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An Overview

Abstract

The primary objective of research in West Africa, especially at the domestic level, is to identify the characteristics, subject matter, and on the debate as to whether the debate is made for the improvement of the emphasis are Nigeria and West African countries.

Introduction

Research has been defined as a way of carrying out an activity towards all three. Research is relevant to social needs and information science is a process which Busha and

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An Overview of the Library and Information Research Scene in West Africa

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Abstract

The primary objective of this paper is to provide a review of library and information research in West Africa, with a view to suggesting means of stimulating research especially at the domestic level. Areas covered include types of research, authors characteristics, subject covered and problems with local journals. The paper also focuses on the debate as to whether to publish abroad or locally. A number of suggestions are made for the improvement of the research scene in West Africa. Although the areas of emphasis are Nigeria and Ghana, it is assumed that this can easily be applied to other West African countries.

Introduction

Research has been defined as the systematic investigation of a problem and the optimal way of carrying out an activity. It may be oriented towards the past, present, future or towards all three. Research therefore, starts and proceeds on the basis of a problem that is relevant to social needs. It is aimed at finding a satisfactory answer to a substantive question. A more efficient and effective approach to expand knowledge in librarianship and information science is the conduct of special, planned and structured investigation - a process which Busha and Harter (1980) refer to as research.

On a practical level, a researcher's activities can be divided into three phases, carried out more or less one after the other. These phases are (a) planning (b) investigation (c) analysis and writing. In reality, there is likely to be considerable overlap between these phases, and blurring of edges even in the case of sociological studies by statistical methods (Dakubu, 1985).

Librarians the world over, agree that research and publications are important for the profession. Research and publications not only enhance the prestige of the profession, it also contributes to the body of knowledge in the profession. For those university librarians who are regarded as "academic", research and publications become a *sine qua non* to their professional advancement.

Although, there is controversy in certain circles as to whether practising librarians should be regarded as "academics" or "professionals" the point is still being made that librarians have to carry out research and publish not only for their advancement, but also to enable them have a clearer view of problems of the profession and the means of solving them. Therefore whether they are in academic, special, public or school libraries, research and publications should be taken seriously.

The West African Situation

Library associations exist in almost all the West African countries. Ideally, each of these associations is expected to generate its own publications to encourage intellectual development of its field (Alemna, 1993). But this goal has not been easy to achieve in these countries. In fact, it appears to be a major problem facing all the library associations in West Africa. The mortality and survival rates of West African library journals edited and published between 1950 and 1995 is shown in the table. From the above table, it can be seen that the 1980's witnessed a high level of journal publication in library and information science in West Africa. Incidentally, that period also witnessed the highest mortality rates of the journals. As indicated in the table, except for two or three journals, all the other journals are either dormant or extinct.

As a result of this poor development of journals publishing in West Africa, studies by Aina (1991) and Alemna and Badu (1994) have shown that librarians in these countries prefer to publish their research findings in foreign journals notably *Libri*; *International Information and Library Review*; and *Information Development*. In the first study conducted by Aina (1991) which analysed the articles in these journals for the period 1985-1989, Nigeria had the highest number of contributions from Africa (65.06%) with Ghana (2.41%) and Burkina Faso (1.21%).

The second study was conducted by Alemna and Badu (1994) using the same journals but covering the period 1990-1992. In that study Nigeria once again had the highest number of contributions from Africa (41.67%); Ghana (6.94%); and Sierra Leone (1.38%). These

studies show that despite the inadequate provision of journals in West Africa, librarians in these countries were still contributing to the profession at large in the form of research and publications.

The fact that Nigeria tops the list in both studies should not surprise anyone conversant with library and information research in Africa. Nigeria has a better developed library profession than most other African countries. The country also has the highest number of libraries and librarians in West Africa. It may however, be pertinent to point out that a few prominent librarians, mainly members of the teaching faculty contributed most of the papers in the journals (Alemna, 1993b). This is hardly surprising, as the teaching faculty is required to "publish or perish".

Types of Research

The results from both studies indicate that majority of research by library and information professionals in West Africa is descriptive. This indicates that the investigations are more or less speculative, which suggests that the profession will take a long time to solve its problems. There is no doubt that descriptive research can be very useful. However, the preponderance of this type of research does not suggest an aggressive approach to the profession. There are numerous opportunities for empirical research in West Africa, and library and information professionals should get more involved in this area of research.

Subjects Covered

An overview of the library and information research scene in West Africa indicates that librarians in West Africa and indeed Africa have published on almost every aspect of the profession. Findings from Aina's study (1991) show that library and information resources, archives, special and research libraries, library education, bibliometrics, library buildings, library automation, university libraries, agricultural information, and public libraries follow in order of number of papers.

The study of Alemna and Badu (1994) provides a slightly different order in the listings with agricultural information, library development, library education, library personnel, special libraries, university libraries, publishing, library resources, library cooperation and general librarianship following in order of number of papers. It is interesting to note that new emphasis is on agricultural information. Research in this area has been long overdue, considering the fact that most West African countries are mainly dependent on agriculture.

TABLE: STATUS OF AFRICAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION JOURNALS

TITLE OF JOURNAL	YEAR OF 1ST ISSUE	STATUS OF PUBLICATION
West African Libraries	1954	Ceased 1954
WALA News	1954	Ceased 1954
Nigerian Libraries	1962	Irregular
Ghana Library Journal	1964	Ceased 1989
Ghana Book World	1978	Ceased 1991
Nigerbiblos	1976	Ceased 1987
Sierra Leone Library Journal	1974	Ceased 1981
Bendel Library Journal	1978	Ceased 1984
Nig. Journal of Lib. & Info. Studies	1983	Ceased 1984
ASUTLIB Journal of Library and Information Science	1983	Ceased 1985
African Journal of Academic Librarianship	1983	Ceased 1990
Nig. Library and Information Science Review	1983	Irregular
Library Waves	1986	Ceased 1986
Tropical Libraries	1986	Ceased 1988
Communicate	1991	Ceased 1994
African Journal of Library Archives and Info. Science	1991	Regular
Leading Libraries and Information Centres	1993	Ceased 1994

Status of Authors

In a more recent study by Aina (1993) on the periodical literature of librarianship in Nigeria, he was of the opinion that the status of contributors determines to a large extent the calibre of journals to which they contribute. This presupposes that professors, lecturers and senior management librarians are likely to report their research findings in serious journals whether local or foreign based. The different categories identified are the professorial grade, lecturer grade, senior management librarians grade, middle level management librarians grade and others (these are the beginners in the profession).

The findings of Aina's study show that among the various categories discussed above, professors prefer foreign journals to local journals, while it is the other way round with senior management librarians who prefer local journals to foreign journals. Similar results were obtained in another recent study by Alemna (1996) on research in librarianship in Ghana.

Publishing Abroad

There is always the feeling among writers in the West African sub-region that they will gain world-wide recognition and reputation when their papers are published outside the continent. By virtue of the overseas publishers' inter-continental representations and commercial and managerial expertise, it is often expected that works published outside Africa are better than locally published ones. Although this may not be always true, there is another category of writers who even feel that it is better to deal with a bad publisher overseas than the good one in Africa.

There is also the feeling especially in the academic circles, that a manuscript or research paper which has not been published by any of the publishing "giants" (usually foreign based) is cheap and inferior and of no consequence as far as promotion in our universities goes. In other words, it is being assumed that a local journal or publisher cannot publish anything of intellectual consequence (Ochai and Nwafor, 1990).

The high mortality rate of library and information science journals in West Africa has already been discussed elsewhere in this paper. This is another major reason why researchers in West Africa would wish to publish their findings outside. Many of these journals do not even acknowledge receipt of papers sent to them. In some cases, a manuscript could be delayed for a considerable length of time, thereby making the information they provide of little research value.

Foreign journals always have the advantage of getting information abstracted, indexed and reviewed by major international abstracting and indexing services. This serves as an attraction to West African researchers.

Local journals have been accused of killing talents by the lackadaisical manner in which they assess papers sent to them for consideration for publication. As a result of this, some papers get lost or are returned from the assessors to the editors very late, causing a drag in the production schedules.

Additionally, local assessors of manuscripts have been blamed for destroying budding authors by their subjective assessment. Ochai and Nwafor (1990) presented a case of an author who complained that his manuscript was rejected by a local journal on the grounds of not being scholarly. Yet a journal in USA, accepted the same paper for publication. The assessment was summarised as "extensive analytical-details and well studied."

Apeji, (1990) and Azubuike, Adeyomoye and Okojie (1993) have listed among others, the factors that are responsible for the non- use of local journals as high mortality rate, non-coverage by abstracting and indexing services, lack of periodicity and lack of impact on the international scene.

Against the above background, when researchers are in a hurry to get their manuscripts published to meet an impending promotion exercise or higher appointment, or to announce some scientific discoveries before others working in the same field lay claim to them, local journals might well not be the best outlet.

Publishing Locally

A school of thought argues that if library and information science researchers publish their works locally rather than abroad, this would help raise the level of local journals, thereby increasing their market value and sustaining them over a long period.

Another advantage of publishing locally is to avoid the situation whereby research findings that are intended for a local audience is lost to them because they are unable to purchase the journal or book in which the findings have been published. Even where such publications manage to slip into the country, the cost may be too exorbitant for many local potential readers.

It must also be pointed out that although most of the library and information research from West Africa are found in foreign journals, it is not always easy to get published in these foreign journals. The problem is that many of these papers address local issues and problems which are unlikely to interest an overseas audience. This accounts partly for the high mortality rate of manuscripts sent abroad for publication.

A study of scientific and information access and output in the developing countries made by *The International Library Review* and reported by Rooke (1983) should be of interest to West Africa. The analysis showed that of the 82 manuscripts it received during 1980-1982, 40 (48.7%) came from the less developed countries. However, out of the 42 manuscripts accepted, only 10 (23.8%) came from the developing countries. The rejection rate was still higher. Of the rejected manuscripts, 32 (80%) were from the developing countries as compared with only eight (20%) for developed countries.

Of particular interest was the comparison between papers submitted from Nigeria and the United States. Acceptance rate was 3 (16.7%) for Nigeria and 15 (83.3%) for the United States. Of the 25 manuscripts rejected, 23 (92%) came from Nigeria, while only two (8%) came from the USA.

