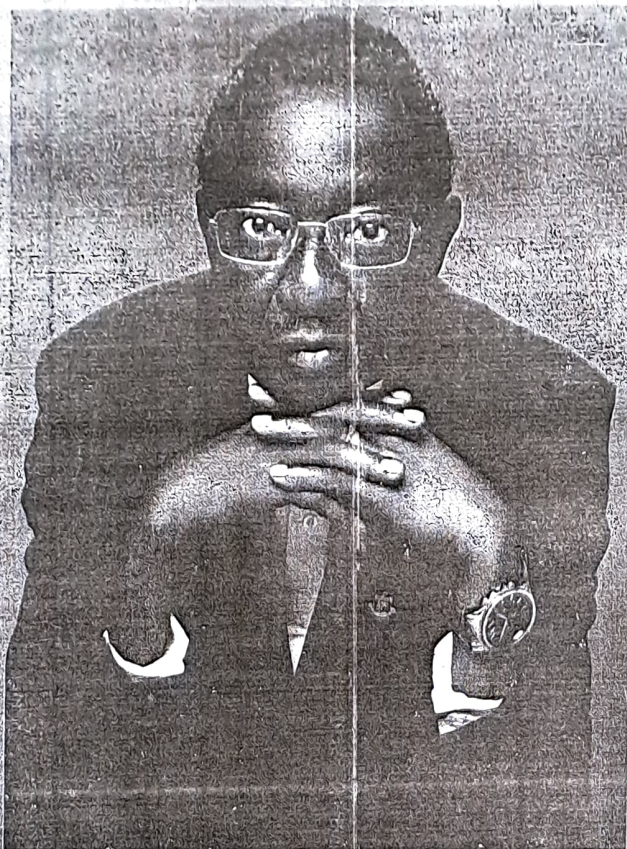


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**MANAGEMENT OF
LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION CENTRES
IN THE ERA OF GLOBAL
INSECURITY**



*A FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOUR OF
**PROF. (SIR) MATTHEW IDOWU
AJIBERO (KSM)***

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ROLES OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES IN CURBING GLOBAL INSECURITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Libraries and information centres serve as catalysts to quality education and enhance good security system. Education enables individuals, groups, countries and human race in general to discover, appreciate, understand and develop their physical and social environments for the satisfaction of their needs. Libraries and information centres empower individuals and liberate citizens from ignorance, prejudice, superstition, and knowledge manipulation by providing access to information. This chapter discusses roles of libraries and information centres in curbing global insecurity in the 21st Century. It covers concepts of library and information centre, explores various sections in the library and activities in libraries and information centres. Furthermore, security concept and causes of insecurity in Nigeria were highlighted. In addition, the chapter examines the roles of libraries and information centres in curbing insecurity. Among the recommendations based on authors' perspectives and reviewed scholarly works to curb global insecurity are expanding information gathering devices, Increase collaboration among information providers, and promotion of information access policy.

Keywords: Education, Global, Insecurity, Library, Security, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Library and information centre are essential indicators for growth and development. They provide access to information on social needs, scientific services; assist individuals and organisations to flourish in a secured environment. Library and information centre are for so many issues that concern society and the world in general. The growing insecurity in the

world over and Nigeria in particular is of great concern to all stakeholders. This calls for necessary efforts to be employed and combat these challenges. Security as a key factor for any growth and development must be taken seriously by all individuals and organisations including libraries and information centres. Libraries and information centres play important roles in all sectors especially in the educational sector. Libraries and information centres are saddled with the responsibility of providing access to information to various categories of information users regardless of their areas of discipline.

According to Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science-ODLIS (2020), library can be defined as a collection or group of collections of books and non-book materials organized and maintained for use (reading, teaching, research, study and others). Similarly, The Harrods Librarian's Glossary of Library Terms (2014) defined the library as a collection of books and other literary materials kept for reading, study and consultation. Library could be described as an organization responsible for selecting, acquiring and organizing books and non-book materials in order to provide information access to library users for purpose of satisfying his or her information needs. There are five (5) type of libraries; national library, school library, academic library, special library and public library. Irrespective of the type of libraries, the prime objective of any library is to provide access to information for users to meet their needs. In recent development, many libraries have information centre within the library.

