

Full Length Research

Management of Information Resources in National Library of Nigeria

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This study was conducted to investigate the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. The study aims at finding out if the National Library of Nigeria has collection development policy; the types of information resources available and how they are managed. Regarding the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria, there are various management procedures employed by the National Library of Nigeria to manage its information resources. In spite of all these management procedures the library is still faced with the challenges of preservation and conservation of information resources such as inadequate facilities, information resources are deteriorating, the books and serials are becoming acidic and no efforts are being made to de-acidify them. Non-book resources like microforms, tapes, photographic negatives and slides have gone bad and there are no disaster detection facilities as a measure towards disaster control. Recommendations were made, which require the National Libraries of Nigeria, to address the issues on management of information resources procedures.

Key Words: Information, Information Resources, Management, Library, National Library

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INTRODUCTION

Library is a social institution established to collect, organize, preserve resources and disseminate them to people for which the library is established in a place conducive enough for the use of the resources. Aguolu and Aguolu, (2002) have rightly observed that libraries are social institutions, created to conserve knowledge; preserve the cultural heritage; provide information; and to serve as fountain of recreation; undergird and underpin education and research. In support of this opinion, Ajidahum (2004) declared that "the mission statement of any library is the provision of excellent information service to its users"

Libraries are broadly categorised into different types

based on the target audience, and these are academic libraries, school libraries, special libraries, public libraries and national libraries. A National Library serves as a nation's or a country's repository of information. It is the apex library of a country. The National Library is in the executive arms of government. Also, a national library is a library specially established by the government of a country to serve as the preeminent repository of information for that country. In his contribution, Whittaker (2010) opined that "National Libraries are larger libraries that attempt to stock all literature of their own country and some foreign resources as well. They are important for research purposes, having such vast resources. Because

they keep older resources as part of their policy of preserving document of a nation, they are particularly valuable to scholars”.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- (a) **Information:** Information as a concept bears a diversity of meanings, from everyday usage to technical settings. Generally speaking, the concept of information is closely related to notions of constraint, communication, control data, form, instruction, knowledge, meaning, mental stimulus, pattern, perception, and representation. Information is a quality of a message that is sent from a sender to one or more receivers.
- (b) **Information Resources:** Any organisation, facility, or individual willing and able to give authoritative responses to scientific or technical inquiries out of an existing store of knowledge or expertise.
- (c) **Management:** Is an act or process of forecasting, planning, organising, controlling, commanding and coordinating. Also, management is a process by which organisations ensure that their objectives are achieved by the proper planning, organisation and controlling of their resources – human and materials.
- (d) **Library:** Library is a social institution established to collect, organize, preserve information resources and disseminate them to people for whom the library is established in a place conducive enough for the use of the information resources.
- (e) **National Library:** These are the kinds of libraries which irrespective of their title are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a deposit library either by law or under some arrangement.

HISTORY OF NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

Most governments of the world maintain National Libraries to serve the needs of elected officials and the staff members. Usually these libraries are open to the general public as well. In addition, most governments maintain national libraries and museums which collect and maintain artifacts and historical records that include government documents of enduring values. The first instance of a library being referred to as national is that of France, the *Bibliothèque Nationale*. Ezema (2009) stated

that the origin of legal deposit system dates back to 1537 when Francois 1 of France issued The “Ordinance de Montpellier”. This Royal Decree forbids the sale of any book without first having deposited a copy in the library of his castle. Many of the apex libraries of the world usually referred to as the national library of such a country did not originally assume that status. In fact, some still retained their original names.

In the United States, Canada, Australia and most other countries, authors are required to submit copies of their published work to the national libraries in order to receive copyright protection for that work. Most national libraries also create national bibliographies which list information about every publication in their countries (John, 2009). Some of the largest and prestigious National Libraries in the world include Library of Congress in Washington, D.C; the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France* in Paris; the British Libraries in the outskirts of London and the Russian State libraries in Moscow. By functioning as legal copyright depositories, national libraries collect and preserve their Country’s cultural heritage.

From the perspective of a conceptual clarification of a National Library, the UNESCO’s definition is worth noting. It states that: “Libraries which irrespective of their title are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a deposit library either by law or under other arrangements”. Ayo (2005) stated that national library is that kind of library established to collect, document, disseminate and preserve both local and selected international knowledge regardless of the format in which the resources are packaged. In addition to that, the National Library of Nigeria is mandated to provide necessary support for intellectual efforts in all activities directed towards progress and development of library functions, technicalities and management.

National Library has been defined by many scholars as the national bibliographic agency and such Library aiming at building a world- class National Library information resources that will enable it to serve its citizens. According to Odhigba (2006) and Oshile (2006), the National Library of Nigeria is the country’s national bibliographic agency responsible for national bibliographic control in the universal bibliographic control network aimed at achieving universal availability of publications. Okentunji (2006) opined that the National Library of Nigeria is that kind of library dedicated to building world-class national information resources thereby enabling its citizens to know their country and themselves through their published heritage and to providing an effective gateway to national and international sources of information. National libraries are regarded as the apex libraries in a country. Uwaifo (2010) acknowledged that national libraries are established and maintained by the national government of countries. They serve as the preeminent repository of information for that country. Unlike public libraries, these rarely allow citizens

to borrow books. Often, they include numerous, rare, valuable or significant works. According to Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Library Statistics by United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO (2006), national libraries are:

Responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a legal 'deposit' library, either by law or under other arrangements. They will also normally perform some of the following functions: produce a national bibliography; hold and keep up to date a large and representative collection of foreign literature including books about the country; act as a national bibliographical centre; compile union catalogues; publish the retrospective national bibliography. Libraries which may be called 'national' but whose functions do not correspond to the above definition should not be placed in the National Libraries category. (p5).

This type of library exists in different parts of the world. In the United States of America (USA), it is called Library of Congress. This is regarded as the nation's oldest federal cultural institution (Matthew, 2009). Other countries like New Zealand, Britain, South Africa, etc also have their national libraries. They mostly serve the same purpose in these countries and all over the world. In Jamaica, the national library is concerned primarily with the collection and preservation, organization and provision of access to all publications relating to Jamaica. It does not lend, nor register people (Oke, 2008). They are therefore regarded as depository libraries for these countries. They are established by the act of parliament. In Nigeria, it is called National Library of Nigeria.

The National Library serves heterogeneous kinds of patrons unlike other types of libraries that serve more or less specialized clientele communities. National library, according to Edoke (2000), "is the library of libraries, a focal point for overall and information services in the country. A National library is usually the country's apex library. It is the library established by national government to perform certain specialized functions. National libraries are regarded as reference libraries because their stocks or collections are usually not meant for circulation outside the library. In the words of Oduagwu (2006) national library is described as "the central book museum of a country." It is responsible for collecting and conserving the whole of that country's book production for the benefit of future generations. As such the significance of the national library cannot be overemphasized because national libraries are well known libraries with enormous significance.

Matthew (2009) and Okeagu (2009) mentioned the significance of National Library to be providing access to

information resources, working in partnership with stakeholders, structuring knowledge, imparting skills, preserving heritage and inspiring trust which are all crucial for the knowledge economy. This is true because sustainable development implies the kind of development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Similarly, White (2000) while examining the importance of national library in national and individual development concluded that, the libraries exist to amass and organize the work done by best minds regardless of when and where significant contributions originate. The library aids high-grade manpower in keeping up to date and performing at the peak of efficiency. The Library supports the intellectual freedom. Free reading nurtures the genius of the nation. This is a very undeniable and infallible truth. Without the existence of libraries in national and individual development, the system is bound to fail and collapse. This can be so risky because the possibility of the system excelling and meeting up its goals will be absolutely zero.

In the same vein, the importance of national libraries cannot be overemphasized in the areas of research, educational development, etc, as asserted by Oke (2008) that, "The importance of National Library in the areas of research, assignments, upgrading one's value, personal studies, gaining more knowledge, preparing for paper presentations, educational development and so on, is inevitable and indispensable". This is as a result of the fact that the needed and useful information is found embedded in the pages of book resources and in the non-book resources of the library. Also, National Library is very essential for its recreational capability. Many library users go to the library to have leisure of some kind for themselves such like watching magnificent documentaries, discoveries, play some splendid games, reading interesting novels and periodicals (newspapers, magazines, etc).

Incidentally, the long list of National Library importance is inexhaustible. Many underdeveloped nations most especially African countries fail to develop not because they lack potentials for development and growth, but because of the fact that they have not recognized and welcomed the irrefutable vital roles library has to play in all facets of life. Reverse is the case in the developed nations because they have taken cognizance of information stored in the repository, the library for their development.

The quest for a national library in Nigeria dated back to the 1940s. It was not until 1964 that one was legally established in Lagos. Dr. Azikiwe's perception of a national library in the 1950s and 1960s chimed in with that of his contemporary pan-Africanist, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, who in 1961, on the opening of the George Padmore Research Library, declared:

A good national library is at once the repository of a nation's culture and wisdom and an intellectual stimulant. In this library, there shall be no national frontiers, for here shall be stored the cumulative experience, the collective wisdom and knowledge about the entire continent of Africa, and the assessment, revaluations and studies of observers from all over the world.

Azikiwe understood the value of such a library as a depository of cultural heritage, and as a research centre where authentic studies on Africa could be conducted. Unfortunately, some Nigerian nationalists, like the colonial administrators, thought of a national library largely as a magnificent, monumental edifice, with the best architectural design, involving an enormous financial outlay. Azikiwe also perceived the National Library as a living agency of progress, intellectual enrichment, and public enlightenment, not as a repository of artifacts or archival documents of the past.

