often fail to return borrowed materials at the date due while quite a number of users mutilate or even fail to return documents that have been obtained on inter-library loan.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVED ACCESS

There is the need to establish a National Centre for Access to the Information Resources of Nigerian Special Libraries (NCAIRNSL) to coordinate and monitor access to information resources of the special libraries. The centre, which should be the nucleus of the proposed nation-wide network of Nigerian special libraries should be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date union catalogue of the information resources of Nigerian special libraries and for producing other locating tools. Organizing special library and document delivery services within and outside the country would be its secondary function.

Since the problems of communication systems in Nigeria are beyond the special libraries, it is necessary to innovate a method of document delivery system that would ensure quicker and more efficient delivery of documents. This is because efficient and reliable communication systems are very essential for a successful nation-wide network of special libraries in a nation with a land area of about 923,770 square kilometres. There is the need therefore, for an in-built nation-wide courier service especially designed for document delivery in the proposed nationwide network of the special libraries.

The centre should be provided with enough fund and subsidized by the government to enable it carry out its functions effectively. For example, it might require to purchase many pick-up and delivery vans and to employ many properly trained and highly motivated persons to ensure timely delivery of documents.

NCAIRNSL should be linked with every Nigerian special library and similar national centres or major special libraries abroad with available telephone and telex facilities and the provision made for online services when the present level of telecommunication systems throughout the country improves. The centre should be equipped with enough modern photocopying machines and with stand-by generators installed for uninterrupted supply of electricity and central duplication of documents from all the special libraries for users all over the country.

For optimum performance, the transactions of the centre nationally and internationally should be custom duty, postage and air freight charges-free. The centre should also handle requests for publications from Nigerian special libraries from special libraries abroad. Other functions of the centre would include organisation of seminars, conferences, symposia and workshops, to create awareness among users of Nigerian special libraries on the activities of the centre in the provision of access to the information resources of Nigerian special libraries and on the value of information for individual and national development.

CONCLUSION

Maximum access to information resources available in Nigerian special libraries if provided to policy-makers and planners and all information users, would promote better utilization of libraries in general and special libraries in particular; it will also contribute to individual and national development. The promotion of access to the information resources of Nigerian special libraries would be a good beginning for the libraries to contribute meaningfully to the UAP programme. This would ensure Nigeria's participation in the committee of nations that depend on information for survival in a world of rapid advancement and competition. Above all, access to vital information would enable Nigeria meet her basic needs of qualitative education, full employment, health, food and housing for all her citizens.

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*Ken Nweke is a lecturer in the Department of Library Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, a graduate of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He holds B.Sc., M.L.S. and Ph.D.

A LIST OF RESPONDING SPECIAL LIBRARIES

1. Ahmadu Bello University Hospital Library, Zaria.
2. Cabinet Office Library, Lagos.
3. Central Bank Library, Lagos.
4. Central Medical Library, Yaba.
5. Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization Library, Lagos.
6. Centre for Management Development Library, Lagos.
7. Cocoa Research Institute Library, Ibadan.
8. College of Medicine Library, University of Ibadan, Ibadan.
9. College of Medicine Library, University of Nigeria, Enugu.
10. Court of Appeal Library, Lagos.
11. Defence Reference Library, Lagos.
12. Department of Culture Library, Lagos.
13. Economic Community of West African States, Secretariat Library, Lagos.
14. Federal Institute of Industrial Research Library, Oshodi.
15. Federal Ministry of Science and Technology Library, Lagos.
16. Federal Radio Corporation Library, Lagos.
17. Forestry Research Institute Library, Ibadan.
18. Geological Survey Department Library, Kaduna.
19. Institute for Agricultural Research and Training Library, Ibadan.
20. Institute for Agricultural Research Library, Samaru, Zaria.
21. Institute for Development Studies Library, Enugu.
22. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture Library, Ibadan.
23. Kainji Lake Research Institute Library, New Bussa.
24. Leather Research Institute Library, Zaria.
25. National Animal Production Research Institute Library, Shika, Zaria.
26. National Assembly Library, Lagos.
27. National Cereals Research Institute Library, Ibadan.
28. National Commission for Museum and Monuments Library, Lagos.

29. National Horticultural Research Institute Library, Ibadan.
30. National Institute for Medical Research Library, Yaba.
31. National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Library, Kuru.
32. National Insurance Corporation Library, Lagos.
33. National Universities Commission Secretariat Library, Lagos.
34. Nigerian Educational Research Council Library, Lagos.
35. Nigerian Industrial Development Bank Library, Lagos.
36. Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library, Lagos.
37. Nigerian Institute of International Affairs Library, Lagos.
38. Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research Library, Ibadan.
39. Nigerian Institute of Trypanosomiasis Research Library, Kaduna.
40. Nigerian Law School Library, Lagos.
41. Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Library, Lagos.
42. Nigerian Ports Authority Library, Lagos.
43. Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute Library, Lagos.
44. Supreme Court Library, Lagos.
45. Test Development and Research Division, WAEC, Library, Yaba.

The results of the study have been found to be different from 1977 and 1987. Journal articles dominate the popular medium of research reporting. The distribution of research instruments are also found slightly different for 1977 and 1987 but none of them were found to be negative or correlated types. The results of the study in 1977 was found to be 1.9 years and 1.1 years for 1987 data. It was concluded that the research efforts for medical sciences in Nigeria (developing countries) are quite different from the universal trend.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid technological changes of subject literature have been posing a great challenge to librarians during the last thirty decades (Smith 1977). The challenges posed by such studies have been found to be very difficult in solving some of the problems of libraries and information centres. The results of these studies have been applied to manage the library and information resources more effectively. The studies related to subject literature and their characteristics have been useful and helpful in planning and managing research and information programmes in libraries and information specialities.

The study of subject literature among other effective techniques are becoming popular in the practice application in various situations. With all the limitations of subject literature, they should be used to be more reliable and effective than other methods. The study of Corfield (1977) on rich sources of information

The study of subject literature is a complex task and depends on various factors such as the nature of the study, the nature of the library and equipment and information resources. The study of subject literature is a very important factor in the development of libraries and information centres. It is a very important factor in the development of libraries and information centres.

ETHIOPIAN MEDICAL LITERATURE AND CITATION PATTERNS FOR THE YEARS 1977 AND 1987

Davendra K. Gupta

School of Information Studies for Africa

Addis Ababa University

Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

ABSTRACT

Citation Analysis techniques were applied to the data of Ethiopian Medical Journal for the years 1977 and 1987. The publication trends of medical research of Ethiopia have been found different for 1977 and 1987. Journal articles dominate the popular medium of research reporting. The distribution of citation frequencies are also found slightly different for 1977 and 1987 but both of them were found to be negative exponential type. The half-life of literature in 1977 was found to be 5.9 years and 11.0 years for 1987 data. It was concluded that the research trends for medical sciences in Ethiopia (developing countries) are quite different from the universal trend.

INTRODUCTION

Structural and bibliometric studies of subject literature have been gaining recognition and importance especially during the last three decades (Smith 1981). The data and information provided by such studies have been found to be very useful in solving some of the practical problems of libraries and information centres. The results of these studies are increasingly being applied to manage the library and information resources and services more effectively. The studies related to subject literature and their characteristics have been found useful and helpful in planning and managing research and development programmes and activities of those subject specialities.

Citation analysis techniques among other bibliometric techniques are becoming more popular in their practical application in various situations. With all the limitations of citation studies, they are still found to be more reliable and objective than subjective studies. The writings of Garfield (1977) are rich sources of information on this subject.

Research activities in developing countries depend on various factors- socio-economic and political conditions, available facilities of laboratory and equipment and information resources etc. The floating population of researchers is another important factor for research activities, and hence, the research output in a society during a specific

period of time. Depending upon the number of researchers, their background, specialization, interest and duration of stay in an institution, the type of research and its output varies considerably from time to time. All the characteristics like the size, or volume of research, the formats of reporting, medium of reporting and the specific areas of research etc. are affected. The usage of information sources have no definite patterns in the same society in different periods. To confirm this assumption, this study investigates medical research in Ethiopia for the years 1977 and 1987.

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study was conceived with an objective to study the characteristics of citations as indication of usage of information sources for medical research in Ethiopia and to determine the half life of medical literature in Ethiopia in different periods. The study was limited to the citation analysis of data of Ethiopian Medical Journal for the years 1977 and 1987.