The term 'Information Centre' is not synonymous with the library however; information centres are mostly part of segments in the library. Information center is designed specifically for storing, processing, and retrieving information for dissemination at regular intervals, on demand or selectively, according to expressed needs of users. Information centre is interrelated to the field of information science. According to Eneikebi (2019) information science is a field primarily concerned with the analysis, collection, classification, manipulation, storage, retrieval, movement, dissemination, and protection of information. Thus, the key function of information centre is similar with that of library. The library and information centre play various roles to satisfying the needs of information users. Among the roles of the library are; it serves as a resource/information centre, as a store house of information and as a house of collections.

The library serves as a resource/information centre for all categories of information users. The library is encumbering with responsibility of provision of books and non-book materials that can assist information users to learn, prepare for examinations, either write projects or engage in research and for taking beneficial decision on different issues including insecurity. The library users are expected to go into library and find necessary tools required to assist them in the search for knowledge on security and other essential information. Library supports learning and teaching in order to enhance process of becoming an educated person.

An educated person has a broad view of issues instead of narrow and parochial outlook. He is tolerant of other people's religion, belief, culture and limitations and promotes social harmony and security. Library provides information for knowledge development and for purpose of education. Education serves intrinsic and instrumental

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purposes. According to Mellisa (2017), purposes have been outlined by several scholars (Malcolm Forbes; Robert M. Hutchins; Robert Frost; and Martin Luther King Jr.3). According to Malcolm Forbes, the purpose of education is 'to unsettle' the minds of students, widen their horizons, inflame their intellects, and teach them to think straight, if possible". In the same vein, Robert Frost reiterated that "education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence". Education liberates individuals from ignorance, falsehood and superstition. Also, Martin Luther King Jr (the late great African-American civil rights movement leader) observed that "education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the truth from false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction". Education produces and enhances knowledge, skills, productivity, governance, civility and status in society.

Knowledge produced and acquired through education is the most vital and sustainable basis of national development and security. Most of the scholars mentioned did personal reading, used various types of libraries and attended institutions that enjoyed support of libraries. It can be deduced that library role of supporting learning, teaching and research in educational sector is germane. Library provides various reading materials that expose information users to the benefits of peace and harmony among fellow human beings in the society. Also, information centres guide information users on things to do to promote security and prevent insecurity. Insecurity and terrorism have been major challenges in the world over and Nigerian government in recent times is not exempted. The insecurity challenge has assumed a dangerous dimension that not only requires a multi stakeholder approach, as it is being publicized in various quarters, in controlling this conflagration threatening Nigeria's statehood (Onifade, Imhonopi & Urim, 2013). The challenge requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders. There are series of violent crimes that lead to insecurity.

Onifade and Imhonopi (2012) stressed that violent crime such as kidnappings, ritual killings, car-hijackings, suicide bombings, religious killings, politically-motivated killing and violence. Also, ethnic clashes, armed banditry and others have increasingly become the regular signature that characterises life in Nigeria since 2009. Globally, insecurity is like a pandemic issue. For examples, the book-haram in North-west of Nigeria is a case in point and the Niger Delta militant attack in South-south of Nigeria. It has been established by scholars (Ahmed, 2004; Igulu & Oghuvwu, 2015) that insecurity is everywhere all over the world and thus becoming global issue. Moreover, Ahmed (2004) reported that the most pertinently, globalization and the international economic order have undermined economic-human security (economic, food and health security) which in turn has contributed to the generation of personal, community and political insecurity.

These pockets of crimes in all over the world have led to insecurity of live and property. Insecurity is the antithesis of security and has attracted such common descriptors as want of safety, hazard, danger, uncertainty, want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately protected or guarded, instability, trouble, lack of protection and being unsafe, and others (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, 2013). Similarly, Beland (2005) opined that insecurity is the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of

protection. Insecurity could be described as the state of being exposed to danger or threat, lack of protection, uncertainty or anxiety about oneself. This terrible situation of insecurity demands for urgent attention from individuals and organisations therefore, this chapter examines roles of libraries and information centres in curbing global insecurity in the 21st Century.