The 1953 UNESCO Seminar on the Development of the Public Libraries in Africa, held in Ibadan, not only encouraged Azikiwe to press for a national library for Nigeria, but also helped to crystallize the national library concept on Africa. Before the seminar was held in Nigeria, the Nigerian Council of Ministers – Nigeria's first representative government - had rejected the National Library concept, contending that all library matters should be relegated to the regional governments, and to local and private organizations. The council was unable to see that while the regional governments would cater for the public libraries, it was the responsibility of the central government to establish a National Library for the country.

To be fair to the council / government, it had purchased the Henry Carr Library in 1946, probably to serve as the nucleus for the National Library. Dr. Can, a renowned educationist and the earliest and best-known Nigerian book collector, was the first African Commissioner for the Lagos Colony, and Chief Inspector of Schools in the Southern Provinces of Nigeria. His collection, numbering 18,000 volumes, covering the humanities and social sciences, was the largest private library ever assembled by any West African. When Ibadan University College opened in 1948, its Principal, Kenneth Mellanby, persuaded the colonial government to deposit the collection, unused for two years and faced the grim physical deterioration, with the University College Library on loan and it has remained there ever since. An opportunity of establishing a National Library appeared then to have been lost.

The National Library concept originated in the early 1960s, when Dr. Azikiwe was the first indigenous Governor – General in 1960 and later, the first President of Nigeria, when it achieved republican status in 1963. He helped to ensure that a feasibility study was conducted

on the National Library by Dr. Rogers, Director of the U.S National Library of Medicine, sponsored by the Ford Foundation of America in 1961. On the attainment of Nigerian independence in 1960, the perception of the National Library by the Council of Ministers, which rejected the participation of the central government in any library matter in 1952, had taken a nationalist turn. The Council, along with the Nigeria Branch of the West African Library Association, established in 1954, quickly accepted the Rogers Report, recommending the establishment of a National Library.

At the request of the Nigerian government, the Ford Foundation sent Professor Carl White, former Dean of the School of Library Science, Columbia University, to serve as Library Advisor to the Nigerian government on setting up the National Library of Nigeria. On his arrival in Nigeria in March 1962, Dr White was shocked to learn that there was no budgetary provision for the newly proposed library in the first post- independence National Development Plan, 1962-1968.

The immediate personal intervention of the Governor-General, Dr Azikiwe, and the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar saved the day. They asked Professor White to prepare a special report on his financial needs, and on the objectives, scope and structure of the library. His report, known as the "May 1962 Report," was accepted by the government without delay. By the end of 1962, work on the National Library had begun in Lagos, with three American librarians and Professor White, as the Federal Government's Library Adviser. The National Library Act drafted by the Adviser, was enacted in 1964. This set the library on a legal footing, and on 6th November, 1964, the National Library was opened to the public by an Act of parliament in 1964, which was abolished by Decree No.29 of 1970. It is the Nation's apex library charged with the responsibility of providing library services to the public, such as it is being provided by National Libraries of the highest standing in the world. It is a non-profit, but service oriented institution. Its operations are within the frame work of the Federal Public Service.

The National Library Handout (2009) maintained that at the instance of the Nigerian Division of West African Library Association (WALA), which later became the Nigerian Library Association in 1962, a Library Advisory Committee was established in the late 50s. This Committee had the assignment of working out plans for library services in the country, and persuade the Government to agree to set up a National Library. On the attainment of independence, the Nigerian Government embraced the idea of a National Library as proposed by the Association. The Ford Foundation of America stepped into the matter and agreed not to finance but provide the necessary expertise for feasibility study and produce a report for that purpose. The expert who handled this exercise was Dr Frank B Roger, then Director of the National Library of Medicine, U.S.A. The

survey recommended a National Library of Nigeria, thus backing up the recommendation of the Library Advisory Committee.

It was corroborated by Ojo-Igbinoba (2000) that Dr Rogers' report was fully accepted by the Federal Government and swift moves were made for its implementation. The Ford Foundation came forward once again to assist with necessary technical personnel for the groundwork of setting up the library. The person they appointed was a distinguished School Librarian, Dr. Carl M. White, who came to Nigeria in February, 1962 to support him. The Ford Foundation recruited a number of other technical personnel, all from America. The Federal Government on its own part did not fail to provide the support staff that was completely indigenous. And as soon as accommodation was obtained, the first Nigerian Librarians were recruited. Within two years, Dr. White had set up a basic collection for a growing library, laid down schedules of duties for foundation staff and succeeded, among other things, in getting the government to pass the first legislation which was enacted in September 1964, and cited as the National Library Act 1964. Thus the Ford Foundation had been a very great influence in the creation and establishment of the National Library of Nigeria. Indeed, this partnership between the Federal Government and the foundation spanned over a period of nine years from 1962-1971. Three advisers were sent by the Foundation to Nigeria during this period. They were: Dr. Carl White 1962-1964, Miss Priscilla Taylor (later Mrs. Harris), 1964-1966 and Mr. Phillip Rappaport 1966-1971.

The enactment of the National Library Act 1964, by the first Republic legislature gave the National Library of Nigeria its legal personality. It thus marked the crystallization of the idea to establish the institution. This Act was later examined by the first National Library Board which was constituted in 1966, and substantial amendment and modifications were proposed. The consequence was that the Act was repealed and substituted with the National Library Decree No. 29 of 1970. This is the law by which the institution is now governed, although there had been amendments in minor areas in 1976, 1979 and 1987.

The singular and primary objective for establishing the National Library of Nigeria is to collect, preserve, and conserve the nation's book production for posterity. All the functions and activities of the National Library are aimed at achieving this lofty objective.

Other objectives are:

1. The provision of necessary support for intellectual efforts in all activities directed.
2. Ensuring the availability of comprehensive and near complete a collection of resources as possible, of materials and knowledge in existence in the world and outside the nation's boundaries

3. Ensuring a free flow of knowledge between this nation and others, and thereby securing a place for the nation in the community of nations that depend on recorded knowledge and information for survival in a world of rapid advancement and occupation of idea.

The function of the National Library is to provide necessary support for intellectual efforts, in all activities directed towards programmes and development, ensuring the availability of a comprehensive collection of the resources, and guaranteeing full access to such treasury both within and outside the nation's boundaries and generating free flow of information between the nation and others, thereby ensuring Nigeria's participation in the community of nations that depend on information for survival in a world of rapid advancement and competition of ideas (Apotiade, 2002).

The National Library concept that was nurtured in the 1940s crystallized with the establishment of the National Library in the 1960s. The promulgation of the National Library Decree, 1970 set the Library in the right direction toward fulfilling its assigned responsibilities, conceived within the framework of these broadly formulated objectives stated above.

There are currently seven (7) Departments of the National Library of Nigeria. The National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN) (2008) supplementary edition outlined the library and information services carried out by the National Library of Nigeria by its five (5) professional departments – Public Services Department (PSD), Collection Development and Processing Department (CDPD), National Bibliographic Control Department (NBCD), Research and Development Department (RDD) and the Virtual Library Services Department (VLSD) to include provision of reference and document delivery services, acquiring resources through subscription/purchase, promotion of research in the field of information, provision of bibliographic services to the nation and transforming knowledge into digital content for all levels of education in Nigeria. The other two (2) Departments are the Administration and Finance and Supplies.

The National Library of Nigeria assembles, maintains and extends a collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers, maps, musical scores, films and recordings and such other matter as the Board considers appropriate for a library of the highest standing. Decree No. 29 of 1970 confers on the National Library of Nigeria the responsibility to establish and maintain a branch of the National Library of Nigeria in each state. Section 4(1) of Decree No. 29 of 1970 confers on the National Library of Nigeria the depository obligation of the nation. This implies that all the resources published in Nigeria such as periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers; films recordings etc must be received in the National Library of Nigeria to make available for immediate use. The legal deposit law

therefore prescribes the number of copies of publications which within one month after the publication shall be delivered at his own expense to the National Library. Private publishers are to deposit three (3) copies each of their publications for permanent preservation. Federal Government and its agencies are to deposit twenty-five (25) copies of their publications and the State Government and its agencies are to deposit (10) copies of publications.

Nwalo (2000) believed that the task of the National Library of Nigeria is to ensure that all that engaged in political, economical, scientific, educational, social or cultural activities receive the necessary information to enable them to render their fullest contribution to the whole community. The reservation role of the National Library of Nigeria is very important because it ensures that all achievement of today's society, by way of publications is made known to the future generation. For the National Library of Nigeria to effectively serve as the memory of the nation, the government usually enacts a law giving legal backing to its functions.

The National Library of Nigeria, as an agency to conserve the cultural heritage and to extend bibliographic and information resources to the whole nation, is to perform numerous vital functions. Ode and Omokaro (2007) revealed that the roles of the National Library of Nigeria, as an agency to conserve the cultural heritage of the nation are as follows:

1. Collecting and preserving the nation's literature for posterity
2. Collecting foreign literature for research and teaching
3. Maintaining a collection of manuscripts and rare books bearing on the nation's heritage
4. Indexing the nation's literature and publishing national bibliography
5. Keeping a national central catalogue
6. Providing advisory services to other libraries
7. Coordinating the acquisition policy and co-operation among libraries
8. Issuance of ISBN, ISSN and ISMN and Deposit law based on the National Library Decree of 1970 on deposit rights laws. Every publisher in any country must deposit three copies of their new publications with the National Library and obtain ISBN, ISSN and ISMN.

Apotiade (2002) affirms that as an organ for cultural promotion the National Library of Nigeria acquires and preserves for use a variety of resources on the local culture and traditional resources on religious, cultural, historical, local crafts, poetry and other literary works. In addition, the library records on tape and video, local dances, folktale, idioms, and so on which are kept for storage and use. The ultimate purpose is to promote the culture of the people, and preserve them for generations

yet unborn.