The definitions of various concepts related to half-life determination and obsolescence factors of literature have been given in previous publications (Gupta 1984). The main objectives of this study are:

- * to study the research patterns in 1977 and 1987 for likely variations;
- * to study citation patterns as indication of usage of information sources for medical research in Ethiopia for 1977 and 1987; and
- * to determine the half-life of useful medical literature in the year 1977 and 1987.

METHODOLOGY

Ethiopian Medical Journal (EMJ) was selected to create the data base for this study. All the issues of 1977 and 1987 volumes of EMJ were scanned through for citations to different items reported. Citations were recorded for all the items published in the various issues of EMJ. Frequencies of citations were counted for each kind of literature format cited, for each and all the years cited. The recorded and analysed data are presented in Table 1 for the EMJ-1977 data and 1987 (Silver-Jubilee year of the journal) data are graphically presented in Figures 1 and 2.

Table 1: Formats of Literature and Citation Patterns: Medical Literature of Ethiopia: 1977 and 1987

Literature of 1977					Literature of 1987			
Format of Literature	Number of items	Number of citations	Citations per item	Percentage of total	No. of items	No. of citations	Citations per item	% of total
Journal articles	17	216	12.7	56.1	15	289	19.3	60.8
Technical articles	3	64	21.33	16.6	—	—	—	—
Review articles	2	105	52.5	27.3	—	—	—	—
Correspondence	—	—	—	—	5	22	4.4	4.6
Brief Communication	—	—	—	—	4	32	8.0	6.7
Case reports	—	—	—	—	12	142	11.8	29.9
TOTAL	22	385	average 17.5	100.0	36	average 475	13.2	100.0

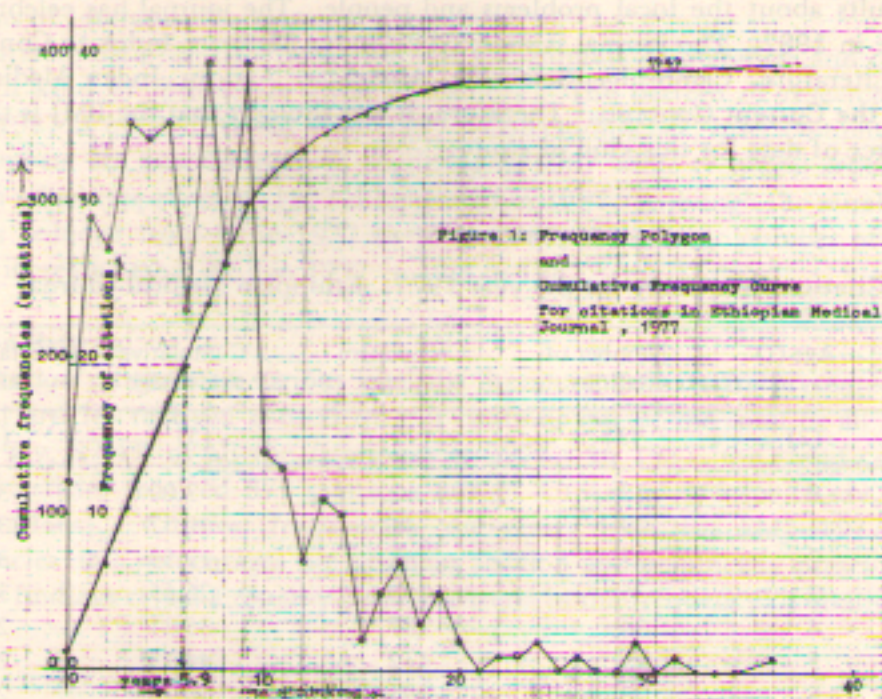


Table 2: Citation Patterns: Medical Literature of Ethiopia, 1977 and 1987

Literature of 1977			Literature of 1987	
Format of Literature cited	Number of citations	Percentage of total	Number of citations	Percentage of total
Journals	339	87.4	377	79.4
Books	38	9.8	51	10.7
Reports	3	0.8	35	7.4
Theses	1	0.2	3	0.6
Conference Proceedings	7	1.8	9	1.9
TOTAL	388	100.0	475	100.0

Ethiopian Medical Journal:

The Ethiopian Medical Journal is the most important journal and professional publication of the Ethiopian Medical Association. The journal started after a year of the establishment of Ethiopian Medical Association. The Association was established in July 1961 and the first issue of EMJ was published on July 1962, with 56 pages of text augmented by 20 pages of advertisements. The main objectives of the journal was to enable

the people working for the health of the nation to publish their observations and research results about the local problems and people. The journal has celebrated its silver jubilee in 1987. The journal is indexed by Index Medicus, Index to Contemporary Periodical Literature, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, African Index Medicus, and since 1982, the Current Contents. Therefore, it was thought that the EMJ is a suitable source of data for this kind of study.

Table 3: Citation Frequency for the year 1977: Ethiopian Medical Journal

Year of Citation	Age (t)	Number of citations	Cumulative citations	Cumulative percentage	Citation "tail" T
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1977	0	12	12	3.09	388
1976	1	29	41	10.57	376
1975	2	27	68	17.53	347
1974	3	35	103	26.55	320
1973	4	34	137	35.31	285
1972	5	35	172	44.33	251
1971	6	23	195	50.26	216
1970	7	39	234	60.31	180
1969	8	26	260	67.01	154
1968	9	39	299	77.06	126
1967	10	14	313	80.67	89
1966	11	13	326	84.02	75
1965	12	7	333	85.82	62
1964	13	11	344	88.66	51
1963	14	10	354	91.24	41
1962	15	2	356	91.75	34
1961	16	5	361	93.04	29
1960	17	7	368	94.85	22
1959	18	3	371	95.62	20
1958	19	5	376	96.91	17
1957	20	2	378	97.42	15
1956	21	0	378	97.42	11
1955	22	1	379	97.68	11
1954	23	1	380	97.94	9
1953	24	2	382	98.45	8
1951	26	1	383	98.71	6
1948	29	2	385	99.23	5
1946	31	1	386	99.48	3
1941	36	1	387	99.74	1
1929	48	1	388	100.00	1

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Patterns of Literature Formats:

Comparative data for 1977 and 1987 for the formats of literature and citations given by each kind of format are given in Table 1. The pattern of research reporting in EMJ-1987 is quite different from 1977. Correspondence, brief communications and case reports are new formats of reporting in 1987 while technical article and review articles which appeared in 1977 disappeared in 1987. Although the number of journal articles reduced from 17 in 1977 to 15 in 1987, the average number of citations per article increased from 12.7 in 1977 to 19.3 in 1987.

Citation Pattern:

The citation patterns to various kinds of literature formats are presented in Table 2. Journal articles received a total of 339 citations out of the total of all 388 citations (or to say, 87.4% of all the citations) in 1977. In 1987, the trend continued and journal articles received 377 citations out of a total of 475 (or to say, 79.4% of all the citations). Citation frequencies, on yearly basis for EMJ-1977, cumulative frequencies and percentages are given in Table 3 and graphically presented in Figure 1. The findings reveal a roughly declining trend in the frequency of citations as the age

