



Volume 4, Numbers 1 & 2, 2009

Geo-Studies Forum

An International Journal of Environmental & Policy Issues



***A Publication of the Department of Geography
University of Ilorin***

Editorial Board

Dr. E.O. Oriola
Dr. H.I. Jimoh
Dr. U.A. Raheem
Mrs. R.M. Olanrewaju
Mr. B. Usman

Editor-in-Chief
Editor
Deputy Editor
Marketing Manger
Member

Editorial Advisory Board

Prof. M.M. Daura

*Department of Geography
University of Maiduguri*

Prof. E.A. Olofin

*Department of Geography
Bayero University, Kano.*

Prof. A.S. Gbadegeşin

*Department of Geography
University of Ibadan.*

Dr. Subrahkant Mohapalra

*Department of Environmental Studies
National Open University, New Delhi,
India.*

Prof. J.N. Bello

*Federal University of Agriculture
Abeokuta.*

Prof. J.O. Oyeibanji

Patron
*Department of Geography
University Ilorin.*

GEO-STUDIES FORUM

A

Publication of

The Department of Geography

Faculty of Business & Social Sciences

University of Ilorin, P.M.B. 1515. Ilorin, Nigeria.

ISSN: 1596 - 4116

3

CONTENTS

1. Temporal Variation of Annual Rainfall Amount, Onset, Termination and Duration of the Rainy Season in Katsina State of Nigeria - **Ojonigu Friday and Edwin O. Iguisi, Seidu O. Mohammed**
2. The Place of Law on Fire Incidences in the Nigerian Environment- **Muhtar A. Etudaiye**
3. Resources Sharing among Academic Libraries in Nigeria: Problems and Prospects - **Usman, A. Saliu**
4. The Prospects of Sustainable Management of Domestic Water Supply and Sanitation in Kogi State, Nigeria **Ifatimehin, O.O. & S.D Musa**
5. Incidence of Human Trafficking in a Part of Nigerian Environment **Muhammed A. Yinusa**
6. Effects of Oke-Oyi Irrigation Project on Food Production in Kwara State, Nigeria **Usman Bolaji Abdulkadir**
7. The Role of Community Infrastructure Provision in the Development of Medium-Sized Towns in Kwara State of Nigeria **G.P Afolayan**
8. Impact of Morlap Mining and Processing Industry in Igbeti, Oyo State of Nigeria **B.S Ajadi**
9. Small Scale Industrial Schemes and Rural Developments in Nigeria **J. A. Oladipo**
10. An Assessment of Gender and HIV/AIDS in Zaria area of Kaduna State of Nigeria **Benedine Akpu**
11. A Review on Geographical Information System on Inland Fisheries and Aquacultural Practices **Gwari, B.M, Kolndadacha, O.D., Kagu A And Ifabiyi I.P.**
12. Exploratory Study of Hunters' Perception on Forest Bush Burning in Kwara State, Nigeria **Adefalu, I. L., Oladipo F. O., Ogunlade, I. and Aderinoye Abdulwahab, S.A.**
13. Application of Remote Sensing and GIS on the Evaluation of Urban Growth in Lokoja, Kogi State of Nigeria (1964-2008) **Idowu Innocent Abbas, Memayin Ariyo and John A. Ukoje**
14. The Patterns of Channel Responses to Some Urbanisation Parameters in Ilorin City, Nigeria **Ajewole, D. O,**
15. Women Farmers and Food Security in Asa L.G.A, Kwara State of Nigeria **A.M Tunde**
16. The Performance of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in Kwara State: An Overview. **Yakubu, Ahmed Taruwere**

Resources Sharing among Academic Libraries in Nigeria: Problems and Prospects

Usman, A. Saliu

University of Ilorin Library
University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria

Abstract

This paper attempts a justification of the importance of resource sharing in the present world of librarianship. Attempts are made to conceptualize resource sharing against the backdrop of the emerging trends in the library cooperation. The paper also discusses the state of Resource Sharing among Academic Libraries in Nigeria and obstacles to networking or Resource Sharing as a vital factor for the provision of efficient automated information exchange and communication among Academic Libraries in Nigeria reasons for participating in Resources Sharing and a general survey of Academic Libraries in Nigeria are also highlighted. The prospects for Resource Sharing in an automating information services and internetting in Academic Libraries in Nigeria and the light of global information network or Resource Sharing are advanced. The paper concludes by highlighting the benefits associated with Resource Sharing.

