PROCEEDINGS OF SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIAN, DIRECTORS AND CHAIRMEN OF STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARDS IN NIGERIA

Edited by

L. O. Aina and P. I. Mamman

PROCEEDINGS OF SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIAN, DIRECTORS AND CHAIRMEN OF STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARDS IN NIGERIA

Sponsored by the

National Library of Nigeria

HELD AT

DOMARIS GARDEN AND SUITES,

SANI ABACHA ROAD, YENAGOA,

BAYELSA STATE

27TH TO 28TH MARCH, 2019

Edited by

L.O. Aina and P. I. Mamman

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FOREWORD

It is with deep satisfaction that I write this Foreword to the Proceedings of the Conference of the Directors and Chairmen of State Public Library Boards in Nigeria, held at Domaris Gardens and Suites, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, from 27th-28th March, 2019.

The conference theme, 'Public library services for effective information delivery: the key for national development', was the focus which particularly encouraged the interaction of administrators of public libraries and other stakeholders to discuss new and current services which are germane to the growth and development of public libraries towards national development. Their contributions helped to make the Conference as outstanding as it has been. The papers contributed the most recent innovative ways to offer effective public library services, which include funding and advocacy. This is in line with the Ministerial Strategic Plan (MSP) of my tenure for the Federal Ministry of Education which puts high premium on library services to make them align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063.

These proceedings will furnish educationists and policy makers of the world with an excellent reference book. I trust also that this will be an impetus to stimulate further study and research in public library services. Thus, it is the desire of the Government to accord public libraries in Nigeria the desired attention to see that they play their expected functions.

We thank all authors and participants for their contributions.

AdamuAdamu
Minister of Education

PREFACE

The annual conference of the Directors and Chairmen of State Public Library Boards in Nigeria is generally aimed at addressing issues which affect public libraries and to affirm commitment to quality library services that benefit the general public. The theme of the 2019 conference, which is the second in my tenure as the National Librarian, was "Public Library Services for Effective Information Delivery: Key to National Development", was held at Domaris Gardens and Suites, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, on 27th and 28th March, 2019. The National Librarian, Chairman of the Conference, and sixty-five (65) participants, amongst whom were chairmen and directors of state library boards from thirteen (13) states and FCT , had fruitful discussions and exchanges that contributed to the success of the conference.

Four (4) papers were presented and extensively discussed during the business sessions of the conference. The papers were : (i)'Information Service Delivery in Public Libraries: Issues and Challenges' by Professor Abdulwahab Olanrewaju ISSA, University Librarian, University of Ilorin Library, Ilorin, Kwara State; (ii) 'Public Libraries and National Development in Nigeria' by Dr. Isaac M. Ogbonna, Deputy University Librarian, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State; (iii) 'Possible Sources of Funding for Public Library Development in Nigeria' by Neemat Daud Abdulrahim, Deputy Director/Head (City Library), Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Centre, Abuja; and (iv) 'Innovations in Public Library Services in Nigeria' by Dr. Omopupa K. T. , Department of Library and Information Science, University of Ilorin.

The paper presentations formed the heart of the conference and provided ample opportunities for extensive and meaningful discussions on the place of public library information services in national development, which further served as the basis for a *communiqué* issued at the end of the conference.

The National Librarian would like to acknowledge the Local Organising Committee for the conference, headed by the Chairman, Bayelsa State Library Board (BSLB), Chief Seiyifa Koroye and especially the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State, His Excellency, Honourable Henry Seriake Dickson for the successful hosting of the conference. I equally thank and give my deepest gratitude to all directors, chairmen of public library boards and other participants.

All in all, the conference was a huge success. The business sessions gave participants the opportunity to share ideas on achievements and challenges for a common approach towards

effective and efficient library and information services in Nigeria. On specific notes, the National Librarian interacted with the board chairmen and the directors of state library boards and identified their challenges which served as bases through which the National Librarian can mitigate, on behalf of the boards, with the various state governments; and the forum can collectively develop paths to effective and efficient information delivery system in public libraries in Nigeria.

The proceedings of this conference are a reference document to the participants at the conference and those that will participate in future conferences. It is also a reference document to researchers, instructors, and students of public library administration, as well as a working document for policymakers.

Professor Lenrie O. Aina
National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

The second Annual Conference of the National Librarian, Chairmen and Directors of State Public Library Boards in Nigeria with the theme, "***Public Library Services for Effective Information Delivery: Key for National Development***" was coordinated by the National Library of Nigeria; hosted by the Bayelsa State Library Board; and held at the Domaris Gardens and Suites, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State on the 27th and 28th March, 2019. The conference generally aimed at addressing issues, which affect public libraries and to affirm commitment to quality library services that benefit the general public. Specifically, the Conference will achieve the following objective to:

(i) enable the National Library of Nigeria, as one of her statutory mandates, to make recommendations and give advice on library development to any department or agency of government of the Federation or a State; or to any local government authority, to officially/formally interact with directors of state library boards in order to identify their challenges and mitigate on their behalf with the various state governments;

(ii) avail the National Library of Nigeria of the opportunities to collaborate with the State Library Boards in its services to States and the collection of statistical data on library development in the country; and

(iii) collectively develop a public library system for Nigeria.

Events of the Conference

The conference was attended by sixty-five (65) participants. Most of the participants were representatives from the National Library of Nigeria; state public library boards in thirteen states (13); Bayelsa State Ministry of Education; Bayelsa State Polytechnic; Bayelsa State School of Nursing(BYSSON); Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State Government House; International Institute of Tourism and Hospitality (IIHT) Library, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State; as well as Niger Delta University; Office of the Secretary to State Government of Bayelsa State; Federal School of Dental Technology and Therapy (FCDTT), Enugu; and University of Africa, Toru-Orua; The thirteen (13) state public library boards that were represented at the Conference were those of:

1. Adamawa State
2. Anambra State
3. Akwa-ibom State
4. Bayelsa State
5. Delta State
6. Edo State
7. Enugu State
8. Imo State
9. Kogi State
10. Ogun State
11. Osun State
12. Plateau State
13. Rivers State

The activities of the programme of the conference, for the two-day conference, were the opening ceremony; the business sessions; presentation of state reports; and the issuance of a *communiqué*. In addition to the main activities were a dinner party, a guided tour, which involved – boat cruising in the creeks, and a visit to the Azaki Ultra-Modern Public Library. It is noted that the hospitality at the Azaiki Library and in the Boat cruise made the conference to be memorable.

The opening ceremony witnessed : the delivery of the opening remarks by the Chairman of the occasion, Professor Ayebaimi Spiff ; a welcome address by the Executive Chairman, Bayelsa State Library Board, Chief Seiyifa Koroye; remarks by the Chairman of the Public Libraries Section of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA), Dr. Nkechi Udeze; an address by the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria (NLN), Professor Lenrie O. Aina; two (2) goodwill messages by Professor Steve Azaiki and the Chairman House Committee on Education, Bayelsa State House of Assembly , Honourable Gentle Emera; and a speech to declare the conference open by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State, Henry Seriake Dickson.

The highlights of addresses delivered at the opening ceremony were as follows:

1. Welcome address by the Executive Chairman, Bayelsa State Library Board, Chief Seiyifa Koroye – The Executive Chairman, Bayelsa State Library Board, Chief Seiyifa Koroye, In a brief welcome address he described public libraries as democratic institutions, truly guaranteeing access to information without discrimination via any forms of provision for exclusivity. He however lamented 'that in spite of the express provisions of every library board law in Nigeria, the states that have appointed and/or inaugurated their library boards are far fewer than those that have not done so, or are perhaps not even thinking of doing so.' Despite this observation, he pointed out 'that, with the inauguration of a library board in late 2017, Bayelsa State has begun the restoration of its public library system and is poised to do more – and must indeed do more – to guarantee equitable and easy access to library services.'

   The Chairman concluded his address "that the National Library of Nigeria is the apex of an information-access pyramid which has the state libraries as its base".

2. Address by the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Professor Lenrie O. Aina – The National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria Professor Lenrie O. Aina, in his address, pointed out that this was the second time that the annual conference, which is all important, was being held under him as the National Librarian. He expressed profound gratitude to the Bayelsa State Government and most especially, His Excellency, Governor Seriake Henry Dickson for accepting to host the 2019 edition of the conference as an extension of the Governor's commitment to the effective and efficient development of public library services in Bayelsa State and the entire country.

   The National Librarian also pointed out that the theme of the conference, *Public Library Services for Effective Information Delivery: the Key for National Development,* was focused on the key areas of information service delivery of public libraries, innovations in public libraries; national development functions; and funding and advocacy for the development of public libraries in Nigeria. He further pointed out that the theme of the conference was important because public librarians in Nigeria needed to be re-informed of 'the place of public libraries in nation building;

the deployment of emerging technologies to public library services; the type of services required; and how and where to garner support to surmount the challenges plaguing the public library services and growth in our country, Nigeria.'

The National Librarian further drew the attention of delegates to the fact that the theme of the conference is linked to the main objectives of the conference which are 'aimed at addressing issues adversely affecting public libraries development, and to affirm commitment to quality library services that benefit the general public.' Thus, he urged them to 'take the conference serious by effective participation to proffer solutions that would ameliorate or curtail the challenges militating against effective and efficient library and information services delivery by public libraries in Nigeria.'

The National Librarian concluded his address by intimating that, as a result of development efforts towards public library services, under His Excellency, Governor Seriake Henry Dickson, he, in his capacity as the National Librarian, is willing to cooperate and collaborate with the Bayelsa State Government to see to the entrenchment of flourishing library services. And towards this direction, he informed that very soon the state would witness the presence of National Library of Nigeria as the Federal Government has released money to the contractor to commence the construction of the abandoned National Library project in Yenagoa.

3. Remarks by the Chairperson, Public Library Section of the Nigerian Library Association, (NLA) Dr. Nkechi S. Udeze – The Chairperson, Public Library Section of the Nigerian Library Association, (NLA) Dr. Nkechi S. Udeze, remarked that the conference of the 'Directors of public libraries was cardinal as the directors were the prime movers of public library services and administration.' She also observed that the theme of the conference, "Public Library Services for Effective Information Delivery: the Key for National Development", was very important and timely.

   The Chairperson further passionately highlighted the 'vital role' of public libraries as 'providing information to different classes of people without any form of discrimination, for the attainment of their individual goals and ultimately for national development' as they deploy 'various innovations and information repackaging' that are 'introduced to ensure that the diverse needs of the users were met.' She said that the utmost objective is that of 'effective information delivery to all users' which "will not only help people to solve their needs but will also make the public library relevant and visible to the community." She was of the view that the provision of ICT services would further facilitate 'effective information delivery as it makes acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information easier and faster.'

   On national development the Chairperson observed that no nation could develop without information as the rate of development of a nation depended so much on the information available. She added that public libraries contributed immensely to national development as they provided access to information that aid individuals, government ministries and agencies in making informed decisions for attaining their goals. She called for the need for a well-equipped public library and constantly trained and re-trained library staff.

   The Chairperson, however, observed that 'Public libraries in Nigeria are facing enormous challenges such as inadequate funding, low or none application of ICT, inadequate and obsolete materials, unconducive library buildings and others.' She urged the Directors not to allow the challenges to deter them from doing all in their powers to ensure effective library services and information provision.

4. Remarks by His Excellency, the Hon. Henry Seriake Dickson, the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State, was represented by Mr. Felix Oduvo, Permanent Secretary, Bayelsa State, Ministry of Education who declared the conference open – He gave highlights of his seven (7) years of administration, since 2012, towards tremendous infrastructural and manpower development in the educational sector, haven declared a state of emergency in the sector. He pointed out that the state had well-equipped model secondary schools in every local government areas of Bayelsa State. He stressed that his administration renovated most of the primary school buildings as well as Headmasters and principals' quarters. He also said that education was free at primary and secondary school levels and there was the provision of uniforms, books and feeding in all the model secondary schools established by his administration where boarding facilities are available free of charge. He added that as a result the state recently emerged as the fourth best in the National Examination Council (NECO) examination and seventh in the West African Examination Council (WAEC) examination in 2018.