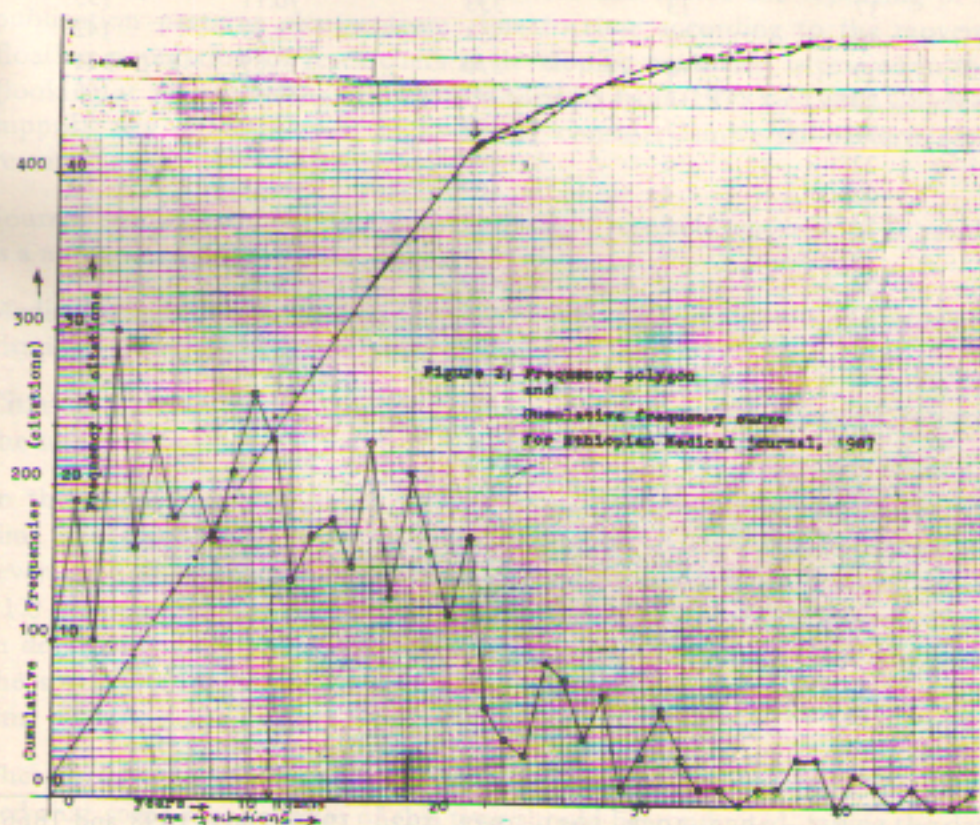


Table 4: Citation Frequency for the year 1987: Ethiopian Medical Journal

Year of citation	Age (t)	Number of citations	Cumulative citations	Cumulative percentage	Citations in "tail" T (t)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1987	0	10	10	2.11	475
1986	1	19	29	6.11	465
1985	2	10	39	8.21	446
1984	3	30	69	14.53	436
1983	4	16	85	17.89	406
1982	5	23	108	22.74	390
1981	6	18	126	26.53	367
1980	7	20	146	30.74	349
1979	8	17	163	34.32	329
1978	9	21	184	38.74	312
1977	10	26	210	44.21	291
1976	11	23	233	49.05	265
1975	12	14	247	52.00	242
1974	13	17	264	55.58	228
1973	14	18	282	59.37	211
1972	15	15	297	62.53	193
1971	16	23	320	67.37	178
1970	17	13	333	70.11	155
1969	18	21	354	74.53	142
1968	19	16	370	77.89	121
1967	20	12	382	80.42	105
1966	21	17	399	84.00	93
1965	22	6	405	85.26	86
1964	23	4	409	86.11	80
1963	24	3	412	86.74	76
1962	25	9	421	88.63	73
1961	26	8	429	90.32	64
1960	27	4	433	91.16	56
1959	28	7	440	92.63	52
1958	29	1	441	92.84	45
1957	30	3	444	93.47	44
1956	31	6	450	94.74	31
1955	32	3	453	95.37	25
1954	33	1	454	95.58	22
1953	34	1	455	95.79	21
1951	36	1	456	96.00	20
1950	37	1	457	96.21	19
1949	38	3	460	96.84	18
1948	39	3	463	97.47	15
1946	41	2	465	97.89	12
1945	42	1	466	98.11	10
1943	44	1	467	98.32	9
1940	47	1	468	98.53	8

One citation each for 1939, 1938, 1931, 1922, 1920, 1908, 1904, 1898 and 1866.

Note: In this study, citations up to 1920 have been considered.

of the literature increases. An initial build up occurs from the first entry ($t=0$). The points are concentrated at one end and the curve tapers off gradually to zero at the other end.

Data for year to year frequencies, cumulative frequencies, and percentage for EMJ-1987 are given in Table 4 and graphically presented in Figure 2. The citation pattern is quite uniform within a range of 12 and 30 citations per year with slight variations in-between during the first twenty years which is obviously quite different from the pattern of 1977. However, pre-1965 publications are cited less frequently. Of course, the general trend is the same as of negative exponential type and sharply observed in 1977 data.

Determination of Half-Life of Useful Literature:

The half-life of useful cited literature was determined from the graphs given in Figures 1 and 2. The half-life for the data of 1977 was found to be 5.9 years while it was found to be 11.0 years for the data for 1987.

CONCLUSIONS

A few useful conclusions can be drawn from the results of this study:

1. The assumption that the research patterns and hence the reporting or research publication patterns change from time to time according to the movements of floating population of researchers in developing countries, is proved in this study (looking at the variations of literature formats from 1977 to 1987) which does not support any other normal logic if one considers universal pattern of medical research.
2. Journal articles form the dominant medium of research reporting in Ethiopia which is a normal case in medical sciences.
3. Medical researchers in Ethiopia depend heavily on journal literature as indicated by citations given to journals in 1977 as well as in 1987.
4. Citation patterns, with slight difference in 1987 data, in both cases, reflect almost the same kind of trend which is the negative exponential type.
5. In the normal circumstances, half-life of medical literature should decrease with time and should have been lower in 1987 than of 1977 but here the case is the reverse. The increase in half-life of medical literature from 5.9 years in 1977 to 11.0 years in 1987 confirms the hypothesis that the usage of information sources in developing countries (here, Ethiopia) varies from time to time, depending upon the specific problems of research, available facilities and researchers at a specific time or during a period.
6. Therefore, to further confirm the assumptions stated in this study, it is recommended that some more studies of this type should be conducted, taking the data from some other research areas, for some other societies and for some other periods.

7. Considering the fact that in developing countries, researchers and their research patterns (interests, problems) change from time to time, the usage of information sources also change accordingly. Therefore, no definite usage trend can be predicted. Hence, libraries and information centres in developing countries need different criteria to manage their information resources and services.

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*Davendra Gupta is an Assistant Professor in the School of Information Studies for Africa, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He attended Banaras Hindu University of Banaras, India. B.Sc., M.Sc., A. Doc.

A SURVEY OF CHARGING SYSTEMS IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Benki S. H. Womboh

University of Agriculture,

Makurdi Library, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

The paper discusses the charging systems of some University libraries in Nigeria. Copies of the questionnaire designed for this study were mailed to 30 university libraries. Twenty four of the university libraries responded, giving a response rate of 80%. The combined stock of the 24 university libraries is about 2.5 million volumes, an incomparable figure even to a single university library in the developed world. 62.5% of the libraries sampled employed the Browne charging system; 20.83% used the modified Browne system while the Newark and modified Newark accounted for 4.17% each. Some libraries reported the use of other systems. The study reveals that university libraries in Nigeria are yet to make use of modern technologies in their library services. The paper concludes that the computerization of library services in Nigeria will remain a dream for some time. The study recommended, however, that the National Universities Commission (NUC) should provide funds that will enable at least three universities in Nigeria to computerise operations in their libraries.

INTRODUCTION

African countries, are engaged in a race to catch up with the developed countries in many spheres of life including the development of library services. For instance, librarians in Africa are eager to catch up with their counterparts in the developed world. This is why it became necessary to survey the state of charging systems in Nigeria, the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, to find out how far their library services compare with those of the developed countries.

The quality of library services, it has been accepted widely, has a strong positive correlation with the quality of the staff operating the service. However, this researcher is of the view that the means by which the library service is operated can adversely affect the quality of service, no matter the quality of staff. Furthermore, for the average user, the quality of a Library's service is determined, at the circulation desk, and by the rate at which books and other library materials are charged out to the users. This is why the charging system which a library employs can make or mark the quality of its services. Most of the developed countries realised this long ago and have continued to seek for better ways and means to improve library services. This long search has culminated in the computerization of library services, especially charg-

ing systems, in those countries. How far the developing countries have kept pace with this trend of development in library services is the subject of this research.

As the most developed libraries in Nigeria are found in the universities, the scope of this research was restricted to university libraries. University libraries in Nigeria, like their counterparts all over the world, are expected to have most of their book stocks on open access where readers could browse and borrow. Usually, university libraries loan out books to staff and students for periods ranging from fourteen to three months. As the staff and student populations in Nigerian Universities are becoming increasingly high, the efficient operation and control of the book loans have become a major concern to the librarians. Without an efficient and secure charging system, user satisfaction will not be achieved and many books may be lost.