According to Anthony (2002), the library is aided financially by the federal government of Nigeria. Originally, the Ford Foundation was involved with the project. The foundation brought in professionals, donated books and funded the library's expansion. The library over the years has built on its original mission. Today, it is a vital organ that acts as the intellectual memory of the nation. The library provides the intellectual ammunition to aid government officials in policy implementation. However, the general direction of policy instability due to the military incursion to power sometimes created an imbalance between the intellectual memory of prior policies and the intellectual foundation of a new government. The library also stays afloat intellectually by receiving copies of books published in the country by both the government and private authorities. It is today one of the largest depositories of knowledge in the country. It also collects books on contemporary or new ideas from international organizations. Its responsibilities also include the issuance of the ISBN and ISSN to publishing organisations, a process which is today cumbersome in the absence of appropriate enabling technology at the regional offices.

Chris (2001) stated that, the library has failed to effectively expand to the 36 state capitals of the federation as designated by the library decree of 1970. According to him there are only 23 state branches of national libraries of Nigeria and National Library of Nigeria headquarters in operation, and they are located in: Abia, Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Edo, Enugu, F.C.T, Gombe, Imo, Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Lagos, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba and Abuja. In concert with the lack of facilities in the state capitals, a lack of adequate social amenities for the library staff in some state capitals is another obstacle to the library's development. There is also a lack of sufficient professional librarians; the library failed to effectively protect itself by training students in library science. The lack of adequate amenities provided by the library also does not help in recruitment. There are also insufficient storage devices for audio or visual collections.

However, the National Library of Nigeria holds in its stock quite a number of information resources and these library information resources need to be properly managed. Information resources management is very essential in order to meet up with the expectation of the National Library of Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

The objectives of National Library are:

1. To collect, preserve, and conserve the nation's book production for posterity. All the functions

and activities of the National Library are aimed at achieving this lofty objective.

2. The provision of necessary support for intellectual efforts in all activities directed.
3. Ensuring the availability of comprehensive and near complete a collection of resources as possible, of materials and knowledge in existence in the world and outside the nation's boundaries
4. Ensuring a free flow of knowledge between this nation and others, and thereby securing a place for the nation in the community of nations that depend on recorded knowledge and information for survival in a world of rapid advancement and occupation of idea.

SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA FOR SUSTAINBLE DEVELOPMENT

The following are significance of National Library of Nigeria:

1. Matthew (2009) and Okeagu (2009) mentioned the significance of National Library to be providing access to information resources, working in partnership with stakeholders, structuring knowledge, imparting skills, preserving heritage and inspiring trust which are all crucial for the knowledge economy. This is true because sustainable development implies the kind of development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
2. White (2000) while examining the importance of national library in national and individual development concluded that, the libraries exist to amass and organize the work done by best minds regardless of when and where significant contributions originate. The library aids high-grade manpower in keeping up to date and performing at the peak of efficiency. The Library supports the intellectual freedom. Free reading nurtures the genius of the nation. This is a very undeniable and infallible truth. Without the existence of libraries in national and individual development, the system is bound to fail and collapse. This can be so risky because the possibility of the system excelling and meeting up its goals will be absolutely zero.
3. Also, the importance of national libraries cannot be overemphasized in the areas of research, educational development, etc, as asserted by Oke (2008) that, "The importance of National Library in the areas of research, assignments, upgrading one's value, personal studies, gaining more

knowledge, preparing for paper presentations, educational development and so on, is inevitable and indispensable". This is as a result of the fact that the needed and useful information is found embedded in the pages of book resources and in the non-book resources of the library.

4. National Library is very essential for its recreational capability. Many library users go to the library to have leisure of some kind, such like watching magnificent documentaries, discoveries, play some splendid games, reading interesting novels and periodicals (newspapers, magazines, etc).

FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

The functions of National Library are:

1. Collecting and preserving the nation's literature for posterity
2. Collecting foreign literature for research and teaching
3. Maintaining a collection of manuscripts and rare books bearing on the nation's heritage
4. Indexing the nation's literature and publishing national bibliography
5. Keeping a national central catalogue
6. Providing advisory services to other libraries
7. Coordinating the acquisition policy and co-operation among libraries
8. Issuance of ISBN, ISSN, ISMN and Deposit law based on the National Library Decree of 1970 on deposit rights laws. Every publisher in any country must deposit three copies of their new publications with the National Library and obtain ISBN, ISSN and ISMN.

CONCEPT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Resources are the information items acquired, processed and made available in the libraries for the users. They enable the libraries to fulfil the goal of meeting the information needs of the users. It is the duty of the librarians to ensure that good and relevant information resources are selected and acquired for the library. Ifidon (2007) asserted that beautiful buildings, well trained staff and modern storage and retrieval systems cannot make a library without information resources. Aina (2007) asserted that information resources is information and related resources such as personnel, equipment and information technology. He further stated that, it involves library resources which include the calibre of staff and their information handling skills, adequate finance, resources and availability of equipment for information acquisition, processing, storage and dissemination.

A resource is something that can be used to help achieve an aim, especially a book, etc that is capable of providing information; such items must be capable of being stored and retrieved. Resources are necessary documents needed in the smooth running of any organisation or institution and many countries are making conscious efforts to provide improved facilities for the care of resources in form of resource centres, etc. Harold (2000) gave an elaborate definition of information resources as, "All information resources setting out facts or events, irrespective of media, characteristics of origin, which is maintained by an institution or organisation in transactions of its normal business or pursuance of its obligations." Harold's definition seems to be all encompassing, and the library as an organisation cannot but develop a culture of maintaining information resources in whatever form which will serve as reference tools in helping the library fulfil its obligation for effective management of library problems.

The information resources from which we secure and access any type of information are grouped into print and non-print resources. The print information resources are those resources with characters which are produced by mechanical or electronic means. They are texts or documents in hard copies which are acquired, processed and made available in the library to meet the information needs of the users. They include monographs, (books) both reference and non-reference resources, serial publications such as newspapers, magazines, journals, etc. The non-print information resources are records of human knowledge or ideas that are not in print format but in electronic formats which are referred to as e-resources that include the e-journals, e-books, e-serials, audio-visual, CDs, microfilms, microfiche, microforms, database, CD-ROMS, Internet and so on. They require the use of specialized or information and communication technology (ICT) equipment to access their intellectual content (Mohammed, 2009). In order to achieve the purpose for which information resources are meant, there is the need for proper management of information resources.

Information Resources Management (IRM) is one of the major factors that affect information management. For effective interaction between the information seekers and information resources, information resources management should be accorded paramount important place in the scheme of information transfer. McClure (2011) stated that "the overall purpose of information resources management is to determine how information resources can be harnessed more effectively and efficiently to meet the decision making and problem solving it of today's professionals". Also, Savic (2004) quoting White (1982) expressed the same view concerning Information Resources Management as: "The process of efficiently and effectively identifying, acquiring, integrating and applying information resources to meet current and future information requirements".

However, information resources management also can be seen as the administrative system which concerns itself with the control of resources and information from their creation to their ultimate use. Resources management aims at accurate and complete documentation of the policies and transactions of an organisation, and at controlling and simplifying resources systems, and at the judicious preservation and use of resources. It can be regarded as an art of application of systematic creation through collection, organization, preservation / conservation, accessibility and use. As explained by Unuigbo (2000), "resources management is the area that deals with full range of work from the creation of new library resources to the moment when it is made available for use. Therefore, resources management is the spinal cord of all organization without which management will be stifled in achieving the corporate objectives of the library. Russell (2001) observed that "resources management is a potent instrument for cost control." It controls the quantity and quality, and cost of resources and encompasses the procedures, systems, operations, space equipment and staff required to administer the resources.

The value of resources depends on the decree to which they are kept in order and taken care of through proper management. Jirgi (2007) stated that "when a man's knowledge is not in order the more of it he has, the greater will be his confusion of thought." Therefore, resources management cannot be achieved without properly organising the resources in orderly manner. Akinfemiwa (2003) stated that "mere quantity of resources without order would be as no resources at all." Oke (2008) is of the same view with Akinfemiwa when he summed it up by stating that "putting information resources in properly manner will assist to achieve the purpose they are meant for." Therefore, library resources need to be properly managed for efficient and effective use.

In addition, resources management could be regarded as the application of systematic analysis and scientific control to resources from their creation through organising, reservation and conservation, accessibility and final use. Popoola (2003) defined resources management as the discipline of information which arises internally within the library as a result of its activities. In the same vein, Pothas and Powell (2006) have posited that, proper resources management to a long way is enhancing effective administration of any organization. However, the availability of information resources for use by the users to satisfy their information needs, according to Popoola (2003), depends on the way resources have been physically and intellectually organized.

Nonetheless, despite the indispensable value of resources and gargantuan amount of money spent on its creation and maintenance, proper management of resources that will lead to economy and efficiency in their creation, organisation, etc, as well as use are seldom

considered top priority in the National Library of Nigeria (Popoola, 2003). Adding on to this view, Akinfemiwa (2003) and Oke (2008) argued that, in spite of the invaluable role information resources play in the administration of National Library of Nigeria; information resources librarians often exhibit misconceptions and indifference to the management of resources. By so doing, this often leads to significant waste of time, human efforts, resources, space and money that would surprise one if they were to realize its magnitude and implications. As such, it becomes imperative for National Library of Nigeria to embark on effective and efficient management of information resources.

TYPES OF INFORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE IN NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

Information resources apply to all types of printed resources (books, serials, pamphlets, maps, etc.) to most audio-visual resources (discs, films, videos, multimedia kits, etc.), to broadcast resources and to electronic publications (diskettes, CD-ROMs, on-line resources, etc).

Agbaje (2002) described serials as sources of information (printed or electronic) that are produced at regular intervals. They include newspapers, minutes of meetings, newsletters, bulletins, government publications, magazines, journals, radio and television programmes, tapes, CDs, video tapes (printed or electronic) and other periodicals. These information resources occur in successive parts and are meant to be continued indefinitely. These range of resources form a bulk of information resources of the National Library. They attract a lot of readership because they contain current information on national issues. In a survey carried out by Owen (2007), the findings show that information on Nigerian economic development, government and politics ranked high on the information needs of users of National Library of Nigeria on the use of resources. These resources are mainly serial publications. He identifies that newspapers and magazines constitute major information sources consulted by users. Similarly, Ajidahun (2006) in Owairu (2000) posited that most Nigerians today rely on libraries that offer free newspaper service to keep abreast of current information within and outside their immediate environment. The National Library of Nigeria is one of such libraries.