Introduction

Information is an essential ingredient in any given society or nation. Without any doubt, it is so influential that the level of decision making of an individual is determined by the degree of information at someone's disposal. This implies that an effective decision making of a banker, lawyer, engineer, medical doctor and particularly a librarian depends to a great extent on the accessible information (Diso, 1999).

Libraries are services oriented institutions charged with the responsibility of providing relevant information resources that will be meeting the information need of their clientele. Libraries in institutions of higher learning (like the universities, polytechnics, colleges of education, etc) are primarily established to facilitate the teaching, learning and research activities of such institutions. Towards satisfying this, an academic library will strive to provide the right information to the right user in the right format and at the right time. It is when this is done that such library is regarded as achieving its purpose of establishment.

In a contribution, Ajibero (1995) while acknowledging the importance of library in an educational institution opines that "it is possible to establish a university without a registry or bursary but it is not possible without a library... similarly, Olanlokun and Salisu (1993) write that library is indeed a nerve centre of educational institutions especially universities. It is glaring that no library is an island that is, totally independent of itself. For instance, no two academic libraries can possess the same variety of information resources quantitatively or qualitatively. This implies that the collection of one library can be stronger in certain fields of knowledge than another library. The inadequacy of information materials as a result of inappropriate

funding in academic libraries in Nigeria and particularly in this contemporary times necessitates what is referred to as "Resource sharing".

The idea of resource sharing is not new in the library world. Until recently, it was known to librarians as inter-library loan and library cooperation. (Attaullah, 1992) states also that the term resources sharing gained worldwide acceptance in the 1990s due to the expansion of information, tight library budgets, increase in the price of publications and the growing demand of users for information resource sharing in its most positive aspect means reciprocity, implying partnership in which each is willing and ready to make available when needed. Another scholar (Jalloah 1999) defined Library resource sharing as the process where the resources of a group or network of libraries is made available to the sum total of the person entitled to use any one of those Libraries. Resource sharing is a wide phrase embracing Library cooperation, library systems and networking. It is an omnibus expression to cover cooperation, coordination, library loan, cooperation acquisition, cooperative storage and processing. Resource sharing may appear to be nothing. More than a new term for the familiar concept of library cooperation. True, many of the same activities are included, but there is significant difference in the approach. The basic function of the library is to match the information needs of users with information contents of documents. The proper performance of this function requires the services of the library staff and the provision of library facilities in the accommodation and equipments.

(Jalloah 1999) further States that Resource Sharing holds a strong potential for libraries in developing countries especially those in Africa. The information explosion and the increase in the cost of information has forced libraries, to apply computer for their services, while technological advancement presents in the library profession with a platform or cooperation. Resource sharing however requires efficient communication structures. Networks arise because individual libraries realize that they can no longer be self sufficient in respect of their information resources. The underlying assumption of library networking is that all the members will share their resources and use the networking as a joint venture and it needs the cooperation of every one involved. Libraries have shared resources for many decades through formal and informal agreements.

Academic Libraries and Resource Sharing

According to Alokun (2003) Academic library is a library that is established inside an institution of higher learning e.g Universities, Polytechnics, and college of Education. The main objective of any Academic library is to research purposes. Academic library service as the creation of new knowledge and transmission to learning and culture of the present and the past. Academic libraries in Nigeria are compelled to join the race in the provision of information resources electronically so that students and faculties can benefit from a wide range of current information

resources electronically so that students and faculties can benefit from a wide range of current information globally. Ehigitor (2000).