   His Excellency, Honourable Henry Seriake Dickson also informed the conference that, having known the importance of books and libraries in everyday life of people, he personally had a library in his country home and that Bayelsa State Public Library, with an effective library board enjoyed the support of the state government. He further pointed out that the strategy was to ensure that every local government area in Bayelsa State had a standard public library. He hoped that the project would be concluded before the end of his tenure, and if it is not, then the next administration would ensure that it comes to fruition because government was a continuum.

   The Governor, in his concluding address, said that his administration had successfully launched an educational trust fund for the state, and that he wished that the conference would be a memorable one.

The conference witnessed two days of business sessions. The activities of the business sessions were the constitution of an *ad-hoc* committee, with a director of a state library board to represent each of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria, with a Chairman and Secretary to draft the *communiqué* of the conference.

Three papers were presented and extensively discussed during the business session on day one of the conference. The papers were "Information Service Delivery in Public Libraries: Issues and Challenges" by Professor Abdulwahab Olanrewaju Issa; "Public Libraries and National Development in Nigeria" by Dr. Isaac M. Ogbonna; and 'Possible Sources of Funding for Public Library Development in Nigeria' by Neemat Daud Abdulrahim. The session was chaired by Dr. Omopupa K. T. The business session of day two of the conference also witnessed the presentation and extensive discussion of two more papers. The papers were 'Innovations in Public Library Services in Nigeria' by Dr. Omopupa K. T., and 'Advocacy for development of public libraries in Nigeria' by Kate Davis. The session was chaired by Dr. Isaac M. Ogbonna.

The highlights of the five (5) papers, presented and extensively discussed during the two days of business sessions of the conference, were on observations, expectations and challenges of public libraries in Nigeria. The highlights are that public libraries in Nigeria:

i. are indispensable instruments for personal, community and national development by the critical information services expected of them ;

ii. can be transformed and repositioned to contribute to national development;
iii. stocked with appropriate information resources to offer effective and efficient information services can be depended upon to contribute to a continuous process of planning national development;
iv. are no longer passive keepers and preservers of books; rather, they are evolving to become increasingly facilitators of information and lifelong learning opportunities, with emphases on service, identifying user needs and communicating solutions; and
v. by their functions , in this information age, are to be better positioned to contribute to national development by providing the needed information to facilitate economic, social, political, educational and cultural activities in national development.

In addition, the papers also pointed out that the challenges being encountered, in the efforts to deliver information services, by public libraries in Nigeria are:

i. public libraries in Nigeria suffered perpetual neglect from authorities that established them due to lack of interest, and this has resulted in:
    a. inadequate funding;
    b. poor adequate staffing conditions;
    c. inadequate information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other infrastructural facilities;
    d. inappropriate and inadequate public library buildings; and
    e. stocking of public libraries with irrelevant and inadequate material resources.;
ii. absence of public library development policy;
iii. low patronage;
iv. dearth of mobile library services by public libraries in Nigeria has denied effective library services to the disadvantaged in prisons, hospitals, marketplaces and the rural areas;
v. the book-oriented nature;
vi. the oral nature of the society and high illiteracy rate; and
vii. some public library boards operate without constituted boards while some had with non-professional members whose attitudes and actions were an impediment to the smooth administration/management as well as the development of public libraries in Nigeria.

It was decided at the conference that Anambra State Library Board will host the third Annual Conference of the National Librarian, Chairmen and Directors of State Public Library Boards in Nigeria in 2020. This was sequel to a motion moved by the Director of Osun State Library Board and seconded by the Director of Plateau State Library Board.

At the end of the conference, a *communiqué* was issued. It contains observations and resolutions.

Paul I. Mamman

PAPERS PRESENTED

Information Service Delivery in Public Libraries: Issues and Challenges

Professor Abdulwahab Olanrewaju Issa

Abstract

This paper presents the underpinning issues and challenges affecting public library information service delivery in Nigeria. It introduces the public library as a utility for every member of the community, where it is located by the contextualization of its meaning, characteristics and purpose. The public library's unique place of pride as an indispensable instrument of personal and community development was also underscored, foregrounding its information service delivery mandate for the common good of the society. The challenges it encounters in its service delivery efforts were identified to include inadequate funding, lack of interest by the stakeholders, absence of public library development policy, low patronage, poor staffing conditions, irrelevant stock, its book-oriented nature, and the oral nature of the society. The paper indicates that some of the public library's prospects in Nigeria could be located in its potential to serve as an agent of education, information, recreation, culture, and socio-economic transformation, as well as overall national development. To realise these prospects, the paper recommends better appreciation of the public libraries; better funding and interest; provision of facilities, equipment and services; managerial skills; skilled professional workforce; good initiative and ingenuity; as well as a nation-wide advocacy. On the basis of these, it concludes that the all-inclusive and all-permeating nature of the public library placed it pre-eminently as the library with global outreach and implications like no one else.

Introduction

The public library is a public institution and a public utility, freely available and accessible to, and usable by, all members of a given community, where it is established. All over the world, public libraries are dedicated to providing free and equitable access to information to all, be it in written, electronic or audio-visual form. Its establishment is based on rich information provision, unhindered access and effective information service delivery to support education, research, recreation, cultural, political and information needs of the public. As a public institution, the public library is set up, supported and funded by the government, the community, the private sector or their combination, for use by those residing within its area of operation.

Libraries have traditionally been key providers of information and are considered learned institutions, equipped with treasures of knowledge, organized, managed and maintained by trained personnel to educate children, men and women continuously and to assist in their self-improvement through an effective and prompt dissemination of the information embodied in

the resources. To this end, the librarian serves as the link between the library resources and library users, bringing both together and ensuring that library resources meet the information needs of patrons in the most effective and efficient way.

Public libraries, in particular, facilitate access to information by all, serving people from all walks of life, no matter who they are. They are expected to provide wide ranging information resources in a variety of formats and in sufficient quantity to meet the needs and interests of their users. Generally, public libraries play a vital role in the process of imparting education to the society. They can act as the first means by which a person gets access to information resources outside the home. They also enhance the education system of the local, state or federal government in imparting knowledge by inculcating reading habits among children, young adults and adults alike. Apparently, the impact of well-equipped and functional public libraries that guaranteed unrestricted access to needed information to disadvantaged rural people cannot be overemphasized in a nation's life. Access to the right information at the right time is required by the individuals and organizations for national development, particularly with regard to education, research, cultural enrichment, economic, political and social emancipation.(Islam, 2004; Hoq, 2014; Kaurand Walia, 2015; Mojapelo, 2018).

In every society, information has been a major driver, underscoring the relevance of the information and/or knowledge society to the extent that the present world is governed almost entirely by information and knowledge. It follows therefore that one of the impetus for social development is availability, accessibility and utility of the right information. The primary concern of any information service is to provide valid and timely knowledge. Information service is therefore the provision of relevant information geared towards an improved quality of knowledge on a particular subject. Information service includes the compendium of activities directed towards supplying knowledge to library users through textual, graphic, multi-media, and electronic means.

Library information services include online public access catalogue, bibliographic service, interlibrary loan, reference service, and audio-visual services. Information provides an impetus to human survival, and public libraries aid the dissemination and storage of information for the benefit of public users. A public library is thus viewed as an information centre that caters to the information needs of the people in a given community where it is established by providing services like maker space, reading room, circulation, reference, reprographic, newspaper resources and Internet services for the benefit of the patrons. Thus, the public library is basically established to enable residents of its community to access updated information so as to remain informed about happenings in the society, while also serving as a resource centre for public research.

The Public Library Contextualized

As a public institution, public library is set up, supported and funded by the government, the community, the private sector or a combination of these, for use by members of the community in which it is established. It is regarded as the gateway to information and knowledge, providing opportunities for lifelong learning, self-education and cultural development of the individual and the society. It provides access to information, knowledge and works of the imagination through a wide ranging resources and services, making them available equally, to all members of the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic and employment status and educational attainment (IFLA, 1997).

Reitz (2004) noted that public libraries are now acknowledged to be an indispensable part of community life, as promoters of literacy, providers of wide range of reading for all ages and

as centres for community information services. Similarly, Edom (2012) observed that public libraries are government institutions established to enhance independent and continuing education of people particularly those living within its environment or locality, by offering their resources to all members of the community.

Oyegade, Nasarawa and Mokogwu (2003) asserted that public libraries are a worldwide phenomenon, operating in a variety of cultures leading to variations in the services provided in spite of their common features. Their establishment is hinged on the need to provide library resources and services to support education, research, recreation, cultural, political and information needs of the public. As a facility set up by the government, it is to render information service to every member of the public. They are agencies of knowledge, providing opportunities for life–long learning, independent decision making, and cultural development of individuals and social groups. It is an organization established, and supported through local, regional or through some other forms of community organizations.

The United Nations Educational and Social Cultural Organisation (UNESCO, 2012) considered the public library as the local centre of information, responsible for making all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users. For Byrne (2015), the public library is the 'university' for the common man because they provide a wealth of information in a variety of forms for the whole population in a community without alienating anyone. Mattern (2014) also referred to it as "opportunity institutions" based on the fact it opens its doors to the disadvantaged, neglected and disenfranchised. Some also allude to the fact that it serves as a resource for scholars, centre for information and aid for students, a means for self-education, and a centre of amusement.

It is only the public library that provides an open and non-judgmental environment in which individuals and their interests are brought together with the universe of ideas, information and knowledge. Şerbănuţă (2019) viewed it as an institution historically located at the crossroads of educational, cultural, and ideological interests. According to the library, the *IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines*, it is clear that for developing communities it should be a public space, a place where people can meet; where a positive social experience can be encountered (Koontz and Gubbin, 2010). Anyalebechi and Udo-Anyanwu (2016) opined that the public library is expected to acquire, organize and store recorded knowledge so as to provide information and knowledge to their users to enrich their personal lives.

Information Services Provision in Public Libraries

In offering its onerous services, public libraries show no known preference in selecting its *clientele,* as it is meant to be available to all in the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic and employment status, and educational attainment (Davis, 2015). People of all classes should have access to them at all times. Hoq (2014) identified some of services provided in public libraries to include agricultural, health, education, law and human rights, tourism, environment and disaster management, science and technology, industry and commerce and employment, as well as commercial services such as *email,* web browsing, photocopying, printing, video conferencing.

Service delivery essentially explains how a particular message is packaged and offered to a target audience. In this case, an arrangement of how information services are rendered to various categories of people that constitute the users of the public library, in the form of making textbooks, journals, electronic materials such as e-books, e-journals, CDs, films, pictures and answering users queries available to the users (Ogar, Dika and Atanda, 2018). Information service delivery is very important in this digital age, because access to accurate,

timely and up-to-date information is very crucial to human and organizational survival given the attendant complexity of modern time.

Prior to the advent of information and telecommunication technology (ICT), libraries and information centres had been the only gateway to information and different categories of users daily besiege them to have their information needs met. Application of computer and information technology have increased access to information, as people can now access information on their mobile phones and other hand-held devices without being physically present in the library. Libraries are increasingly adopting technology in rendering information services towards meeting the information needs of their users.

For effective service delivery the *UNESCO Public Library Standard* (2000) recommends that a public library should provide:

1. services for 100,000 population with a book stock of 200,000 volumes (2 books per head);
2. an adequate choice of up-to-date books and materials to meet the information need of the community;
3. relevant books and materials in different indigenous languages;
4. up-to-date magazines periodicals and newspapers as part of its collection.
5. at least, one television for users, non-print materials in the form of CD-ROMs, DVDs, videos and tapes; and
6. a fixed telephone line, fax machine, a printer, scanner, photocopying machine, ICT in order to provide and communicate with users and other libraries. (Nwabueze and Ntogo-Saghanen, 2017).

This is because the public library plays an important role in all aspects of societal development, given its users, who cut across all categories of people in the society; therefore non-discriminatory in nature, as its doors are widely open to all categories of people in the society in which other categories of libraries may not cater for *(News Agency of Nigeria, 2018). IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines,* according to Koontz and Gubbin (2010) described the public library as an institution that provides access to knowledge, information and works of the imagination through a range of resources and services. Ram (2016) viewed public library as one that is accessible to the public and is generally funded from public sources and operated by civil servants.

Five of its fundamental characteristics are that: they are supported by taxes; governed by board to serve the public interest; open to all and every community member can access the collection; they are entirely voluntary in that no one is ever forced to use the services provided; and public libraries provide basic services without charge. Public libraries exist in many countries and are often considered an essential part of having an educated and literate population (Ram, 2016). Conable (2012) opined that a public library provides access to knowledge, information and works of the imagination through a range of services and is equally available to all members of the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, physical and mental limitations, economic and employment status and educational attainment.