The situation is even much more pathetic from the findings of a study conducted by Cronin and McKenzie (1992). They analysed 101 manuscripts rejected by *the Journal of Documentation* between 1981 and 1989. They found that these included 21 submissions from Africa (17 from Nigeria, 3 from Zambia, one from Uganda), and 13 from India. One paper from a developing country (Brazil) was accepted, and 136 others: 94 from the United Kingdom, 23 from the USA, 9 from Canada and the remaining from other Western countries.

With this scenario, it can be seen that while in the home country, manuscripts could be delayed for a considerable length of time, publishing abroad in the well-known journals may also mean a higher rate of rejection leading to more frustration, or manuscripts queuing up at the editors' desks for months.

The Way Out

Any researcher who intends to conduct library and information research in West Africa needs to consider very carefully the logistical problems and more importantly the methodology that he is to employ before proceeding with the research. As Peil (1982) rightly observes, a researcher in Africa encounters problems which may not be familiar

to a researcher in a developed country. Experience shows that a wholesale application of methodologies as they are recommended in textbooks can cause frustration to a researcher in West Africa.

From the assessment made of the research and publication situation in West Africa, it can be seen that publishing locally and abroad both have their advantages as well as disadvantages. However, it is expected that most of the research that is of interest to West African audience should be published in West African journals. Presently, the opposite is the case.

To suggest that library and information research in West Africa should as much as possible be published in local journals means that something concrete must be done about the journals so that they can attract papers from researchers in Africa.

African countries are gradually but inexorably being awakened to the importance of research in national development. The need for African scholars to have their papers published locally rather than abroad is growing. This is especially so in the social sciences and humanities where more research of largely environmental and developmental interests are being conducted.

In order to improve the research situation in West Africa, adequate documentation services must be provided. Although considerable research is done in some countries, yet the research findings are never known outside the countries where the research takes place, sometimes even within the country itself. Thus African scholars make little impact on the development of knowledge world-wide.

The need for a proper documentation of local research is also necessary in order to avoid duplication of research, thereby wasting scarce resources. The documentation efforts should be based upon a network of libraries (national, special and university) co-ordinated by the national libraries of the various countries, if there is one, or by a university library.

With the introduction of World-Bank (IMF) funded research in universities in West Africa, there has been an increased interest in research. Various governments are therefore taking several measures to improve education and research in West Africa. Although most of these measures have been mainly devoted to S & T research, there have also been a growing interest in social sciences and the humanities. In any case, research is now a major determinant in the annual evaluation of university lecturers.

As a means of stimulating domestic activity in the library and information research and practice field, the information needs of researchers must be studied. It is interesting to note that although librarians in West Africa have made a number of attempts to find out the information needs of other professions, very little has been done about our own needs. Library science research is needed to adapt or create new services for our own professionals. Most of the research done in this area are basically on bibliometric studies.

Funding has also been a major problem for research and publication in West Africa. Adequate funds must be provided by the various governments for research as well as journal publishing. The present ad hoc support of professional journals by the institutional authorities should be replaced with a systematic funding arrangement, annually budgeted for under the research and publication codes of the various institutions. It is unrealistic for universities to lay much emphasis upon research and publication for the promotion of their staff and the same time to give only a lackadaisical support to the main vehicle of disseminating research findings - the journal (Aguolu 1987). Research finding that is not published, at least in summary, is as good as not done at all.

Librarians in West Africa also have to consider seeking assistance from international funding agencies. There are many agencies which fund research projects in developing countries. It is important for the researcher seeking the funding to know the areas of interest of the agency, method of application and other relevant information. Some of the funding agencies include the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA), International Development Research Council (IDRC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Perhaps this is the time to discuss the book problem in relation to library and information research in Africa. Very few books are published on libraries and information in Africa. The bulk of what is published on libraries and librarianship in Africa is in the form of journal articles. Lack of textbooks for students of librarianship in Africa has always been a problem.

Unlike other developing nations such as India and Pakistan which have produced several textbooks for the profession, African countries have done very little in this area. Except for a couple of books by writers such as B.O. Aboyade, *Provision of Information for Rural Development*. Ibadan, Fountain Publication, 1987 and S. E. Ifidon, *Essentials of Management for African University Libraries*, Lagos, Libriservice, 1985, which are published in Africa, the rest of the books published on African Librarianship are

published outside Africa, mainly by non-Africans. These include G.L. Sitzman, *African Libraries*, Scarecrow, 1985; P. Sturges and Neill, R. *The Quiet Struggle: Libraries and Information for Africa*, Mansell, 1990; and M. Wise and A. Olden, eds., *Information and Libraries in the Third World: Vol. 1, Sub-Saharan Africa*, British Library Association, 1990.

A major hindrance to research and publication in library and information science in Africa is inadequate library facilities. The deterioration of our university libraries is a major problem. It now appears impossible to stay in Nigeria or Ghana without private means to subscribe to journals and still keep in touch with thinking in one's field in other places. Intellectual isolation has become the order of the day, which is a detriment to research. To the younger generation of librarians, the sad state of the libraries and lack of access to books generally is doubly dangerous. If this situation is what they have known since the beginning of their professional career, they are likely to take it for granted. Even if they complain about it they have no idea what real access to books is like, or the sheer magnitude and range of thinking in their own discipline.

Conclusion

Without doubt, research is an important activity for the growth of any profession and any country. Every effort should therefore be made by West African countries to support library and information research in order to ensure quality and quantity in research. A concerted national effort, based upon the unequivocal recognition of the importance of research in national development, is required in West Africa.

The problem of continuity of library and information journals can be avoided by having, from the start, a strong dynamic editorial board, not pivoted around an individual, so that, even if the editor-in-chief leaves office or dies, the journal will continue to exist. Membership of the editorial board should be based upon proven competence and requisite qualifications rather than political considerations. Instead of the situation where a country like Nigeria had about ten library and information journals at one time, effort should be concentrated on one or two virile journals for each country.

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Health Information Needs and Services in Cameroon

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Abstract

The study aimed at investigating the needs for information and its availability to 200 health professionals in Cameroon by using self-administered questionnaire. The results of the study show that there is a dire need for health information for the purposes of current awareness, diagnosis, effective patient management, and about new drugs. Informal channels of information such as discussion with professional colleagues and allied health specialists, seminars, workshops and conferences have been quite useful, but printed sources, especially journals and books, are indispensable. Unfortunately, the high cost of information materials and the non-availability of effective information systems are serious constraints to accessing and using health information in Cameroon. Obviously, the starting point for addressing the problem of health information services would be the articulation of a health information policy as a vital component of health care delivery at all levels of the health-care system.

Introduction

Health care delivery has become a crucial facet of national development, especially in developing countries, where the problems of high infant mortality and comparatively short life expectancy are yet to be significantly minimized. The role of information in the delivery of health care services has been repeatedly emphasized (Siegel, 1978; Abounaja and Nayak, 1993; Kumar, 1993; Tadesse and Neelameghan, 1995). Since the communication of medical information is a crucial factor in the delivery of high quality medical care, health information service should form an integral part of the national health system. Health care practitioners must have adequate, up-to-date and timely information in any available format (text, audiovisual, electronic, etc), to enhance their performance.

However, there is such a tremendous amount of new medical information being produced in a multiplicity of languages and in a vast number of information sources, that it is impossible for an individual working in a particular specialty to cope with more than a relatively small fraction of it. This is why reliable information centres and systems are necessary to provide the much needed support for health care delivery. Such information centres and systems should identify and anticipate the needs of users and supply them with substantive answers to practitioners' questions and answers that are current.

Now, are the developing countries poised to provide adequate health information to their practitioners? Certainly, there is a wide disparity in the preparedness of individual countries. While some have made remarkable progress, there are many that do not even give high priority to information and information infra-structure. There are others that may have articulated their vision for health information system but are too weak economically to develop it. Cameroon is not one of those countries that have made some progress or have articulated their health information needs. The information needs and information seeking behaviour of health care professionals in the country have not even yet been studied; nor has there been any investigation of the sources of health information available to them.

This study was, therefore, aimed at investigating the information needs and information seeking strategies of health professionals in Cameroon as well as access to information services. Data collection, which was carried out in the first quarter of 1996, was based on a self-administered questionnaire prepared in French and English versions and distributed to 200 health professionals in selected hospitals and institutions, including the teaching hospital and the medical school in Yaounde. Others are the two reference hospitals in Yaounde and Douala, provincial hospitals, divisional hospitals, schools of nursing, medical research institutes, and randomly selected health centres, clinics and pharmacies. The prospective respondents were visited to interview them and to assist them in completing the questionnaire if necessary. Of the 200 copies of the questionnaire distributed, 125 completed and useable copies (62.5%) were retrieved.

Information Needs

The 125 respondents comprised nurses (38.4%), physicians (34.4%), pharmacists (8.0%), physiotherapists (4.8%) dentists (4.0%) ENT specialists (3.2%), oncologists (2.4%), and others (4.8%). Their academic qualifications ranged from the nursing aid diploma to the doctorate degree.

The academic background is known to have an influence on information seeking habits and use of information. Indeed, this study found a significant relationship between academic qualifications and the use of information sources [$P = 0.025$]. Burkett (1972) and Ehikhamenor (1990) had observed that users' educational levels influence access to, and use of information.

Sixty-four percent of the respondents needed current awareness information, while 53.6% required information for diagnostic purposes. The types of information needed are listed in Table 1. From this study and those of Brember and Leggate (1982), Hibberd and Meadows (1980), Wood (1985) and Gamel (1992), it seems that information is needed mainly for current awareness. The sources of information for current awareness may, however, differ from one situation to another. Some health professionals depend mainly on journals and newsletters while others on attending courses, seminars, conferences and workshops.

Table 1: Ranked Order Distribution of Activities in which information is needed

Activity	Percentage of Respondents N = 125
For current awareness	64.0
To support diagnosis	53.6
For patient management	52.0
About new drugs	46.4
For research purposes	32.8
For teaching purposes	21.6

Information Seeking Strategies

Health professionals in Cameroon make use of several strategies to obtain or attempt to obtain the information they need. These are shown in Table 2, with the proportion of respondents who routinely used each strategy.

Table 2: Information Sources Routinely Used

Information Source	Percentage of Respondents N= 125
Discussion with professional colleagues	89.3
Discussion with other health specialists	88.0
Professional association meetings	79.2
Journals/books	78.4
Pharmaceutical manufacturers/ Sales representatives	77.8
Private files	67.2
Seminars/workshops/exhibitions	62.4
Individual subscription to journals	50.4
Manufacturers' and publishers' catalogues	37.6
Library catalogues/directories	33.6
Slides and audiotapes	28.2
Correspondence courses abroad	18.8

This study reveals that health professionals in Cameroon make more use of informal sources of information than formal sources. This agrees with the findings of a number of previous studies (Herner, 1954; Friedlander, 1973; Stinson and Mueller, 1980; Wood, 1985; Urquhart and Crane, 1994).