Noting the importance of security and development, Mijah (2007) stated that in modernising society, security means development, security is not military force though it may involve it. Security in Nigeria has been threatened over a decade by the menace of, kidnapping, human trafficking and terrorism on a large scale in Nigeria. Series of efforts have been made by the Nigerian government to battle this social menace especially terrorism using mostly military-based strategies unfortunately, the threats still persist. One of the key functions of the library is to provide access to information that promotes peace and opposes criminality in country. This is the part of roles of library towards curbing insecurity in Nigeria. This is especially so because, terrorists, kidnappers, human traffickers also read books for information, both online and offline in seeking funds, engaging operations, recruitment, training and communication. Hence, there is the need to provide access to information on moral upbringing, social, economic and technology developments that could either eradicate or reduce the crime wave in the society. Such relevant information provided by library and information centres make contributions towards promotion of unity, religion tolerance, create avenue for youth empowerment and exposure to economic development.

CONCEPTS OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRE

Library is a place where information resources are accessed and information services are rendered by professionals who specialize in identifying, acquiring, collecting, organizing, disseminating and processing information sources as well as interpreting information needs. The word "place" in the definition could be virtual or physical. Physical place refers to library building or library collection such as books and non-book material while the concept of a virtual library refers to remote access to digital information resource and services via computer terminals. According to Issa (2009), library is defined as the repository, lender, acquirer and borrower of organized information with the most emphasis being on pre-packaged information for ready access and delivery to users. There are different types of libraries and their categorization is based on their parent/sponsor body that established them, types of material kept or manage the subject matter of the material being managed and users of the library.

Academic libraries refer to libraries established and sponsored by institutional parent body to support research, teaching and learning in tertiary institutions such as universities, polytechnics and colleges of education. School libraries refer to libraries established in primary and secondary schools. Public libraries these are libraries established and funded by government for the generality of the society (serve members of general public). Special libraries are established to meet the needs based on specialty or discipline and its professional collections that meant to serve specialized profession. These are mostly owned by private public institutions. National library is the apex library that monitors other type of libraries.

and it serves as legal depository of the country. To know the intellectual vibrancy of any country, national library is saddles with responsibility of bibliography compilations. In overall, it is the national library that coordinates activities of library and information centre in Nigeria.

Information centre is a place where members of the public can get information about an area, organization, activity (Cambridge Dictionary Online, 2020). Information centre could be described as place for storing, processing, and retrieving information for dissemination at regular intervals. The activity in the information centre is related to information science. Information science is the science and practice dealing with the effective collection, storage, retrieval, and use of information. It is concerned with recordable information and knowledge, and the technologies and related services that facilitate their management and use. At the information centre science and technology based devices are used as tools to processed, organised and disseminate information to users. There are various activities taking place in any library and information centres as discussed in the next sub-section.

DIVISIONS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRES

A typical library is made up of two (2) major divisions such as Technical service division and reader service division. Technical service division comprised of four (4) departments such as Acquisition section, Cataloguing & Classification section; Serials section and Bindery Section Reader division contained four (4) departments or units namely; Circulation section, Reference section, Audio-Visual section and Document section. There could be slight differences existing in various types of library. With the emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), a new division developed in the library referred to electronic support services division which covered electronic library section, digital library section and automation section. As a system, library is a complex of relations between people and information processes, within larger social, economic and political systems (Issa, 2009). Having discussed various divisions and sections available in the library, it is required to examine different activities taking place in each of the sections.

Acquisition section is saddled with responsibility of acquiring materials for the library. This could be done by means of purchases, gifts, donations and bequeaths. An expert in the field of librarianship that manages this section is called an Acquisition Librarian. Cataloguing and classification section receives library materials especially books that have been accessioned by the acquisition section for further processing. The major activities taking place are provision of bibliographic information on library books and assign subject headings and location (class) mark. After the completion, the books processed to readers' service division for shelving and usage by users. An expert that manages this section is called Cataloguer.

Moreover, serials section handles journals and related serials materials that come into the library. In addition, this section also catalogues, classifies and makes serial materials available to library users. A professional that manages this section is refers to as Serial Librarian. The bindery section binds or mends library materials that are torn for the purpose of regaining the originality of the materials in terms of shape. This is done to facilitate

adequate utilization of the materials by users. Also, reader service division offers direct services to library users. There are four (4) sections. Circulation section carries out charging and discharging (borrowing and returning) books and other library materials. In addition, it is a section responsible for registration of library users. A professional librarian that mans the section is refers to as Circulation Librarian. In addition, reference section houses materials that are meant to be consulted in the library for the specific information. The reference materials are available at this section are not to be borrowed but allowed to be used within the section at the space provided for reading. The prime objective of reading books and other library materials is to acquire information for knowledge building. All divisions of the library work together and facilitate information access.