University must perform its unique role of teaching, learning and research effectively and efficiently, there must be sufficient resources in terms of library finance and staff accommodation. Aguolu, (1993) states that university libraries assist the universities in the discharge of their functions by acquire all the relevant information resources necessary for sustaining teaching, learning, research and public service functions of their universities. The extent to which the university libraries are able to perform these function will depend on a number of factors which include: adequate information resources, qualified personnel. Adequate accommodation and availability of funds. The situation in Nigerian university libraries has been that of inability to provide the basic requirements for effective discharge of their duties. There will also be the need to shift emphasis from the present predominant use of traditional information acquisition, procession storage and retrieval systems to modern electronic systems. Daniels (2000) states that the world is witnessing the wave of revolution in the information Technology. The "Information Revolution" Changes are occurring every days as a result of the application of information technology.

Why Do Academic Libraries Participate In Resources Sharing In Nigeria

There is a long trading of inter-library loans. But the need for resource sharing has surfaced again due to the many factors which have occurred in the recent past. According to (Jollah 1999) there are essentially three reasons why libraries participate in library network or resource sharing. (First is that networks can enhance the quality of services that academic library provides to its clientele. They can offer a number of effective resource sharing services to their libraries, ranging for example from national, regional, or statewide and university distribution of shared catalog systems to online search of information retrieval data bases, document delivery preservation microfilming and cooperative collection development. (The second reason is that it relates to the altruistic nature of the library profession. Sharing is good and networking together seems to be the professionally right thing to do. Participating in a library network or consortium can be seen as one's contribution to the profession. (Thirdly, despite the many local pressures on academic libraries to be self sufficient, librarians strongly believe in resource sharing as a means of reducing costs through a state management of the cooperative organization.

A General Survey Of Resources Sharing In Nigeria

A survey of more recent works will most likely include those of the likes of kofi (1997). Potter (1997). Khalid (1996). Siddiqi (1996). Reed-Scott (1995) etc. resource sharing in a changing environment. Knook (1997) started from the assumption that significantly expanded Resource Sharing will be a document feature

of all twenty-first century libraries. According to INASP (1997) even though historically academic Libraries formed consortia for the primary purpose of sharing printed materials, recently they are forming them to provide common access to electronic sources on the internet.

According to Ugboogu, (1992) states that, few if any libraries in Nigeria are connected to worldwide databases. These libraries serve thousand of researchers, scientists, businessmen and women, policy maker, teachers and many other specialists. The library and documentation centre of the Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (FIIRO) in 1982 made an attempt at linking DIALOG for a demonstration of a databases search. Owing to some technical problems at the Nigerian end, the agent from the data base vendor did not turn up in Nigeria.

Recently, the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) Installed an earth station and it is being used for radio or television reception from any part of the world. Using appropriate modems, the institute hopes to used the dish in future for data/records exchange.

(Lawani, 1973) states that all efforts for efficient resource sharing in Nigeria seem to have come to naught. Most projects lie either on the drawing board or are half completed. Library cooperation exists only informally based on the good will of one library to another. It lacks legal support provided by formal agreement. Union catalogues, the bedrock for most cooperative efforts, are almost non-existence for collections other than serials.

Presently, there is clear indication that the National Universities Commission (NUC) in Nigeria is aware of the importance of computer and efforts have begun on computers networking and internet connectivity among Federal universities using a special network virtual library project. Moreover, the Committee of University Librarians of Nigeria Universities, (COLNU'S) which (started as sub-committee of vice chancellor came into being in 1973. COLNU'S objective was to advance the development of Nigeria university libraries. This it does through the following activities:

Cooperative Acquisition in Libraries

In May 1980, the National Library sponsored a conference on Cooperative Acquisition in Kaduna. "to examine the possibilities of cooperative acquisition and if found desirable, to consider a suitable framework for opening the scheme in Nigeria". Participants agreed on the need for planned cooperation in the area of collection development to enable academic libraries maximize their financial resources. (CULNU) has now recommended to the National Universities Commission that national universities database systems should be developed and the idea of subject specialization be pursued with all vigour.