The general preference for informal sources, and in particular, the importance of personal contacts as a channel of information would demand that health policy planners promote greater interaction between health professionals through regular seminars, workshops and exhibitions, as well as professional bodies. In addition, hospital buildings should be designed to provide ease of contact between the health professionals.

Osiobe (1986) actually reported from a study of the use of information sources by the medical faculty staff in Nigerian universities that the most preferred sources of information were scientific and technical journals. Evidently the respondents in his study were more oriented towards teaching and research.

Availability of Information Services

Health professionals in Cameroon have limited access to libraries at their places of work. Not many hospitals and health institutions have functional libraries. In the few hospitals where these libraries exist, either they have been closed down as has happened at the University Teaching Hospital⁷ Yaounde, or they contain scanty and obsolete information materials. The libraries no longer subscribe to journals and other information materials. Out of the 58 (46.4%) respondents who reported the presence of libraries in their places of work, only 12.2% reported being satisfied with the services offered in their libraries.

It is not surprising then that only 37.9% of the 58 respondents made use of their institutional libraries at least once a month. Due to the lack of the required information in their libraries, or the non-existence of libraries at their places of work, the health professionals reported making use of other libraries to meet their information needs. These are personal collection (48.8%) and other libraries (14.4%) including the British Council Library. As many as 23.2% of the total respondents did not even make use of any library.

Alston (1983) had observed among other things that in India, the under-utilization of medical libraries could be because of the users' ignorance. But results from this study seem to suggest that the poor nature of the libraries could account for the low frequency of use.

It is quite revealing to find that the health professionals in Cameroon are largely unfamiliar with modern information products. For instance, most of the respondents (63.2%) reported not being familiar with CD-ROMs, current contents (60.0%), document delivery library services (53.6%), and online search systems (44.0%). More data are presented in Table 3.

Non-familiarity with library services such as current contents and document delivery library services (DDLS) could be a consequence of the lack of functional libraries in most hospitals and other health-related institutions. In the case of compact discs read only memory (CD-ROMs) and online search systems, Helga (1992) noted that these were recent developments in information storage and retrieval technologies that were still new to Africa. Therefore, although the CD-ROM has a great potential for the storage of large bibliographic databases and provision of bibliographic information services in areas where inadequate telecommunications facilities would be a major constraint to online services, its awareness is still low.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents on Familiarity with Health Information Systems

Information system	Unfamiliar (%)	Unavailable (%)	Regularly Used (%)
CD-ROMs	63.2	29.6	7.2
Current Contents	60.0	28.0	12.0
Document Delivery Services	53.6	38.4	8.0
Online Search Systems e.g Medline	44.0	40.0	16.0
Pharmaceutical News Index e.g VIDAL	42.4	25.6	32.0
Pharmacy Reference Tools	35.2	26.4	38.4
Abridged Index Medicus	33.6	42.4	24.0
Index Medicus	28.8	34.4	36.8
Others	1.6	20.9	78.4

Constraints

There is evidently health information crisis in Cameroon; and it has become a vicious cycle propelled by economic factors and political lapses. There is the problem of high cost of information materials, which has become more acute following cuts in salaries and the devaluation of the CFA franc. Individuals are, therefore, unable to subscribe to journals or acquire medical books. Besides the problems of cost of information materials and weak

currency, inadequate budgetary allocations to hospitals and other health-related institutions make it difficult to maintain up-to-date libraries or acquire modern information technologies and information sources. This is a problem of most developing countries, including Zimbabwe (Helga, 1992) .

The political will to deal with health information crisis in Cameroon has not yet emerged. There is neither a national policy on information nor are there any policy statements that indicate an official recognition of the need for health information services as an integral component of a national health policy. Therefore, funding for health information systems and services cannot be expected to be rated high in the scale of priorities of government financial commitments. Cameroon is a member of HealthNet, and the creation of the Organ of Communication in the Ministry of Public Health is a welcome development. It is, however, hoped that the Organ of Communication does not become just a propaganda machinery of the government.

Furthermore, the Medical Association in Cameroon is poorly organized and so, it is not strong enough to champion such causes as influencing the government to provide libraries in hospitals or opening the closed library at the University Teaching Hospital in Yaounde.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study shows that the health professionals in Cameroon have much the same need for information to keep abreast with developments in their profession as needed by their counterparts in other parts of the world. Unfortunately, they are handicapped by serious deficiencies in whatever health information services might be said to exist, if any, in their institutions. There are no indications that the country is even poised to develop the required information infra-structure and services; and the neglect of this area could have serious consequences for the development of the health sector.

These findings raise serious doubts about the future capability of health professionals in Cameroon of accessing information that is increasingly available only to countries and institutions that have developed a strong information technology base. The neglect of health information infra-structure and services in Cameroon could be attributed to the lack of a national policy that emphasizes the role of library and information services in the promotion of health care delivery.

The study, therefore, presents a challenge to health policy planners to develop a comprehensive national health policy incorporating the development of information infrastructure and the provision of reliable health information services in hospitals and other health care institutions.

The problem of health information crisis in Cameroon is certainly not insurmountable. What is required is the political will to deal with it as a national priority. We propose the following course of action, which if implemented conscientiously should initiate and facilitate a process of development of the health information services. They can also be implemented with good results in many other Third World countries which have the same problems as Cameroon.

- (1) Current awareness information, preferably based on Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI), should be the major component of health information services. Thus the need has to be met with abstracting and indexing services, which, for optimum utilization and maximum convenience of users should be provided on the basis of SDI. The major medical institutions should be charged with the responsibility of providing the current awareness services and be adequately funded to fulfil this mandate. The bulletins and newsletters to be produced by the Ministry of Public Health should also be made available on a regular basis to all levels of the health sector.
- (2) The usefulness of journals and books as printed sources of information remains indisputable; and so, would demand that there be adequate budgetary allocations for their acquisition.
- (3) This study reveals that health professionals in Cameroon depend very much on personal contacts as a source of information. There is the need, therefore, for a systematic organization of seminars, workshops and exhibitions on a regular basis for all health personnel at all levels of the health sector.
- (4) The teaching of information seeking skills should be incorporated in the curricula of nursing and medical schools. This should emphasize the application of computers and related technologies in information processing in medicine. The present health professionals can acquire these basic skills through "refresher courses" or in-service training and workshops.

The study, therefore, presents a challenge to health policy planners to develop a comprehensive national health policy incorporating the development of information infrastructure and the provision of reliable health information services in hospitals and other health care institutions.

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- (5) The Ministry of Public Health should develop a comprehensive health policy that incorporates information infrastructure and services as a vital component in the delivery of health care services at all levels of the health care system. The policy should map out strategies for the planning and implementation of a well organized and efficient health information systems and networks to provide accurate, adequate, and timely information to all health personnel nation-wide.

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An Analysis of the Inadequate Treatment of African Staple Crops Literature By Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme

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Abstract

This paper critically analyses the factors that hindered adequate coverage/indexing of some African staple crops literature by Dewey Decimal Classification System. The depth of indexing in Dewey of the literature of such crops as cassava, cocoyam, ginger, Irish potato, sweet potato and yam is the focus of the study. The documentary research method involving the physical examination of DDC schedules for the affected literature, was used. The paper identified three structural deficiencies of non-analysis, excessive cross references and over synthesis, common to pre-coordinate devices, as responsible for the inadequate treatment of the specified African staple crops literature in Dewey. It recommends suggestions as modifications to these shortcomings.

Introduction

Most critics of the precoordinate indexing devices are apt to focus their criticism for the inadequate treatment of African literature by these schemes on deliberate European or American bias. For instance, Amankwe (1972) remarked that the makers of the schemes had little information on African literature. Ojo-Ade (1978) countered that the poor treatment of African literature by some of the schemes as the Library of Congress (LC) originated from the LCs plan to serve American interests. Ogbonyomi (1994) however attributed inadequate treatment of African literature by pre-co-ordinate schemes to structural defects of these devices in what he succinctly described as bad collocation and allocation of number for African countries and form divisions. Soyinka (1975) could not agree any less in observing that very few numbers were provided for African countries except for Egypt and South Africa.

This paper examines the Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme and its extent/depth or treatment of some African literature relating to tuber crops (cassava, cocoyam, ginger, potatoes and yam). It identified structural deficiencies rather than European bias as responsible for the under treatment of African staple crops literature.

The documentary research method involving the physical examination of the DDC 20th edition (1989) schedules for the affected literature was used. Suggestions were made on how to take care of the identified deficiencies.

Results and Discussion

Some of the identified deficiencies of the scheme are those associated with (i) analysis or inadequate analysis of subject entries and the further inability to coordinate complex concepts at the point of indexing, (ii) excessive cross references and (iii) over synthesis of complex terms that merit simplified/detailed indexing.

Inadequate Analysis of DDC

Hoffman and Magner (1985) noted that the publications on a library's shelves have some structural characteristics and that such contains one or more work. In an analytic catalogue for instance, a record is made for every item, for every work within an item, for every facet of work, and for every document within a multi-document item. For instance, "*An Agricultural Atlas of Nigeria*" by S.A Adegbola as an item, treats among others, the following work, cassava, cocoyam and potatoes. It also treats the physiological, agronomic and production facets of this work. Where such an item is intended for analytic indexing, the DDC is structurally deficient and inadequate in its pre-determined entries especially for roots and tuber crops because of its non-analytic factor that is a feature of precoordinate systems.

The problems of the inadequate treatment of DDC of the literature of root and tuber crops and other literature inclusive stems substantially from the non-analytic element of the system and its consequent inability to provide adequate subject facets and its further failure to coordinate complex terms. Instead, terms that merit collocation under specific subjects are scattered. This results in the problem of synthesis or lumping together of terms as in the case of spices (633.83) and Alliaceous plants (635.26).

Table 1 below presents available entries for root and tuber crops and offers a vivid illustration of its failure to provide adequate entries and accommodate their subject facets

because of its non-analysis element.