Public libraries are distinct from research libraries, school libraries and other special libraries in that their mandate is to serve the general public's information needs. Public libraries also provide free services such as preschool story times to encourage early literacy, quiet study and work areas for students and professionals, or book clubs to encourage appreciation of literature in adults. Public libraries typically allow users to take books and other materials off

the premises temporarily; they also have non-circulating reference collections and provide computer and Internet access to patrons.

The primary purposes of the public library are to provide resources and services in a variety of media to meet the needs of individuals and groups for education, information and personal development including recreation and leisure. They have an important role in the development and maintenance of a democratic society by giving the individual access to a wide and varied range of knowledge, ideas and opinions. They provide a wealth of information in a variety of forms (both print and non-print).

Byrne (2015) posited that as the 'university' for the common man, public libraries are expected to provide an array of information products and services to satisfy her varied *clientele*. These services are targeted at having a highly informed population, given that information is a vital input in quality decision making. Some of the services offered for the benefit of the populace are current awareness service, strategic dissemination of information, storytelling and reading room, maker space, circulation, reference, reprographic, newspaper resources and internet services, among others.

These libraries are critical community and social infrastructure, helping to create and sustain communities, being symbols of a just, equal and democratic society. They are also instruments for maintaining literacy, stimulating the imagination, expanding personal knowledge, informing and promoting a sense of ownership of society. Thus, they can serve as key contributors to building the social networks that bind the society, thereby fostering national literacy development through their knowledge activities and intellectual life (Kutu and Olajide, 2018; Şerbănuță, 2019).

Ideally, they are development-oriented, by ensuring that accurate, reliable, relevant, and timely information is accessible during the process of information control, particularly in a developing country like Nigeria where majority of the citizens live under situations of ignorance, superstition, fear, poverty, and diseases (Anasi, 2012; Hoq, 2015). Similar to this is the concern arising from low economic growth and extreme poverty in the country, with its attendant challenges in the forms of unemployment, health, hunger, education and infrastructure (Davies, 2015). These ideals of the public library is further affirmed in the postulation by Byrne (2015) who averred that libraries fulfil practical purposes of the utmost and also have great symbolic value as carriers of knowledge and monuments to its value. More than ever before, libraries are to illuminate the darkness of ignorance in developing economies.

The Challenges with Public Library Services Provision in Nigeria

Public libraries in Nigeria have long been bedevilled by a myriad of handicapping conditions which have continued to hold them down from growth, progress and development as they suffer perpetual neglect from authorities that established them, their users and indeed the generality of community of their operation. These challenges include lack of funds, lack of ICT and other infrastructural facilities and inadequate professionals and training (Eze, 2013; Ebiwolate (2010); non-application of ICT and poor maintenance culture (Oghenetega, Umeji and Obue, 2014); inadequate resources, traditional library practice, lack of awareness and poor reading culture (AnyalebechiandUdo-Anyanwu, 2016) administrative bottleneck, dearth of mobile library services, poor reading culture, and neglect by the government (Salman, Mugwisi, and Mostert,2017; Bassey, 2018; (Ogar, Dika and Atanda, 2018).

Issa (2018) was explicit in his assertion that the "challenges faced by public libraries in Nigeria are largely a function of the peculiarities of our environment". The challenges are considered as 'people and environment specific' and include but not limited to:

1. Inadequate funding
2. Lack of interest by the stakeholders
3. Absence of public library development policy
4. Low patronage
5. Poor staffing conditions
6. Irrelevant library stock
7. Book-oriented nature of the public libraries
8. Oral nature of the society

Prospects of Public Libraries in Nigeria

Notwithstanding the plethora of challenges enumerated above, the fact remains that public libraries are veritable tools in the development drive of any nation, which made it imperative for the country to find prospects for the public libraries in Nigeria. Some of the ways to identify these prospects of the public libraries as agents of:

i. education
ii. information
iii. recreation
iv. culture
v. socio-economic transformation
vi. overall national development

Recommendations

To bring to reality the prospects of public libraries as a veritable instrument for national growth and development, the following strategies are put forward as antidotes to the identified challenges:

i. better appreciation of the public libraries;
ii. better funding and interest;
iii. provision of facilities, equipment and services;
iv. managerial skills;
v. skilled professional workforce;
vi. good initiative and ingenuity; and
vii. nation-wide advocacy.

Conclusion

The all-inclusive and all-permeating nature of the public library places it pre-eminently as the library of global outreach and implications, so profound for the growth and development of a nation such as Nigeria, thereby bridging the gaps between and among peoples, classes, creeds, orientations, dispositions and idiosyncrasies. But this is only if it is accorded its rightful place of attention, and consideration by all concerned.

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Public Libraries and National Development in Nigeria

Isaac M. Ogbonna

Abstract

This paper is intended to bring to fore the place of public libraries in national development as applicable to Nigeria as well as the other nations of the world. Conceptual clarifications that help in better understanding of the thoughts of the author are presented at the very beginning of the paper. The paper examines public library evolution in Nigeria, revealing some historical facts not commonly found in most narrations of public library development in Nigeria. The paper presents highlights on the transformations in the public libraries which reposition the libraries for greater contribution to national development. It also examines some indicators of national development and how the public library facilitates them, thereby contributing to national development. Some challenges the public libraries encounter in delivering service for national developments are enumerated, such as: high illiteracy rate in Nigeria, inappropriate and inadequate public library building, irrelevant and inadequate material resources, poor funding, etc. Nine recommendations that will help to reposition the public libraries in Nigeria for better service delivery that will result in increased contribution to national development are proffered.

Keywords

Hybrid Library; Information society; Literacy; National development; Public libraries.

Introduction

The critical question in this paper is What are the contributions of the public library to national development in Nigeria? Many people, including the educated in our society, often question the role of public libraries in national development in an Internet driven world. Providing a robust response to this question is the main concern of this paper. A contextual understanding of the terms public library, development, and national development at the onset of this discourse will therefore be beneficial in appreciating the thoughts presented in this paper.

The concept "library" in this paper refers to hybrid library which contains a healthy mix of print and electronic resources, offered in different formats and delivered locally or remotely. The public library, from a broad perspective, is a library established, administered, and funded by the government or the community or the private sector or a combination of them for a non-discriminatory use by members of the public residing within the area where the library is situated. However, in this paper, public libraries refer to libraries that are controlled, managed, and funded by the state or local governments for a non-discriminatory use by members of the public residing within the area the library is situated (Ogbonna, 2019).

Development, which public library promotes, is a continuous process of planned change that is geared towards improving the general conditions of human being and their environment (Imoh, 2002). Development refers to the enhancement in the quality of life and productivity, education, social amenities, and political process in a society. Development, therefore, is not only an economic issue, but also involves all development indicators which may be social,

educational, political, cultural, and technological that are geared towards improving the individual and collective quality of life in a society. National development can, therefore, be described as the overall development or a collective socio-economic, cultural, educational, political, and technological as well as information and communication technology advancement of a country. In today's twenty-first century or information society/digital world, information is central to the overall (socio-political, cultural, economic, educational and technological) development of a nation.

Public libraries are known for what they do, especially in the provision of information. Adapting their universal mission from the *IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994),* public libraries in this information age:

- Facilitate the development of digital information and literacy skills;
- Create and nurture both traditional and electronic environment that recognize the joy of reading and encourage habitual reading;
- Support formal and informal learning and literacy development for all ages with the aid of information communication technology;
- Deliver opportunities for learning, personal development and creativity through a rich programme of events and activities;
- Promote awareness of cultural heritage, support of the oral tradition, and appreciation of the arts;
- Contribute to an inclusive and diverse community;
- Ensure public equality of access to the library's collection through a variety of channels including the information and communication technological means;
- Foster innovation, educational advancement, economic development and prosperity.

Public Library Evolution in Nigeria: Our Story

According to the historical account of Harold (1958) and Bukenya (n.d.), the first library in Nigeria was the Lagos Library founded in 1932. To all intents and purposes, it was a public library. The Lagos Library was a Carnegie Corporation funded fee-charging service for hundreds of important people, most of them expatriates. The Lagos Public Library was opened in August, 1946 jointly by the British Council and the Lagos Town Council. When the Town Council took over the management in 1952, its name was changed to the Lagos Municipal Library. In the mid-1940's the British Council further established libraries in Ibadan, Enugu, and Kano.

The first serious attempt to provide locally financed, modern public library service in Nigeria, according to Harold (1958), started in the Northern Region as an activity in the Department of Education. The Northern Regional Library Service started operations in August, 1952 from temporary headquarters established in Lugard Memorial Hall, Kaduna. The second major home grown public library programme in Nigeria was the establishment of the Eastern Region Library Board Law which became effective in July, 1955 but the services of the library were opened in May, 1956 in a temporary prefabricated building erected for the purpose. In April, 1957 the Eastern Region Library Board signed an agreement with UNESCO to set up a public library pilot project.

However, the real breakthrough in the growth of public library in Nigeria is traceable to the UNESCO collaboration with the Nigerian Government. UNESCO, in collaboration with the Nigerian Government, organized the first regional seminar on the development of public libraries in Africa at Ibadan in 1953. The seminar focused on the development of public libraries in Africa and advocated for library legislation to ensure functional libraries through adequate financial backing and efficient administration (Bukenya, n.d.). Building on the

Ibadan seminar, UNESCO built a model public library in Enugu, Nigeria. The library was designed to be a teaching and learning centre that functioned as a model for what good public library practices should be. The Enugu model public library was intended to be emulated by other countries in Africa.

UNESCO decided that the venue for the 1962 second African public library development seminar shall be at the then new model public library, Enugu. This seminar reviewed the public library developments in Africa then and provided a new direction on the goals and development principles that public libraries in Africa were to follow. From all indications, these UNESCO seminars, particularly the Enugu Seminar of 1962, was a turning point not only for Nigeria but for a number of countries in Africa. Many librarians and public library administrators from other African countries flocked Enugu then to see the model public library in action, and to learn how to establish public libraries in their own countries.

Transformation in Public Libraries

The role of public libraries in community and national development is progressively changing in Nigeria and indeed worldwide. Public libraries are no longer passive keepers and preservers of books; rather, they have evolved to become increasingly facilitators of information, lifelong learning opportunities, and skills empowerment. People are therefore using public libraries for more than reading and borrowing books. According to Wyatt and Leorke (2018) the transformation in the public libraries, some already taking place in Nigeria, can be described as follows:

- People now go to the public library to hear lectures and musical performances or attend workshops, conferences, skills acquisition, and book clubs;
- Public libraries digitize their collections and network their catalogues, extending the range of materials users could access;
- Public libraries have introduced e-books or e-resources;
- They mount screens to watch movies (cinema) or to play videos such as video games;
- They install computers and provide free internet access which is helpful especially to the many that do not have access to the internet. The internet has become the major source of information, yet in Nigeria, millions of people who need it do not have access to the technology or the skills needed to get online. Some Nigerian public libraries address this challenge.
- Public libraries wire up their spaces with free wiFi, providing extra power-points so that users could plug in their own devices;
- Besides offering new technologies and services, public libraries offer people a welcoming and safe space to gather without spending money. By investing in attractive, versatile furnishings, they have actively encouraged people to dwell in their spaces to read a newspaper, complete a job application online, to study, etc. In a digital age where communication technologies create both efficiency as well as forms of isolation, such spaces assume a renewed social importance. However, many public libraries in Nigeria do not have welcoming space.

Public Libraries and Indicators of National Development

The termnational development, as already explained, is very broad and holistic. It implies the development of a nation as a whole with regard to the various indicators of national development which include: agricultural, educational, economic, political, social, cultural, and scientific indicators. Information and its accessibility is a major indicator of national

development. This paper will examine a few of these indicators of national development and how the public library facilitates them in Nigeria.