Another information carrier that forms a major constituent of the National library resources is monograph. Monographs are resources that are treaties on one subject. Librarians consider a monograph to be a non-serial publication complete in one volume or a definite number of volumes. Thus, it differs from a serial publication such as magazines, journals or newspapers. It is normally intended to be a complete detailed exposition of a substantial subject at a level more

advanced than that of a text book. A text book is a standard book which systematically expresses the concept, principles, theories, methodologies, etc of a particular field or subject. Consequently, Esharenana (2009) opined that textbooks are information resources which are mostly used by students and lecturers on curricula offerings of a university and other institution. They contain information on different aspects of subjects and are also used by different categories of people in different fields of life. However, a lot of these monographs are published by single authors who in turn deposit three copies to the National Library for preservation and use. A lot of students prefer these monographs in their research and study because they are written within Nigeria by Nigerians.

Another type of information carrier in the National Library of Nigeria is the reference resources. These are information resources borne out of research to provide most current information and facts. Significantly, these information resources are mainly for consultations and not for general reading. They include dictionaries, both subject and general. They give meaning to the words' pronouncements; etc. Encyclopaedia describes things or events in detail more than the dictionaries. They include both subject and general. Examples are Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science, Encyclopaedia Britannica, etc. They are useful for research purpose. Other types of reference resources include biographical sources, almanacs, handbooks, directories, bibliographies, geographical sources (e.g. Maps, atlases and gazetteers), etc.

According to Aina (2004), another important type of information resources are the government publications. Government publications are also part of the legal deposit collection in depository libraries by government ministries, parastatals, agencies and / or its authority. They can be in different formats like book, audiovisuals, atlases, reference sources and serial publications. He opined that government documents fall within three categories such as Legislation publications: These include bills, decrees constitutions, debates, parliamentary debates and all such as emanate from legislative body in Federal, State or Local government; Judicial publications: These are publications that originate from court processes, examples include Law reports and Laws of the Federation; and Executive publication: These ones emanate from government ministries, agencies, presidency, and research institutes. They include gazetteers, directions, commission of enquiry, annual reports, press releases, technical reports, developmental plans etc.

Ezema and Okafor (2009) stated that government publications have an official, instructional, descriptive, or historical nature, and are issued by government departments. These documents or publications also attract a wide range of users including civil servants, researchers, students, lawyers, government official, etc.

These resources are more of archival in nature and are always used as reference points. The National Library of Nigeria is currently converting some of these documents into machine readable database that will reflect the nation's heritage.

Other constituents of the information resources are digital resources. These resources come in form of CD-ROM, and other electronic format. Esharenana (2009) asserted that there are numerous resources on the internet and World Wide Web with which users' information needs can be met. Resources such as e-journals, e-books, conference proceedings, preprint services, achieved scholarly articles etc, are increasingly being available on the net. The challenges before library and information science (LIS) Staff is to be aware of the numerous Web resources that are relevant to their users' needs, select, acquire, and integrate them into the services of the library.

The advocates of Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) believe that all types of resources should be available to all types of readers to be able to use them. Esharenana (2009) stated that in principle, all the types of information carriers that we have known till now can be transformed and made available in digital form. These resources are acquired in National Libraries for permanent preservation, proper processing and dissemination to the public. The resources are mostly in indigenous and they emanate from authors and publishers within a geographical area (Edoka, 2000). Therefore, libraries and information centres acquire, organise and disseminate all available and relevant information resources in both print and non-print formats to enable their target clientele access and use the needed information to succeed in their respective endeavours. These Libraries and information services are carried out by the National Library personnel (staff) whose creativity and ingenuity is relevant for effective and efficient service delivery. The Librarians are veritable mediators between man and information resources that have been produced through generations. Majorly, the objective of the Librarians is to minimize the social use of these resources of human culture for the benefit of humanity. It is the basic responsibility of the Librarian to identify the needs of his users and to select, acquire and organise the information resources that would satisfy those needs (Aguolu, 2002).

Adio (2006) carried out a study on the procedure, profit and problems of the National legal deposit obligation. It delved into the operation of the system for a period of ten (10) years (1991-2000) in Oyo and Kwara States of Nigeria. Using the exploratory survey, the researcher employed the observation check list, interview and records examination in the collection of data. The general aim of the study was to x-ray the legal deposit obligations in Nigeria while the specific objectives included establishment, regulations, compliance and use. Data was collected from fifty (50) randomly selected

publishers, visiting of publishing houses and bookshops to identify publications and also examining existing records including the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN). Also the legal deposits librarians at the National Library of Nigeria were interviewed. Data were organized and analyzed using the frequency distribution and percentages. Findings reveal among other things that legal deposit laws are not efficient in Nigeria, that resources deposited are mainly books with the neglect of other resources, publishers were nonchalant in fulfilling depository obligations, public awareness of this law was poor and that the depository agency was poorly funded. Recommendations included the importance of working out in detail the procedure to be followed for safe and easy effecting of deposits with a system of supervision and inspection; an amendment of the legal deposit obligation to include a tribunal of a high court judge, a publisher, a librarian and author and one other legal professional, and finally, those legal deposit law should be made uniform for all States.

Adio's work above concerned itself mainly with the availability of legal deposit resources in Oyo and Kwara States of Nigeria. This is one of the variables in the present study. The area of study is different as the researcher concentrated on the Headquarter of the National Library of Nigeria and some of its branches. Similarly, Owen (2007) conducted a study on the Nigerian resources at the National Library of Nigeria: "Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials: The Situation in the National Library of Nigeria." According to the researcher the term 'Nigerian resources' refers to all information resources written by Nigerians both within and outside Nigeria collected by the National Library of Nigeria under the legal deposit obligations. The general aim of the study was to determine the information needs of users of the Nigerian resources at the National Library of Nigeria, the problems militating against its use and the various sources of information the users consulted. The main instrument for data collection was a questionnaire of six sections of (50) respondents. Major finding included that the users sought more resources on socio-economic and political development of Nigeria, that the Nigerian resources mostly consulted included newspapers, magazines, library catalogues, textbooks, journals, gazetteers, etc; the problems identified included lack of photocopying services, borrowing privileges, obsolete stock, and lack of knowledge of existence of an information sources. Recommendations included setting up reprographic services, granting borrowing privileges at short term duration to serious researchers and users, while legal deposit resources that were not submitted should be brought by the National Library management.

Owen's work is related to the present study in that it studied the use of Nigerian resources (legal deposit resources) in the National Library of Nigeria. It is however different in scope as it was only limited to Yaba, Lagos branch while the present study is on the National Library

of Nigeria Headquarters and some branches, and includes availability of legal deposit resources.

In another related study, Chisita (2010) carried out a research on the functions of current local legislation in ensuring compliance with legal deposit requirements in the context of electronic age: case study of Zimbabwe. The researcher made use of qualitative research design using the survey technique to collect data from research respondents. The respondents included archivists and librarians at the National Archives of Zimbabwe and a sample of publishers from Harare. It involved the use of questionnaire and interview and other secondary sources. Findings included that there was no National Bibliography of Zimbabwe and the Act did not address contemporary issues in information storage and retrieval. Recommendations included the need to educate stakeholders on the operations and benefits of legal deposit compliance using fines as a last resort and that the Printed Publications Act of Zimbabwe should be reviewed to include electronic resources.

Penzhorn (2007) also conducted a research on "The Implementation, Monitoring and Management of Effective Legal Deposit System for South Africa," which was an empirical study for the award of Ph.D (Information Science). The aim of the study was to carry out a comparative study of South African legislation on legal deposit vis-a-vis the United Kingdom, Australia and Malaysia. It carried out empirical investigation in two stages: First, a survey of opinions, attitudes, actions of publishers and legal deposit libraries to determine how they affected successful implementation of legal deposit in South Africa. The second phase was a feasibility study to determine the state of compliance with legal deposit in the country.

In his contribution, Whittaker (2000) opined that:

"National Libraries are large libraries that attempt to stock all literature of their own country and some foreign resources as well. They are therefore important for research purposes, having resources as part of their policy of preserving document of a nation; they are particularly valuable of scholars".

While highlighting the resources of the Reader Services of the National Library, Bankole (2003) mentioned that the resources are grouped into four main categories in terms of form and source of origin. The four groups are Nigerian resources, foreign monographs, foreign serials resources and non-book media resources, which are detailed in the foregoing.

The Nigerian resources comprised Federal, State and Local Government Publications i.e. gazetteers, reports on various government activities and functions, reports of commissions of inquiries, boundary disputes, texts of government legislation and decrees, reports on the work of different organs of government i.e. ministries, parastatals, corporations, etc. The Nigerian resources also contain intellectual output of Nigerian authors and publications about Nigeria by foreign nationals. The

Nigerian monographs cover all fields of knowledge like medicine, the sciences, literature, and law, including reports on research work on various subjects on or about Nigeria.

On the other hand, monographs and documents are also acquired by the National Library through purchase, gifts and exchanges. The resources contain valuable and intellectual publications of foreign governments such as the United Kingdom, Canada, United Nations and the O.A.U countries. The notable among them are the British House of Lords on Nigeria and the intelligent reports of the colonial period, publications on the United Nations and its specialised organs such as F.A.O, UNESCO, I.L.O, and W.H.O, reports of the General Assembly and of the Security Council and other foreign government publications, publications on English speaking countries like England, U.S.A, etc.