Table 1: DDC Available Entries for Root and Tuber Crops on
Page 262 of the Schedule

633.1- 635.8 Edible Crops

.1 Edible roots (formerly also 633.4)

Class cassava in 633.682

.11 * Beets

.12 Turnips and related crops

.125 * Turnips

.126 Rutabagas

Variant names: Russian turnips, Swedes, Swedish turnips

.128 * Celeriac

Variant names: celery root; knob, root, turnip celery

.13 * Carrots

.14 * Parsnips

.15 * Radishes

.16 * Salsify

.2 Edible tubers (formerly also 633.49) and bulbs

Class taro in 633.68

.21 * Potatoes

.22 * Sweet potatoes

.23 * Yams (*Dioscorea*)

.24 * Jerusalem artichokes

.25 * Onions

.26 Alliaceous

Examples: Chivos, garlic, leeks, shallots for onions, see 635.25

* Add as instructed under 633-635

By this scanty provision for root and tuber crops, crops such as cocoyam and ginger are not provided for but are rather lumped or scattered under unrelated terms as follows:-

633.682	Cassava
633.83	Ginger
Zero entry	Cocoyam

Besides these inadequate entries, there are no provisions to accommodate the subject facets of the available entries. For instance, there are no subject facets for the agronomy of yam and "cassava breeding", "fertilizer application for potatoes" etc.

Table IV presents suggestions for amendment to DDC's non-analytic characters and the provision of subject facets/treatments.

Excessive Cross Reference /Classification Factor of DDC

This factor is the tendency of the system to adapt or transfer subject facets from one discipline, sub-discipline or unit to make up for the inadequacies in subject facets in another discipline, sub-discipline or unit. This resort to cross classification/referencing hinders conscious effort to provide enduring amendments to the inadequacies in subject coverage of DDC. The element of cross-classification is a prominent feature of DDC which employs "Add Instructions" to compensate for the inadequacies in subject treatment of crops

Entries in Table 1 above do not adequately cover all the crops and worse still do not provide subject approach to crops. An attempt to accommodate missing crops and subject facets for all crops is the use of Add as Instructed under 633-635 as a cross-reference from footnote on page 262 of schedule to Heading Notes on page 247 and a further cross-reference to pages 241, 243, 244, 245 and 246 with the following instructions are shown in Table 11 below:

Table II: DDC Cross Reference in Heading Notes on Page 247 using Scanty Devices to Accommodate Subject Facets of Crops

633-635 Specific Plant Crops

Add to notation for each term identified by as follows:

1-6 cultivation and harvesting

Add the number following 631.5 in 631.51-631.56, e.g.,
harvesting 5

For special cultivation methods see 8

7. Varieties and kinds

Special topics of specific varieties and kinds relocated to the topic, e.g.,
irrigation of a variety 87

8. Special cultivation methods, fertilizers, soil conditioners.

81-87 special cultivation methods

Add to 8 the numbers following 631.58 in 631.58-631.587, irrigation 87

89 Fertilizer and soil conditioners

Add to 89 the numbers following 631.8 in 631.81 - 631.87, e.g.,
compost 8975.

9. Injuries, diseases pests

Add to 9 the numbers following 632 in 632.1- 632.9, e.g.,
injuries from low temperatures 911

Page 238 of schedule presented as Table III below shows a summary of subject facet structures for root and tuber crops literature.

TABLE III DDC Summary of Subject Facets Derived from Cross Referencing To Accommodate Subject Facets for Root and Tuber Crops Page 238

631.2	Use of agricultural structures
.3	Use of agricultural tools, machinery, apparatus, equipment
.4	Soil Science
.5	Cultivation and harvesting

- .6 Clearing, drainage, reservation
- .7 Water conservation
- .8 Use of fertilizer and soil conditioners

Despite the above provisions, there still exists obvious short-comings in accommodating subject facets for these crops. As such subject approaches as agronomy, breeding, physiology, storage etc. of root and tuber crops are not necessarily provided for. Consequently, this inadequacy does not allow complete or accurate indexing of items, works or multi documents. Inappropriate indexing therefore is bound to lead to retrieval loss, as in the case of "Production Economics of Irish Potato" and Processing and Utilization of Irish Potato" both of which are now indexed under 635.21. This observation fits Ranganathan's (1985) criticism of hierarchic classification and linear shelving, typical of pre-coordinate indexing devices which combine to bury much information at great depth within the universal store of knowledge.

Suggestion for correcting this problem is given in Table IV.

Over Synthesis of DDC

The over synthetic element of pre-coordinate systems derives from their failure to provide in-depth entries for both general and specific terms or for both simple and complex terms. The implication is that, there is, unavoidably, a lumping together or clustering of terms which merit detailed indexing. For instance, in DDC, all entries for sweet spices (ginger, all spice, clove, ginnamon, nutmeg) and their subject approaches are lumped under 633.83 while hot spices (black pepper, chili, horse radish, mustard, paprika) are lumped under 633.84. In essence, spices and their subject facets are lumped in barely two line entry. Suggestion for amendments are covered in Table IV.

Suggestion for Amendment to DDC

In order to correct the three major structural differences of non-analysis, excessive references and over-synthesis associated with the DDC, it is essential that the concept of further elasticity be introduced to the original structure of DDC entries in Table I above for root and tuber crops (page 262 of schedule).

TABLE IV: Modification to DDC Existing Structure to Accommodate Adequately Root and Tuber Crop Literature:

Subject Facet	I. Potato	S. Potato	Cassava	Cocoyam	Ginger	Yam
1. Agronomy	635.211	635.221	635.681	635.271	635.831	635.231
2. Breeding	635.212	635.222	635.682	635.272	635.832	635.232
3. Ext./Rural Dev.	635.213	635.223	635.683	635.273	635.833	635.233
4. Fert./Soils	635.214	635.224	635.684	635.274	635.834	635.234
5. Physiology	635.215	635.225	635.685	635.275	635.835	635.235
6. Engineering/ Mech.	635.216	635.226	635.686	635.276	635.836	635.236
7. Plant Prod.	635.217	635.227	635.687	635.277	635.837	635.237
8. Prod. Econs	635.218	635.228	635.688	635.278	635.838	635.238
9. Bio-Chem. Process/Util.	635.219	635.229	635.689	635.279	635.839	635.239

* Adaptions from L.C. notations

The baseline modifications in Table IV above provide more items entries and subject facets such as entry for cocoyam hitherto not covered. It has also brought all other scattered entries under the same class together such as "production economic" and "processing and utilization previously treated under classes 388.17 and 641.334 respectively. The above crops classification range can also be treated to include spices or other related crops.

Table IV summarises a comprehensive modification to existing entries.

- (i) By the extension of existing sub-divisions beyond the present limit of 635.26 (Alliaceous plants) to accommodate further sub-divisions of root and tuber crops especially Irish potato, Sweet Potato, Cassava, Cocoyam, Ginger and Yam.
- (ii) By the enlargement of the number of notations from the existing two notations to three notations to accommodate subject facets of e.g 635.21-Potatoes, and 635.211 Agronomy of Potatoes.

Conclusion

Structural deficiencies in DDC classification plan such as non-analysis, excessive cross references and over synthesis of precoordinate schemes are responsible for the inadequate treatment of root and tuber crops.

Adequate and effective treatment of the literature of the affected crops are possible through the introduction of modifications that border on the expansion of the subdivisions and the enlargement of existing notations from two to three notations to introduce appropriate subject facets. Such modifications have been presented in this paper.

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Book Publishing and Library Partnership in Kenya

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Abstract

The Kenyan book scene is described in the light of book publishing sector, the booksellers and libraries. The relationships of the three institutions is symbiotic and interdependent. The unifying forces are the book and the reader. This article analyses and deliberates on the library activities that have helped to promote and sustain the book industry in Kenya.

Introduction

Publishing involves the process of developing a manuscript to a book for the purpose of being read. The book sellers are agencies who ensure that books reach their targets through their organised warehousing and commercial retailing activities. Libraries are the gateway to published and unpublished knowledge. As centres for information, libraries are bound to make of knowledge and information easily and readily available to their users.

This symbiotic relationship among the book publishing sector, book trade and libraries could be seen in the setting up of the East Africa Publishing Bureau in the late 1940s. Among the Bureau's objectives were to

- Publish materials for the African readership
- Run and publish magazines.
- Encourage and promote the African writers.
- Undertake book distribution in the region
- Undertake and run leading library services within the African readership in the region.

Subsequently, the East African Publishing Bureau commenced public library services in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania by establishing the following:

- (i) Three statistic libraries in each country
- (ii) Mobile libraries to support (i) above
- (iii) A postal library service
- (iv) Book boxes services (Shibanda, 1997)

This example demonstrates how an original publishing house degenerated into book distribution and created a regional public library services to ensure its survival. This paper discusses the role of the library in supporting and sustaining the publishing sector.

Library Support of Book Publishing in Kenya

The role of the library in book publishing can be categorised mainly into six - promotion and publicity, manuscript development, book development, professional development, research and intellectual property rights

Promotion and Publicity

Book promotion is a way of making people know that books exist. Capturing the awareness of people over types of books published is a sure way of inviting their interests and goes a long way in persuading them to acquire personal copies.

People often read to nourish their educational, cultural, information and leisure needs. The library through its regular services promotes books to the public at no additional cost to the publisher. This in turn promotes the sale of the books.

Several kinds of promotions by the libraries can be seen through various activities including:

- Display of blurbs to catch the eyes of clients visiting libraries. The actual purpose of this activity in the library is to draw attention of the people in the library to the new books to aid in book selection. Yet this should be seen at the same time as advertising books to boost the sales for the publishers. This is very common in academic and research libraries.
- Trade announcements are usually small catalogues in the form of a circular listing and describing the books that are forthcoming. Alert bulletins are used in the libraries to alert people of what is being and what has been published.

- Exhibit or display of newly acquired published books in libraries has been described as window shopping for books by library users and public libraries. As usual the libraries have always given free space without charge. This situation leads to on-the-spot purchases by individuals and institutions.
- Publicity of books acquired by libraries has always been done through library current awareness bulletins including accession lists, printed union catalogues and newsletters

Their distribution and circulation is usually wide, reaching institutions and the public at large. Such library publications help to create awareness and increase the demand for books among individuals and institutions using libraries.

Manuscript Development

Libraries have often played the role of editors too. Their contact with consumers whose reading needs are often not met tend to explain gaps within the library collection. To meet and fill the gaps, libraries have gone out of their way to solicit for authors to write books in some areas. Typical examples have been in the areas of meeting the farmers' and children's information needs. In most cases there has never been appropriate reading material for farmers due to their social, economic and cultural backgrounds. The concern of libraries to have materials relevant to the farmers written and published in Kenya, is commendable. Like farmers, the reading needs of the children are evidently unfulfilled. The efforts of librarians to turn children's folk stories into books as a permanent record is to encourage and boost children's book publishing and production.