1) **Information for National Development**

Provision of information has always been at the centre of public library services in Nigeria. Public libraries have increasingly relied on the provision of information with the advent of information society. Information resource is to the public library what medicine is to the hospital and what food is to the restaurant. Information is the main feature in today's information society or digital world. Information society is a society in which the creation, distribution and manipulation of information has become the most significant economic, social, educational and cultural activity. Information society can further be described in various ways such as: a society in which information replaces material goods as the chief facilitator of socio-economic, political and educational matters; a society in which the main product or a prerequisite to other products is information; a society in which the workers' outputs and the organizations successes depends on their abilities to access and utilize information; a society based on the creation, distribution, and use of information for significant economic, political, and cultural activities; a society that relies on information product and services to thrive and prosper.

Public libraries, therefore, in this information age, are better positioned to contribute to national development more than ever through the provision of information. Information and conducive environment for its free flow is a fundamental requirement for progress in all forms of human endeavour. From its inception, the ultimate goal of the public library in Nigeria is to acquire, preserve and assemble information materials in organized manner for use in assisting human progress and development. Public libraries help national development through the provision of relevant, updated, and adequate information on food security, democracy, population, education, health, family planning, environment, youth empowerment, gender equality, economic empowerment, security of lives and property, etc (Achitabwino, 2007).

Information that public libraries provide is a basic need that helps individuals and the nation to fulfil other needs such as food, shelter, security, education, etc for individual and national development. In an increasingly information and communication technology driven world, public libraries in Nigeria assist individuals in finding, using and interpreting appropriate information that opens up opportunities for literacy enhancement and sustenance, lifelong learning, informed citizenship, creative imagination, recreation, critical thinking, research, and empowerment. When public libraries in Nigeria assist individuals in the above enumerated ways, it definitely translates to national development.

2) **Agricultural Development:** Meaningful and sustainable national development must be basically anchored on agricultural revolution. Agricultural revolution simply refers to the application of scientific methods to improve crop yields and breed better livestock. The development of agricultural production is one of the basic and the most effective means of combating hunger and food scarcity, and also ensuring economic and food security. A nation that aspires to develop must first conquer hunger and must be able to feed itself. Industrial revolution strengthened the agricultural revolution through technological application in crop and animal production.

Before Nigeria can claim any salutary victory in agricultural development as a nation, I am of the view that we will have to see sustainable and marked improvement across board, affecting all or almost all staple agricultural product in Nigeria, not just a few products such as cassava, rice, tomato, yam, etc. Our public libraries should be meeting our farmers in the

villages with agricultural information that will increase yield. Too much proportion of needed food in Nigeria is still left to artisanal farmers who are literally working their butts off. Paradoxically, in spite of the sound and fury around agriculture by successive governments for decades, Nigeria has not achieved agricultural revolution contrary to what was witnessed elsewhere in Europe and America that have long ago achieved self-sufficiency in food production.

Public libraries in Nigeria provide to farmers information which help in reducing hunger, promoting nutrition, raising farmers' income, and increasing food quality and nutritional value. Public libraries in Nigeria enhance farmers' access to agricultural print materials, web materials, and agricultural videos and documentaries. For a nation like Nigeria that has agricultural dependent economy, the need for the public libraries increased visibility in the provision of agricultural information to farmers, agricultural extension workers, students, researchers and policy makers cannot be over emphasized. Agriculture is the backbone of the country and public libraries in Nigeria harness information on marketable crops, agri-business, agricultural-economics, crop and animal diseases, irrigation, farming methods, fertilizers, etc. for delivery to the farmers. Thus, public libraries in Nigeria play laudable role in agricultural development which in turn propels national development.

Lessons taken from the public libraries in Uganda in this regard are instructive. In their public library innovation programme, the partnership between the public libraries in Uganda and the Maendeleo Foundation trained 700 farmers to use computer to access agricultural information online. The public library translated agricultural information into local languages. The project helped farmers petition the government to supply them with disease resistant coffee plants, to identify new species of trees, and encourage youths to take up farming as a career. Also, the public library helped farmers to virtually double the amount of money they produce since finding information on the internet about new varieties of bees and modern beekeeping equipment. Farmers use the internet provided at the public libraries. Through the internet provided in the public library the farmers no longer have to wait for middlemen to know market prices for their honey. And through the public library's phone short message services (sms) alerts in Uganda, farmers know where to sell their products at the beast prices, and on time *(Electronic Information for Libraries, 2015).* Public libraries in Nigeria should learn from the experiences of others.

3) **Literacy and Educational Development:** Krolak (2006) narrates that public libraries all over the world play a key role in creating and sustaining literate environments and promoting literacy by offering relevant and attractive reading materials for all ages and all literacy levels and by offering adult and family literacy classes. No doubt, we all know or at least have good idea of what 'literacy' means. In this information society or digital age, there has been some redefining of the term 'literacy'. Definition of literacy is no longer limited to the ability to read, write, speak, listen, and use numeracy; it now includes knowledge and competence in a specific area such as the ability to use technology at a level that enables people to participate meaningfully in their community and in the wider society. Achieving literacy is now a lifelong learning process *(Literacy Advance of Houston, 2019).*

Literacy is now more than just reading, writing, and numeracy. It is not solely about being literate or illiterate anymore, but additionally involves having adequate skills for today's demands. Public libraries in the information age are now enlarging their service frontiers to partner with other organizations to come to grips with the multiplicity of literacy (such as library literacy, computer and information technology literacy, and digital literacy) which empower public library users through specific skills training to enable them cope with the

demands of the modern world. Public libraries in Nigeria should increase their involvement in skills acquisition programmes.

However, empowering users with basic literacy such as the ability to read, write, and compute has continued to be of fundamental interest to public libraries and this is common with public libraries in Nigeria. Most of the literacy programmes provided by other formal and informal educational organizations do not provide long-term support to neo-literates. Without regular and effective support through the provision of reading and learning materials as done by public libraries, the neo-literates may again relapse into the category of illiterates. Here, public libraries in Nigeria play a vital role by providing reading and learning materials to them. To enhance literacy and education, public libraries in Nigeria co-operate with other community organizations and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to organize varying activities such as author readings, creative writing classes, reading groups, exhibitions, holiday reading programmes, study support, discussion groups and art classes (including drama, poetry and song). The list is endless and the activities show the flexibility of the public libraries to enhance literacy and education in Nigeria.

Williams (2016) narrates that public libraries in Botswana took large strides towards supporting government objectives under its national vision 2016, which included introducing ICT access, improving the computer skills of library users, and enabling users to be successful in business, education, and employment. Public libraries in Nigeria can also learn from the Botswana experience.

Furthermore, public libraries in Nigeria serve as the 'people's university' especially now that education is increasingly being expensive. Public libraries provide educational opportunities free for all people, regardless of their socio-economic status in Nigeria. It provides opportunity for self education and for lifelong education. Public libraries help to bridge the education gap in a nation. Most of these are real with the public libraries in Nigeria.

4) **Economic, Political, and Socio-Cultural Development:** Achitabwino's (2007) narrative on libraries and national development is relevant here. By providing quality, up-to-date, relevant, and timely information, the public library is a pivotal point in economic, political, and socio-cultural development in a country.

5) **'Third Place' Value of Public Libraries:** 'Third places' are places that are neither homes (first place) nor workplaces (second place). Such places ranging from churches/mosques to the stadium, gym, beauty salon, market, etc play important role in community building that translates to national development. Public libraries are now seen as a 'third place' because they have gradually taken on other functions well beyond borrowing and reading of books. Public libraries offer themselves as a forum where people interact, connect with each other, share ideas, and build partnerships that change communities and develop the nation. This is an important role which some public libraries in Nigeria provide for recreation and community building.

Challenges of Public Libraries in National Development

Several challenges confront the public libraries in Nigeria in their efforts to deliver services for national development. The challenges include:

- High illiteracy rate in Nigeria. Illiteracy here refers to those who are older than 15 years and cannot read and write. Adedigba (2017) quoted the Minister of Education stating that 60 million Nigerians are illiterates while Ibenegbu (2018) reported about 60% literacy rate and about 40% illiteracy rate in Nigeria.

- Inappropriate and inadequate public library building.
- Irrelevant and inadequate material resources.
- Lack of training and retraining of library personnel especially the Librarians.
- Lack of funds.
- Lack of public library advocacy for national development/assessments.
- Lack of needs analysis.
- ICT challenges.
- Poor public perception of the public library.

Recommendations

The following recommendations will help to reposition the public libraries in Nigeria for better service delivery that will result in increased contribution to national development.

1) Public libraries in Nigeria should partner more with other groups and organizations to effectively disseminate agricultural information and other information that promotes democratic principles, economic enhancement, healthy health practices, and socio-cultural norms in Nigeria.
2) Public libraries in Nigeria should increasingly mount varieties of literacy and skills acquisition activities to empower users with varieties of skills and literacy empowerment. This will enhance public perception of the public library.
3) Public libraries in Nigeria should be adequately computerized and networked and should have reliable internet access.
4) Public libraries should partner with other relevant bodies in Nigeria and outside the country to engage in robust advocacy to justify their important and unique role in national development and ensure that they are resourced adequately for service provision. The advocacy should also aim at attracting the private sector for support and the government for their political will towards public library development.
5) Government should fund public libraries appreciably.
6) Public libraries in Nigeria should engage in needs assessment to identify the information needs of the public they are serving and then build their collection and engage in partnership with the aim of providing service to meet those needs.
7) Public libraries should be inspired to become more active in creating services and programmes that are community focused, such as the reintroduction of the mobile library services especially for the physically and visually challenged and other vulnerable groups.
8) Public libraries in Nigeria should train and retrain their librarians regularly to update their knowledge in the profession and their service skill. Public library librarians in Nigeria should be active social workers.
9) The National Library of Nigeria in collaboration with the state public library boards should set up a study group to collate, analyze, interpret, and present data and documentary on the status of public libraries in Nigeria with recommendations for future developments. A report and documentary on the State of Nigeria's *Public Libraries Report 2020* will help in many ways, including advocacy, to make tangible case for public library development in Nigeria.

Conclusion

A society without a public library where tourists and scholars can easily have access to information on its history and culture is a society which is not ready to inform others of its heritage. Public libraries in Nigeria provide information that change lives, improve our agricultural practices and yield, enhance an all-round literacy and education, improve our

economy and preserve our socio-cultural heritage - these translate to our national development. More than just books, public libraries are still important places where individuals gather to explore, interact, imagine, connect with one another, share ideas and build partnership that develop communities and the nation.

Considering the veritable role which public libraries play in national development, robust measures should be put in place to revitalize these libraries that are fast deteriorating in the various states of Nigeria. The pure neglect of these libraries is an indictment on the state governments in Nigeria and the nation as a whole. The poor state of public libraries largely accounts for most of the younger generation of Nigerians being bereft of interest in habitual reading and the knowledge gained from such reading. Let truth be told, there are very few standard public libraries in Nigeria that would engage the interests of the younger generation in terms of the libraries' contents and aesthetics. Public libraries in Nigeria have been completely run down through decades of neglect. All hands must therefore be on deck for the needful to be done for the rebirth of public library development in Nigeria.

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Possible Sources of Funding for Public Library Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

In response to providing solutions to challenges facing public library funding in Nigeria, this paper intends to build upon the rather traditional sources of funding public libraries. These are regarded as the orthodox methods on whose subject there are many contributions from library scholars; as taught in library schools in Nigeria and across Africa. To that end, this paper will present a new approach, focusing on alternative sources of funding that fit into Nigerian space and culture. Public libraries all around the world operate as non-profit entities, funded by the government through taxpayers' monies and with other supplemental such as donations and grants. Paradoxically, public libraries in Nigeria cannot boast of benefiting from the distribution of these equitable resources as they ought to. The emergence of Internet, social media and evolving technology has changed the way people (society) create, organize, share and access information and knowledge contents in our today's world. More creativity needs to be added to methods of knowledge sharing and this has affected the expectation of people regarding how the new face of public libraries should look like, and what functions their services should be to make compliant and acceptability. The proportions and allocation of government funding of public libraries in Nigeria is not equal, and is sometimes politicized. Hence, is the reason for all public librarians to be more proactive and embrace the alternative funding as solution to resuscitating public libraries. This presentation, however, focuses on evaluation of the challenges and opportunities confronting public library managers, the trends and alternative source of funding that is practicable to the Nigerian society, and have proven successful all around the world where public service is freely rendered. Funding, in this term, extends beyond monies received from government coffers and private donations; it centres on the use of innovative ideas to create fun, relaxed and collaborative spaces that enhance learning. Innovation, collaboration and volunteering are essential to the development and survival of the 21st-century public librarianship. In this regard it often involves soliciting volunteer services working with the local furniture makers, painters, artists, unemployed talented youths and interior decorators to provide free services, and ideas.

