

About the Book

Effective Leadership in Education is a 24-chapter book of readings written in honour of Professor Abdulrasheed Na'Allah, the Vice Chancellor of Kwara State University, Malete who had the privilege of running the affairs of the University from inception in 2009 for a two-term tenure of 5 years each, spanning up to July 2019, an unprecedented feat in Nigerian University Education.

In the course of his leadership of this newly established state university, he demonstrated uncommon leadership and innovative capacities that are rare to come by in this clime, introducing several creative and innovative approaches to university education management in Nigeria.

Some of these efforts are what convinced the various authors of chapters that made up this book to document some of the significant areas of uniqueness of management and leadership displayed by this trail-blazing Vice Chancellor. The book will definitely be a good reference for management and leadership of university education in Nigeria.



EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

Edited By:

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Olabisi Adedigba, PhD
Monica N. Odinko, PhD
Keshni Bipath, PhD

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A book of readings in honour of

AbdulRasheed NA'ALLAH

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KWASU LIBRARY, A DEMONSTRATION OF LEADERSHIP PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE

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Introduction

The importance of academic library in the university cannot be over-emphasized. That is why students often refer to it as the knowledge powerhouse. It serves the teaching and research needs of students and staff which serve two complementary purposes to support the school curriculum and to support the research of the university faculty and students. Hence, this paper examined the

concept of academic library; functions of academic library; problems of academic library; Na" Allahs" leadership role in the emergence of the largest library in West African. Afterwards, recommendations are made.

Concept of Academic Library

The existence of libraries actually dates back to the ancient civilizations (Charles, Paul & Alfred 2013). Krasner-Khait (2001) observed that the collection of written knowledge in some sort of repository is as old as civilization itself. Indeed, the Library at Alexandria, in ancient Egypt, was one that was said to have attracted the attention of many scholars in those days as a citadel of knowledge. Feldman (2000) is of the view that libraries began when people realized that information was a valuable resource and must outlive the people who created it.

In the words of Oyegunle (2013), academic library is described as a library that is attached to academic institutions above the secondary school level, serving the teaching and research needs of students and staff which serve two complementary purposes to support the school curriculum and to support the research of the university faculty and students. The academic library is usually established in any higher education, such as a college, a university, or an institution (Ubogu & Okiy, 2011), and somehow can be called the knowledge powerhouse by the students. And there is no wonder since it possesses various collections of books for any university" s faculty or department aimed to help both students and staff carrying out researches, assignments, and even some leisure activities (Adejo, 2019).

Academic libraries play a significant role towards the achievement of the goals of tertiary institutions and hardly would academic institutions be able to provide for the academic, intellectual and other interests and information needs of students without the services of good libraries (Charles, Paul & Alfred, 2013). This is

because a good library and information services have been noted as essential ingredients for research, successful teaching and learning (Banting et al, 2008). According to Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey and Frempong (2010), academic libraries are essential contributors to knowledge generation. The abundance of information resources provided by libraries makes them a potential learning environment in a university (Ugwuanyi, Okwor & Ezeji (2011).

Functions of Academic Library

As suggested by Adejo (2019), the following are the functions of academic library:

1. It provides the necessary quiet environment for reading, studying and researching. Library provides the best and convenient environment for reading and research purpose. Library users (students and faculty members) are free from the distractions they could get from the classrooms and offices.
2. It provides a platform to orientate new students on how to source and find the necessary materials quickly and correctly. The use of library is a compulsory course in most Nigerian university. The library provides an opportunity for students to practically learn how to get learning materials.
3. It helps to inform the university community of the latest scientific and technological developments. Findings which are outcomes of rigorous research activities are documented in journals and reports. Such findings are made available for access in the academic library.
4. It helps faculty members in writing research papers, dissertations and scientific publications. Academic staff needs to publish so as not to perish. Hence, academic staff members often visit the library to get information to support their findings so as to make it tenable for publication in high impact journal outlets.