Similarly, the National Library acquires foreign serial resources into its collection. The foreign serials in the resources are enormous, covering different titles, which are acquired through subscriptions and gifts. In the same vein, inter-library loan is another means of acquiring resources into the library especially those information resources that are not available in a particular library. According to Bankole (2003) Libraries all over the world participate in Interlibrary Loan (ILL) in a cooperative effort to provide articles, books, and other resources to researchers, students, and others.

In line with the above, the National Library also acquires non-book media resources, which includes different types of non-book resources such as microforms, microfilms, tapes, cassettes, discs photographs, maps, slides, pictures, etc. The maps are mainly topographical maps with only a few administrative roads and geological maps. The microfilm resources include microfilms of parliamentary reports and of newspapers i.e., London Times, New York Times, etc. The photographs in the collections are mainly those of important national personalities dating back to the colonial period.

Interestingly, the National Libraries act as libraries of the last resort. Meaning that they are the places where scholars can go and see information resources that are not available anywhere else. Unfortunately, based on this study, the researcher has discovered that there is no Library in the world, including the National Libraries of Nigeria that are able to stock all the information resources in order to meet the information needs of their users and that is why there is the need for inter-library lending in the library operations. This means that for the National Library of Nigeria to be effectively and efficiently managed the needed information resources, there is the need to properly engage itself in interlibrary loan exercise. This will go a long way to assist the library in making the needed information resources available for use by the library users.

Also, there is the need for the Staff of the National

Library of Nigeria to be aware of the numerous Web resources that are relevant to their users' needs. For example, Esharenana (2009) asserted that there are numerous resources on the Internet and World Wide Web with which users' information needs can be met. Resources such as e-journals, e-books, conference proceedings, preprint services, scholarly articles etc are increasingly being made available in the net. Therefore, the challenge before library staff is to be aware of the numerous Web resources that are relevant to their users' needs and select, acquire as well as integrate them into the services of the library. In light of the above, Aguolu (2002) was on the same view when he said that "It is the basic responsibility of the Librarian to identify the needs of his users and to select, acquire and organise the information resources that would satisfy those needs.

For the National Library of Nigeria to be able to meet up the information needs of the users there is the need for awareness of the numerous Web resources that are relevant to their users' needs which have to be properly managed and made available for use by the library users.

PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING INFORMATION RESOURCES IN NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

Management is the process of reaching organizational goals by working with and through people and other organizational resources. According to Ifidon (2008), management has the following three (3) characteristics: (1) It is a process or series of continuing and related activities, (2) It involves and concentrates on reaching organizational goals, (3) It reaches these goals by working with and through people and other organizational resources. In other words, management of information resources in the library simply means the processes taken to make available information resources for use by the library users. Therefore, management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria involves procedures such as collection/acquisition of information resources, organisation of information resources, preservation and conservation (maintenance) of information resources, accessibility of information resources and use of information resources.

Collection of National Library Resources

As a collecting centre of all books and literature in Nigeria, the National Library of Nigeria collects National literature, contemporary knowledge products, as well as cultural heritage in a holistic and systematic way. Meaning that, collecting information resources is the most important basic function of the library. Therefore, books are collected through submission by publishers, purchase, gifts, donation and exchange. According to Adeniran (2002), "Collection development is the

procurement of library resources either by Purchase, gifts and exchange or Legal Deposit into the library." Collection development is a laid down principle stating what, who, how, and where resources can be collected for the library (Adeniran, 2002). The pride of the National Library of Nigeria's resources is the Nigeriana collection. It comprises library resources published in Nigeria and overseas whose whole or larger part of the content is related to Nigeria.

The collection of Nigeriana is done by the National Library of Nigeria under the legal deposit obligations (Lunn, 2003). However, legal deposit is the requirement, enforceable by law, to deposit with a specified institution a specific number of copies of publications produced within the limits of the jurisdiction and is applicable to all forms and media of publications (Lunn, 2003; Jaeger, 2007; Banjo, 2012). As such this category of resources consists of Federal government documents which include gazettes, laws of the Federation, decrees, budget speeches, raw materials (Colonial documents), Ministries/Extra ministerial department publications, State government publications, monographs, newspapers, magazines, journals, non-book resources published by Nigerians abroad. They are usually organized and stored in close access rooms (i.e. readers do not have direct access to them except through the assistance of the library personnel). Over the years the collection has grown tremendously that it has become an important section of the National Library of Nigeria. It has also become an important reference source of information on the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria.

The National Library of Nigeria Decree No. 29, 1970 charges the National Library with the responsibility of serving as the legal depository agency for the nation's publications. According to the Legal instrument, section 4 (1), "the publishers of every book published in Nigeria shall within one month after the publication deliver at his own expense to the National Library three copies of the book, two of which shall be kept in the National Library for permanent preservation and one of which shall be sent to the University of Ibadan; where any printed matter is published by or on behalf of any department of government of the federation or a State; it shall be the duty of the official in charge of the department to deliver forth with to the Director for the purposes of the National Library :

- a. Twenty-five copies of the publication if it is published by or on behalf of a department of government of the federation, or
- b. Ten copies of the publication if it is published by or on behalf of a department of government of a State, or such smaller numbers of copies as the Director may determine in a particular case.

Libraries worldwide collect varieties of publications to meet the diverse needs of their clientele. A library that

cannot meet the information needs of its users is a moribund academic information system because it has lost its vitality, honour and attractions (Aguolu, 2002). Libraries, therefore strive hard to assuage the intellectual and informational thirst and curiosity of their users by collecting and processing various reading information resources for the use of their patrons in order to justify their continual existence and relevance.

A number of factors affect collection development in a library such as the institution, its clientele, purposes and objectives of the library, present collection, available finance, human, informational, inspirational, recreational, bibliographical, evaluative and other resources, possibilities of resources sharing, modes of information transaction, current demand and use of information by users, tradition, publishing patterns, alternative to purchases, etc (Ham, 2003; Makpodia, 2011; and Habila, 2004).

Another important management procedure next to the collection of library resources in the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria is seen to be the organisation of library resources.

Organization of National Library Resources

Cook (2004) has attempted an explanation of the concept of organization of information resources in the national library. He pointed out that, it entails “putting resources into their proper final order” or to place them in an order relative to each other. In the olden days, library resources were subjected to a variety of organizations and re-organizations, for instance, many ancient scholars have used chronological order, subject matter, and geographical consideration for organization of library resources. From the above point of view of Cook, it is true because library resources need to be properly organised in order to promote or create room for easy accessibility of library resources.

Similarly, Okoli (2007) identified four main systems of classification namely: “alphabetical, chronological, numerical, and subject”. These systems have their inherent advantages and disadvantages. With time however, such artificial organizations were considered ineffective and inefficient, as such, as systematic and effective organization of library resources based on their nature and character was developed. Cook (2004) viewed organization as “putting library information resources into their proper order.”

However, the term resources *organization system* is intended to encompass all types of schemes for organizing and promoting resources management. Resources organization system includes classification schemes that organize resources at a general level (such as books on a shelf), subject headings that provide more detailed access, and authority files that control variant versions of key information (such as geographic names

and personal names) (Ugah, 2008). They also include less-traditional schemes, such as semantic networks and ontology. Because resources organization systems are mechanisms for organizing resources, they are at the heart of every library, museum, and archive.

Resources organization systems are used to organize resources for the purpose of retrieval and to manage a collection (Kamanda, 2004). A ROS serves as a bridge between the user's information need and the resources in the collection. With it, the user should be able to identify an object of interest without prior knowledge of its existence. Whether through browsing or direct searching, whether through themes on a Web page or a site search engine, the ROS guides the user through a discovery process. In addition, ROS allows the organizers to answer questions regarding the scope of a collection and what is needed to round it out.

The National Library of Nigeria organises its resources based on Library of Congress Classification Scheme because of its wider space to accommodate more resources (Mazikana, 2009). “Libraries are of use, the easier users can find what they need from them, the more they will be encouraged to make use of the library” (Mohammed, 2009). For the convenience of library users, librarians devised techniques to speed up the retrieval of books and other library resources in their collections. Through the use of these techniques, librarians try to ensure that the library patrons can find information resources on any subject they wish, by any author they desire, by the title they wish. These practices were attempts to resolve a basic dilemma of finding information resources – whether it is a floppy disk, a book, a film, a map, or a phonographic records. In furtherance of this, it has been found most advantageous to organize information resources in some definite order, usually in groups of specialized sections, either by the subjects they cover (Physics, English Language, Art, etc) or their literature content (poem) or their physical format (colour, size). Therefore, cataloguing is the process of describing a work and assigning it a call number. Cataloguing process includes determining the main entry, describing the work and assigning added entries, subject entries and a call number.

Bello (2006) described library catalogue as a “systematic list of information items in a particular library organized in a particular fashion, usually alphabetically”. Aina (2007) therefore sees a library catalogue as a register of all bibliographic items found in a library or group of libraries, such as network of libraries at several locations. However, from the definition above, a bibliographic item can be any information entity (e.g. books, computer files, graphics, realia, cartographic resources, etc) that is considered library resources (e.g a single document in history) or a group of library resources, or linked from the catalogue (e.g. a webpage, a union cataloguing) as far as it is relevant to the catalogue and to the users of the library. So library

catalogues are lists of what libraries have in their collections. Poor organization of library resources leads to the frustration of the library patrons. Proper organisation will assist greatly in facilitating access to deteriorated library information resources that are needed to be preserved and conserved. Meaning that it will make the processes go smoothly.

Preservation and conservation of National Library Resources

Preservation and conservation is one of the most urgent issues to be tackled by libraries all over the world. The preservation and conservation issues are complicated by the diverse nature of library resources, both in composition and structure. Fortunately, librarians, manufacturers, conservators and publishers are becoming more cognizant of preservation and conservation issue and as such, they are gradually resolving them. The concept, preservation in this context is used to refer to all necessary strategies, measures and steps invested into prolonging the lives of library resources. As supported by Lamikanra (2003), preservation is the degree to which something has not been changed or damaged by age, weather, and so on.