Introduction

Public libraries as the central institutions of the knowledge, promote literacy education, community engagement, cultural diversity, and informed citizenship. In Nigeria, focus on these indispensable public institutions (public libraries) by different arms of government are overlooked and underfunded.

As people, communities and information needs continue to change, meeting those needs have suddenly drifted from the known traditional methods to the more complex and challenges of evolving technology in the use of information provision. Despite the fact that this change manifests greatly in the way and manner Nigerian society access, create, and provide information today, the public libraries across the Nation seems to be slow in catching up with the trends. To understand the needs of our society, but not prepared or indisposed towards

meeting those needs make us susceptible to neglect and our profession observed by the public as obsolete.

The result of this change, however, has provided an opportunity for a new set of leaders with a new vision of public libraries to emerge in Nigeria.

The recent spread of fake news in Nigeria, (as well as in the world at large) can be (partially) attributed to the dearth of public libraries in our communities. In an oral society, people are vulnerable to believe whatever they are told and are disproportionately more likely to share fake news among their clans. This however has and can continue to create political unrest and social mistrust, especially between the people and the government in our nation. This is more of the reasons library professionals, educators and government officials are supposed to raise concerns over the revival and survival of the public libraries through proper funding.

Though the public library was conceived in an age of information scarcity, the introduction and spread of digital information as well as communication technologies has become part of every aspect of our daily life, creating new opportunities.

The Internet has become the critical gateway for accessing information, job opportunities, education, financial and government services healthcare resources and civic participation.

The technologies present new opportunities for local and regional entrepreneurs and communities to compete at all levels of economies of small thriving alongside economies of scale. But this new world of information creates new, essential skills, such as the ability to gain value from information and produce new knowledge. Access to digital networks and digital literacy skills are essential for full participation in modern society. Economic, educational, civic and social opportunities are tied to a whole new set of knowledge and skills that barely existed a generation ago, and people without these skills or access to this information abundance are quickly left behind.

Public libraries can be at the centre of these changes: a trusted community resource and an essential platform for learning, creativity and innovation in the community. Public libraries have the wherewithal needed to thrive in this new information-rich, knowledge-based society.

To achieve this, and also to provide the community with the necessary information to satisfy their quest, the public library needs to equip itself with the necessary tools.

What is a Fund

A fund is a source of money that is allocated for a specific purpose. A fund can be established for any purpose whatsoever, whether it is a federal, state or local government setting aside money to build a new civic centre, a college, setting aside money to award a scholarship, or an insurance company setting aside money to pay its customers' claims. Fund is a source of money that is allocated for a specific purpose.

Funding Public library

Funding in library does not necessarily have to be money, funding can be in form of resource sharing, capacity building, donations, grants etc. However, the most popularly known form of funding in library is money set aside for library use, either as budget from government purse or any other source.

Sources of Public Library Funding

Government Funding: starting with national funds which are distributed to states or local governments. In developed countries like Europe and the US, these arms of government often

offer additional funding when sending funds on to public libraries. We can hardly say that of Nigeria. Local municipalities also play an important role in providing funding to libraries, and most librarians apply for grants to supplement these funds. However, the Librarians also have a lot of role to play in making the government funding accessible and visible. This can be done by coming up with innovative services. A passive way to promote your library's services is to use them regularly. In order to distribute public funds to libraries, the government needs to know their needs. When constituents frequently check out materials, it shows a library is well used.

The proportions of funding depend on where the library is located. In general, the municipality provides the greatest percentage of funding for public libraries; often at least half, if not more. These funds are gathered from local taxes, library fines, parking tickets, and other tools used to generate revenue for a city or town. On the state and national level, funding is determined by budget allocation, and professional organizations of librarians usually heavily lobby for more funding of library to purchase books, pay staff, expand libraries, create a bilingual collection, and provide other valuable support services.

Nigeria Library Association, as an umbrella of the profession must begin to advocate energetically to urge the Senates and the States House of Assemblies to continue to make full funding for our nation's libraries a priority.

Grants:

After twenty years of strategic investment and support for public libraries, Global Libraries supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) work ended in December, 2018. Global Libraries went through an amazing journey that has involved more than 50 countries, thousands of library leaders and stakeholders, and strong government support at all levels.

Because they believe in the power of public libraries changing the lives of the people and bring about development for more than two decades, the Global Libraries initiative has had the privilege of working with the public library field as a funder, though partner, collaborator, innovator and convener.

Global Libraries efforts have helped improve the lives of more than 280 million people across Africa including Nigeria. They were proud of the quality of the project that were funded and the work of its grantees and staff. I stand before you today as one of the beneficiaries of the Global Libraries funding. They steadfastly believe in the value of public libraries.

Grants and private donations can be used to provide a sizable amount of funding for public libraries, and some large libraries maintain a separate staff to increase the amount of funding that they can obtain through these sources. Grants include technology grants which allow libraries to install and upgrade computer systems, grants which focus on a particular topic such as science, fiction, children's books, or local history, and education grants which support locally based community efforts such as after school reading programmes. Many private donors are pleased to support their local public libraries by donating funds or including the library in their wills, and libraries reward their high profile donors with treats like after hours visits or privileged access to special collections.

By combining multiple resources, enterprising librarians can keep their libraries useful, informative, and fun for browsers. When it comes to supporting public libraries, every little bit counts: if you cannot afford to donate to a local library, think about volunteering time to help shelve, lead after-school programs, or organize fund raisers. Being active with your public library is a very important way to contribute to your local community.

Volunteering:

Library volunteering does play an important role as partners in the library's mission of connecting people to the world of ideas and information.

Volunteers can help the Library to save money especially in the area of workers' wages. There are a number of rewarding opportunities for volunteers including supporting children and teen programmes, assisting patrons, keeping our collections in order, assisting with clerical work, helping patrons with technology, reading with children during summer holidays and assisting people with special needs.

Fund Raising:

Successful fundraising programs come in all shapes and sizes, but when it comes down to the details of actually raising funds and making your big ask, fundraising initiatives should be tailored to your organization. Effective fundraising utilizes best practices based on the development of strong relationships with donors that require cultivation, management, and stewardship.

Let us look at these ten suggestions offered by Corcione (2017)

1. Keep expectations reasonable.
2. Invest time in social media community building.
3. Provide flexible management for institutional social media.
4. Woo maximizers.
5. Keep discussion lively.
6. Create urgency.
7. Always keep ease of sharing in mind.
8. Streamline navigation.
9. Maintain a balance between the virtual and the real.
10. Don't try to be a master of all social media.

These are merely ten suggestions *not* ten commandments.

Friends of the Library:

Introduce and join the library programme. According to the ALA, these library lovers advocate on behalf of libraries in their communities by organizing fundraisers, sponsoring events, and hosting book sales. Raising money, for instance, can make or break if a library gets a new iPad for its patrons. Plus, friends programs help you connect the surrounding community with its library branch, so more people can take advantage of these free resources

Crowd-funding:

Crowd-funding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet. Crowd-funding is a form of crowdsourcing and alternative finance. In 2015, over US$34 billion was raised worldwide by crowd-funding. Crowd-funding is an online platform where individuals, business and non-profit organizations run campaigns. It's a strategy where an individual, non-profit, or business runs a campaign to reach a pre-determined funding goal from a large group of people through an online platform. The campaign is usually to fund a specific project, program or venture, and the funding period tends to be very short, from two weeks to three months. Although most crowd-funding platforms are similar in terms of fee structure, available features, and payment dispersal, the actual cost, rules, and criteria for non-profits vary greatly from platform to platform. The platform brings together various individuals who commit money to projects and companies they want to support.

Crowd-funding is the use of small amounts of capital from a large number of individuals to finance a new business venture. Crowd-funding makes use of the easy accessibility of vast networks of people through social media and crowd-funding websites to bring investors and entrepreneurs together and has the potential to increase entrepreneurship by expanding the pool of investors from whom funds can be raised beyond the traditional circle of owners, relatives and venture capitalists.

Although most crowd-funding platforms are similar in terms of fee structure, available features, and payment dispersal, the actual cost, rules, and criteria for non-profits vary greatly from platform to platform. Public librarians in Nigeria can raise fund through this platform to foster programs.

"*Learning From the Ants Principle***":**

This fact I am about to present here is without bias or gainsaying but simply adopting the principle of learning from the ants. Without government interference or contribution, Nigerian society (referring here to the public), has been able to build some of the most expensive and expansive religious edifices in the world; all these were achieved by people, through "giving". That establishes the fact that the resources to build the Nigerian public libraries can be sourced locally within the community, only if they are convinced that the libraries are set up to serve them. I will call this, people funding. Is there anything we can learn from the religious organizations in the country to promote librarianship in Nigeria? After all, it is all about promoting literacy and meeting public information needs.

Join your Local Friends of the Library:

Many public libraries offer a friend of the library programme. According to American Library Association (ALA), these Library lovers advocate on behalf of Libraries in their communities by organising fund raisers, sponsoring events and hosting book sales.

Raising money for example can make or break if a library gets a new Ipad for its patrons. Friends programmes help you connect the surrounding community with its library branch; more people can take advantage of these free resources.

Advocate for National Library Legislative Days:

Days: In the United States, May 1st and 2nd every year are dedicated for National Library Legislative Days (NLLD). During this day American Library Association promotes countrywide advocacy by bringing together hundreds of library advocates to Capitol Hill to meet with members of congress in support of funding and policies. By showing up at representatives' office in Washington, D.C, patrons can share stories about the library in person.

In addition to supporting library funding, the ALA also encourages advocates to push for privacy and surveillance reform, copyright modernization, access to government information, affordable broadband access, and net neutrality protection. The event will also train participants to prepare them for meetings with congressional representatives.

Conclusion

In addition to promoting literacy and equitable education for all, libraries provide crucial community resources like access to academic databases, *etcetera*.

/classes, and computer classes for all ages. Librarians also serve as your local experts for the questions a Google search couldn't answer. In the era of fake news and digital surveillance, libraries both provide media literacy and data privacy. The above are just a few quick ways to support your local branches.

Great libraries serve their communities by understanding and meeting literacy and learning needs. Great libraries need great funding. Philanthropy has and should continue to be essential in the public library's quest to be the best library for its community. An informed and professional approach in utilizing best practices will ensure continued fundraising success and a world-class library.

It has been globally recognized that libraries play important roles in building the knowledge economy of a nation. Also, libraries are quite crucial in bridging the gaps between the haves and have-nots in the provision of quality education as they help in inculcating literacy and reducing the number of out-of-school children. Libraries also assist in having a vibrant workforce as government workers have opportunities to engage in lifelong learning when libraries are open and functioning optimally. In view of government's strides to change things in Nigeria for the better, repositioning public libraries to serve all is essential. It is our fervent hope to see well equipped standard public libraries within communities that would aid in the promotion of the agenda of the government.

Finally, it is our hope for the libraries to be adequately funded so that there may not be need for any subscription to membership in public libraries. The global best practice for public libraries is that it should not be revenue generating ventures.

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Innovations in Public Library Services in Nigeria

Omopupa K. T

Abstract

This study espoused the evolution and position of public libraries in Nigeria with a specific focus on how it services can innovatively be delivered to its numerous clienteles through a theoretic delve into the growth of public libraries in the modern world. It used the growth of public libraries in Europe as a standard for setting the discourse on how Nigeria public libraries can aggressively develop to meet the yearning of Nigerians using existing related literature and Internet resources. The study enumerated how public library services before, now and in the future are done through improved library services that can become the first stop place for information yearning public in Nigeria. It also connects how public libraries can adopt Artificial Intelligence, Drone and Android Apps can be used innovatively to provide information services in Nigeria public libraries. The study recommended among others review of existing public library law, improved staffing, collection development, patronage and making public libraries agent of change in socio-political and economic lives of Nigerians. It concluded that giving it right place, public libraries in Nigeria has the prospect of serving the citizenry innovatively.

Introduction

Public libraries are established and funded by the government using tax payer's money to build an information society. It has become part of the indices for measuring the growth of literacy and other economic, political and development metrics in all countries of the world. The public libraries are expected to be responsible for selecting, ordering, acquiring, organising and disseminating information to the entire public without any form of bias to its perceived patrons (Goulding 2016). Public libraries have remained the only type of library that does not segregate or streamline the services rendered to a group of people.