Also worthy of note is the use of libraries by authors while working on their manuscripts. It is recognised that a writer must read widely to avoid possible duplications and to come up with quality topic. By providing a wide range of books, libraries have tended to widen the horizon of the authors. In other words, there are now encouraged and happy authors who owe their success to the libraries for providing the appropriate environment for writing and developing their quality manuscripts.

In addition, public libraries have often invited children story tellers and subsequently encouraged them to put their stories into writing for publication or taped the stories for posterity.

Book Development

Kenya can boast of a national library service under the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS) spread at least in all provinces and selected districts. There is a public library service operated mainly by the Nairobi City council. There are also university libraries including other network of academic libraries in Kenya colleges and polytechnics. Quite a number of special and industrial libraries are spread in the various government departments, research institutions and industrial settings. Despite deficiencies in funding, the library book demands are overwhelming with local publishing sector hardly coping. This is supported by the fact that 90 percent of the local book market is supplied by foreign imports. With the existence of such network of libraries, the Kenya publishing sector has been assured of a ready institutionalised market based on the assumption that libraries exist for and thrive on books.

Professional Development

Up till 1991, the Kenyan publishing industry suffered a great deal in manpower supplies and training. What the sector had always done was to recruit graduates in areas outside publishing and book trade. Such recruits learned and attained the skills required for the job by understudying experienced colleagues on the job. Others were sent to the headquarters of the multinationals in the UK for industrial attachment of at least 3-6 months before returning to take up postings with the subsidiary company in Kenya. Apparently, most of the senior managers of the many publishing firms in Kenya, have gained their skills like book design, editing, book production and marketing on the job, without real formal training backed with educational qualifications from universities or colleges.

Overtime, librarians, through the Kenya Library Association strongly lobbied and recommended the establishment of a Faculty of Information Sciences at the Moi University (Eldoret). Within the Faculty have developed various Departments like Publishing and Book Trade Department, Information and Library Department, Information Technology and Media Department and Archives and Records Management Department. It is now evident, through the initiative of the libraries, that a strong component of undergraduate publishing and book trade programme has been established. For now the Kenya publishing sector is assured of regular manpower supply from Moi University. One likely result of these is the expansion and growth in the publishing sector activities as a result of a steady supply of professional and skilled manpower. Secondly,

with the know-how within the book industry, the country is assured of quality work and competitive products for local and export markets. Thirdly, the publishing and book trade programme at Moi University will remain the only one in Africa for sometime to come. Thus the contribution of the library profession towards the development and growth of the Department of Publishing and Book trade at Moi University and its subsequent multiplier effects on the publishing sector in Kenya cannot be over looked.

Research and Publishing

Activities involving libraries that contribute to revealing published documents and aid in accessing, retrieving and acquiring or purchasing them need to be seen as research based and therefore supportive of the publishing industry. These activities are basically problem identification and solution oriented.

The Kenya National Library Services (KNLS) activities involve tracing and recording every Kenya imprint. The listing of the national imprint constitutes what KNLS publishes as the Kenya National Bibliography representing monographs or books. KNLS also produces a list of periodical holdings comprising of periodicals or serials published locally in form of Kenya Periodical Directory. These two basic national bibliographic tools are published annually. Based on the information contained in these two tools, KNLS should be able to produce and publish a directory of the Kenya publishers and perhaps printers.

Specialised subject bibliographies are also produced by the university libraries. For example, *A Bibliography of Education* produced by the Kenyatta University Library, *A Bibliography of Agriculture* by the Egerton University and a union list of periodical holdings in East and Central Africa libraries is being produced by the University of Nairobi Library.

Intellectual Property Rights

Photocopying and reproduction is part of the library services in Kenya. But being the guardian and custodian of intellectual property, their action seem to point toward that of protection of the copyrighted materials within their libraries. The libraries understand and to an extent interpret the copyright laws as they operate under the respective international copyright laws viz., Berne Convention and the Universal Copyright Convention.

The library photocopying services have little commercial value unlike the copy shops in the Kenyan towns and streets who value the money that comes from every page photocopied from a book. Some of the methods the libraries are using to control unauthorised photocopying of copyrighted books include:

- Observing law requirements on copying material for educational and library use.
- Enquiring into copyright problems whenever lending book material and use of new technology.
- Highlighting news and information on developments on copyright.
- Informing the potential offenders on the provision and dangers of copyright laws.
- Helping to publicise that excessive photocopying is destructive to the book.

By so doing, libraries have helped to create awareness on the requirements of the copyright laws on the copyrighted books. This is therefore acknowledged as a step in the right direction in supporting the development and growth of book publishing sector.

Conclusion

The core issue arising from this discussion is creating an effective way of increasing the number of people reading books and in the same vein increasing the number of books that readers will wish to read and want to buy. Libraries and publishers must both seriously address the issue of literacy and readership. The neglect of these issues could mean doom to both libraries and the publishing industry. Libraries cannot exist without a virile publishing sector just as the book publishing industry thrives on sales to libraries.

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Relationship Between Librarians And Book Vendors - The Nigerian Experience

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Nigeria.

Abstract

The study was conducted on Nigerian university libraries and sought to assess the relationship between librarians and book vendors. The issues investigated include: fulfilment, turnaround time, discount, and problems with vendors. The findings indicated that orders to both local and foreign vendors were submitted by mail (manually); fulfilment ranged from 56% to 73% for local vendors and between 86% and 96% for foreign vendors; average turn-around time was 28-56 days for mailed orders with local vendors and 140 to 168 days for foreign orders; and average discount was 3.3% for foreign orders and 8.3% for local orders.

Introduction:

Vendors play a vital role in collection development at the tertiary level of the Nigerian educational system. The use of vendors is universal in ensuring that research scholars have timely access to all available information needed by them and relevant to their teaching and research activities. Book vendors who are mediators between librarians and publishers are therefore partners in progress in the educational process.

Limited library budgets have caused librarians to assess the process of acquiring new materials, specifically, vendor selection. Collection Development librarians can no longer afford to deal with the same vendors over time without evaluating their performance. New vendors appear, old vendors merge or cease to exist. These changes influence the internal policies and practices of the vendors. Consequently, the nature and level of services offered to libraries fluctuate.

A brief appraisal of the book situation in Nigeria will lend credence to the important role of vendors. Ogunrombi (1993) reported that the production of books in Nigeria was operating below capacity as a result of infrastructural problems and the shortage of investment finance. He further disclosed that textbook availability in Nigeria was worse in the polytechnics than in the universities and was even worse in the colleges of education.

The services of book vendors are highly valuable and indeed no library can dispense with these services. One might ask, therefore, what are the experiences of university libraries in Third World countries, which are far removed from the centres of the world's publishing trade and industry? This among others is the major thrust of this article.

Objective of the study

The impetus for this study was the author's experience as the Collection Development Librarian of a university in Nigeria. In the course of carrying out his responsibilities, a book vendor slammed a court action against him and the university in 1993. The case was struck out on March 11, 1996 at an Ibadan High Court with ₦500.00 (US\$20) cost against the vendor. This study is therefore aimed at knowing the experiences of other librarians in their relationship with book vendors.

Literature Survey

The primary business of a collection development unit is acquiring published resources for libraries. Acquisition serves as a bridge between the publisher and the library in the process of information dissemination. It focuses on the form of publication and its accessibility. In describing the nature of the dissemination process, Ogburn (1993) listed the principles that govern the nature of publishing and publications as they relate to the acquisitions process. The costs of library resources vary depending on supply status (in print, and in stock and available without dissipating much effort) and ease of acquisition (firm order, approved plan, number of times claimed, etc). The efficacy of the supplier (book vendor or publisher), the terms of business negotiated with the supplier, the

supplier's overhead costs, and other factors also affect price variation.

Hoadley and Corbin (1990) proposed a model for acquisitions function. In their model, acquisitions embodied all areas that included buying, borrowing, and leasing, regardless of format. Today's economy, changing needs of our society and continuing developments in information technology are dictating and affecting librarians' relationships with vendors and the ethics between the two. Historically, there has always been a symbiotic relationship between libraries and vendors. This relationship revolve mainly around the purchase of library materials in their various formats, especially print materials.

Presley (1993) recollected that his experience with vendors, was that librarians expected vendors to supply library materials quickly and efficiently with the cost factor of discounts and pricing structures being secondary. Two major events facilitated changes in the relationship between libraries and vendors in the 1980s. One was the escalating cost of publications, and the other was the advent of automation into all areas of library operations. The emphasis on automation for document delivery changed what was expected from vendors.

In reviewing the literature, which resulted in the publication of *Vendor Evaluation: a selected annotated bibliography, 1955-1987*, the Vendor Study Group searched for a workable model to adopt. The studies listed the following criteria: fulfilment, turnaround time, discount, number of reports, shipping service charges, cancellations by vendor, and number of claims issued. Though the literature clearly indicates that the ideal way to conduct a vendor study is to order the same title from each vendor on the same day, the Vendor Study Group found this approach impracticable as did Stokley and Reid (1978). This approach is also impracticable in a developing country like Nigeria because the postal and communication systems are inefficient.

The need for the formulation of standards for vendor performance is important to ensure that the developing countries of the world in general and Nigeria in particular are not held back from development by vendors by slowing down the pace of material delivery for education and research. A perusal of literature revealed the non-existence of data on vendor studies in Nigeria.

In February 1994, a questionnaire was mailed to 33 university libraries. Only 20 (60.6%) of the entire sample returned the questionnaire. The inclusion of stamped self addressed envelopes and reminder letters did not yield any positive result

Of the twenty responding libraries, 15 or (75%) are conventional university libraries running a mix of arts and applied sciences, 4 or (20%) in university of technology libraries while 1 (5%) is an agricultural library. The profile of the responding libraries is presented in appendix.

The wide range of disciplines available in the twenty universities calls for strong library services to support them. Books are particularly important in ensuring a high level of scholarship, especially as their costs have become prohibitive and lecturers and students can no longer afford to buy many books. Vendors have a role to play in achieving this objective.

Findings and Discussions

Use of Vendors:

Generally the average number of vendors employed by conventional universities is 10.5 for local domestic vendors, while that of foreign is 15.5. For agricultural and technological universities, the average numbers of vendors are 5 and 9 for domestic and 1 and 4.5 for foreign respectively.