It was in view of the need to ensure user satisfaction and document security that this survey was embarked upon, coupled with the fact that the researcher had observed in about five universities, that there were always long queues at the circulation desk especially during the peak periods. The study was based on the assumption that the charging systems in operation might have outlived their usefulness as a result of the exponential growth in staff and students populations. It was also assumed that the charging systems in use might be faulty and therefore prone to inefficiency.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Charging systems are control devices employed by libraries for the efficient circulation of library materials, especially books, to the readers. There are many types of charging systems in the library system today. The particular type of charging systems adopted by a library will depend on the kind of library as well as the level of security and user satisfaction required. According to Obi (1977), a good charging system should: Record where a book is when it is not in the library; Ensure that it is returned at the right time; Show how much a book is read; Show how much and what a student is reading.

Since the advent of librarianship, many different types of charging systems have been devised by librarians. As Harrod (1987) said, they include the following:

ALS, BLCMP, BOOKAMATIC, BROWNE BOOK CHARGING SYSTEM, CHEQUE BOOK CHARGING METHOD, DETROIT SELF-CHARGING SYSTEM, DICKMAN CHARGING SYSTEM, NEWARK CHARGING SYSTEM, PHOTOCARGING, PLESSEY, PUNCHED CARD CHARGING, TELEPEN, TOKEN CHARGING, TRANSACTION CARD CHARGING.

Out of the 16 charging systems listed above, the two that have been most popular throughout the world are the Browne charging system and the Newark charging system. But, perhaps, the former has been the most popular. The Browne system, according to Harrod (1977) is:

A system of books charging which is attributed to Nina E. Browne, an American librarian who introduced it in 1895. It is, however, very little different from the method adopted about 1873 by Mr. L. G. Virgo, librarian of Bradford Public Library. The reader has a limited number of tickets, each of which is available for one book only at a time, which he gives up when books are borrowed and which are handed back to him when the books are returned.

The Newark System, on the other hand, has been described as:

An American method of recording book issues whereby the book cards are inscribed with the borrower's number and dated, also becoming the time record. The reader possesses a membership card which he retains whether he borrows books or not, and which enables him to borrow an unlimited number of books from any library in a system.

However, each of the two popular systems has its own advantages and disadvantages. The Browne system usually has the issues filed in one numerical sequence by date due and then by the accession numbers of the books borrowed. The main disadvantage here is that it is difficult to trace a book that is on loan. The Newark system, on the other hand, which enables issues to be filed in two separate sequences (i.e. numerically by the accession numbers/date due and alphabetically by author/title of the books) consumes a lot of space and makes searching in the two sequences to be cumbersome.

As a result of the disadvantages of these two popular charging systems, alternatives have been sought and found. These alternatives have involved the modification of the two systems as well as the computerization of the whole circulation system. The aim of the modified systems as well as the computerized system has been to improve what is known as loan desk efficiency (L.D.E.), and to save readers' time. The loan desk efficiency is defined as the amount of time it takes a library staff to charge and/or discharge a book. A good charging system would therefore be one that reduces the L.D.E. to the datum level. According to Lyle (1974):

An efficient charging system, which is an essential of good circulation service, shows, first, what books are charged out to readers and where books are when not in their place on the shelves; and second, when books charged out are due for return. ...it is also desirable that the charging system should enable the library to check all the material a borrower has out, with reasonable speed and economy, and the librarian to make such studies of circulation as may be useful in improving service and assessing library use.

It was in view of the fact that the two modified versions of the Browne system and the Newark system could not effectively and efficiently solve the prevailing circulation problems that computers had to be introduced into the library system. The computerized charging system first introduced into the library by IBM in 1959 which according to Lyle (1974), makes use of "a machine-readable borrowers' I.D. card, which distinguishes among different types of borrowers; a book card identifying the book in printed machine-readable languages; and the date due slip or transaction card."

In terms of cost, it is enormous, but once installed, computerized charging systems make library services relatively very easy and user satisfaction is also achieved. The loan desk efficiency is greatly improved to the desired level. Therefore, the automation of charging systems, and indeed of the entire library services, should be viewed as a necessary means to an end. In other words, providing quick, efficient and convenient services to readers should be a priority of all libraries and should be done at all costs. Most Nigerian librarians look forward to computerizing their charging systems, although there are a few who are against it (Ozowa, 1990). The case for computerizing charging systems or library services in general should be judged from the viewpoint of maximizing L.D.E. and saving readers' time. The high cost of computerizing library services should therefore be viewed as being inevitable.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

A short questionnaire was mailed to the 30 university libraries in Nigeria. A self-addressed and stamped envelope was attached to each questionnaire to be used in mailing back the responses. Twenty four out of the 30 university libraries completed and returned the questionnaire, giving a response rate of 80%.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The university libraries were established between 1948 and 1985 and as revealed in Table 1 the number of graduate librarians range from 5 to 30 in each library, and the bookstock range from 9,000 to half a million.

Table 1: Book Stock of Nigerian University Libraries and their charging systems

S/N.	Name of Library	Year Established	Book Stock	No. of Graduate librarians	Charging System
1.	Kenneth Dike Library University of Ibadan	1948	370,000	25	Modified Browne
2.	Nnamdi Azikiwe Library University of Nigeria, Nsukka	1960	562,409 (Nsukka only)	19 (Nsukka only)	Browne
3.	Sir Kashim Ibrahim Library, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	1962	311,488	30	Browne
4.	University of Lagos Library	1962	250,000	15	Browne
5.	Bayero University Kano Library	1964	160,000	19	Browne
6.	University of Benin Library	1970	123,300	16	Modified Newark
7.	University of Jos Library	1972	111,280	15	Browne
8.	University of Calabar Library	1973	89,009	17	Browne
9.	Ramat Library University of Maiduguri	1975	117,671	24	Browne
10.	University of Port Har- court Library	1976	51,941	13	Modified Addgph/Mlgp
11.	Usman Danfodiyo Univer- sity Library, Sokoto	1977	105,704	6	Browne
12.	Federal University of Tech., Owerri Library	1980	28,562	7	Newark
13.	Fed. University of Tech., Yola, Library	1981	12,000	5	Browne
14.	Imo State University Library	1981	18,518	5	Browne
15.	University of Agriculture Makurdi Library	1981	15,237	7	Browne

16.	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Library	1981	27,396	5	Browne
17.	Bendel State University Library	1982	66,878	14	Modified Browne
18.	Fed. University of Tech. Akure Library	1982	24,000	6	Modified browne
19.	Ogun State University Library	1983	28,921	8	Modified Browne
20.	Ondo State University Library	1983	30,000	6	None
21.	University of Cross River State Library	1983	33,437	8	Browne
22.	Lagos State University Library	1984	30,000	8	Modified Browne
23.	Fed. University of Tech. Minna Library	1984	9,922	7	Browne
24.	Nigerian Defence Academy (University) Library	1985	24,756	8	Browne
TOTAL			2,538,992	293	

The total collection for the 24 university libraries stood at 2,538,992. The total number of graduate librarians was 293. It could be inferred from the data that one graduate librarian was managing a stock of about 8,666 volumes out of the total stock (i.e. 2,538,992 vols) of the libraries sampled. It could also be inferred that the libraries founded before 1980 had higher collections than those set up thereafter. The table also shows the type of charging systems used by each of the responding libraries. It is glaring and perhaps absurd that one University Library founded in 1983 and having a bookstock of 30,000 volumes with 6 graduate librarians still had no charging system. It was therefore implied from their submission that it was the only university library in Nigeria that restricted its total stock to reference only or used a locally devised system.

Table 2 gives frequency distribution by the type of charging systems used in Nigerian universities.

Table 2: Frequency distribution by type of charging systems

S/No.	Charging System	Frequency	Percent
1.	Browne	15	62.50
2.	Modified Browne	5	20.83
3.	Newark	1	4.17
4.	Modified Newark	1	4.17
5.	Modified Addressograph/Multigraph	1	4.17
6.	Locally designed system	1	4.16
TOTAL		24	100.00

The above table shows that 62.5% of the university libraries in Nigeria use the Browne system of charging library materials to the users. About 20.83% of the libraries sampled, however, used the modified browne system of charging materials to the users. The newark system as well as the modified newark systems were each used by one library. The modified addressograph/multigraph system was used only by one library (i.e. the University of Port Harcourt Library). It is surprising that none of the university libraries had computerised its charging system.