On the other hand, (Alegbeleye, 2002) clearly states that there are few misconceptions on preservation and conservation. He explains that the terms preservation and conservation are used interchangeably. But strictly speaking experts in the field draw a distinction between the two words. Preservation includes all the managerial and financial considerations, including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies techniques and methods involved in preserving library and archival resources and information contained in them. Conservation on the other hand, refers to specific practices taken to slow deterioration and prolong the life of an object by directly intervening in its physical or chemical make-up. Examples of the latter are the repair of damaged binding or the de-acidification of paper (Habiba, 2004).

From the above explanation, one would deduce that preservation of library resources refers to the activities associated with maintaining library resources for use, either in their original physical format or in some other format. This includes a number of procedures from control of the environment to conservation treatment. Conservation therefore, is the treatment of library resources to stabilize their physical structure in order to sustain their survival as long as possible in their original format. Alegbeleye (2002) argues that libraries are prone to disasters that can be classified broadly as natural and manmade and they include fire, flooding, civil unrest, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, war lightening, and to some extent, rodents and pests attack. It is in this regard that the usefulness of preservation cannot be over

emphasized in our Libraries today.

“The National Library of Nigeria collects, organizes and preserves information resources for easy retrieval. The whole idea of classification is to be able to retrieve relevant information with accuracy and minimum delay regardless of the nature of the resources. This information has been stored in print form over the ages, e.g cuneiform writing in Mesopotamia. The central mission of the National Library of Nigeria is to collect, organize, preserve and provide access to information resources. In fulfilling this mission, National Library preserves a valuable record of culture that can be passed down to succeeding generations. The National Library is essential link in this communication between the past, present, and future. Whether the cultural record is contained in books or in electronic formats, libraries ensure that resources are preserved and made available for later use. National Library of Nigeria proved people with access to the information they need to work, play, learn, and govern (Mohammed, 2009).”

Nwakaego (2009) sees preservation as fundamental role of any library. Preservation of information resources is the earliest responsibility of the National Library of Nigeria. National Libraries are the store houses of humanistic, scientific and technological resources. They preserve the resources of civilization and of mankind's achievement and discoveries. While the culture of any society aims at enabling the society to survive, one of the basic functions of the National Library of Nigeria is to preserve the existing information resources by rationally and systematically accumulating all kinds of resources, published and unpublished, written or oral in resources form, which embodies the ideas and knowledge of the past. Each new idea, invention or achievement by mankind grows out of accumulated and conserved knowledge. According to him, the National Library of Nigeria conserves the national heritage by its exhaustive and encyclopaedic collection of all published resources.

The National Library of Nigeria has been empowered by law with the obligation to collect and preserve for posterity the published resources of the country's cultural heritage, consequently, it should be entrusted with the preservation of Nigeria's cultural heritage and make same available for the use of the present and future generations (Fasick, 2007). The resources of the National Library of Nigeria may not endure to serve those purposes, informing their creation as well as their long-term value unless there is a preservation programme in place. According to Drijthout (2001), “without preservation access becomes impossible and collections will decay and disintegrate.”

Roper (2009) viewed preservation as a generic term for the totality of measures for maintaining the integrity of documents and the information contained in them. For Mackenzie (2006), the term refers to everything that contributes to the physical well being of the resources. Alegbeleye (2002) identified preservation pyramid in the

National Library of Nigeria as that which contains three components of preventive conservation, passive conservation and restoration. The first two components involve all direct and indirect steps and provisions to prolong the life span of the resources while the last component “stands for all actions taken to prolong the life span of the object in its perceptible appearance in compliance with the rules of aesthetics and ethics, while maintaining its historical integrity.”

Of crucial importance to the preservation programme of the National Library of Nigeria is the existence of a preservation policy. Gosnell (2002) emphasized the importance of a preservation policy and stated that it has become a useful tool to National Library of Nigeria, which is dedicated to ensuring the survival of resources entrusted to its care. A preservation policy must take care of all activities relating to preservation of resources. Preservation activity is ubiquitous and can be found in such processes as selection, survey of the physical condition of resources, storage in appropriate containers, correct environmental conditions, correct handling by users, maintenance of buildings and equipment and reprography. The storage area, according to Schwirtlich (2002), “is the permanent home of resources and its quality and management has an enormous impact on their continued preservation.” Emphasizing the importance of good storage, Child (2001) asserted that it is “an essential prerequisite of any preservation programme as it stabilizes the condition of an item and allows measured long term remedial action.”

Most cultural heritage resources are organic in nature and as a result will ultimately deteriorate. According to Ham (2003), the rates at which cultural resources deteriorate are determined by two factors. These are the inherent and the external agents of deterioration. The inherent or internal agent is as a result of the modern book, which is made of high acidic paper especially those published since mid 19th century. Early paper was made from clean linen, cotton, rag flax and strong fibres. This type of paper has low acid content; hence it was durable, strong and permanent.

The external agents include the environment in which the resources are stored; biological attack of fungi, insect, rodent and birds; mechanical wear and tear of books due to mishandling by library users, theft and mutilation of cultural resources by users. All source of light; natural light, ultraviolet rays from sunlight and incandescent periodically as they have a limited life span and may need to be replaced every few years (Mnjama, 2003). The National Library of Nigeria has recently started digitization of its resources. This is a welcoming development especially in this information technology.

Mohammed (2006) stated that the National Library of Nigeria has a lot of challenges in the field of preservation of library information resources. This is due to the preserving problems it is facing such as inadequate facilities, information resources are deteriorating, the

books and serials are becoming acidic and no efforts are being made to de-acidify them. Non-book resources like microforms, tapes, photographic negatives and slides have gone bad and there are no disaster detection facilities as a measure towards disaster control. Ode and Omokaro (2007) suggested that libraries should be concerned with the preservation and repairs of resources because they are responsible for the useful life of the resources under their custody. Preservation is the action taken to read, stop or prevent deterioration, especially by providing the proper storage areas and repair damages already done to an item. They went further to say that libraries should remember their goals:

1. They should extend the useful life of the library book. In this case, proper method of shelving will help. Staff should be trained to keep books standing straight up using book-stands. Proper shelving method gives maximum strength to all books. According to Fanel and Wallen (2003), when books are shelved too loosely, they lean to one side or the other. This leaning loosens the binding. Oversized books require special treatment, they should be shelved in a special location like reference resources and this should be indicated on the spine label and the card catalogue as oversized.
2. To prevent the unnecessary book damage, the use of protective covers prevents books from water and dirt. The librarian should understand the local situation and decide on other ways to prevent damage to book. This sometimes may require written guidelines for the careful handling of the books by the patrons or users. Or a simple slogan like “books are like your darling, please treat them as such”. The guideline should be published and given to the users.
3. Watch out for the damaged books early enough and make minor repairs.

However, preservation and conservation therefore have to do with all the steps taken in the collection, organization and distribution of information resources to prevent and stop deterioration of information resources. According to the researcher, in spite of this useful means of preventing information resources from deteriorating the National Library of Nigeria is not taking this measure into effective use but rather allowing the information resources to get damaged or deteriorated in one way or the other.

There is the need for the National Library of Nigeria to tackle a lot of challenges in the field of preservation and conservation of information resources. Such challenges as inadequate facilities, acidic content in books and serials, etc. Taking care of this will assist in effective and efficient management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria. Properly preserved and conserved information resources pave way for easy

access to the information resources in the library.

Facilitating Access to National Library Resources

The accessibility of National Library holdings is the inherent feature which distinguishes the present image of the National Library. At the symposium on National Libraries in 1958, in Vienna, the unanimous opinion was expressed that the modern National Library cannot be considered as carrying out its functions completely if it does not provide the proper level of library service and guide and easy access to its resources.

Access is defined as a means of approach, entering or coming in contact with something. Abioye (2002) maintains that access refers to the terms and conditions of availability of library information resources. There is danger in not allowing people to have access to proper education facilities and the choice to seek for information depends on its perceived accessibility. Most National Libraries are accessible (opening hours) to the users from 8.00am to 4.00pm, from Mondays to Fridays, from 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays. They remained close on Sundays and Public Holidays, which period for the holidays must be announced to the public.

Accessibility of information resources is an important recurring theme in the literature. Readers tend to use information resources that require the least effort to access. Similarly, Opara (2008) who studied the relationship between accessibility and library use and noted that the problem of the users is not the question of wanting to use the library, but whether or not the library can provide for their needs, and whether there is access to what is provided.

Azzopardi and Vinay (2008) defined Information Retrieval as the science of locating, from a large document collection, those documents that fulfil a specified information need. Information retrieval is the area that deals with storage, organization, management and retrieval of information. Similarly, Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) have rightly observed that libraries are social institutions, created to conserve knowledge; preserve the cultural heritage; provide information; and to serve as fountain of recreation; undergird and underpin education and research. In support of this opinion, Ajidahun (2006) declared that, the mission statement of any library is the provision of excellent information services to its users.

Consequently, Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) noted that availability of information resources do not necessarily imply its accessibility, because the resources may be available but access to it is prevented for one reason or the other. Similarly, Aina (2004) wrote on access to scientific and technological information in journal articles in Nigeria and revealed that journal articles were not indexed or abstracted, making them inaccessible. Consequently, Kent (2009) identified natural artificial barriers to free access to information. The library's poor

reputation was attributed to lack of accessibility of information resources. Consequently, Iyoro (2004) examines the impact of serial publications and discovered that serials were found to play a significant role in the acquisition of resources. In a similar study, Oyediran-Tidings (2004) asserted that low use of the library by students was attributed to expressed accessibility problem. However, Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) revealed that efforts are being made worldwide to promote access to information in all formats in the national libraries.