Similarly, Pateman and Vincent (2016) noted that the need for public libraries to engage in social exclusion and social justice becomes ever more urgent as the gap between rich and poor continues to widen, and the very survival of public libraries in the heart of the community is open to debate. The study points to the public libraries as established to provide information services for the people irrespective of their gender, age, ethnic, race, economic and social background. For instance in Japan, Uragami, and Koizumi (2018) alluded the reasons that within the current trend of digital media and digital literacy, many Japanese public library services for teenagers have evolved differently in distinct ways and the introduction of distinctive services has created personal, close-knit relationships between schools, teachers, and local librarians. The finding indicated the high usage of public libraries in the perspective of local communities and activities through the involvement of Japanese public librarians visitation to schools and to encourage teenagers to avail themselves of the opportunities that lie in the information world through the public library patronage. The study further showed that everyone irrespective of belief, occupation, and political affiliation could make use of the public libraries that are owned by Federal, State and Local Government and some scholars generally referred these three government levels as the three categories of public libraries (Salman, Mostert & Mugwisi, 2014).

A glance at public libraries in Europe was captured in Sbaffi and Rowley (2015) in a study conducted with public library managers from two major metropolitan areas, Greater Manchester in England and Rome in Italy. It compared practices, activities and policies adopted in the two cities to attract non-users of public libraries focusing on the approach that librarians take to resolving the non-user issue revealed variation in the way public libraries usage in the two areas focused in the study. The Manchester experience reveals that libraries are predominantly task orientated, offering access points for community services while in Rome focus were on entertainment, leisure, and social events. The non-user profiles vary between cities, with non-users being mostly older teenagers and young adults in Manchester and mostly younger teenagers and pensioners in Rome. The study further showed that reading groups are essential service for encouraging reading and familiarising with public library facilities are well established in England when compared with public libraries in Rome offered services to a single group. The study concluded that Libraries in both cities are conscious of proactive marketing and management of their web for meeting the needs of all groups using the public libraries remotely. Similarly, Widdersheim, (2016) introduced a new dimension to the study of public libraries patronage with a direction to sharpen the theoretical ideas of public library research with new research directions and how public library research could contribute to a new conception of the public sphere.

The growing dimension in public libraries research plays a vital role in shaping the fundamentals in public libraries such as enabling laws, human and material resources, services, holdings, and patrons taste. More importantly, the reliance of the people on public libraries as a source for accessing sustained information and a place for knowledge creation cannot be achieved using the dated style. Therefore, approach, tools and skills in the public libraries should be the one imbibing the freely suggested new order in the contemporary related studies focused on the importance of public libraries to information service, education, cultural, and social institutions. However, Casselden, Pickard and McLeod (2015) espoused that despite the concerns about public libraries perception and challenges there is potential for its survival and continuing relevance.

In Africa, the public library is often referred to as "people's university" because it is the only library that has the mind of both the non-educated and educated citizens in her master plan and provides leverage for non-educated to study privately to attain higher qualifications. In the public library, a non-educated individual is a user, but the case may be different for other types of libraries where admittance is on specific criteria attached to membership. Public library stimulates Intellectual Freedom and right to be information and education of the citizens more than other types of libraries (Yaya, 2013; Oltmann, 2017). It provides materials and services to the patrons to support their educational, informational, cultural and recreational needs.

According to *IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto,* (1994) public library was described as a living force for education, culture and information and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women. The description coloured public library as the local gateway to knowledge in the provision of a fundamental condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development for the individual and social groups.

Evolution of Public Library in Nigeria

The public library is one of the oldest types of libraries that had ever existed in Nigeria and even in the world at large. Public Library is as old as writing. The history of public library can be traced back to about 5,500 years ago when people started recording their ideas on

various materials such as clay, metal, papyrus, parchment and silk. It is tantamount to say that the history of public libraries in the world is as old as the history of writing *(World Book Encyclopedia,* 2012). The first founded known public library in the world was in 1833. The name of the first public library was in New Hampshire Town Library at Peterborough, United Kingdom while the second oldest public library established was Boston Public Library in 1854.

In Nigeria, the development of public libraries reflects the various library systems of the colonising countries. The development of public libraries in Nigeria was influenced by the colonial masters (Olanlokun & Salisu, 1993). The first notable public library was established in Lagos in the 1940s from Tom Jones collection. In the year 1946, the Lagos public library, jointly owned by the Lagos Town council and British Council, replaced the Lagos library. A travelling library scheme was also launched in Lagos the same year.

After Lagos State, the northern region established a public library in 1952 followed by the establishment of a Regional Library Board in 1955. Also, at the creation of states within the Western region in 1967, many public libraries were established, especially in the state capitals of Oyo, Ondo, Lagos, and Ogun. Mid-Western Region (later Bendel state and now Edo and Delta states) was created out of the old Western Region in 1963. The Mid-Western Region Library Board was established in February 1971 by the Mid-Western Board edict. Since then Edo and Delta states Library Boards have been very active in the provision of library services in the two states. This development had made public libraries to span all the six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Public Libraries are now in all the 36 states of Nigeria including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

How things were innovatively done before now

Merriam-Webster dictionary (2019) defined the term "Innovation" as the act or process of introducing new ideas, devices or methods. In other words, innovative entails the practice of bringing new concept, logic, and method in order to get a better or desired result. Innovation in public libraries began almost immediately with the establishment of public libraries. *The need to reach people from far distance as well as the need to bring information materials to the doorsteps of people brought about the Innovation of mobile library*. Although mobile library came with the first public library, its existence was as a result of innovation. A mobile library (also known as Bookmobile) is one of the innovative services rendered to potential library users and the citizen using a van or vehicle.

Books and other related library materials are stored in the Van or vehicle so as for the people to enjoy the benefits of public libraries even if they cannot visit the library physically. The Innovation of Mobile libraries made the then public libraries to expand the reach of traditional libraries by transporting books to potential readers, providing library services to people, especially people at the underserved locations or rural areas. Apart from Vehicle and Van, the other means of moving library materials to the doorsteps of people include bicycles, boats, and trains, as well as elephants, camels, horses, mules, and donkeys.

How things are innovatively done at the moment

*Interestingly, mobile Library (Bookmobile) service through innovation is still in existence in some public libraries, only that the Innovation is advanced. In Chicago, people still enjoy mobile library services through Bookmobiles/mobile Library. It was found that Mobile Library (*Bookmobiles) in Chicago public provide access to technology in the form of hardware, hotspots, Wi-Fi, iPads, laptops, and software. Students that may not be able to

afford Laptop or related ICT gadgets can order for Laptop through Bookmobile. Recently, Patti, who happens to be a Bookmobile Librarian, shared a story of how a child, who had recently received a robot for his birthday, used the bookmobile's laptop computer to update the robot's software because the computer he had at home was unable to support the robot's software (Waltjer, 2018).

Here in Nigeria, Public library has also stepped up in the way they render services to their patron. Many public libraries, especially in Lagos, now render library services to its users in a unique way. Before now, card catalogue was the only access point for library materials, but things are now being automated. Many public libraries now make use of the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) as access point to all the library holdings. There is now the presence of Internet services in many public libraries where users can do information search and retrieve information outside library.

Public Libraries in Nigeria now create a network of Community of Practice (CoP) to enable its users have brainstorming session with its uses as well as to share knowledge. Availability of electronic materials like e-books and e-journal afford library users the opportunity to download some e-resources using the Internet service in the public library and then read it anytime within their comfort zone. As a result of innovation brought about with the aid of technology, public libraries now has audio-visual materials like gramophone records, audio cassettes, projectors, art reproductions, maps, photographs, microfiches, and Electronic Information Resources (EIR) like CD-ROM, computer software, online databases, internet, e-books, e-journals and other media (Anyalebechi, &Udo-Anyanwu 2016).

Public Library has innovatively left the old stage of "borrowing" people books, but they have now created a platform for children to come and play video games or complete homework assignments together. Many people attend academic lectures, seminars, workshops and book clubs in public libraries. This is because public libraries now have halls for such event outside the reading hall.

How things will be innovatively done in the nearest future

There is always a better way of doing a thing. Things presently done in a "better" way today can still be made "better" through innovation in the nearest future. The truth of the matter is that the best is yet to come in terms of services rendered in Nigeria's public libraries. Innovation is good, but it requires human and material resources.

Public libraries in Nigeria are posed with many challenges like reduced funding, obsolete of materials, poor management, poor managerial skills, lack of technical know-how, foreign exchange, the attitude of library clientele, change in technology, among others. These challenges may not allow innovations to be feasible in public libraries. The challenges above must first be overcome if the projections of future innovation in libraries will come to reality.

There are quite several innovations that can be introduced to library services especially in Nigeria, provided the challenges facing public libraries in Nigeria are eliminated. Some of the innovations that can be brought to public libraries are explained as follows:

Artificial Intelligence

No doubt, ICT is now changing the face of operations in public libraries. Although the application of ICT to library routines in Nigeria cannot be compared with what is obtainable in the western world, we are hopeful that Nigeria will still get to the stage where all our

public libraries will be fully automated. It is not an exaggeration to say that public libraries will be using the concept of Artificial Intelligence.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be defined as the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. The concept of Artificial Intelligence is a product of 5th generation of computer. The concepts of Artificial Intelligence are manifested in some machines like ATM, Computerized Doors, etc.

Public libraries can be using the concept of Artificial Intelligence in the nearest future. Robots can be stationed Library halls for monitoring to control the incessant bad attitude of library users that could make the library materials to deteriorate. Robots can also be placed at the cloakroom where bags are stored to avoid still of valuable documents from the cloakroom by some wrong library users.

Drone

It is almost unbelievable for people to agree that Drone can apply to public libraries. There is still no record of where Drone was used to rendering public library services, but a story was told recently about where a man that owns a drone sent out the drone to deliver material to his colleague in the same street.

It can also be applied in public libraries because it is not all information seekers that can physically be in the library to make use of the required materials. The special library users (physically challenged users) who may not be able to visit the library due to one or two health challenges may benefit from library services if the drone is adopted. There won't be any barrier in delivering information materials to the users, unlike mobile library that uses Van. It is worthy to note that drone is highly secured and can be monitored from a far distance which means that book sent through drone can be monitored remotely.

Public Library App

There are too many services to be rendered in public library considering the whole lot of publics they serve and the potential library users of this present age always want everything at their disposal with less effort. This underscores the need for public libraries to have a Mobile App where people can sort library shelves, place order and enjoy some of the services rendered in public libraries. This innovation, if put in place, will improve the integrity of the library and also boast the trust of potential library users towards a particular library.

A similar concept was adopted by Funmi Ilori who created a public library website called "read" (www.iread.com.ng) to serve people in Nigeria where people can order for books, and she will deliver the book to the users through Bookmobile. The innovation was launched on October 2nd 2013 using Van to deliver the books when requested. Many public library ambassadors have been created since the inception of the innovative idea. Hence, this innovative idea will revolutionalise library services in Nigeria where almost everybody is connected to the internet but is too busy to come to the library.

Innovative Public Library Services in Nigeria

In Nigeria, there area, where innovative public library services concerned, and that would be discussed. They include:

Laws Creating and Managing Public Libraries in Nigeria

Creation, regulation and conduct of public libraries through various acts of parliament were robust during the evolution of Nigeria state and over the years of military rule spanning 30 years (1960-1979). The era following the period witnessed little or no impressive development in the laws governing public libraries in Nigeria. Instead, states and other levels

of government do not consider public libraries as pertinent part of governance through which citizens can be reached and let them have a feel of government. Many states in Nigeria embarked on library projects without the reflection of the need of public library patrons with reading rooms not suited for reading public and without reading materials. Laws for the creation of public libraries in Nigeria should state the criteria for selection of public board members to include professional librarians and season highly educated members with unblemished public and private lives.

Staffing in the Nigeria Public Libraries

Despite the increasing production of library and information science graduates from various library schools in Nigeria, staffing in the public libraries remains at a low ebb. Many public libraries are still parading a large number of non-professional staff to discharge their services while the few professionals around not sponsored on continuing professional training regularly. Eze (2012) investigated staffing in Nigeria public libraries reported that public libraries staff are denied regular attendance at training institutions and programme but enjoy regular advancements such as promotions and fringe benefits. Therefore, it calls for questions on what ground staff are being promoted in Nigeria public libraries when they do not have the benefit of being exposed to new ways through which things are done in the new information age where virtually digitisation is the hallmark of information creation and handling.