Information is a new ideas or knowledge extracted from the environment for human use with the aim of modifying behaviour, effecting changes, and enhancing efficiency in all human endeavours (Ajegbomogun, 2008). Information helps create enlightened and responsible citizens. All units in the library work as a team to ensure provision of adequate information in the right formats and disseminated at right time to the right users. Eniekebi (2019) stressed that though information officers and librarians may not be military people, because of their professional background, they are usually equipped to provide technical information services to experts in other fields using the language they understand. The information centre verifies the collected information for its validity, reliability and accuracy before dissemination. Information centre is an integral part of library. Library and information centre therefore, play important roles in transmission and transformation of knowledge and in helping to achieve the economic and social objectives of the government. This vital role played by the library and information centre promotes peace, enhances security and minimizes insecurity in the society.

THE GLOBAL INSECURITY

Security implies a stable, relatively predicable environment in which an individual or group may pursue its ends or objectives without disruption, harm, danger and fear or disturbance or injury (Dasuki, 2013). Security could be described as freedom from potential destruction or other unwanted coercive change caused by others. The political, economic and social systems of any country are expected to create the conditions for security and insecurity. Security is a germane precondition for the development of human beings and societies. Thus, security is the most basic need of human beings and societies all over the world. National security' is a term used by politicians and military leaders in the line of policy objective. National security refers to the protection of the interests of a country and takes a wide meaning as all-embracing dimension of national life (Hussain, 2008; Irad, 2011). In any chaotic situation, the security transformed to insecurity.

Nwaobi (2013) reported that the 20th Century was dominated by the legacy of devastating global wars, colonial struggles, and ideological conflicts. This unpleasant trend of insecurity still persists despite series of efforts by stakeholders to ameliorate the situation for peace and security to reign in Nigeria. The failure of security apparatus would lead to insecurity. Insecurity is peoples' relative feeling of the presence of economic, political, social, cultural and psychological fear (Onoja, 2014). Insecurity has become a hydra-headed

monster which security agents in the world over including Nigeria appear incapable of handling because of its multifaceted manifestations. It is an established fact that insecurity is injurious to general well-being of the people with its resultant effects in the human existence and economic development. Insecurity can also be classified into several dimensions as identified by Alemika (2015). The most significant dimensions are:

1. Public insecurity - violent conflicts, insurgency and terrorism
2. Economic insecurity - poverty, unemployment,
3. Physical insecurity - violent personal and property crimes,
4. Political insecurity - denial of good and social democratic governance
5. Social insecurity - illiteracy, ignorance, diseases or illnesses, malnutrition; water borne diseases, discrimination and exclusion;
6. Human rights violations - denial of fundamental rights by state and non-state actors.

These dimensions of insecurity are interwoven and cannot be treated in strict isolation. Thus, there is need to identify the causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

The causes of insecurity are numerous. Further explanations revealed that the following factors are responsible and could trigger insecurity, if the situation is not well managed:

Low Income/Low opportunity: This is a situation where a particular government favor people of a certain geo-political region of the state or country to secure good jobs with well package salary at detriment of others. This may lead to riot and protest from the oppressed group.

Unemployment: An adage says an idle brain is the workshop for devil. There is need for an adult especially youth to be gainfully employed and engaging youths with job or business rather than staying idle or roaming the streets without job. Youth restiveness may be caused by a number of factors such as unemployed and favourism, inequality distributions of resources. Jobless youths are susceptible to crime and its related practice that could lead to breaking of laws and orders, thereby resulting to insecurity in the society.

Inequality Distribution of Resources among Stakeholders: Internal security stress can arise when particular elites or groups felt threatened and cheated often as a result of past and present oppression which resulted to youths being organized to defend themselves (Nwaobi, 2013). For instance, Chukwuemeka, Anazodo and Nzewi (2011) reported that dissatisfaction of the people of South-south especially the youths on the level of attention given to development of their region and the damages to their ecology by oil spillage are the major causes of the alarming rate of youth restiveness. This may lead to protest and destruction of individuals or government properties which occasioned to insecurity of life and properties.