Okiki (2011) states that books are cultural products and often bear the essence of the culture in which they originate and were published. He further stated that books record a people's experience and artefacts. For instance, the Nigerian Yearbook, published and printed by Times Press (Nigeria) Apapa contains all that one needs to know about Nigeria. *Things fall apart*, a novel written by Chinua Achebe bears the culture of a particular group of people, the *Igbos*, in Eastern Nigeria. For communities to realize their development choices, enhancement of their capacity to deliver and cope with the societal changes, information accessibility is a critical necessity (Ezomo, 2000). Through providing access to, and acting as repositories of indigenous knowledge, libraries can strengthen local communities by helping them develop their local solutions for their development challenge.

In his contribution, Abioye (2002), quoting Hinchey and Mc Chansaland (2000), maintains that 'access' refers to the terms and conditions of availability of information resources. Nweke (2005) emphasized that there is danger in not allowing people to have access to proper education facilities. Accessibility of library information resources is an important recurring theme in the literature. Kaulthan (2001) argues that the choice to seek information depends on its perceived accessibility.

Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) observed that resources may be available in the library and even identified bibliographically as relevant to one's subject of interest, but the user may not be able to lay hands on them. One may identify citations in indexes, but may not have access to the information resources containing the relevant articles. The more accessible library information resources are the more likely they are to be used. Researchers such as Saka (2010), Amen (2007), and Roper (2009) had earlier validated through empirical studies the observations that readers tend to use library resources that require the least effort to access. The user may encounter five possible types of inaccessibility. They are conceptual, linguistic, critical, bibliographic and physical inaccessibility.

For the libraries to assist in the promotion of access to library information resources, they must help to identify, locate and deliver information or document sought by the researcher (Aguolu and Aguolu, 2002). The identification and location of information pertinent to the user's inquiry

depends upon the availability of effective bibliographic apparatus in general and in specialized fields. To facilitate identification and location of information resources in the libraries, the library is expected to provide effective access tools as catalogues, bibliographic guides, indexes and abstracts. According to Olorunsola (2008), nothing frustrates a researcher or library user more than trying to retrieve an article, which seems right on target, only to find that the library does not own the journal.

Direct physical accessibility to Publication Ordinance (PO) is another means of accessing information resources, but allowing users to gain physical access to the collection in order to search for information resources may waste users' time but encourages shelf-browsing in the library, which has been defined by Olugbuo (2009) as the process of searching for information resources of relevance to one's subject of interest, often without precise subject terms under which to search. In the words of Line (2009), "browsing has been compared with looking for a needle in a hay stack and finding the farmer's daughter". Users tend to find more valuable resources through browsing. In open access system, browsing is almost universally practiced and is much appreciated by users. It exposes researchers or library users to current library resources and this is very important as it enables users to keep abreast of new development on and beyond the fingers of their own discipline.

In spite of the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria, the accessibility to these information resources is often seen to be difficult. This therefore, means that the National Library of Nigeria needs to come up with more effective and efficient management of information resources for easy accessibility of the information resources. By so doing the library will assist in the promotion of access to information resources. The identification and location of information resources pertinent to the user's inquiry depends upon the availability of effective bibliographic apparatus in general and specialized fields. Therefore, to facilitate identification and location of information resources in the libraries, the library is expected to provide effective access tools as catalogues, bibliographic guides, indexes and abstracts. Without access to information resources, there can be no use, collection, or management of resources.

Use of National Library Resources

Libraries are organized so that users can find the particular item or piece of information they are looking for from the collection for their use. It is in the library that users learn the concept of searching for particular information items and using them. Abubakar (2008) identified use as an activity which measures the worth of

an item to a library or information system. Use is the only criteria which could be employed to determine the reason for retaining a document within the collections of a library. The use of a library can be obtained from the demand of the items. Therefore, if the users have no demand for the information resources of a library, it means that the library does not have what they want, in this case, the library records low patronage. Use of information resources and services are usually determined by the users' statistics which reveals the information resources and services consulted. The National Library of Nigeria has readers' statistics of all subject areas of which the books and other resources removed from the shelves and consulted are recorded according to subject areas. This determines the actual use of library resources put in place by the library. This is why libraries must strive hard to assuage the intellectual and information thirst and curiosity of their users by acquiring and processing various reading resources for the use of their patrons in order to justify their continual existence.

In providing the information services to the users, it is imperative for the librarians to know the information needs and seeking behaviours of the users, their skills and satisfaction levels in using information resources. Consequently, Oke (2008) asserted that information is a key resource that can bring change and improvement in the society. User's services in libraries are based on the premise that effective library services must begin with a clear understanding of the actual needs of the users. The use of information resources depends on choice or preference of the users. Fasick (2007) has described the way in which a user gradually moves from choosing books haphazardly from the shelves or book trucks to learning that books on particular subjects are grouped on the shelves, and eventually discovering that the catalogue is a guide to finding books as resources to use. Librarians have been long aware of the difficulties which users have in learning to use the library retrieval systems such as the catalogues, indexes and abstracts, indeed, many adult users never learn to use them efficiently.

It is as a result of the lack of knowledge on how to use the Library resources that has made the National Library of Nigeria to introduce the concept of Users Education, which is given to users by the professionals on how to use the Library resources to get information they want from the library. Marteleto (2009) revealed that even though lecturers recognize the potential value of the library, they do not use them or encourage their use to students because of poor service, resources and facilities. Olum (2011) saw inadequate reading space as a major issue affecting the use of library information resources at the National Library of Nigeria, while Ajileye (2005) also pointed out that lack of use of catalogues and problems of locating information resources on the shelves by the users affect to a great extent the use of library resources

The researcher agrees with the views expressed by the

above researchers that ineffective use of library resources has negative implication on the value of education of the library users. In fact the value of a degree granted by universities is a reflection of the library resources that are provided to the staff and students by the universities. In support of the above assertions, Banjo (2012) is equally of the view that the fundamental requirement for an effective reading environment is the availability of appropriate books and other reading resources.

He further stressed that without books there can be no readers since readers patronize libraries because there is something available for them to read. Books in the right number at the right price and of the right variety constitute a pre-condition in any effort to bring books and readers together and such books must be perceived by the users as meeting their needs. In our libraries in Nigeria, the library users have been observed to be frequently requesting for current resources for use like the case in the National Library of Nigeria. In her contribution, Igbeka (2002) on the information needs and the use of information resources by library users' states that, "All categories (Ministries, Private and Research Institutions) also seek for information from personal collections at home, telephone conversation with colleagues, radio/television and from newspapers". Igbeka (2002) advanced different information resources that are responsible for variation in the information needs and use of information resources by the users of the library when she said that, "Information is normally sought when there are problems to be solved. The problems usually depend on the task to be performed... the goal and objectives and the problems to be solved would be different. Their ways and methods of seeking information would therefore be different".

Igbeka (2002) further mentioned that "information needs depend on workers tasks. Such tasks impose information requirements that must be met if they are to be completed". Igbeka (2002) mentioned two principal factors that could affect the information needs and the use of information resources by the library users as "The personality of the individual and availability of the information sources." While Gravey (2003) was of the view that Scientists make use of Internet to browse their information needs.

However, Tanimu (2000) observed that "Certain objective characteristics of the sources themselves can be used to explain the use and non-use of the information resources, namely: the subject content of the source, the structural linguistic format in which the information is presented as some information sources may be used more often than others because of the brevity with which they provide accurate information. This could thus be the case with the different choice of information resources by the users.

The following factors enumerated by Daramola (2000) to a large extent influence the information needs and the

use of the information resources by the users.

1. **Timeliness:** The information must be produced and presented at the period that is at when it is most needed. Failure to achieve the characteristic, could render the information obsolete or of less value.
2. **Accuracy:** The information must be accurately provided if it must meet the need of the users.
3. **Appropriate Channel:** Information must be communicated using the right channel, considering the nature of the information, the speed required and the needs of the users.
4. **Presentation:** Information must be presented in a way that makes it easily understood by the users. Poorly computed reports and badly designed information materials reduce the quality of information, which could mislead the users.

Each type of library has its aims and objectives. This determines the type of information resources the library should acquire. Ikpaahindi (2010) posited that the type of the information resources acquired also suggest the users of the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) is meant to serve. The users of information resources cut across different people in the country. They include students, applicants, politicians, civil servants and other professionals, traders and business people, legal practitioners, artisans and other non-professionals and so on. They need information in different disciplines which include Science and Technology; Social Sciences and Humanity. Lawyers make use of information resources (newspapers) as the certified true copy for conflict resolution among authors in the court of law. Students also find the information resources such as text books, journals, newspapers, reference information resources etc, useful in their educational pursuit (Ezema, 2009). Civil servants are also great users of the information resources particularly the government publications. The official gazettes are used for certification and authentication in government offices. They serve as credentials for leave of absence, first and second appointments, date of promotion, transfer of service, etc. These resources are of great use in the government offices.

Users seek information on job placements and current happenings contained in newspapers. Ajidahun (2006) cited Owairu (2010) stated that despite the importance of newspapers, the prices are beyond most individual's purchasing power. Hence most Nigerians rely on libraries that offer free services to keep abreast of current information. The National Library of Nigeria is such a library that is responsible to serve this great purpose. The content of the resources to be acquired in the National Library of Nigeria has to be considered in terms of its education, information, entertainment, cultural and recreational value. This is the most important aspect of

using the information resources knowing the usefulness of the resources to the users. A user cannot come to the library that does not have the information resources that he/she knows cannot serve his/her purpose.

Similarly, Aguolu (2002) asserted that most of the users come to the National Library of Nigeria to read serial resources to be able to get information on their information needs such as job vacancies, business advertisement, politics, sport events, education, information, entertainment, agriculture, health related information and current information. Other users consult Internet facilities for the same related information stated above.