Problems Of Resource Sharing Among Academic Libraries In Nigeria

All efforts at efficient resource sharing in Academic libraries in Nigeria seem to have come to naught. It lacks legal support provided by formal agreement. Union catalogues are vital for communicating information about library materials help by another library. Nigerian academic libraries have since recognized the need for cooperative ventures. The academic and research libraries have been engaged in some. Cooperative activities within academic campuses, institutes.

Regions and Nations.

According to Òdini, (1991) state that there is no doubt that resource sharing programmes have a significant role to play in developing countries, including Nigeria, given the problems of scare, resources especially with regards to human, materials and financial aspects. Some of the most significant problems are stated below:-

Reasons for such failures have been identified to include the following:-

- Negative attitude to automation.
- Lack of cooperative spirit
- Lack of policy
- Lack of standards
- Lack of union catalogues
- Inadequate fund
- Poor communication infrastructure.

The first is the lack of a firm national policy on libraries, thus information services are seldom rated among many "priorities". As a result, library budgets are corresponding low, thus making it impossible for libraries to provide optimum sources.

According to Parker, (1979) states that it lacks the data on present library situation, and this constitutes a serious obstacle to effective planning whether of library development in general or of resource sharing programmes in particular. The lack of data on the present library situation is one of the main obstacles to effective planning.

According to Odini, (1991) also states that the rapid escalation in the price of materials particularly periodicals, also means that the already meager library budget, lose purchasing power from year to year. In addition, exchange control regulation in many countries make the purchase of foreign materials very difficult. According to BOUAZZA, (1986), states that another problems is the lack of facilities for rapid communication among academic libraries and documentation centres, inefficient equipment for producing photocopies, and microforms, poor telephone and postal services and restrictive customs regulations also hamper access and exchange of information. Moreso, poor transportation and communication facilities in most geographical locations in developing countries, such as Nigeria.

Prospects Of Resource Sharing Among Academic Libraries In Nigeria

Today, all information seeking people, including librarians and scholars realize the significance of resource sharing and the topic is being discussed at professional platforms from time to time; however, it has not taken any concrete shape anywhere in Nigeria. Although there are many problems associated with resource sharing in Nigeria which has been discussed earlier.

According to Odini, (1991) Further states that resources sharing cannot be possible when resources are as limited as to be only adequate for the immediate use of local clients, as this is the most common characteristics among academic libraries in Nigeria without having appropriate goals and objectives, but also on creating and operating a service within the rights legal, administrative and fiscal framework. Even within a single country, resource sharing has political implications, since information is a national asset and library or information network is a public utility.

Legal matter which is of special significance for resource sharing Which relates to copyright law. The concept of "fair dealing" in making copies of articles in periodicals from monographs has proved adequate for several decades. In some countries, legislation may be needed to take personal responsibility from the librarian if books lent either to individuals or to institutions are lost. Such enactment need replacing by administrative measures designed to ensure proper control of library materials.

There is the need therefore, to have a national body of the planning for resource sharing with a view to planning favourable conditions for such group that will establish an effective information network including library. Resource sharing programmes in Nigeria are desirable, they should not be rushed into without good planning. The points listed below should be taken into account before embarking on resource sharing programmes that will aid the provision of optimum service among the cooperating libraries:-

- Clarify objectives in advance.
- Recognize that resource sharing requires money, staff commitment to the common purpose.

- Device programmes from which all participants will benefit
- Recognize and make allowance for problems that will arise from limitations of infrastructure.
- Willing to experiment with computerized networks where conditions seem favourable.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for effective implementation of the networks for resource sharing:-

- There is a need for computer literacy activities within the country. The introduction of information technology by Federal Government through federal ministry of science and technology is a welcome development.
- The Nigerian Library Association should consider it expedient to establish information Technology Group.
- The National Library of Nigeria should set up a committee embracing people with appropriate expertise to provide overall direction to network development.
- The Academic Libraries Section of Nigerian Library Association should establish a committee on bibliographic standards.
- The National Library of Nigeria should retain and provide a library automation consulting service to Nigeria libraries, this service should be employed to promote the use of appropriate standards.
- Academic libraries in Nigeria should endeavour to further aid the advancement of social, scientific and technical knowledge through effective networks library services.