Promotion of Corruption: Lack of fair play among individuals or groups by a way of favourism, segregation and selective fighting of corruption could trigger other group clamoring for justice where injustice in the treatment of ethnics becoming order of the day. This may lead to havoc and insecurity.

Bad Governance: Any government that fails to provide basic amenities to her inhabitants will not enjoying support of the people. These could cause unrest, riots, kidnapping, protest and

other social vices that may lead to insecurity.

Religion Crisis: This is erupted due to injustice in the treatment of members of other religions

Regional Competition: Organisers of competitions should be fair enough to apply justice and embrace fair play model in all activities that would bring satisfaction to all parties involved. Otherwise, any attempt to give more supports to a particular group over the others. These might lead to uprising and insecurity. Other causes of insecurity are perceived discrimination, human rights abuses, porous/cross-border conflicts, transitional terrorism and international criminal networks. The status of insecurity in Nigeria is hereby discussed.

Youth Agitation: A number of factors could be responsible for the youth's unrest. The unsatisfactory socio-economic development of the various ethnic groups in Nigeria led to inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic conflicts. Chukwuemeka, Anazodo and Nzewi (2011) reported that dissatisfaction of the people of South-south especially the youths on the levels of attention given to development of their region and the damages to their ecology by oil spillage are the major causes of the alarming rate of youth restiveness. The obvious effects of youth unrest on the Nigerian society are loss of lives and property, which constitute a key threat to security of the community and state as well as its corporate existence. It also discourages genuine social, economic and democratic developments.

THE STATE OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Insecurity is one of the most glaring and much talked about in the nooks and crannies of Nigeria. Insecurity is at the edge of being the identity of Nigeria as no single day passes without cases of acts of insecurity. According to Oziogbo (2019) insecurity is more worrisome that the Nigerian government seems to be incapable of curtailing this menace or doesn't want to stop it for undisclosed reasons. All these were foreign to Nigeria and Nigerians until the attacks by Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and the Islamic sect Boko Haram (Western Education is forbidden) in Nigeria. Activities of the group spread across to various forms of social menace like kidnapping of people; blowing up oil pipelines; bombing the United Nations building in Abuja, that happened on 26th August, 2011, the Nigerian Police Headquarters in Abuja (16th June, 2011), the Christmas day bomb blast at St Theresa Catholic Church, Madalla occurred on 25th December, 2011.

Assistant Inspector General of Police headquarter in Kano was bombed on 20th January, 2012. Similarly, the Army 1st Division Base, Kaduna was destroyed with fire arms on the 7th of February, 2012 and blowing up of Agip gas pipeline (Ossai-Ugbah, 2013). All these and several others in Damaturu, Bauchi, Jos, Damaturu, Sapele, Yenogoa, Kano and Kaduna has brought Nigeria and Nigerians to the reality of terrorism, militancy, insurgent and the need for national security in Nigeria's national discourse. Nigeria has steadily been in the Failed States Index (FSI) since 2005 (FSI, 2013). Similarly, Multidimensional Poverty Index-MPI (2013) reported that the sub-national calculation of prevalence of poverty coincides with the endemically unstable North-east, North-west and North Central (MPI, 2013). The issue of insecurity demands urgent attention from all stakeholders and libraries and information centres as organisations cannot be left out.

THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES IN CURBING INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Libraries and information centres have always been a key contributor to national development and it is appropriate that they take a leadership role in the current movement on national security. Our educational system can be tailored towards taming religious conflicts and enhancing national security in Nigeria by making provision for library support services. Education is an instrument "per excellence" for effective national peace and security in any nation. However, it is important to stress that much education takes place both in formal and informal settings needs to embrace and utilization of library services. Mobile library services provide essential information including educating materials on principles of peace and security that could discourage an educated mind to do any illegal activities. Similarly, information centres need to carry out censorship of the processed information before dissemination. Reading material contains information that can fuel crisis should be restricted in circulation to the society. Insecurity undermines education and absence or poor quality education for citizens constitute a restriction on capacity for sustainable security in multifaceted dimensions encapsulated in human security framework (Alemika, 2015). In many countries of the world, to achieve effective development, the need for investment in the education of the citizenry with well-equipped libraries towards the realization of the importance of peace and security is germane. Therefore, library has the following roles to play towards curbing of global insecurity:

Provision of Knowledge and Information: Libraries and information centres are saddled with the responsibility to manage knowledge and information that indeed precious in national security. These are so essential for human development. The information has become powerful tool that needed by any individuals and organisations to succeed. With the current trend, all the roles that libraries and information centres play are indispensable to modern society.