The data analysis revealed that university libraries in Nigeria are still using the manual, cumbersome and time-wasting systems of charging library materials to their users, almost 31 years after the IBM computerized library charging systems. Quick access to information which is very vital for all aspects of development is, therefore, still elusive to users of university libraries. The fact that 62.5% of the sample still use the Browne Charging System shows that Nigerian university libraries are not utilizing the benefits of modern technological development. Even the premier University of Ibadan library has only succeeded in changing over to the Modified Browne System, within the 42 years of its existence.

University enrolments have continued to increase at a phenomenal rate in Nigeria, resulting in great expectations from the library resources. The method of charging library materials to the readers in the university libraries, therefore, becomes very crucial. The problem has further been compounded by the dwindling library resources of the Nigerian universities. As a result of the scarcity of foreign exchange, Nigerian university libraries have not been able to acquire library materials because over 90% of the materials are imported. The little resources that are available, therefore, are in such great demand that the need for an efficient charging system cannot be overemphasized. Computerized charging systems are no doubt quite expensive, but as a means to a necessary end, they are worth the while.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The university libraries in Nigeria have the largest number of readers (mostly captive readers) and so the need for efficient library services has become very apparent. The study was based on the theoretical formulation that the existing charging systems might have outlived their usefulness as a result of the staff and student explosion in number.

The overall findings revealed that Nigerian university libraries have not yet utilized the benefits of modern technological development. From the responses received from the 24 universities, no university library in Nigeria has computerized its library services. With the harsh economic climate now prevailing in Nigeria and Africa in general, one can safely conclude on the basis of the findings of this research that the computerization of library services in Nigeria will remain a dream for the next generation.

On the basis of the findings and in consideration of the dwindling economy, it is being recommended that the National Universities Commission should sponsor the automation of charging systems in three major Universities (the University of Ibadan, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and the University of Nigeria Nsukka), because they have the three largest university collection in Nigeria. Thus, these universities will become training centres and models for library staff of the other universities.

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*Benki Womboh is the Assistant Chief Cataloguer at the University of Agriculture, Makurdi Library. He attended Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He holds, B.L.S., M.L.S. and Ph.D.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

INFORMATION AND THE FUTURE IN BOTSWANA

An inaugural lecture, titled 'Literacy, Information and Planning' by Professor Peter Havard-Williams, Professor of Library and Information Studies at the University of Botswana, delivered at the University Auditorium, quoted an article by an American social scientist, Alvin Toffler, who suggested that the future belonged to those nations which could operate fastest.

Professor Havard-Williams' lecture opened with two slides which illustrated old fashioned ideas of librarianship, but he went on to say that he and his staff were these days more concerned with the training of students and the production of graduates not only for libraries but also for the wider field of information work. His lecture was more concerned with asking questions than providing answers. He thought that this should be the role of an expatriate professor. Botswana should decide what they wanted. If there were any implied criticisms in the views he presented, he hoped his audience would realise that they were made out of concern and not intended to be critical of the country to which, after three years, he felt committed.

Professor Havard-Williams stated that, in a technological age, the question of literacy needed to be re-examined: "we are now in an age of computers, and while Botswana is hardly likely to become an industrialised country, it might well become an 'information society'." If that were so, then information would be dependent on increased literacy, would be extremely important, and would have to be clearly related to planning for the future.

Professor Havard-Williams thought that literacy had increased in the world as the means of recording knowledge had increased, and he supported his views with illustrations of early writing from China and the Middle East, the growth of the alphabet from the Phoenicians onwards, the development of Greek literature and its spread through the Roman Empire, the development of printing, and its mechanisation in the nineteenth century. Each of these developments had led to considerable increases in literacy, resulting, for instance, in universal primary education in Europe in the nineteenth century. It was interesting now to compare how much the Government of Botswana was spending on education in the current budget — more than fifth of the money available.

In the middle of the twentieth century, there was the development of computers. These had revolutionised the spread of information and communications. One had only to think of the development of facsimile reproduction (fax) in the last few years in Botswana to realise that the difference that communications made to all sectors of life, including government, commerce, industry and education. But computers in themselves could do nothing. Their use had to be considered. He showed that computers

could be used as a clerk — an administrative tool, or as a messenger, for instance, in having computers networked so that one could send messages from one to the other. Or, in a university, they could serve as an instructional aid, in helping the teaching. Lastly, they could be used to gain competitive advantage for a company or even the university. If the University of Botswana wanted to become a regional university, and provide services that its competitors in the region could not provide, say, by advanced distance learning. But all this needed planning, and appropriate information.

However, information by itself was not sufficient. One had to study the flow of information: how information got from one person to another, and influenced the growth of organisations. The classical position of many European governments was to keep as much information to themselves as they could, and this had been largely inherited by African governments. Or one could splash information all over the place, or could keep it in orderly control, feeding it to the right people at the right time. The further study of information flow was essential to planning in a modern state.

Professor Havard-Williams pointed out that libraries were still important, and that the Department was much concerned with the teaching of the basic techniques of library practice and the philosophy of provision that went with that. Even courses thought in the Department had changed, so that students could get practice in computer use, and indexing and abstracting and other topics were included in the curriculum. In the degree programme, the teaching was directed towards information technologies as related to information and library studies, information repackaging and marketing, research methods, information management, together with a number of optional courses on information in rural development, specialised subject needs (e.g. agriculture and health) and the planning and design of library and information infrastructures in Africa.

The Department was also developing a research programme. Mr. Neill (with Dr. Sturges) had recently published a book, *The Quiet Struggle*, on African libraries and the African information environment. Mr. Kingo Mchombu was already completing an investigation on information in rural development, funded by the International Development Research Council (Canada). The Department, through Dr. L. O. Aina and Professor Havard-Williams, had recently been given a grant for the development of Pan-African programmes in agricultural information. The Professor and Mr. Neill were engaged in a project for strategic planning in educational institutions, starting with the University of Botswana, Dr. Thapisa had published two articles on personnel management in libraries and was initiating a project on information for industry, and the information needs of politicians, while Dr. Aina and Mr. Grand (with a University research grant) were looking at the information needs of local politicians. Dr. Boadi was developing a project on the examination of services for the Botswana National Library Service, while Mr. Metzger was working on a project of the development of school libraries. In addition, the Department had the services of Mr. Stan Made, Librarian of the University of Zimbabwe for a year, and Dr. Wendy Simmons, ALA Library Fellow from Washington, who was also with the Department for one year, under the auspices of a USIS programme.

The importance of information was underlined by forecasts of economic growth in the global economy, which was seen increasingly as developing around the Pacific area, with China, Japan, Korea, Australia and the United States. Information is seen to be a growing factor in the expansion of a world economy.

He referred to a recent article by Alvin Toffler in the World Monitor, in the November 1990 number in which he reckoned that the future prosperity of countries would depend on those which could deliver the fastest. He said that the government must encourage the development of non-governmental organisations like the Red Cross, for instance, in order to extend the realm of expertise in the country. Botswana, he said already made good use of local expertise through kgotla and then asked whether it needed to do more. He went on to say that if Botswana could become an information society, and the basis was already there, the question would then be what should be done? That question, Botswana would have to answer. He then concluded that "certainly information in an information society is rather like stepping stones when one wants to cross a river: the stones are unseen but nevertheless, essential."

Reports Co-ordinated by DR. L. O. AINA

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN BOOKS COLLECTIVE

AFRICAN BOOKS COLLECTIVE is a major new initiative to promote African books in Europe and North America; it addresses the needs of African publishers to disseminate their output, and the needs of libraries facing chronic problems in the acquisition of African publications. African Books Collective has its roots in a meeting of a representative group of eleven African publishers which met in London in October 1985 under the auspices of The Africa Centre and *The African Book Publishing Record*, with financial support from a number of donor organizations. Thereafter a wide consultation exercise was conducted with other African publishers. Following the widespread and positive response, African Books Collective has been established as a non-profit making organization.

AFRICAN BOOKS COLLECTIVE started operations early in 1990. Nineteen founding member publishers are pooling their resources and know-how and will produce joint lists and catalogues. A small permanent office in Oxford, England, has been set up to provide centralized order fulfilment, billing, and shipping. The great majority of member publishers are scholarly or non-profit making; and the emphasis of the books available through African Books Collective will reflect the major aim of disseminating African-published scholarly material in the developed countries, with resulting educational benefits.