5. To provide all the students with the essential research and reference materials like textbooks, journals, bibliographies, biographies, glossaries, abstracts, dictionaries, encyclopedias, manuals, atlases, gazetteers, monographs, project collection etc.
6. It helps to provide interlibrary loan facility. Library provides a rare opportunity for students and faculty members to borrow books, journal and other materials from other academic libraries when such texts or materials are not available in their library.
7. It helps to maintain those books that are thousands of years old to be possible to use and study. Some important old books which are no longer in sales in the commercial bookshop are made available in the library for consultation and borrowing.

Problems of Academic Library in Nigeria

Below are some of the problems Nigerian academic library are facing:

1. **Obsolete books:** Many of the academic libraries in Nigeria are stocked with obsolete books and journals. They don't usually subscribe for new books and journals. The lack of current or recent books and journals makes the knowledge powerhouse an outdated one.
2. **Funding:** Virtually all academic libraries in Nigeria are facing the problem of funding. They don't have enough money to buy books or make consistent subscription for new books and journals.
3. **Lack of maintenance:** Lack of maintenance is another problem facing our academic libraries in Nigeria. Our culture of maintenance is poor. Some of the libraries are dirty and books, in some libraries, are not promptly returned back to their various shelves after been used by library users. Library workers should be on standby to

return books to appropriate places. Infact, some library users find it difficult to located books on shelve due to this problem.

4. Lack of knowledge on the use of library: It is no news that some students and even academic staff of the university lack the knowledge to effectively use an academic library in their schools. They find it difficult to locate books and journals on their respective shelves. Some academic staff members are not even aware that some books can be put on reserve for their students to consult or even borrow books from other libraries (Interlibrary loan).
5. Lack of internet facility: The world has become a global village where the use internet is the order of the day. In spite the importance of internet in knowledge creation, some academic libraries do have this facility.

Na'Allah Leadership Role in the Emergence of the Largest Library in West African

It is an incontrovertible fact that leadership entails passion and drive for exceptionality at all times. In fact, for any leader to carve a niche for himself in any field, he must have penchant and strongwill to achieve the set objectives. This aptly describes the person and personality of the outgoing Vice-Chancellor of the Kwara State University, Malete, Professor AbdulRasheed Na" Allah, whose exceptional demonstration of leadership qualities won the Institution an unprecedented Special High Impact Intervention from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in 2014. The special intervention, which was to the tune of N3billion, gave the University what has today been adjudged the Best Library in Nigeria and West African Sub-region.

Brief on the KWASU Main Library Complex (An excerpt from ARCHCON Nigeria Project Managers, 2019) The Inception:

The Main library complex was conceived to cater to the university" s present and future needs as envisaged by the

university council and the development consultants. The space requirements were approved by the university management and formed part of university" s submission to the Nigerian University Council at the commencement of the university.

The design of the building set out to be an iconic piece of architecture that would strike every mind as one of the unique land marks of the university. The entire scheme centres around providing an engaging and enabling environment for study. The complex is designed as two distinct buildings; The **Main** library and the **Annex** building.

- A. *The main library complex housing:*** This comprises indoor and outdoor reading and study spaces, seminar rooms, staff offices, Centre for innovative teaching and research and center for documentation and archiving.
- B. *The annex tower:*** to accommodate space for learning-based foundations and associations, research and technology hubs

Design Features

The following are some of the features of the design:

- A. **Concepts:**** for the building to stand out as a unique land mark, it had to be designed with a unique form. The architect and the project manager chose the circular form. The concept is a series of intercepting circles flowing from one to the other depicting the dynamism of knowledge. The circular curves concept is carried throughout the design from the landscape to the building components.
- B. **Space Planning:**** after consideration of the space requirement of the university and consultation with the end-users as well as the Nigerian University Council" s guidelines for physical planning. The spaces were planned to cater to these needs. Though interwoven, the various functions accommodated in the building are separated in a way that allows for individuality in functioning. The following functions are provided for in the building:

- a. **The main library** with a today capacity for over 50,000 volumes and seating for over 2,100 persons.
 - b. **Outdoor reading space:** This is a space provided for 24hours reading even after the main library is closed. It is divided into two parts,
 - i. The enclosed outdoor reading space with a capacity for 120 students
 - ii. An open air outdoor reading space for 50 persons
 - C. **E-Library-** for electronic research and learning
 - D. **Centre for innovative teaching and research-** a special department of the university
 - E. **Staff Offices**
 - F. **Seminar and Group Study Rooms**
 - G. **Arts and Cultural Exhibition:** because this is a university for community development, the university library also provided a means and an environment for the proper understanding of the community context of the university.
 - H. **Landscaping:** The site is extensively landscaped and also has strategic provisions for reading.
3. **Materials:** The materials chosen were primarily based on the need for a consistent theme of the finishes on the building in the campus. The use of bright colours in the addition to the low maintenance finishes of red brick and neutral colours merged with an extensive hard and soft landscaping help create an engaging environment for learning. The materials were chosen also for their low energy, low maintenance and low running cost properties.



Figure 1: Library Front View



Figure 2: Library Ariel View



Figure 3: Library Interior View from Ground Floor

The project, which was commissioned on Saturday, July 6, 2019, by President Muhammadu Buhari, represented by the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro, was named after the President. Of course, that was a historic feat in the nation's university system, courtesy of a goal-getting leader. In fact, the story of how KWASU won the project portrays an unwavering spirit and commitment to unrivaled infrastructure which guarantees quality teaching, learning, and research. This is because there was a kind of power play which almost denied the University the award of that project, which was meant for the North Central Geopolitical Zone. However, because of the Vice-Chancellor's tireless and convincing spirit, the then Board of Trustees of the Fund could not but concede its award to the Kwara State University, based on merit. Already, a powerful delegation had visited the University campus to assess how previous grants were utilised. Interestingly, what they saw was overwhelmingly pleasant, as it placed the Institution far ahead of others in the geopolitical zone and the rest is now history!

The Fund Executive Secretary unequivocally attested to the leadership qualities of the Institution's pioneer Chief Executive. According to him, "The country noticed you and said „you are needed in Abuja... You deserve to preside over one of the best and biggest universities in this country." That was why you emerged as new Vice-Chancellor, University of Abuja."

Not done, Bogoro also assured of the Fund's desire to give a discretionary widow for special funding of UniAbuja in 2020, because of the exceptional achievements recorded at KWASU by the outgoing Vice-Chancellor. For him, the Muhammadu Buhari University Main Library Complex represents an exceptional architectural creativity and the best in the country.

Describing the facility as a scientific innovation with an exceptional aesthetic finishing, the TETFund Chief said "We have seen high

impact funds that have been committed to less relevant infrastructure. And in many cases, what comes out of it, you cannot celebrate.”

Recognizing the fact that library is the heart of any university, Professor Na” Allah gave his all to ensure that KWASU secured for itself, a special place in the history of Nigeria and West African Sub-region, in view of the quality planning and execution of the TETFund Special High Impact project. In terms of space and aesthetics, the edifice can best be described as an architectural masterpiece and a centre of attraction for the University.

Without mincing words, posterity will continue to appreciate the strong foundation laid for the state-owned Institution by its founding helmsman. His display of honesty, transparency, accountability, probity, and vigour for academic excellence would remain evergreen in the history of KWASU – The University for Community Development.

Recommendations

1. The library needs constant and regular maintenance.
2. The books in the library should be up-to-date.
3. Regular follow-up should be given to books borrowed from the library.
4. Bulletin and notice boards should also be used to announce new arrivals and additions to the libraries” collections for the attention of their users.
5. The library should ensure subscription to electronic database resources to enhance its ability to acquire good amount of current materials to support teaching, learning and research work.

6. The library should continuously carry out periodic appraisal of its collections to determine the relevance and usefulness of the items on the shelves.
7. Library staff members to be encouraged to attend workshops, seminars and conferences on the modern trend in library services.
8. Workshop should also be organized for faculty members on the use of library.
9. Government should provide fund for library establishment and maintenance.

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