Access role: Library is the place where the information user can access information without restriction. Libraries provide access to information that can discourage citizenry from crime participation, information on civic studies that promote moral upbringing and tolerance among children (Keely, 2017). In addition, provision of information on biographies of important personalities in society who could serve as a role model for the youths. As the part of social responsibility of library, library services are provided for all categories of people in the society to keep them engaged as well as enrich their knowledge on areas of their interest like business, occupation and pleasure. An idle mind is the workshop for devil. Adequate and well packaged information would keep both children and adult busy.

Information Availability Role: Libraries and information centres are expected to make available unhindered information for educational planning, infrastructural, industrial and technological advancement of the country. Available information on scientific discoveries would make tremendous breakthroughs in areas of science and technology for industrial growth and job creation for employable adults. This would promote, peace, and harmony among all stakeholders thus, reducing rate of poverty induced insecurity. To ensure availability of information to students and other stakeholders, universities embark on

application of ICT. Akor, Ekere and Akor (2019) reported that Umaru Musa Yar'adua University library has improved and follow the trend of the time in using ICT to secure its resources while Al Qalam University library is still left behind as it is yet to start using ICT facilities for the same purpose which indicates that the library is still using the manual system of searching the users at the entrance of the library as a means of securing the library materials.

Information Intelligence Gathering Role: Recently, the war on terror and terrorism is not only fought with arms and ammunitions only but with the intelligence information gathering (Kelechi & Jude, 2014). Access to well packaged information is the power for any nation to engage in productive economic, scientific, political and social activities. For the library, this is a feasible objective, which is achievable through the information and dissemination process of the library (Hali, 2003). According to Fuentes (2006) an intelligence-led policing could be described as the collection, integration, analysis, and presentation of potentially implicating information that assist in investigative intelligence and aids the informed decision- making process at the tactical, strategic and organisational level.

Information is, therefore, a crucial factor in national security. Ossai-Ugbah (2013) emphasized that the line between security and insecurity lies in information given or information withheld. Similarly, the ability to use information and its associated tools is a source of power for any nation (Bordbar, 2000). These key roles are expected to be offered by the library and librarians. As pointed out by Noruzi (2006) that the current security challenge, citizens and government of Nigeria must recognise this need for information utilisation and see literacy as a means of national security. For successful literacy programme, the library must play essential role of information access provision to various relevant library materials. Information remains the only product of the library to handle. According to Ossai-Ugbah (2013) the only means through which the real integration of people living in political, economic, religious and ideological poles could be brought together is through the actual cooperation and exchange of vital information between the two acclaimed stakeholders (the terrorized and the terrorist). Hence, information is a power that can be used to curb insecurity and promote peaceful human existence in any organized society.

Preservation Role: The second role has been the world-wide effort of libraries to archive, protect and provide ongoing access to information and the world's cultural heritage for the long term (Hedstrom & King, 2003). A predominant occupation like pot-making, blacksmith and so on can be preserved by harvesting useful information and kept for future generation usage. Youths and other interested people would earn a better living in their respective endeavours as well as improving their reading habits. In addition, preserved information would be useful in policy formulation and other decision making processes for peaceful living activities that curb insecurity.

Mobile Library Service Role: Mobile library is a functional service unit of the public library services, mobile libraries or bookmobile are planned, developed, and managed like branch libraries. Any library service that does not take place in one place is classed as a mobile library (Stringer, 2010). Mobile libraries are collections of books and non-book materials

arranged in vehicles and so staffed as to provide a library service capable of being directed to population in remote rural areas as well as in expanding suburban areas. New technologies have brought transformation along, especially communication technologies that promise to make mobile libraries better. This serves as extensions for efficient use of printed, electronic, and audio-visual library resources. It is expected that librarians must have done behind the screen investigation on predominant occupation of the villagers and their information needs in order to assist in selection of suitable library materials. The library materials that would improve their morale and provide benefit to them in their occupations are provided by public library. This will promote economic security and discourage insecurity. This is possible because their minds would be kept busy with the useful information. An idle brain is the devil's workshop. Provisions of mobile library service ensure that villagers have equal access and wide dissemination of information like their counterparts in urban setting. The assertion was buttressed by Issa (2003) that economic and national power and status are leveraged on the widespread use of information and knowledge provided by the library.