Collection Development and Managing Public Library Holdings

The livewire of any public library rests on the richness of its collection through the regular subscription of new titles in different formats. Public libraries in Nigeria are known not to have a particular collection development policy through which consistently sustained acquisition of information can be guaranteed. Legal deposit law hardly complies with by publishers that are expected to assist the public libraries and books on the public libraries shelves in Nigeria are written by foreign authors and publishers. Information material in most public libraries in Nigeria are outdated and weathered with contents that do not reflect current reality and purpose with the appearance that is begging for a replacement that reflects current reality.

Patrons and Patronage in the Nigerian Public Libraries

In most public libraries in Nigeria today, the army of patrons are limited to students that are preparing for public examinations and those youths that have turned public libraries to rendezvous for hanging out. In the past, public libraries in Nigeria were the cynosure of academic excellence where highly place people of today in public service, academia, professionals and business started their reading lives.

Public Perception of Public Libraries in Nigeria

The perception of public libraries among Nigerians is that of a failed institution that has nothing to live up to the expectations of the citizens at promotion of cultural, political and other developmental needs of its people. The public's impression of libraries in Nigeria has not been that of the institution that is growing with the people's taste, needs and partner in meeting their aspirations to greatness.

Public Libraries as Agents of Change in Nigeria

Nigeria as a nation is experiencing varying common challenges that are part of a growing state which includes political, economic, social and cultural. These indices can be nipped in the bud through reorientation programmes embedded in public library programme that will reflect in the collection development. Tailored through the commission of authors will be

intellectual materials that will reflect the direction for change in Nigeria. Public libraries to act as agents of change will require a total overhauling of its services and personnel that will make information accessible to the public at their convenient location and time. For instance, public libraries that will act as agents for change in Nigeria will have its doors open to patrons all days of the week, both day and night.

Conclusion

Public libraries in Nigeria have a more excellent prospect if positioned to play their rightful roles of providing a conducive environment with the right information resources that are made accessible for the public in varying disciplines for all ages. Nigerian public libraries can support the aspirations of Nigerians to greatness in all facets of life if given the needed wherewithal to excel. Such supports can come from the government, corporate bodies, individuals and grant bodies locally and internationally in all forms.

Review of laws establishing public libraries to strengthen and vigorously reposition it to meet the current tide in information service deliveries in Nigeria will make public libraries to do better. Direct intervention in the areas of physical infrastructure, information resources, and sponsoring of public library staff to short and other elaborate training and conferences will go a long to improve the services of Nigeria public libraries innovatively.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

Brief Profiles of Resource Persons



Professor Abdulwahab Olanrewaju Issa holds DLS, BLS, MLS (ABU, Zaria), PhD (Ibadan) and PGDE (UDUS). Before becoming a Professor, he was Associate Professor from 2014 to 2017. He is currently the University Librarian of the University of Ilorin from October, 2017. Professor Issa is a Chartered Librarian of Nigeria (2005) with the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN); and a registered teacher with the Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria (2007). He had previously taught in the Department of Library and Information Science at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and the Department of Library and Information Science, Federal Polytechnic, Offa and Tai Solarin University, Ijebu-Ode, where he was a visiting scholar. He was Head of Department at the Federal Polytechnic, Offa and at the University of Ilorin. Professor Abdulwahab Olanrewaju Issa, who was Sub-Dean Post Graduate School at the University of Ilorin, as well as serving as the Editor in Chief of *Middle Belt Journal of Library and Information Science*, Chairman, Nigeria Library Association, Kwara State, has also served as external examiner to many universities in Nigeria. Similarly, he also served the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) as a resource person from 2002 to 2014.



Dr. Isaac M. Ogbonna holds B.Sc (Library Science/Biology); MLS (Information Science); and Ph.D (Library and Information Science) degrees, all from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He specialized in library development and advocacy and also has professional interest in bibliographic control services; community library development; reference services; and Dr Isaac M. Ogbonna is a Chartered Librarian with decades of work experience in both the public and academic libraries. He started his work experience as a library assistant and progressed through the ranks the position of Deputy University Librarian at the Federal Government owned University of Agriculture - the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria. Before then, as regards appointive positions, he was the head of the Federal College of Education Library, Eha-Amufu in Enugu State, Nigeria for twelve (12) years. He also held the position of the Director/Chief Executive of Enugu State Library Board for four (4) years. Dr. Isaac M. Ogbonna has published several academic publications including over thirty (30) journal articles, four (4) Textbooks, and some Book Chapter Contributions.



Neemat Daud Abdulrahim is a Deputy Director and the head Federal Capital Territory (FCT) City Library in Abuja. She holds a Bachelor of Library Science (BLS) degree from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1987, a Masters degree in Public Administration (MPA) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Education. She is a Certified Librarian of Nigeria (CLN) with the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) being amongst the first set to be certified in 2005.

Neemat is a distinguished librarian with career experience spanning over 25 years. She is also an Education Administrator. She started her working career at Central Medical Library, Yaba Lagos in January 1989, and moved to Abuja in 1991 to join the services of Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) now Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA). Hard work, passion, and commitment earned her elevations through the ranks to the her current position as a Deputy Director and head of FCT City Library. Her administration, through purpose-driven innovative programmes and initiatives has brought about a total transformation upon the perception of public libraries in Nigeria..

Neemat has earned different awards of excellence and recognition both nationally and internationally: IREX Library Champion for Beyond Access Nigeria project (2015 -2017) and a Trail blazer (2019 – Date) both of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation projects in Africa. In addition, Neemat was an Innovator (2016 -2018) and a Mentor (2018 - 2020) of the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions' (AfLIA) International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI) Sub-Saharan African Cohort 1 & 2 and leadership training program for Africa Public Librarians respectively. Neemat has initiated and championed many Innovative library services and Projects. She is currently running an Innovative Literacy Training program for the Almajiris (Street Boys) in Abuja.

Neemat is currently a member of the Governing Council of AFLIA as the Chairperson, Public and Community Libraries Section, elected in May 2019. AFLIA is apex association of the library professional in Africa.

Neemat has authored many articles and presented papers in numerous national and international workshops in Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, South Africa, Denmark, Germany, China and the United States of America.

In pursuit of her career, Neemat has attended several national and international conferences organized by the African Public Library Summit, the Next Library Festival, the Public Library Association (PLA) of American Library Association, the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) and International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). Similarly, she is also a member of several professional bodies including the Nigerian Library Association (NLA); where she served as the National Treasurer (2012-2016), the Reading Association of Nigeria (RAN) as the current Chairperson Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Chapter and the Association of Women Librarians in Nigeria (AWLIN) of the FCT Chapter



Dr K.Tunde Omopupa holds doctorate degree in Library and Information Science, Master in Library and Information Science and Bachelor of Arts in Library Science from University of Kwazulu-Natal South Africa, University of Ibadan and Bayero University, Kano, respectively. He is currently a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department of Library and Information Science, University of Ilorin. Dr. Omopupa is vastly experienced in teaching and research experience at undergraduate and postgraduate programmes spanning over 19 years. He is a certified Librarian with the Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN).

APPENDIX II

A WELCOME ADDRESS BY CHIEF SEIYIFA KOROYE, THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, BAYELSA STATE LIBRARY BOARD, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIAN AND CHAIRMEN AND DIRECTORS OF STATE LIBRARY BOARDS, HELD AT DOMARIS GARDEN AND SUITES, YENAGOA, 27-28 MARCH, 2019

Protocol

It is with great delight that I present this very brief welcome address to all participants and guests who have kindly turned up at this forum of the national and state leaderships of the government-owned public libraries in Nigeria. Beyond the above statement of fact, I shall make a few more, and then end with a statement of an opinion and another of an emotion.

Permit me, therefore, to state as follows:

- That public libraries are democratic institutions, truly guaranteeing access to information without discrimination via any forms of provision for exclusivity.
- That our business, over the next two days, is to share information, knowledge and views about how to turn around the quite dire fortunes of the public library system.
- That in spite of the express provisions of every library board law in Nigeria, the states that have appointed and/or inaugurated their library boards are far fewer than those that have not done so, or are perhaps not even thinking of doing so.
- That, with the inauguration of a library board in late 2017, Bayelsa State has begun the restoration of its public library system and is poised to do more – and must indeed do more – to guarantee equitable and easy access to library services.
- That besides the library and information science professionals from across the country that are gathered here, we have, in our midst, a number of very important guests who have been formulators and drivers of the policies that have determined and will continue to determine the development and viability of library services in Bayelsa State and beyond.
- That the National Library of Nigeria is the apex of an information-access pyramid which has the State Libraries as its base.

Now, as a statement of an opinion, let me quote the incoming President of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), “public libraries are friendly institutions”. I don’t think that is the case in Nigeria. That’s why I called it an opinion.

Finally, a statement declaring an emotion: the Bayelsa State Library is named after Dr. Gabriel Okara, who died in the year 2019; and so, on behalf of the Board, it is appropriate that I call on all of us to rise and observe a minute’s silence in his honour.

Thank you.

On behalf of the members and staff of the Bayelsa State Library Board, I welcome you all.

APPENDIX III

ADDRESS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA, PROFESSOR LENRIE O. AINA, AT THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIAN WITH THE CHAIRMEN AND DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA, DOMARIS SUITE AND GARDEN, YENAGOA, BAYELSA STATE, 27TH MARCH, 2019

Protocol

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 2019 Conference of Chairmen and Directors of Boards of State Public Libraries in Nigeria, holding in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. This is the second time that this all important annual conference is being held under me as the National Librarian.

Let me take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the Bayelsa State Government and most especially, His Excellency, Governor Seriake Henry Dickson, for accepting to host the 2019 edition of the meeting of the National Librarian with the Directors and Chairmen of Boards of State Public Libraries in Nigeria. To host a national meeting of this magnitude, a lot of time, financial commitments and other concessions are involved despite the constraints being experienced in the country at the moment. Your Excellency, your support to the hosting of this conference is an extension of your commitment to the effective and efficient development of public library services in Bayelsa State and the entire country.

The theme of this year's conference, "***Public Library Services for Effective Information Delivery: the Key for National Development***", is focused on the key areas of information service delivery of public libraries, innovations in public libraries; national development functions; and funding and advocacy for the development of public libraries in Nigeria. The importance of the theme is that we need to re-inform ourselves on the place of public libraries in nation building; the deployment of emerging technologies to public library services; the type of services required; and how and where to garner support to surmount the challenges plaguing the public library services and growth in our country, Nigeria.

Distinguished colleagues and participants, linked to the theme of this year's conference, are the objectives of this meeting, which are aimed at addressing issues adversely, affecting public libraries development and to affirm commitment to quality library services that benefit the general public.

On this note, therefore, I urge us to take this conference seriously by effectively participating in order to proffer solutions that would ameliorate or curtail the challenges militating against effective and efficient library and information services delivery by public libraries in Nigeria.

We are holding this conference in Bayelsa State because of the development of public library services in this state. We commend the efforts of His Excellency, Governor Seriake Henry Dickson, for his support to the Bayelsa State Library Board.

In my capacity as the National Librarian, I wish to intimate you that the National Library of Nigeria is willing to cooperate and collaborate with the Bayelsa State Government to see to the entrenchment of flourishing library services. To further complement this pledge, I am pleased to inform you that, very soon, you will see the presence of a National Library of Nigeria in Bayelsa. Government has released money to the contractor to commence the construction of the abandoned National Library project in Yenagoa.

I cannot end this address without acknowledging the role of the indefatigable Executive Chairman of Bayelsa State Library Board, Chief Seiyifa Koroye for his doggedness and zeal for public library development in Bayelsa; and of the Director, Bayelsa State Library Board, Mr. Zumo polo, for his cooperation and efforts to see that the conference becomes a reality. I want to assure everyone that the proceedings of this conference will be published just as was done in 2019. A copy of the proceedings of the conference held in 2018 in Abuja is in your file jacket.

Let me end this address by thanking members of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) who made spirited efforts for the success of this conference. The good Lord will reward you all abundantly.