The overall average for local vendors and foreign vendors was 9.9 and 4.7 respectively. The foreign vendors were overwhelmingly rated as being more efficient than the local vendors. This result is not surprising because the book trade is by far more developed in Europe and the United States with advanced technology. This accounts for the near total dependence of Third world countries like Nigeria on foreign imprints for tertiary education.

Vendor Performance

Table 1 presents vendor performance by type of library. Fulfilment, and turnaround time are analyzed.

Table 1 Vendor Performance By Type of Library

Type of Library	Performance Criteria Turnaround (Days)		Fulfilment (%)	
	Local Vendors	Foreign Vendors	Local Vendors	Foreign Vendors
Academic Agricultural	56	168	68%	86%
Academic Conventional	28	140	73%	94%
Academic Technological	56	168	56%	96%

The fulfilment rate for local vendors ranged between 56% and 73% while for foreign imprints the percentage filled ranged between 86% and 96%. The figure for foreign vendors lend credence to the fact that more than 90% of books for tertiary education are imported. Turnaround time represents the number of days from the time the order was placed to the day it was received in the library. Turnaround time ranged from 28 to 56 days for local imprints while it took foreign vendors between 140 and 168 days to fulfil orders. Poor means of communication (erratic telephone service), unreliable and irregular mail services and poor transportation constitute the inhibitors to prompt fulfilment of book orders. Mail service constitutes another problem to prompt delivery. The efficiency of the Nigerian mail service system leaves much to be desired. Vendors complain that while surface mail is slow, the cost of airmail postage is prohibitive. This adversely affects delivery time.

Discount Rate

The average discount received by type of delivery, shipping, handling and other fees were not included in the calculations. Individual library's volume of business with a vendor greatly influenced the discounts received. In the responding libraries, handling/postage charges ranged between 2.5% and 5%.

The discounts received from local vendors ranged between 5% and 10%. For books on agricultural sciences and technology, discounts received were less than those for book in the arts and social sciences. The plausible explanation for this differential is that scientific literature is imported mostly with very scarce foreign exchange. On the other hand foreign vendors on the average gave discounts ranging between 2.5% and 5% depending on the volume of business. Most libraries commended foreign vendors for good communication on the status of orders and for being more reliable than local book vendors.

Book Order/Purchase Policy

Out of the 20 libraries in the survey, only 2 (10%) sent copies of their book order/purchase policies. Though the other libraries (90%) reported that they have book order policies, it left much to be desired that the policies are unwritten. To ensure that acquisitions/collection development librarians are properly guided, libraries should document their book order policies. Such policies should be available for public consumption, including for vendors. This will serve as antidotes against litigations.

Ethical Issues

The invitation of acquisitions librarians to dinner and/or lunch by book vendors raises ethical dusts. In response to whether or not the responding acquisitions librarians have been invited to lunch and /or dinner by vendors, 8 (40%) responded in the affirmative while 12 (60%) responded in the negative. Those who accepted vendors invitations affirmed that such business relationship turned 'social' are in order and that they handled the relationships maturely.

The fashioning of ethical guidelines for library vendor relations also need be addressed by the Nigerian Library Association (NLA), more so with business ethics becoming the focus of national concern following the revelations of questionable financial market practices since the 1980s reported by Smith (1990). Majority of the responding libraries encountered the following ethical problems with book vendors: supply of old editions of books, arbitrary increase in the prices of confirmed orders, lack of unfulfilled orders especially by local vendors, and undue pressure both from within and without the university (20%) on the choice of vendors.

The 6 libraries (30%) that reported that they were subjected to undue pressure in their choice of vendors affirmed that they tactfully warded off the advances. Unannounced visits by book vendors are common in Nigeria. These disrupt librarian's work schedule. This problem was tackled by either listening to the vendors, accepting their catalogues or lists, scrutinizing such lists and ordering as appropriate.

Knowledge of Vendors

In response to the question on how librarians come to know book vendors, a number of sources were mentioned. These include: personal visits by vendors, introduction through mail, meeting at book fairs, and vendors' reputation garnered through professional colleagues and friends.

Automation and the Library/Vendor Relationship

The advent of automation into all areas of library operations is fast changing the relationship between libraries and vendors. Libraries need information and measuring tools to determine exactly which materials are increasing in price, in what areas and by how much. Similarly, vendors need to provide libraries with information on holdings of area institutions, and information on how the economic situation is being projected for publishers and the economy as a whole. Also, because of the fluctuating Nigerian currency, and the escalating prices of foreign imprints, libraries need predictions and services based on global and monetary exchanges. As rightly observed by Secor (1987) vendors today cannot provide the service required by libraries unless they invest heavily in new technology and professional marketing. Finally, vendors should be able to provide libraries with automated systems for ordering, receiving, claiming, paying and accessing our stock. This will promote cooperative collection development without compromising the quality of individual collections and enhance reducing needless multi-campus duplication of expensive, lesser-used resources. Automation will foster cooperative collective collection development, which in turn will emphasize access rather than ownership in the face of budgetary constraints and increasing costs.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Nigerians Library Association and Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities (CULNU) should commission a committee to develop a comprehensive vendor evaluation instrument or guidelines for different library groups and replicate this study to validate these findings. Libraries are enjoined to develop collection development training programmes covering all aspects of book acquisitions such as selection of materials, faculty liaisons, materials budgets, acquisitions procedures, approval plan profiles, budget cuts, fund management, the weeding process, collection evaluation and/performance appraisals. This will go a long way in fostering meaningful vendor/librarian relationship.

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S.A. OGUNROMBI

Appendix Profile of Responding Libraries:

Library	Year Established	Generation	Type of University
Kashim Ibrahim ABU, Zaria	1961	1st	Conventional(Federal)
University of Benin	"	"	"
O. A.U., Ile-Ife	1962	"	"
University of Ibadan	1948	"	"
University of Lagos	1965	"	"
University of Nig., Nsukka	1961	"	"
Bayero University, Kano	1975	2nd	"
University of Calabar	1975	"	"
University of Jos	1975	"	"
University of Ilorin	1975	"	"
University of Maiduguri	1975	"	"
University of Port Harcourt	1975	"	"
Usman Danfodio Univ. Sokoto	1975	"	"
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.	1980	3rd	Science & Tech.(Fed.)
Fed. Univ. of Tech. Owerri	1980	"	"
Fed. Univ. of Tech. Yola	1983	"	"
Ladoke Akintola Univ. of Tech. Ogbomosho	1990	"	Science & Tech.(State)
Fed. Univ. of Agriculture, Abeokuta	1984	"	Agriculture (Federal)
Edo State University, Ado-Ekiti	1982	"	Conventional (State)
University of Abuja	1988	"	Conventional (Federal)

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Data, Information and Computer Security In Nigerian Libraries.

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Abstract

The present economic hardship in some African countries is a major cause of the increase in crime rate in these countries. Based on a computer theft case in a library in Nigeria, the paper alerts other libraries on the seriousness of this unfortunate signal and discuss possible security measures for data, information and computing equipments in libraries.

Introduction

Quite a good number of libraries today have automated their library operations. Many other libraries are in one preparatory stage or the other. For the university libraries, the National Universities Commission has set a pace for the computerization of their operations while many of the state universities are already considering the use of the computers, many for their routine functions of the special libraries have fully computerized their operations. The economic downturn in many countries has given rise to astronomical increase in crime rate. The library has not been spared by this wave. The literature of librarianship is replete with information on the subject of library security with respect to the theft of books and other library equipment. But there is paucity of information on library security with respect to electronic data, information and computing equipment. This paper attempts to fill this gap by narrating the experience of the author with the attempted theft of a university library's computer system. The paper discusses the security measures that libraries could adapt.

Computer Crimes.

A number of unauthorised events (or crimes), are associated with the computer, prominent among these are data manipulation, data theft, information theft, electronic

eavesdropping, time bomb and changing information stored (Ball, 1984 & 1985; Lencher, 1984). More often than not, these crimes could be as difficult to detect as they are to prevent for obvious reasons. They could be so complex that they are not detected immediately, trail of evidence leading to the guilty party is often difficult and of course, not many people in management and law enforcement know enough about computer technology to prevent the crimes (Szymanski, 1991).

Library automation is a capital intensive project and as such, adequate security arrangement should be put in place at the planning stage. At least, an attempt has been made by some hoodlums to rob a Nigerian university library of her computing equipment. This development is as disturbing as it poses a threat to library automation in this and other libraries.

The Case Of HOL.

The Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library (HOL), Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife has its over 300,000 collection housed in two contiguous storey buildings (HOL, 1990). Apart from being one of the first generation university libraries in Nigeria, HOL serves well over 24,000 users. The library planned to automate its operations, but for a start, acquired in 1992, an Amstrad Computer system with a 30MB HDD, and Epson LX-810 line printer, one Hitachi external CD-ROM drive and a voltage stabilizer model RTL R1600 (50Hz). The system is used for a variety of operations including CD-ROM searching and word processing. The equipment was stolen in March, 1994. But, fortunately the entire loot was later discovered on a lawn outside the library building a few days later. There was no damage, either to the physical components, the hard disk or to any of the internal parts.

Computers are very expensive in Nigeria today as it is in many developing countries. Despite this, most libraries are determined to buy them. One expects such libraries therefore to be security conscious.

Adequate security for computing equipment will not go for nothing, it has some financial implications. It is one thing for a library to have the funds to purchase computer hardware and software for its automation project, it is yet another thing to be sure of incessant sources of funding to keep the project running once it is implemented, and to guarantee the security of the system against unforeseen disasters. Therefore, very reliable security arrangements must be built into the automation plans within the limit of the library budget. It is not sufficient for these arrangements only to be built into the plan, they should also be implemented. The best way to confront a disaster is to prevent it. The paper attempts to discuss some appropriate security measures as follows:

Security Measures

Buildings.

Of all the precautionary measures librarians should normally take against crimes in the library, none is more basic than ensuring the security of the library building itself, inside which the equipment is housed. The entrance doors should be strong and of good quality. The lock should be carefully selected for more reasons than aesthetic or cosmetic. However, care must be exercised to keep within the limits of the law regarding emergency in building construction. For instance, emergency exit doors are not supposed to be chained -shut or padlocked, all in the name of adequate security. But, in order not to create an escape route for a thief, Morris (1986) suggested that such a door could be equipped with an audible alarm to signal unauthorized use. The keys to the other doors should be kept only by those who should have them. In addition, burglar-resistant bars should be provided across the doors and windows of such rooms where computers are installed. The use of appropriate opaque material for the windows will prevent people outside the building from viewing the contents of the computer room. But with a transparent material, a window blind or window shade should be used.