AFRICAN BOOKS COLLECTIVE has donor-funding support, to enable it to operate as non-profit making on its own behalf - a significant feature of the project. It will however seek to be profit-making for its constituent members and to substantially increase their export sales. Because of this, member publishers will enjoy more favourable terms than those available under conventional distribution agency agreements. The initial funding has come in part from one-time participation fees paid by founding members, applied against capital and setting-up costs. It will take some time for the volume of turnover to reach a level that will generate sufficient income to meet both the preferential terms and the running costs of the Collective. To cover this gap, financial support has been received from a number of donor organizations, such temporary funding making it possible for this self-help initiative to proceed.

AFRICAN BOOKS COLLECTIVE is governed by a Council of Management, comprising elected representative publishers from East, West and Central/Southern Africa; and Hans Zell Associates are the acting consultants.

Council of Management:

Walter Bgoya (Tanzania), Henry Chakava (Kenya)

Professor Ayo Bamgbose (Nigeria), Victor Nwankwo (Nigeria)

Range of titles stocked:

For the time being, only English-language material is stocked, with an emphasis on scholarly and academic books, creative writing by African authors and critical works on African literature, children's books, and certain general interest titles, published since 1987. In some cases earlier back-list titles will be stocked; and orders for titles from participating publishers not distributed by the Collective will be forwarded to publishers for fulfilment.

Invoicing and shipping:

African Books Collective provides centralized billing and shipping from Oxford; books are invoiced in £ Sterling or in US Dollars thus making it convenient for customers to remit.

Catalogues and promotional material:

A wide range of catalogues and promotional material will be made available and if you would like to be on ABC's mailing list please complete and return the form overleaf.

Showroom:

ABC has on its premises a small showroom with a constantly changing display of titles distributed by the Collective, in addition to sample copies of back-list titles not carried as part of the stock inventory, but orders for which will be forwarded to member publishers for processing. Librarians, Africanists, and other interested book buyers are invited to visit this permanent exhibition and to browse through the stock of titles available. (Showroom visits by appointment only.)

Standing Orders/Blanket Order plan for libraries:

In addition to titles being available by individual purchase, libraries are also invited to place orders for new material on a standing-order or 'blanket order' basis, for automatic shipment of new titles on any particular subject or geographical area and immediately stocks of new titles are received by the Collective's warehouse. Such standing-orders can be geared to meet libraries' specific requirements or acquisitions 'profiles', and more details are available on request.

Location:

African Books Collective's office and showroom is conveniently located in central Oxford (opposite the British Rail station) at The Jam Factory, 27 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HU. Warehousing premises are maintained separately, in Burford, Oxfordshire.

Participating publishers:

The following are the founding member publishers of African Books Collective:

Council for the Development of Economic
and Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA),
Senegal
Dar es Salaam University Press, Tanzania
Fourth Dimension Publishing Co. Ltd,
Nigeria
Ghana Publishing Corporation, Ghana
Ghana Universities Press, Ghana
Heinemann Kenya Ltd, Kenya
Ibadan University Press, Nigeria
Multimedia Zambia, Zambia

New Horn Press Ltd, Nigeria
Nigerian Institute of International Affairs,
Nigeria
Obafemi Awolowo University Press, Nigeria
Skotaville Publishers, South Africa
Tanzania Publishing House, Tanzania
University of Lagos Press, Nigeria
University of Nigeria Press, Nigeria
University of Port Harcourt Press, Nigeria
Update Communications Ltd., Nigeria
Woeli Publishing Services, Ghana

Additional publishers with small lists have indicated their intention to use the services of ABC on an "occasional user" basis, i.e. they will use the services without paying the membership fee, and receive preferential terms less favourable than those accorded to full members.

Culled from the ABC Brochure.

**PERSONALITY INTERVIEW WITH DR. S. M. LAWANI
DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL
AGRICULTURE (IITA), IBADAN, NIGERIA**



Our personality in this issue, Dr. Stephen M. LAWANI was born on April 26, 1944. He obtained B.Sc. (Honours) Chemistry from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria in 1966, Postgraduate diploma in Librarianship from the same University in 1967, with distinction, Master of Science (Library Service) from Columbia University, New York, U. S. A. in 1968 and Ph.D. (Information Science) from Florida State University, Tallahassee in 1980. Dr. Lawani, the Director of Information Services, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria worked at the Standard Oil, New Jersey, Technical Library New York City in 1968, George Washington University, Biological Sciences Communication Pro-

ject as a Rockefeller Foundation intern between 1968 and 1969, West Virginia University Library, Morgantown, also as a Rockefeller Foundation intern in 1969. In June 1969 he was appointed Head, Library and Documentation Services of IITA, a post he held till 1984. Between 1984 and 1985 he held the post of Assistant Director,

responsible for information, documentation and library services at IITA. In February 1985, he was appointed the Director of Information Services, with overall responsibility for all the information related activities of the Institute, including editorial services, printing, graphics and audio-visuals, conference and visitors services, interpretation and translation, public affairs and media relations.

Dr. Lawani is involved in many professional activities. He has served as Editor-in-Chief, member of editorial boards, or referee for many journals including *Journal of Library History*, *Philosophy and Comparative Librarianship* (University of Texas, Austin), *Nigerian Libraries*, *Quarterly Bulletin of the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists*, *Scientometrics* (Elsevier, Amsterdam), *Special Libraries* (New York) etc. He was a member of FAO Panel of Experts on AGRIS during 1973-1977. He is currently a member of the Library Committee of the Governing Council of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Lagos, Nigeria and also a member, Managing Committee of the Concord Press Award for Academic Publishing.

Dr. Lawani, is a distinguished scholar, having received numerous awards. He was Shell-BP Scholar, 1962-1966, University of Ibadan Research Scholar, 1966; Rockefeller Foundation Scholar, 1966-1969, Rockefeller Foundation Fellow, 1978-1979 and 1980. He is a full member of the Beta Phi Mu, the International Library Science Honour Society since 1981; won the American Society for Information Science, Doctoral Forum Award, 1981; Elected Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences, November, 1990 and the first recipient of the Merit Award for Distinguished Service of the Nigerian Library Association. Dr. Lawani, a prolific author, has 58 publications including monographs, books and journal articles to his credit.

With this distinguished background, Dr. Lawani, was asked to give his views on practising information profession outside the traditional setting in Africa. Here are his views.

PRACTISING INFORMATION PROFESSION OUTSIDE THE TRADITIONAL SETTING

Background

One could interpret this subject in various ways but I take it to refer to the issue of information professionals (those whose educational backgrounds are in library and information science) working outside libraries and library schools (the traditional setting). This interpretation is informed by my own circumstances. The interpretation also reflects recent interest in alternative careers for graduates of schools of library and information studies.

Many publications have appeared on the opportunities and possibilities for professional practice outside the traditional setting during the last decade. As far back as 1979, Robert Taylor reminiscing on the future of professional education and on the information environment stated:

To educate librarians to think only in terms of a place called the library as we currently know that institution is to do them a disservice and probably doom them to ineffectuality (Library Journal, Sept. 15, 1979, p. 1871).

Books have been written on information brokerage and fee-based information services, all concerned, by and large, with practising information profession outside traditional structures. Most of the writers on the subject are not Africans, and their target audiences are primarily North Americans and Europeans. However, some of the ideas they highlight are applicable in Africa. Moreover, the matter has received some attention in Africa.

At the third National Conference on Library Education held in Owerri, Nigeria in December 1986, two papers were presented on the subject and at the Annual Conference of the Nigerian Library Association in Ilorin, in March 1991, Dr. Michael Afolabi of the Department of Library Science, Ahmadu Bello University summarized non-traditional career opportunities for library and information science professionals in Nigeria. These papers all point to a wide range of possibilities in the non-traditional setting. But the realization of these possibilities depends very much on the ingenuity and enterprise of the individual information professional.

NEW REALITIES

We live in an information age, and are witnessing unprecedented changes in all facets of life — politics, the economy, family life, health, environment, technology, climate and the weather etc. These changes call for a greater dependence on information, and open up greater possibilities for the information professional. Furthermore, the world has become a global village; what happens in one part of the globe may have tremendous impact in distant parts. This means that we all need to be more informed, not only about events in our country or even our continent but throughout the world. Thus, for the right professional, the avenues for fruitful and satisfying practice outside library buildings and outside classrooms are increasing.