Good management of information resources is only a means to an end, the ultimate goal of which is their proper and effective utilization by the user community. Use of information resources depends on the access to the available information resources through library retrieval systems and the help of finding aids. As such lack of proper user education, etc can be a problem in proper use of information resources. Librarians have been long aware of the difficulties which users have in learning to use the library retrieval systems such as the catalogues, indexes and abstracts, indeed, many adult users never learn to use them efficiently. In this case, for effective and efficient management of information resources for proper use, the National Library of Nigeria needs to embark on proper training on user education. In the course of management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria, there are quite a number of challenges associated with management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria.

CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

Management of Information Resources especially in National Libraries of Nigeria is being faced with a number of challenges for example. Popoola (2003) identified the following:

- a) Inadequate funds which had affected staffing, accommodation, expansion and the execution of such operations as creation, organization, preservation and conservation as well as library services.
- b) Poor training opportunities for resources managers.
- c) Lack of adequate infrastructure and modern information technology for library information.

In his contribution, Ngwany (2002) highlighted that the challenges encountered in Nigeria National Library include: funding, storage, maintenance, skilled manpower, access to information, delay in retrieval,

power supply, equipment, security, weeding of resources, low morale of staff, training and re-training, use of ICT, creation of resources, and government policies. According to Alegbeyele (2000) stated that lack of centralized control of library resources contributes to lack of knowledge of information resources management and vital information resources program.

To support the above view, based on the observation the unorganized nature of information resources in National Libraries has been greatly influenced by the near lack of awareness and nonchalant attitude of National Libraries to information resources management training. In their study on resources management practices in National Library in Nigeria, Abioye (2007) Okoro (2005) and Habila (2004) reported that "there were no forms of information resources management training programme received by the staff at the studied Library." They further stated that most of the staff found it difficult to understand the concept of information resources management. In a similar study carried out by Popoola (2003), he submitted that ".....group of officers are not information resources managers and neither do they have in-house training in information resources management practice." The importance of trained personnel in information resources management cannot be over emphasized. Information resources management cannot have prospects of success unless the services of trained personnel are employed (Alegbeyele, 2000).

On the other hand, the magnitude of preservation challenge has become increasingly apparent. This situation has been partly caused by many years of neglect and partly by the environmental conditions most often beyond the control of the Librarian. Despite the digitization project of library resources in the National Library of Nigeria, the bulk of library resources are still in bound volumes. Dalton (2000) stated that the following are some of the problems:

- a) Lack of sufficient air-conditioning: Air-conditioning is highly recommended for rare book collections. Air-conditioners help in stabilizing the temperature and humidity condition in Libraries. They also help to filter out particulates and chemical pollutants. A visit to the National Library of Nigeria newspaper room in Abuja shows that there are insufficient air- conditioners in the room. Air- conditioning is very important in the preservation of newspapers in particular and books in general. Lack of sufficient air-conditioning in the newspaper room will result in the fast deterioration of the newspapers.
- b) Lack of constant electricity supply: Electricity must be available in the library resources room for 24 hours a day to facilitate the use of the air-conditioners, or even ceiling fans. This is not possible because of the epileptic power supply in Nigeria. The incessant power failure is not conducive for the preservation of information resources.

Similarly, lack of funds and modern equipment for managing library resources is yet another big problem in the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria.

Mayes (2007) stated that, The National Library of Nigeria lacks funds to preserve its information resources with modern preservation methods. Latest information technologies for conserving information such as microform, magnetic tapes/ disc and optical disks are better ways of preservation than binding. Also, Mayes (2007) giving reasons for binding journals, says its main purpose is to conserve an item for the future, to protect it against current heavy usage or to ornament or decorate it. He did not hesitate to point out the difficulty in binding periodicals; that bound volumes are difficult to maintain on the shelves. Information preserved in microform e.g. microfilming has a life span of 500 years as against preservation through binding. Moreover, the library lacks equipment like hydro-thermographs which can also be used for preservation purpose.

In the same vein, lack of trained professionals in the field of managing information resources is seen as one of the challenges associated with the management and use of information resources in the National Library. Most Librarians in the National Library of Nigeria are not conversant with the management technologies. This is the reason why Muya (2005) advocated for the need to expose librarians to conservation practices during their training. If librarians are trained as preservation experts, their work or job becomes easier, because they will know the ethic of the job. In addition, Adams (2008) maintains that the greatest enemy of information resources is the librarian who neglects his collections in the quest for ever more efficient management systems. This is very true, because in most cases librarians handle information resources very carelessly and do not care about what happens to them.

In his contribution, Puccio (2011) writes on information resources particularly on periodicals in libraries, pointing out that they (periodicals) comprise a significant portion of the collections of most Libraries and obligate a large percentage of the budget of those libraries. Each type of periodical is important to at least one group, relating to their area of specialization, work or leisure activities. The implications of Puccio's views are that serials consume much of the acquisition budgets in most libraries.

Over the past decades, most libraries in Nigeria have been experiencing much difficulty in providing resources to the users on account of the alarming rate of inflation of the prices of books and journals as well as depreciation value of the Nigerian currency. However, Ugwu (2007) explained further in his study that the problems of transmission, storage and display of information have been combined with the problem of getting to users quickly. Although online searching and electronic bibliographic databases are now available in almost every field which confirms that as information expands,

the ability of the user to process it remains fixed (Scott, 2007).

The information flow in developing countries affects management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. Similarly, Dike (2008) opined that information resources in the National Library of Nigeria are not being well managed because either they have not been acquired or are waiting in the processing unit of the library. The users may encounter problems due to lack of knowledge in the use of the library. Similarly, Zondi (2002) discovered that the majority of users showed a very low level of competence in the use of a library and displayed poor information seeking patterns.

Consequently, more than half of the users experience problems in locating library information resources. This is because the majority of them either located information resources through browsing the shelves or sought assistance from library staff, but they did not make full use of the card catalogue. This was discovered by the researcher during the preliminary study in the National Library of Nigeria. Despite the fact that the card catalogue was the most essential library tool in accessing library collections, it was the most avoided and least consulted by users.

Considering the rapid changes in information provision in the 21st Century with computerized access, digitized information formats, and the plethora of information resources on the Internet, access and retrieval capabilities, users who are traditionally accustomed to manual information library systems, find it difficult to use the information and communication technology (ICT) (Zondi, 2002). In the same vein, Kent (2009) noted that most users even with computers find only a fraction of the resources available to them.

Furthermore, Aguolu (2002) posited that the failure to seek information one needs when it is available may be attributed to some factors which include: lack of appreciation of the value of information due to poor education and illiteracy; ignorance of the potential possibilities of the existing information services; absence of suitable library and information services; the inability of the library users on the other hand to obtain what he wants or needs; non availability of appropriate guides to the existing information in the libraries; failure to approach librarians on his problem for whatever reason; non availability of suitable staff to assist the user in locating the needed information; limitation to access to the appropriate documents due to administrative or physical barriers imposed on their use; the library may lack adequate hardware to access the information resources in non-profit media and in electronic forms.

Similarly, Dike (2008) further opined that when the information resources are available, they are not accessible to the users due to poor indexing and cataloguing. Furthermore, Mohammed (2006) asserted that inadequate training of librarians and particularly inadequate financial support from the Federal

Government, which Miachi (2000) also affirmed, is a reflection of financial problems faced by the National library themselves resulting into lack of performance of core objectives and work stoppage are the additional problems.

Despite the importance of information resources management in the National Library of Nigeria, there are a lot of challenges and constraints of resources management. Ajewole (2001) stated that, the problem of information resources management is not with resources and information *per se* but with those having interface and interactions with these two vital resources. The problems of information resources management can be summarized into inadequate knowledge of the life-cycles of information resources; inertia in implementing a form of system and information. He identified these problems in every phase of life-cycle of information resources. Therefore, the understanding of information life-cycle is indispensable for effective information resources management. The life-cycle of information resources mirrors the opinion that all information resources regardless of format, pass through certain stages and therefore there is a need for special skill and techniques for their handling and effective control at every stage of life.

The challenges analyzed above are very crucial to the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. This is because whatever affects the information resources affects the library itself, since the library is one of the mandatory facilities that the nation should have. However, information resources in the National Library of Nigeria need to be properly managed in order to meet up with the information needs of the user community. This will go a long way in ensuring that the goals and objectives of the National Library of Nigeria are being achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are proffered based on the findings of the study:

1. The National Library of Nigeria needs not only books as its information resources, but also other current adequate information resources like the modern ICT facilities, for example, computers, as well as more audio-visual resources. There is also the need for information resources sharing among libraries so as to solve the problem of acquisition, as this would equally foster cooperation and unity among different libraries.
2. The National Library of Nigeria should strive to ensure that legal deposit law which is still under review in the National Assembly is being attended to as quickly as possible and also awareness of it should be created to the people.
3. There is the need for proper public awareness of this policy and adequate funding of the agency for effective management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria.
4. The National Library of Nigeria should sensitize and enlighten the general public on the legal deposit as one of the means of making information resources available in the library and its function so that those concerned can take note and become aware, if really there is the need to sustain the system.
5. There is the need to solve the challenges in the management circle of information resources, for example in the area of preservation and conservation among others if effective management of information resources for use is to be achieved in the National Library of Nigeria.
6. User education programme should be introduced and maintained where librarians can teach the users on how to make good use of the library resources such as catalogues, indexes, abstracts, etc.
7. The government should make provision of adequate funds, as that will enhance the provision of sufficient, adequate and current information resources in various formats, the provision of more effective Internet services, adequate facilities and to organize programmes on the management of information resources, the provision of constant power supply, etc.

CONCLUSION

The study is on the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. It was carried out in order to find out how the National Library of Nigeria effectively managed their information resources. The National Library of Nigeria plays a major role of being the depository library of all copyright publications within the country. They are designed to meet information, cultural, education, research and entertainment needs of their citizens and this can only be done through the provision of adequate and quality information resources with effective management of these resources in order to meet their needs.

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