Where storm is rampant, concrete rather than iron roofing must be preferred for computer rooms and generally, in library architecture. Moisture and humidity sensors should also be installed in buildings housing computers and computing facilities.

Equipment.

The security of the computing equipment is very vital. Librarians must not allow themselves to be tempted to assuming that all is well with the computers once the building is secured. Efforts should be made at ensuring that there is insurance coverage and that it is renewed when due. The library that is considering automation should take into account the inclusion of an insurance policy right from the systems analysis stage.

The name, initials or other ownership marks of the library that owns the computer should be engraved on the component's keyboard, monitor, CPU, printer, UPS, mouse and on all other additional peripherals that may make up the system. The engraved names, initials or marks should be conspicuous and bold. The backup copies of programs and data should be made on disks or tapes as appropriate and kept in fireproof rooms preferably at a separate location from the building housing the computer system.

In order to prevent likely damage to the computing equipment following a sudden electrical surge, electricity supply to the equipment must be switched off from the mains and electric power stabilizers or better still, uninterruptible power supply (UPS) should be installed to protect the system. Where the library is able to afford it, an appropriate secret monitoring device such as the closed-circuit television should be installed to further protect the computer system. All machines that are not in use should be locked up always.

Where computers have no built-in keys, the operators must ensure that the power-on password is established. This prevents unauthorized access to the computer. However, users of passwords should not only ensure that they do not forget them, they should also keep their passwords secret. All storage disks must be scanned for viruses before they are inserted into the system. As a rule, computer operators should not accept storage disks indiscriminately from users.

Natural Disasters.

Natural disasters such as fire, storm, flood, to mention a few cannot always be prevented from occurring. However, computers facilities could be protected from irretrievable loss in the event of their occurrence. The library should be built with fire proof materials and conduit electric wiring system should be adopted in computer areas. Fire alarm and fire fighting equipment should also be installed. Fire equipment once installed should be subjected to frequent tests to ensure that they are in good working conditions.

Specially designed areas are best as computer rooms. Such areas should not be equipped with water pipelines or water taps as this may inadvertently easily become a source of flooding. The libraries must endeavour to put appropriate disaster plan in place so that should disaster occur, there would be procedures to follow by all users and employees.

Conclusion.

Library automation is still expensive today, any library considering automation therefore should be sure of regular source of funding. Financial consideration in the installation of the computer system is as important as keeping the project running, and providing adequate security measures aimed at protecting the systems from all foreseen and unforeseen discussions.

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Developing Libraries In Primary Schools: Reflections Of A Practitioner

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Abstract

This paper discusses the issues involved in developing libraries in primary schools. The submissions are based upon the author's reflections as a practitioner who established a primary school library in Nigeria and worked in the same library before starting a consultancy firm in library development. Steps involved in developing libraries most especially for private primary schools in the country were highlighted.

Background Information

The primary school library is an organised collection of books and other learning materials placed in a separate place within the school for the use of the teachers, and pupils under the directive or the help of the school librarian or teacher-librarian. In Nigeria, the Federal Government is aware of the fact that curricular activities in schools cannot be effectively carried out without providing libraries in schools. In the revised edition of the National Policy on Education (1981), the Nigerian government specified the need to establish libraries in primary schools to enhance the growth of primary education.

While library is considered as an important component in the primary school education system, it has been noted that many primary schools have been operating without libraries, most especially in developing countries. Totemeyer (1996) noted from the survey conducted in Namibia in 1990 that more than 77% of Namibian schools had no libraries or book collections. Songa (1996) while commenting on school library development in Uganda noted that for a long time the primary education in Uganda has not been accorded its pride of place and, being under the management of local governments and communities, libraries have been neglected. Ojiambo (1988) sees the school library services in sub-saharan Africa as still underdeveloped. He commented that as a result, "the majority of students still leave school without developing reading habits and the ability to retrieve and use information outside the classroom: soon they lapse into illiteracy". He noted further that school libraries play a little role in the education of pupils in developing countries because, in many

situations, they do not exist. Since libraries are described as a place where books are kept or a reading room to keep pupils and students busy during their free periods, they are often regarded by some teachers and policy-makers as of minor importance to a school. Aguolu (1973) notes that "school library services are the most neglected educational service in most developing countries". In this respect, it has been observed that in Nigeria, the issue of school libraries as a matter of policy is traceable only to the National Policy on Education, published in 1981 (Udoh, 1986). The policy states that the government will make junior libraries available for children. This situation is also true of Zambia where 'a lack of recognition of the place of school libraries in the academic programme' has been observed (Mwacalimba, 1984).

Given the poor development of school libraries in Nigeria, the author through her consultancy outfit adopted three approaches in establishing and stimulating interests in school libraries in Nigeria. The steps the practitioner adopted in the setting up of the school libraries were mainly three. The first approach involved directly setting up some libraries; the second, the training of teacher-librarians in schools and the third, the use of the workshop approach.

In the direct intervention approach, a number of private primary schools were visited in Ibadan, Nigeria to make them aware of my expertise and readiness to assist them, at a fee, in the setting up of their school libraries. Upon invitation in three schools namely, Love Foundation Primary School, Iwo Road, Ibadan; Caroline HeadStart Nursery/Primary School, Government Reservation Area, Ibadan and Shalom Christian School Onireke, Ibadan, the first step was to gather the books meant for the library for processing and to start working on them. This meant direct involvement in the organisation of the libraries.

The second step involved training teachers identified by the school proprietresses as teacher librarians. Seven teacher-librarians from these schools were then selected for training and trained. A time-table was drawn for them and the proprietors had to indicate the number of days in a week that the training would place. In most cases, I visited a school about once or twice a week and the teacher-librarians being trained were usually given some assignments which had to be completed before the next training period. They were asked to perform some routine library functions as stamping, accessioning, classification and cataloguing. They were also taught how to care for the library. The need to pay attention to details was emphasised to them and home-made cards were initially used for library practice. On my visits, I gathered the work done and pointed out the mistakes made to each trainee as the case may be. It was however noted that the majority of the library work done by these teacher-librarians were carried out after the normal school hours. Some basics of school library services were also taught them.

The third step called the "workshop approach" took diverse forms. Three workshops were organised at various times on primary school libraries. The first one was organised in March 1992 with a view to equipping primary school proprietors and head-teachers with library skills. The workshop was held at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. It was attended by 154 participants from many states of the Federation. Many proprietors of primary schools as well as head-teachers of both public and private schools attended the workshop which lasted three days. The workshop adopted a train-the-trainers style in which participants were expected to go back to their schools with library skills gained, establish the libraries, and train other staff. Apart from the proprietors and the head-teachers, other target groups of the workshop were the personnel of local, state and national library boards, supervisory councillors of education in the local governments as well as teacher-librarians in primary schools. Follow-up workshops were held in 1993 and 1994.

Identifying Clientele and Other Beneficiaries

When talking about the establishment of a viable library system in primary schools, we need to naturally cast our minds back to the people who are involved in running of the schools, the personnel of state library boards in the country as well as the local government departments. In identifying the clientele and other beneficiaries for the workshops therefore, the targeted groups were those who had one thing or the other to do with the primary schools in the country.

The targeted audience for the various workshops were:

- (i) proprietors of public and private primary schools
- (ii) head-teachers of primary schools
- (iii) teacher-librarians in primary schools
- (iv) personnel of local, state and national library boards.
- (v) supervisory councillors of education in the local governments.

Suggested Course Content

The course content for the workshops, consisted of:

- (i) The importance of libraries in primary schools
- (ii) Book selection and acquisition methods in primary schools
- (iii) Book processing methods
- (iv) Selecting library equipment
- (v) Library routine methods
- (vi) Readers' services in primary school library
- (vii) The administration of primary school libraries

- (viii) Organising school library education programme
- (ix) Preservation of library materials
- (x) Computerisation of primary school libraries

Problems and Prospects of Library School Development in Nigeria

The obvious problem is that not much importance is attached to having librarians/teacher-librarians in primary schools. Thus it may be extremely difficult to convince many primary school proprietors and head-teachers to establish libraries in their respective schools. The truth is that they have not fully recognised the importance of libraries in schools or in the educational advancement of their pupils, especially as the school library does not generate any additional revenue to the school. This means that it is a non-profit-making venture and this explains why most schools have neglected it.

It is necessary that primary school head-teachers and proprietors should be made to recognise the importance of establishing libraries in their respective schools. They should also be made to understand the enormous work involved in establishing libraries, the need to reduce the teaching work of their teacher-librarians, to see the need to reward their teacher-librarians. The government should also make it mandatory for every school to employ the services of a librarian.

Conclusion

This paper has examined the importance of the library in the primary school system. The co-operation of the proprietors/head-teachers, practitioners, and the government is of vital importance in the establishment of viable library system in primary schools. When school libraries are given an adequate support, they stimulate the reading habit of children and help them to get the best out of books.

Finally, the government, through the activities of its library boards and other private organisations should continue to show genuine interest in the library component of the primary school system. The same advice goes for the various parent-teachers associations and the boards of governors of the various schools. Though the experience described here is Nigerian in context, the suggestions given in this paper, are applicable to many developing nations.

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- *Arinola Adekanmbi is currently the Librarian of the Botswana National Archives and Records Services Library in Gaborone, Botswana. She attended the Universities of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo) and Ibadan in Nigeria. She holds a B.A. (Hons.) in Portuguese Language and a Masters in Library Studies (MLS). After serving as librarian at the All Saints Church School Jericho, Ibadan in Nigeria for three and a half years, she set up the Arinola Rebecca Library Development Services (ARLDS), a consultancy firm for training school librarians.

BOOK REVIEW

The Challenges of the Market: Privatization and Publishing in Africa edited by Phillip G Altbach. Oxford(?): Bellagio Publishing network, 1996, 114p.

This book is the seventh in the Bellagio Studies in Publishing Series. It consists of a total of seven chapters, six of which address the transition from state publishing to private publishing in some African countries. The seventh chapter is an account of the current situation of the publishing sector and the difficulties faced by the publishers in central Africa. The book takes a general look at the challenges faced by private publishers and factors which made it difficult for publishers in Africa to compete with multinational companies.

Chapters one and two deal with private publishing in Africa. Some daunting challenges faced by private sector publishing are discussed in relation to the prevailing economic and political situations. The transition from state to commercial publishing in most African countries has not been achieved in totality. Chapter two offers insight in state control over the textbook publishing industry. The writer looks at the problems and issues in the transition from state to private book supply which is in progress in most African countries.