But what is the information profession and who is the information professional? In this context, we need not be pedantic. For the readership of the *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, the information profession involves the collection, organization, processing, analysis, and dissemination of all types of information. And the information may be in any format. A distinction is made between the source of a piece of information and the information itself. But, of course, sometimes the "information" a client wants is what in other circumstances would be described as only a source of information. Traditionally, librarians have concerned themselves with sources of information. Professional practice in the non-traditional setting is, in general, much enhanced by an emphasis on the piece of information rather than on the package which contains the information.

Range of Services

For example, if asked how a farmer should process and store his maize to ensure that it keeps well for a long time, one may supply publications for the questioner to read, or one may extract the answer from the publications and present it to the questioner. The information professional who is able to do the latter is the one likely to succeed outside the traditional setting.

In the process of collection, processing and analysis, the information professional may discover lacunae, gaps which he/she brings to the attention of others as areas that, for example, require new research to generate the missing information. The ability to discover gaps and to understand the information one is handling is an essential element in professionalism carried beyond traditional borders.

Moreover, the function of dissemination must also be understood to include information packaging and re-packaging for different audiences. It is the ability of the information professional to collect, analyse, and make different "formulations" of a given piece of information that is called into action in public relations and public affairs, public enlightenment programmes, extension services, speech-writing, editing, marketing and advertizing. Thus, an information professional can practise in these areas, provided he/she eschews superficiality, and is willing to delve deeply into the subject matter at hand.

It should be obvious that packaging or re-packaging information requires knowledge of target audiences in the same manner that a librarian is taught to know the users he/she serves, and to select publications, choose indexing terms etc. to reflect the needs of the library's clientele. Information professionals are also, or should be, concerned with the tools, the technologies for storing, processing, retrieving and disseminating information. These include computers (hardware and software), Compact Disc ROMs, and telecommunications devices (telexes, facsimile systems etc). Knowledge of the use of these technologies is bound to enlarge one's options of careers outside the traditional setting.

The Information Profession in the Year 2000

In summary, a number of African librarians are already practising outside the traditional setting as information brokers, editors, public affairs specialists, freelance indexers, booksellers, publishers, office bureau owners and managers, etc. The scope is wide and the prospects are good, and should remain so beyond the year 2000.

In my opinion, the education and skills provided by most good schools of library and information science are a good preparation for careers in many areas. But, of course, these schools will need to establish new courses to help widen the horizons and hone the skills of those who wish to venture into non-traditional territories. However, the key to success is the ingenuity and enterprise of the individual professional. It is sad but true that many librarians are rather laid-back and unimaginative; such must remain within the traditional setting — if they can find jobs in an increasingly difficult and competitive labour market.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS AND EVENTS

NEWS

Aboyade Retires

Professor B. O. Aboyade, former Head, Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria has retired from the University of Ibadan with effect from October 1, 1990. It will be recalled that it was during the tenure of Professor Aboyade as the Head of Department that the name Department of Library Studies was broadened to its present name. Professor Aboyade, the pioneer of rural development information system in Africa has a distinguished academic career. She is presently into publishing and also the current chairman of Oyo State Library Board Nigeria.

First Set of Information Scientists Produced in Africa.

The first set of graduates of information science trained in Africa has been produced by the Faculty of Information Sciences, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya. More details will be given in the next issue.

Lawani Elected Fellow of the African Academy of Science

The Director of Information Services of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria has been elected Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS). The AAS is the highest and most prestigious body of African scholars in the field of Science.

(Culled from I.I.T.A. Weekly Bulletin No. 1079).

Havard-Williams Presents Inaugural Lecture

The Head, Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Botswana, Professor Peter Havard-Williams gave an inaugural lecture titled "Literacy, Information and Planning in Botswana: Rain in the Desert or Lost in the Bermuda Triangle" on the 6th of March 1991 at the Auditorium of the University of Botswana.

Twelve Major Libraries to Receive Book Donation

A new book donation scheme aimed at ensuring that books from 20 African publishers get on the shelves of 12 major academic libraries in Africa is to begin under the auspices of the African Books Collective (ABC). The scheme is to be financed from the £67,000 pounds sterling to be administered jointly by ABC and Ranfurly Library Service.

The 12 libraries to benefit are as follows: Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; the University of Ghana, Legon; the University of Nairobi, Kenya; the University of Malawi, Zambia; the University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone; Makerere University, Kampala; the University of Zambia; the University of Zimbabwe; Arquivo Historico De Mozambique and Academy of Library and Information Service, Namibia.

The ABC, a grouping of African publishers was set up in May 1990.

(Culled from Sunday Punch, August 18, 1991 p. 2).

Marta Dosa Retires

Marta Dosa of the School of Information Studies, Syracuse University has retired from teaching after 34 years with Syracuse University. Marta Dosa was an external examiner for three years at the Department of Library Studies, University of Ibadan between 1980 and 1983.

FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

January 29-30, 1992, Kano, Nigeria - African Library Science Journals Workshop (IFLA Round Table of Editors of Library Journals). For further information contact Michael Wise, IFLA Round Table of Editors of Library Journals, Department of Library Science, Bayero University, P.M.B. 3011, Kano, Nigeria.

February 10-12, 1992, Nsukka, Nigeria - Nigerian Association of Library And Information Science Educators, Sixth National Conference Meeting. Theme: Library and Information Education for National Information Management in the 21st Century. Contact the Head of Department of Library Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

March 9-13, 1992, Uyo, Nigeria - Nigerian Library Association 30th National Conference. Theme: Advancement of Librarianship in Developing Countries of the World". For further information contact Mr. E. N. O. Adimorah, Imo State Library Board, P.M.B. 1118, Owerri, Nigeria.

August 30-5 September, 1992, New Delhi, India - 58th IFLA General Conference. Theme: "Library and Information Policy Perspectives". For further information contact IFLA Secretariat, The Hague, Netherlands.

September 6 - 11, 1992, Montreal, Canada - XIIth International Conference on Archives. Theme: "The Profession of Archivist in the Information Age". For further information contact Claude Minotto, Executive Director of the XIIth International Congress on Archives, 1945 Mullins Road, Montreal, Quebec H3K 1NG, Canada.

October 22 - 30, Madrid, Spain - FID 46th Conference and Congress. Theme: "New Worlds in Information and Documentation". For further information contact FID '92 Organizing Committee ICYT Joaquin Costa, 22, 28002 Madrid, Spain.

REPORTS OF CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Technical Consultation on Agricultural Information, Gaborone, Botswana, 8-10 April, 1991. - The Technical Consultation was convened to deliberate on an appropriate training programme for agricultural information in Africa. There were twenty participants from Botswana, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia and the United Kingdom. The participants were mainly library school teachers, practising librarians and agricultural scientists. The consultation made a number of resolutions including:

1. that a modular certificate in Agricultural Information which might consist of 10 modules of three weeks or 15 modules of two weeks devoted specifically to information skills in agriculture, for librarians and documentalists, researchers, exten-

sion workers and others to be held at appropriate times of the year, and probably in collaboration with the University of Zambia and Moi University, Kenya with a practical period between the two sets of modules. The subjects (related to agriculture) would be selected from the following, taken into account the resources available: computer literacy, awareness, analysis and evaluation of sources, communication skills and channels, information organisation, technical writing and editing, indexing and abstracting, interviewing, presentation of results, statistics for agriculture, repackaging of information, marketing of information, resource management (including management information systems, information project management).

2. that the Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Botswana and the Faculty of Agriculture should consider the inclusion of a minor i.e. (subsidiary) subject in agriculture in the degree programme of Bachelor of Library and Information Studies.
3. that in the transformation of the Department's postgraduate diploma to a master's degree (MLS), adjustments be made to allow the introduction of a specialisation in agricultural information.

The Consultation was sponsored by the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Co-operation (CTA), Netherlands under the aegis of its General Programme for Agricultural Information. (PROGEFIA).

(Information Supplied by Professor Peter Havard-Williams of the University of Botswana).