I wish us a successful and fruitful conference.

Thank you.

APPENDIX IV

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION, DR. NKECHI S. UDEZE, DURING THE 2019 MEETING OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIAN WITH CHAIRMEN AND DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA ON 27TH MARCH, 2019 AT DAMARIES SUITES, YENAGOA, BAYELSA STATE

It is a thing of joy having all of us present at the 2019 Annual Conference of Directors of Public Libraries holding here in Bayelsa State. We are grateful to the Bayelsa State Library Board for graciously playing host to us. Special thanks to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of this meeting, the Chairman of the Bayelsa State Library Board, as well as the Director of the Library Services, for their individual and collective efforts in making this meeting a success. I would like to appreciate the National Librarian, Professor Lenrie Aina, for convening this meeting once more. I welcome everybody present and thank God for the safe arrival of all our members.

The meeting of the Directors of public libraries is cardinal as the directors are the prime movers of public library services and administration. The theme of this conference is very important and timely, "Public Library Services for Effective Information Delivery: Key for National Development"

Public libraries play the vital role of providing information to different classes of people without any form of discrimination, for the attainment of their individual goals, and ultimately for national development. Various innovations and information repackaging are introduced to ensure that the diverse needs of the users are met.

Effective information delivery to all users is thus an utmost objective. Effective information delivery will not only help people to solve their needs but will also make the public library relevant and visible to the community. Provision of ICT services further facilitates effective information delivery as it makes acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information easier and faster.

No nation can develop without information. The rate of development of a nation depends so much on the information available. Public libraries contribute immensely to national development as they provide access to information that aid individuals, government ministries and agencies in making informed decisions for attaining their goals. Effective information delivery is therefore essential as information is development, and no nation can thrive without information. Hence the need for a well-equipped public library and constantly trained and re-trained library staff.

Public libraries in Nigeria are facing enormous challenges such as inadequate funding, low or non application of ICT, inadequate and obsolete materials, unconducive library buildings and others. Directors also face the challenge of unappreciated labour, and even denial of some motivational privileges such as the change of nomenclature to state librarians. These challenges should however not deter us from doing all in our power to ensure effective library services and information provision. Our fulfilment should be derived from the fact

that we are contributing towards individual and national development in our own little corner. It calls for us to think out of the box, engage in innovative services that take the library to the users, and reach out to philanthropists for partnership in organizing relevant programmes. This way, posterity will yet celebrate us!

APPENDIX V



Remarks by His Excellency, the Hon. Henry Seriake Dickson, the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State

Protocol

1. First, I want to, on behalf of the Government and good people of this state, welcome you to the 'Jerusalem' of the Ijaw nation and the home of all good peoples. As I always say, all good peoples are first of all from Bayelsa, and because I can see you are all good people. I welcome you all very specially to your own home.

2. Since I was sworn in as Governor of Bayelsa State in 2012, and ever since I declared a state of emergency in the educational sector, this state has seen tremendous infrastructural and manpower development in the educational sector like never before.

3. As a result of seven years of commitment and dedication to our Restoration Agenda, we now have well-equipped model secondary schools in every local government areas of Bayelsa State. We have renovated most of the primary school buildings as well as headmasters and principals quarters'. In some cases we have built and in others we have renovated staff quarters in schools across the state.

4. Today, education is free at primary and secondary school levels in Bayelsa State. By this we mean the provision of uniforms, books and feeding in all the model secondary schools established by our administration, where boarding facilities are available free of charge – something that has not been done in Bayelsa State before. These measures and the corresponding investments in the education sector have seen a very significant improvement in the performance of our students in national examinations.

5. Our state recently emerged as the fourth best in the NECO Examination and 7th for WAEC in 2018; and even students on scholarship abroad have received awards and certificates of excellence. We also have a teacher training and certification centre in the state to ensure that all our teachers are well equipped with modern teaching skills and techniques.

6. We have established University of Africa Toru-Orua, which is a modern higher institution equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, seasoned lecturers and a world-class environment. A new Medical University that boasts of over 200-beds and modern teaching facilities, as well as an experienced faculty, was only in 2018 established by our government to create additional access to education for our brilliant children and youths of Bayelsa State. The university is set to admit its first set of intakes by the next academic session.

7. I personally have a library in my country home, and so I know the importance of books and libraries in our everyday life. The Bayelsa state library with an effective Library Board enjoys the support of the state government. This is another dimension of our government's commitment to education and support of the course of education. In

conjunction with the state Ministry of Education, the strategy is to ensure that every local government area and every higher institution in Bayelsa State has a standard public library. I hope this project is concluded before the end of my tenure. But if not, perish the thought! Then the next administration will have to ensure that it comes to fruition, for government is a continuum.

8. In conclusion, to ensure that our numerous investments in this critical and important sector are effectively sustained and endearing, we have successfully launched an educational trust fund. Bayelsa state, which I call Nigeria's best kept secret, is the home to educational tourism and, no doubt, Nigeria's literary capital.

9. I want to thank you all for coming. I am aware you will be having a tour and dinner night to make this experience a memorable one for all delegates and participants to this meeting. I urge you to have fun and make sure you tell other people in your various states when you get back home about our hospitable, safe, secure and serene state capital of Yenegoa.

10. Thank you and God bless you all.

APPENDIX VI

Reports on the State of Public Library Boards in Nigeria

Directors/State Librarians gave situation reports on the state of their various state public library boards of which thirteen (13) reports were received from Adamawa State Library Board; Anambra State Library Board; Akwa-ibom State Library Board; Bayelsa State Library Board; Delta State Library Board; Edo State Library Board; Enugu State Library Board; Imo State Library Board; Kogi State Library Board; and Ogun State Library Board; as well as Osun State Library Board; Plateau State Library Board; and Rivers State Library Board. The reports bothered on the state of the board/administration, staffing, branches, acquisition of information resources, e-library and challenges as presented in the table below:

S/No.	State	Board/Administration	Staffing	Branches	Acquisition of information resources	e-library	Challenges
1	Adamawa State Library Board	No constituted board	• Total staff strength of 311 members • 4 librarians	3 zonal branches	• Receives donations • not purchased books for years	Has e-library with internet connectivity	• Inadequate funding • Inadequate and dilapidated headquarter structural building • Not purchased information resources for years • 40% of plot for headquarters permanent taken away by the government • No subscription for e-library internet connectivity
2	Anambra State Library Board	• No constituted board • Under the Ministration of Information	14 librarians		Regularly acquires books and newspapers		Inadequately staffed
3	Akwa-ibom State	• No constituted board • Under Ministry of Education Library Board	• A total staff strength of 54 members • 22 librarians	5 branches	Not purchased books more than 5 years	Has e-library managed by a consultant	• Has no permanent headquarters site • State branches insecurity

S/No.	State	Board/Administration	Staffing	Branches	Acquisition of information resources	e-library	Challenges
4	Bayelsa State Library Board	Constituted board	• A total staff strength of 33 members • 3 librarians • Governme nt approves employme nt of 17 librarians	Government approves establishment of branches	Annually purchases books and newspapers	Functional e-library	Challenges are being looked into by the Government
5	Delta State Library Board	• Constituted board • Under Ministry of Higher Education	35 librarians 12 para-professionals	• 27 branches • Newly Constructe d permanent headquart ers		Functional e-library	Board members are only politicians Management denied use of imprest by Board members
6	Edo State Library Board	• No constituted board – Board dissolved since 2015	A total staff strength of 32 members	6 branches	not purchased books for almost 30 years	No e-library	• Non-purchase of information resources (b00ks) for almost 30 years • 1 non-functional branches • Inadequate staffing
7	Enugu State Library Board	Constituted and not functioning board Under Ministry of Education	Total staff strength of 88 members 6 librarians	5 branches : 2 zonal and 3 local branches	• Not purchased books since 2016 • Purchases newspapers		• Inadequatel y staffed • Challenges are being looked into by the government - renovation
8	Imo State Library Board	• No constituted Board since 2014 • under Ministry of Education			not purchased books for over 27 years		• Headquarter s of the library taken over by the Library Advisor to the Governor and the Director operating in a state branch

S/No.	State	Board/Administration	Staffing	Branches	Acquisition of information resources	e-library	Challenges
							• very poor user attendance
9	Kogi State Library Board	• No constituted Board • under Ministry of Education	• Total staff strength of 38 members • 7 librarians	7 functional branches	Purchases newspapers		
10	Ogun State Library Board	• No constituted Board since 2011 • No more under a Ministry	• total staff strength of 65 • 16 librarians • 7 para-professionals	6 functional branches	• No allocations in the budgets for purchase books since 2011 • Purchases books from the imprest		
11	Osun State Library Board	No constituted Board since 2014	• Total staff strength of 15 members • 1 librarian • 1 para-professional	No branches	• last purchased books in 2012 • purchases newspapers		
12	Plateau State Library Board	Constituted Board	• Total staff strength of 29 members • 2 librarians	2 branches	• Receives donations • Not purchased books for years • Purchase newspapers		• No imprest • dilapidated structures • very poor user attendance • outdated information resources
13	Rivers State Library Board	• No constituted Board • under Ministry of Education	• Total staff strength of 24 members • 2 librarians • 2 para-professionals • Has contract staff	3 branches	Not purchased books for over 20 years	e-library with internet connectivity	• dilapidated structures • inadequate imprest • inadequately staffed

APPENDIX VII

***COMMUNIQUÉ* ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIAN, CHAIRMEN AND DIRECTORS OF STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARDS IN NIGERIA, HELD AT DOMARIS GARDENS AND SUITES, YENAGOA, BAYELSA STATE ON THE 27TH AND 28TH MARCH, 2019**

A. INTRODUCTION

The second Annual Conference of the National Librarian, Chairmen and Directors of State Public Library Boards in Nigeria, with the theme, "***Public Library Services for Effective Information Delivery: The Key for National Development***", was coordinated by the National Library of Nigeria; hosted by the Bayelsa State Library Board; and held at the Domaris Gardens and Suites, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State on the 27th and 28th March, 2019. The conference is generally aimed at addressing issues, which affect public libraries and to affirm commitment to quality library services that benefit the general public. Specifically, the Conference will achieve the following objectives to:

(i) enable the National Library of Nigeria, as one of her statutory mandates to make recommendations and give advice on library development to any department or agency of government of the Federation or a State or to any local government authority, to officially/formally interact with Directors of State Library Boards in order to identify their challenges and mitigate on their behalf with the various state governments;

(ii) avail the National Library of Nigeria of the opportunities to collaborate with the state library boards in its services to States and the collection of statistical data on library development in the country; and

(iii) collectively develop a public library system for Nigeria.

B. OBSERVATIONS

At the end of the two-day annual conference, the participants from fourteen (14) state public library boards, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) observed as follows:

i. most public libraries in Nigeria lack adequate facilities, resources and personnel to provide optimal services;
ii. most public libraries in Nigeria lack constituted and functional boards;
iii. public libraries in Nigeria lack development plans; and
iv. public libraries in Nigeria suffer financial neglect.

RESOLUTIONS

At the end of the conference, the following resolutions were made:

i. that state governments in Nigeria should provide adequate facilities, resources and personnel for the public libraries;
ii. that state governments in Nigeria should constitute functional public library boards;
iii. that state library boards in Nigeria should, as a matter of urgency, evolve development plans for their libraries;
iv. that state governments should provide adequately for the financial needs of their public libraries for optimum service delivery;

v. that, to augment government funding of the public libraries in Nigeria, partnership with groups, organisations, agencies and individuals should be established;

vi. that the National Library of Nigeria, in collaboration with the state public library boards, should set up a study group to collate, analyze, interpret, and present data and documentary on the status of public libraries in Nigeria with recommendations for future developments;

vii. that the National Library of Nigeria should provide a forum for the training on advocacy for public library development in Nigeria; and

viii. that public library boards in Nigeria should explore and utilise the opportunities of national and international donors such as the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Book Aids International, etc, to acquire resources for their libraries.

APPENDIX VIII

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S/No.	NAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL
1	Abdulrahim, Neemat (Hajiya)	The City Lib. FCT Edu Resource Centre	DD/ Head	08037000811	neemdar@yahoo.com
2	Afenfia, Lucky	Bayelsa State Min. of Edu	Director	07066717373	luckyafenfia97@gmail.com
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