Chapters three to six cover the history of publishing in Ghana, Ethiopia, Zambia and Cote d'Ivoire before and after independence. Problems faced by private publishing include monopoly of the publishing industry by either the government or multinational publishing houses, financial instability, absence of commercial networks of local book traders, state dominance especially in textbook publishing, lack of government support, lack of national publishing policy, lack of financial aid, no access to credit facilities and small book markets.

The book will be useful to budding publishers and those who are in the process of setting up a publishing outfit. Librarians will particularly find the book useful and appreciate the problems of local publishers in Africa, given the fact that a substantial number of books acquired by libraries are published abroad. It is a useful addition to the collections of research and academic libraries in Africa.

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The Effects of Job Satisfaction on Publication Output Among Librarians in Africa: A Case Study from Nigerian Universities by U. Selong Edem (Bloomington) Indiana University 1997 45p.

This monograph consists of five chapters, reference section and fourteen appendices. The preface is written by Nancy J. Schmidt (editor, Monograph Series on African Librarianship). The author's point of departure is that the trend in library research focuses on the world of work of librarians concerning professional services, work environment, and logistic deployment of professional staff. Lamentably however, this trend has gained little recognition in developing countries than in the developed world. Part of the purpose of Dr. Edem's monograph is to close this gap.

Dr. Edem has presented information on the relationship between job satisfaction and publication by university librarians in Nigeria. This information was collected as part of the author's dissertation at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. While the author's monograph is about librarians in Nigeria universities his results could assist many African countries in finding new managerial strategies which could improve high publication output. The focus of the monograph is to examine the effects of job satisfaction on publication output of librarians.

An elaborate literature review has been made and it discusses a wide range of issues relating to effects of achievement on publication, responsibility, recognition, advancement, work itself, supervision, university policies and administration, salary, office accommodation, job security. The author's results however showed that only three dimensions, achievement, responsibility and recognition have significant effects on academic publication output.

The author found that Nigerian university librarians with their academic/professional achievement had the most significant effect on their academic publication output. It is the author's view "that staff development should be pursued more vigorously for librarians especially in African countries". In chapter five the author gives illuminating conclusions and recommendations which can be applied in other countries. Part of it is that for academic librarianship to be meaningful and successful in African universities, positive minded librarians who are enthusiastic, resourceful, and goal oriented must be recruited and taken care of in the profession.

On the whole this monograph would add important information to general librarianship profession and the academic librarianship in particular. The monograph is written in simple English. The appendices and literature review makes it easy to understand and I believe readers will find it very illuminating.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Bartholomew Udemmadu Nwafor: 1939-1991: An Appreciation and Annotated Bibliography of his Writings. Compiled by Michael Wise. Sponsored by the International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) aection on Regional Activities: Africa; the IFLA Core Programme : Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP) and the Nigerian Library Association. The Hague: IFLA Headquarters, 1997, 69p. (IFLA Professional Reports , No. 50) ISBN 90- 70916-60-6

The book is an appreciation of Bartholomew Nwafor's contribution to librarianship in Africa and the Third World in general. Until his death in 1991, he was the University Librarian of the University of Jos, Nigeria. The book is in two sections. The First Section comprises four Articles by his professional colleagues. Joseph. C. Anafulu- friend and colleague; Audrey Ojoade - Founding University Librarian at the University of Jos (1976-1991); A.O. Banjo - The IFLA years : 1983-1991 and Michael Dewe - Bart U. Nwafor: The Library building partner. The last part of the section is an annotated list of his writings, from his first paper published in 1964 in the *Northern Nigeria Library Notes* to his last paper published in 1993 in the *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*. There are 65 publications in all. The second section of the book contains a selection of his writings. These are: Funding Third World University Libraries; The Library Director as student and library assistant; and Englibo or the spoken language of the educated Ibo.

Access to Information : Indaba97. Proceedings of the Zimbabwe International Book Fair 97. Harare : Zimbabwe International Book Fair Trust, 1997 ISBN O-7974-1732 -X

This is a collection of papers presented during Indaba97 at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair held in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1997. The papers are grouped into four parts - National Book Policy; Information Technology and Rights; Scholarly Research ; and Community Access to Information. In all, 23 papers were covered in the book. The book contains a list of contributors, resource persons and participants.

Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index, Edition 13. Dublin, Ohio : OCLC Forest Press, 1997., 1020p. ISBN 0-910608-59-8. Price US\$ 90

It provides up- to-date features of the unabridged 21st edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification and relative Index. It is useful for small libraries with small collections.

Professional News and Events

African Libraries Listserv Established in South Africa

A listserv for librarians in Africa and other professionals who are interested in Africa was recently established in Pretoria, South Africa. The listserv is an open, moderated discussion list. It is moderated by Susan Oelofse of the State Library Pretoria. The main objective is to provide a discussion forum for librarians in Africa and to encourage contacts and communication between them and among professionals on the continent. The listserv was an idea of Christine Kisiedu of Ghana, Gboyega Banjo, Nigeria and Peter Lor, South Africa during the summit of World Library leaders held in August, 1996.

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Mrs. Raseroka Elected into IFLA Board

The former chairperson of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) : Africa, Mrs. H.K. Raseroka has been elected into the IFLA Board. She is the first African to be so elected. Mrs. Raseroka is the University Librarian of the University of Botswana. She was one of nine librarians elected at 63rd IFLA Conference held in Copenhagen, Denmark in September, 1997. The editorial board of the *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science* congratulates her for making Africa proud. Meanwhile, Stan Made of Zimbabwe and Bunmi Alegbeleye of Nigeria were elected Chairman and Secretary respectively of IFLA Africa at the same conference.

IFLA Africa sponsors a Refereed Journal

IFLA (Africa) has reached an advanced stage to launch a new refereed journal titled the *African Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*. It will appear in French and English languages. The first edition is expected to be out this year. It will be published twice a year. It is estimated that the combined issues will be 92 pages each year. Apart from articles, it will also feature short communications, professional papers presented by African librarians at IFLA congresses, seminars and workshops. The journal will be based in Dakar, Senegal. The editor-in-chief is Henri Sene, Bibliotheque Universitaire, B.P. 2006 Dakar, Senegal.

National Libraries and Information Policy for Namibia

The policy framework for libraries and allied information agencies was approved last year by the Namibian cabinet. The policy provides for a unifying framework for libraries of all kinds operating in all sectors. We congratulate the information professionals in Namibia for this feat.

Adu Boahen wins 1997 Noma Award

A. Adu Boahen's *Mfantipim and the Making of Ghana: A Centenary History, 1876-1976* published in 1996, by Sankofa Educational Publishers Ltd, Accra, Ghana was named the winner of the 1997 Noma award for publishing in Africa. The \$10, 000 award was presented during the Uganda Book week in Kampala in November, 1997.

Wanted: Editor-in-Chief for AJLAIS

The term of office of the current Editor-in-Chief of the *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science* terminates at the end of 1999. Readers are invited to nominate experienced information professionals to take over from Dr. L.O. Aina. Please send your nominations to the African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science, U.I. P.O. Box 20492, Ibadan, Nigeria. The deadline is the 31st of October, 1998.

Forth Coming Conferences, Workshops and Book Fair

13th Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Librarians (SCECSAL), 27th- 31st July 1998, Nairobi, Kenya.

Theme: Information for Sustainable Development in the 21st century

Sub- Themes: Information Technology and networking; preservation of documentary heritage of humankind to facilitate accessibility and availability to uses; mobilization of information resources for development; The library at cross-roads: copyrights laws and dissemination of information through print and electronic media; sectoral services. For further information contact Mrs. Jacinta Were, Chairperson, Kenya Library Association, P.O. Box 46031 Nairobi, Kenya.

Zimbabwe International Book Fair 98, August 1- 8, 1998, Harare, Zimbabwe

Theme: Children

The first two days will be devoted to ZIBF Indaba and other workshops. The fair will open for five days from August 4. Publishers, librarians and academics are expected to participate at the Fair. For further information contact ZIBF, P.O. Box CY 1179, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.

65th IFLA Conference, 20-28 August, 1999. Bangkok, Thailand

Theme: Libraries as Gateways to an Enlightened Society

Sub- Themes: Strengthening the gateway; Assuring the quality and quantity of information; and Networking for quality of life. For further information contact : Prof. Khunying Maenmas Chavalit, President IFLA 65th 1999- NOC c/o Seameo Regional Centre for Archeology and Fine Arts- SPAFA, Headquarter Building, 81/1 Sri-Ayutthaya Road, Sam- Sen Theves, Bangkok 10300 , Thailand.

Reports of Conferences and Workshops

Library and Information Association of South Africa Inaugural Conference, 8-10 July, 1997, Pretoria, South Africa

The amalgamation of the four independent library associations during the apartheid era took place from 8-10 July, 1997 in Pretoria, South Africa. Four hundred and fifty delegates voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new constitution for the newly inaugurated Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA). The process of amalgamation started in 1995 when a steering committee for the unification of library and information stake holders (ULIS) was elected and mandated to organise a conference and launch the process of unification within the library and information community of South Africa.

The conference was opened by the Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Mrs. Brigitte Mabandk. The Minister reminded delegates of the mission of library and information services in South Africa as being to " support and stimulate the socio-economic, educational, cultural, scientific and information development of all communities in the country by providing access to literature and information for all and to raise the levels of information awareness and information literacy of all our peoples"

The IFLA President Robert Wedgeworth and the Secretary General Leo Vogt were present at the conference. Mrs. H.K Raseroka, the then Chairman of IFLA Africa was the chairperson of the conference. A transitional executive committee was elected. The Chairman is Professor Lor, the Director of the State Library, Pretoria. This committee is expected to prepare the grounds for the election of the first representative council in later in the year.

**63rd IFLA Council and General Conference, 28 August to September 6, 1997.
Copenhagen, Denmark**

The conference was attended by 2976 participants from 141 countries. Through DANIDA grant, a large number of African participants were able to attend the conference. Seventy African participants were sponsored by DANIDA. There were over 150 papers presented at the conference. There was a pre-session seminar which focused on bridging the information gap through new technology as well as over 20 workshops on different aspects of librarianship. Delegates visited many libraries in Denmark. The exhibition featured publishers, subscription agents, manufacturers of library software and hardware and library furniture manufacturers. Mrs. Christine Deschamps of France was elected the new president of IFLA. She took over from Mr. Robert Wedgeworth of the United States of America who served IFLA for six years (1991- 1997).

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. E-mail: ainalo@noka.ub.bw