The 9th Standing Conference of the Eastern Central and Southern Africa Librarians (SCESCAL IX), Kampala, Uganda, 25-29 June, 1990 - The theme of the conference was "Bibliographic Control in the 1990's and beyond." There were one hundred and fifty participants from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania and Uganda. Seven papers were presented. A number of problems of bibliographic control highlighted in most of the papers were (a) poor enforcement of legal deposit laws where they exist and (b) the unsystematic gathering of materials published and produced in individual countries resulting in poor national bibliographic control. The Conference resolved among other things that National Library Associations should study and evaluate legal deposit laws and advise respective governments to introduce necessary amendments, local authorship and the publishing industry should be promoted through giving awards for the best published works, adequate allocation of foreign exchange and the removal of taxes on published products; the main information systems should gradually incorporate and improve information technology in their systems of operation; and the library and information training institutions should introduce continuing education programmes for the purpose of enhancing the efficiency of the library and information personnel. These activities should cover, among others, information technology, user education and relevant management principles and policies.

(Excerpts culled from *Information Trends*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (1991) originally written by Kay Raseroka, University Librarian, University of Botswana).

COMPLETED RESEARCH

Information Technology in Nigerian Special Libraries: Patterns of Availability and Problems of Application (1991) by Ken M.C. Nweke (Nigerian) Ph.D. Thesis, University of Ibadan.

CURRENT RESEARCH

The Use of Library Resources and Educational Achievements of Secondary School Students in Maiduguri Zone of Borno State by Samaila Shaibu (Nigerian). Doctoral Programme, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Library of Congress Subject Headings: Adaptation and Use in Nigerian University Libraries by Gbadebo Oyeniran Oyelekan (Nigerian). Doctoral Programme, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

ABSTRACTS OF SELECTED PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE PUBLISHED IN AFRICA (1989 - 91)**Archives**

Ezomo, E. E. (1990) The Future of Archives in Nigeria: A Presidential Address. The Nigerian Archives, 1 (2 & 3) 6 - 13.

The paper gives a historical overview of archives in Nigeria, tracing it from the Public Archives Ordinance and the establishment of the National Archives (formerly Public Records Office) in 1957. The inadequacy of the ordinance in providing for the proper administration and management of archives in the public service of Nigeria has hampered progress in respect of creating data centres for information management and services in Nigeria. It finally concludes that the future of archives can be guaranteed in Nigeria if successive administrations are committed to records keeping for the verification of rights, claims and education of Nigerian citizens.

Lwesya, L. K. A. (1989) Oral Traditions Collection: The National Archives of Malawi Experience. The MALA Bulletin - The Journal of Malawi Library Association 5(2) 9 - 13. The paper gives an overview of the effort of the National Archives of Malawi at conducting oral traditions collection in the various districts of the country through interviews, using the tape recorders. The problems encountered during the collection process include lack of sufficient knowledge about lineage history and the hoarding of information by the interviewees.

Musembi, Musila (1991). Capability Development in the Kenya National Archives. *Information Trends* 4 (1) 37 - 44. The paper discusses the role of the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) in making Kenya National Archives and Documentation Service one of the most developed archival institutions in Eastern and Southern Africa. The assistance comes in different forms such as provision of scholarships every year for postgraduate training in archival studies, sponsorship of staff members to seminars, conferences, and study tours.

Library Automation

Ehikhamenor, F. A. (1990). Automation in Nigerian University Libraries: Progress or Mirage. *Nigerian Library and Information Science Review*, 8(1) 1-11. The paper traces the efforts of the Nigerian university libraries at automating their services back to the 1970s. Several factors have militated against achieving success. These include lack of manpower, funds and computing facilities, as well as poor maintenance of equipment and destructive interruption of electric power. Another problem is that only a few libraries have a clearly defined procedures for automating their services. However, five libraries have acquired microcomputers for various tasks, and there are indications that some of the usual problems in implementing automated systems will be overcome or circumvented in future.

Ngwira, Margaret E. (1989). Library Automation in Malawi: Past and Future MALA Bulletin - *The Journal of Malawi Library Association* 5 (2) 48 - 54. It gives an overview of the introduction of computers to libraries in Malawi during the 1980s and discusses the types of software, resources sharing and the use of mini-micro CDS/ISIS. The paper identifies problem in the area of human resource development for automation. It recommends the need for co-ordination of automation efforts in the country.

Literacy

Msiska, Augustine (1989). Mass Literacy Programmes: The Malawi Colonial Situation MALA Bulletin - *The Journal of Malawi Library Association* 5 (2) 14 - 28. The paper examines the mass literacy programmes carried out in colonial Malawi. The James Training Centre Experiment in Domesi, the Mponela Pilot Project, Dowa, the Domasi Community Development Scheme Experiment and the Dutch Reformed Church Mission Experiment were highlighted. Various problems that were encountered included shortage of personnel, lack of adequate follow-up literature, inadequate training for instructors, multiplicity of vernacular languages, poor planning and lack of co-ordination. A prominent problem also associated with the scheme was the lack of library facilities for the African population at that time.

Records Management

Unuigbo, E. O. (1990). The Future of Records Management in Nigeria: *The Nigerian Archives* 1 (2 & 3) 26 - 33. It presents the state of Nigerian records and reports the survey carried out by the National Archives of Nigeria, which shows that more than 10 kilometres of non-current records were lying under total neglect in government departments and were taking up valuable space. Thirty five percent of the offices surveyed reported that their method of disposal was by burning while another 10% said theirs was by dumping into the lagoon. It recommends the establishment of a modern records management programme in the country. For the effective operation of the programme, there should be designation of departmental records management officers in public offices and the establishment of a records centre.

Serials Librarianship

Faluwoye, Helga and Atinuke Johnson (1990). The Dilemma of Serials Claiming Periods and Arrival Times in Nigeria: The Experience of E. Latunde Odeku Medical

Library. *Nigerian Library and Information Science Review* 8 (1) 12 – 27. The study spans the period from 1981/82 to 1985 and includes 1988/89. It shows the actual arrival time of journals in the Medical Library, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan from publishers world wide. This is compared with the required time, as stipulated by publishers for claiming. The shortest mean time lag established is 37 days (Norway, 1988) and the longest 661 days (Elve, 1982) against 112 days required time for that region. Mail from within Africa as well as from Asia is still very slow.

LIST OF JOURNALS ABSTRACTED

Information Trends (Editor, Kingo Mchombu Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Botswana).

The MALA Bulletin (Editor, Augustine W. C. Msiska, P. O. Box 429, Zomba, Malawi).

The Nigerian Archives (Editor-in-chief Dr. G. O. Alegbeleye, Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria).

Nigerian Library and Information Science Review (Editor, Dr. D. F. Elaturoti, Abadina Media Resources Centre, University of Ibadan. Nigeria).

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AIMS AND SCOPE

African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science is established mainly to provide a forum for librarians, archivists, documentalists, information scientists and other information related professionals in Africa to report their research findings but with emphasis on African setting. The Journal is refereed by distinguished scholars. Emphasis is on empirical research; however manuscripts of high quality on theoretical aspects of the three information related disciplines will be considered for publication.

NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

Three copies of the manuscripts typed double space on one side should be submitted. Ample margins should be provided. The title, author's name, position and place of work should appear on the first page. Subsequent pages of not more than 15, should include an informative abstract of not more than 100 words. Manuscript will be considered only if it has not been published elsewhere.

References and notes should be indicated in the text by names of authors and date of publication in brackets. The list of references should be listed at the end of the text.

References to journal articles should be in the following order: Author(s) date, title, journal's name, volume number, issue number and inclusive pagination e.g.

Mazikana, P.C. (1987) "Archives and Oral History: Overwhelming Lack of Resources" *Information Development*, 3 (1) 13 - 16.

References to books should be in the following order: Author(s), date, title, place of publication, publisher, pagination eg.

Aboyade, B. O. (1989) *The Provision of Information for Rural Development* Ibadan: Fountain Publications, 104p.

References to contributors in collected works should be in the following order: author(s), date, title of contribution, name of the editor, title of the collected works, place of publication, publisher and inclusive pagination e.g.

Neill, J. R. and Kotei, S. I. A. (1981) "Towards a National Information System for Botswana" in Inganji, Francis (ed.) *Use of Information and Documentation for Planning and Decision Making*. Gaborone : NIR, pp. 36 - 53.

No charge is made for publication. Twenty five copies of reprints of each major article will be supplied to the principal author.

Manuscripts and other editorial materials should be directed to the Editor in Chief, Dr. L. O. Aina, Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Botswana or to any member of the editorial board nearest to you.