Conclusion

The development and exploitation of technology offers the hope of networks for knowledge. It will bring the resources of the greatest academic libraries within the reach of users of the smallest collections in Nigeria. Machinery alone will not do the magic. The skill, determination and patience of librarians will be required in the future, as they are today, if the maximum potentials of library resource sharing are to be realized.

References

- Aguolu, C.C. (1993) The Quality and Availability of learning Materials in Nlerian Universities, *Nigerian Library and Information Science Review*, 1(1):.3.
- Ajibero I.M. (1999) Librarianship the mother of all professions, *In a compendium of paper presentations at the 1999 Nigerian library Association Annual National Conference in Port Harcourt, May, 8th p.13.*
- Allan Kent (1979) *Network and Networking and Networking Objectives*. In *The Journal of Library Network*. P. 8 (Allan Kent & Glaving eds) New York: Delkson.
- Alokun, N.A.T (2003) The use if library: A textbook for students in tertiary Institutions, *Lagos: Victoria-life publisher, 2003. pp. 16-17*
- Attaullah, I. (1992) *Library Policy and Development: National Perspectives in* Edited by Stuart James. *Need a change? Try Exchange: A frame work for source sharing among libraries in Pakistani*. *Library Review Vol 41, No. 5; p.60.*
- Attaullah, (1992): *op cit*, p. 62.
- Bouazza, A: (1986) *Resource sharing in Developing. Countries*. *International Library Review*, 18(4):379 1986.
- Bozimo, D.O. (1981) *Cooperation Among University Libraries in Nigeria, Origin and Course, 1976*. *Bulletin 12:12.*
- Clayton, Marlene (1987) "Managing Library" *London: Gower Publishing Company Ltd, P. 104.*
- Dekock M.G. (1997) *An information Technology in fracture for resource sharing in South African Academic Information Services*. *Diitt et Phil thesis*, Rands, Afrikaans University, Johannesburg. 206pp.
- Diso, L.I. (1999) The importance of the time in information management, *A journal of Association of library and information science studies*, B. Uokano, 10(6):9.
- Ehigiator, I.I (2000) *Strategies for library and information service delivery in the New Millennium, A paper presented at the 38th National Conference and AGM of the Nigerian Library Association Held at Abuja, June 2000.*
- Ike, A. O. (1991): "Resource sharing among University Libraries in Developing Countries". *African Journal of Academic Librarianship*. 9(1 & 2):27-23.
- INASP (international Network for the availability of Scientific publications) *Newsletter*, 9(1997).
- Jollah, Brimah: (1999) "Library networking and Consortia Initiatives" in *African Journal of library, Archives and Information Science*, 9:1-3.
- Jallah Brimah, (1999): *op cit* p. 12.
- Jollah, Brimah (1999): *op cit*, p. 15
- Lawni, S.M (1973), "Union list of Scientific and Technical periodicals in Nigerian

- libraries" 2nd ed Ibadan: IITA p. 532. 1973.
- Odinnin Cephaz: (1991): "Problems and Prospects of Resource Sharing in Developing Countries", African Journal of Library and information Science, Vol. No.2, p. 93.
- Odini, C., (1991): p.95.
- Odini C. (1991):..... P.97.
- Sloan, G. Bernad (1986) "Resource Sharing Among Academic Libraries: the LCS Experience". A Journal of Academic Librarianship, vol. 12. No. 1, p.26.
- Ubogu, F.N et al: (1992) "Library networks and resources sharing in Nigerian" African Journal of Library, Archive and information Science, vol. 2, No. 2 pp. 99.1992.
- Ubogu, F.N. et al (1992) ... p. 101.