READERSHIP PROGRAMME PROMOTER

Public library or national library can collaborate with Department of Business Education of any of the tertiary institutions to offer short period vocational courses. This will assist the recipients with relevant and saleable skills for self-employment and economic development. The declaration was supported by Azih and Nwagwu (2015) that business education courses are aimed at equipping individuals with knowledge. Also, skills, vocations and attitudes needed to manage personal businesses as well as function effectively in the economic system. This will facilitate total education that provides vocational, personal, consumer and socio-economic competencies that are needed for inclusive societal development. This would help the youths to develop skills to enable them setup their own businesses, thus, helping to curb insecurity (Okoro, 2018). Information plays significant roles in the development of any society. The extent to which information is valued and cherished varies according to a country's needs. Fight against armed robbery, banditry, illicit drug trade, money laundering, and corruptions could be won provided information access and circulation serve as products for the agencies and other stakeholders. Nigerians should imbibe the culture of reading that eliminates ignorance, rumors and insecurity.

This assertion is buttressed by Olili (2008) that library is a useful instrument for combating illiteracy and erasing ignorance in the society. The libraries and information centres as heart of educational organisation, where people of various needs of information visited for information. It also, enlightens people about their tradition and art produced in particular society. The prime objective of any library and information centre is based on information collection, categorization, conservation, and management. The library and information services are needed. Information centres are responsible for processing, storing, and disseminating well packaged information to users. However, the information must be censored before passing it across to users. This is to ensure that users of information get access to useful information that would not trigger unrest in the society. At this time, when

Nigeria is still in democratic embryo, ideological divides which is the threshold upon which terrorism thrives. This can be tackled through effective information dissemination. Therefore, the provision of right information, in the right format, for the right people, at the right time, and in the right place is needed to prevent insecurity.

CONCLUSION

Insecurity is a threat to lives and property, which can stimulate crisis in any society. Well packaged information by libraries and information centres are expected to expose library users to build good interaction with numerous other information users to sustain peace and tranquility in the society. Libraries and information centres embark on various programmes to support national development and engage adults especially youths. This serves as one of the remedies to insecurity in the world over. Therefore, libraries and information centres must provide access to knowledge and wide dissemination of information to five major sectors of national life. These are educational enhancement, manpower development, science and technology, promotion of national objectives and international cooperation. Knowledge and advance skills can be acquired through sufficient information access and wide circulation of knowledge provided by libraries and information centres. Hence, libraries and information centres have become critical determinant of a country's economic growth. A stable economic growth in any country would bring comfort to individuals and improve social status that minimises insecurity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the reviewed literature and authors perspectives, the following suggestions are made; expand information gathering devices, increase knowledge house, collaboration with information providers, establishment of more information viewing centres, and promotion of information access policy:

- ◆ *Expand Information Gathering Devices:* Government should acquire more of modern intelligence devices for the information gathering. These devices should be kept in the libraries and information centres and use to generate information for security services such as the police, the state security services, the army, the navy, the air force and civil defence corps (Ugulu & Oghuvwu, 2015).
- ◆ *Increase Knowledge House:* The government and private organizations should establish more of knowledge house (libraries and information centres). The knowledge house should be stocked up with the current and relevant library materials for the users of information to reduce illiteracy and minimise deviant behavior in the society.
- ◆ *Collaboration with Information Providers:* Government should collaborate with libraries and information centres to organize campaigns to increase awareness on development of reading habit for all kinds of users.
- ◆ *Establishment of Information Viewing Centres:* Internet has become popular technology for accessing and sharing the information. Hence, government should create more public libraries information centres. They should be assigned with responsibility of organising information viewing hall with functional internet facility. This will enable stakeholders

to access relevant information that would improve their economic and social status.

- ◆ *Promotion of Information Access Policy:* In the ICT age, the planet has become a global village for communication. As the Internet continues to be the domain of a privileged, libraries and information centres should continue to promote policy that would facilitate equal access to information. This will enable all stakeholders to have wider access to well packaged information that could bring development and enhances security of people in society.

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