STAFFING AND INFORMATION RESOURCES IN DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARIES

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Abstract

The study was aimed at assessing the number and qualification of staff managing library school - libraries, as well as the quantity of information resources available in Departmental Libraries of Nigerian University library schools under study. Data analysis revealed that 6(38%) of staff managing libraries under study possess MLS and BLS degrees respectively; 7(44%) possessed DLS and 2(12%) possessed SSCE. In terms of collection strength, Abdullahi Mohammed Public Library of A.B.U., Zaria has the highest book stock of 35,600 including textbooks, and reference materials. While University of Nigeria Nsukka Library school recorded 200 book stocks. Data revealed that the Departmental Library of Nsukka Library School has 2,000 projects. In terms of Audio-visuals, the same departmental Library recorded 40 Audiovisual materials which include Audio, visual and graphics. Abdullahi Moh'd Public Library of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria recorded 8 Audio visual materials i.e (2 television/video and 6 graphics). It was discovered that Nsukka Library School Library recorded 30 computers, which included those of computer laboratory. On the state of computerization, Nsukka Library School Library have computerized its library operations which is in the same direction with LARIS Departmental Library of Ibadan Library School which only digitized its bibliographic records. Abdullahi Moh'd Public Library and Maiduguri Library School are yet to

computerize their services. The findings from the study include inadequate staffing and library collections while University of Maiduguri Library School's library's collection are housed in the same building with computer laboratory. This Paper recommends that more staff be employed to provide efficient services. The Library and Computer Laboratory should have separate buildings. This paper finally recommends a balanced collection in the libraries under study.

Introduction

Library education began with the establishment of the Institute of Librarianship at the then premier university (Ibadan) in 1959. Ochogwu (1992) stated that between 1960s and 1980s, six (6) library schools were established in Nigerian universities. According to Alhassan (2007) and Aina (2007), there are 18 library schools in Nigerian universities. The number of Library Schools are on the increase hence the number may be more than 18 in the near future. The University of Abuja has just started the BLS programme in 2006/2007 session. There is the need for library schools charged with the responsibility of training future information professionals to be adequately equipped with departmental libraries that are not only to support teaching, learning and research activities of students and staff but also act as demonstration laboratories. It is unfortunate that few library schools in Nigerian Universities have their own libraries. Some library schools use faculty of education libraries for their information needs while others depend on the university libraries. Auyo (2004) and Bello (2006) observed that some library schools are planning to establish their own libraries, but today the dream has not become a reality. This problem has necessitated the conduct of this research.

Aina (2007) writing on the curriculum of library and information science schools opined that for objectives of curriculum in library schools to be achieved certain facilities need to be put in place. For a library school to embark on library and information science program, certain minimum facilities are required and they include:

1.   Quality staffing,
2.   Information resource centre,
3.   ICT laboratory,
4.   Indexing/cataloging laboratory.

Aina (2007) further lamented that information resource centre be established in library and information science schools and are to be used as laboratory for students practical lessons. The centre should be managed by a librarian or a

library officer and be assisted by the information resource assistant. The librarian should make sure that the information resource centre is adequately stocked with learning and teaching materials and must seek for donation of books, conference proceedings, theses and dissertation from various donors and organizations. The information resource centres (Library school – library) should have a minimum of 5,000 volumes of books to start with (Aina, 2007).

Ochogwu (1992) asserted that out of the six library schools established in Nigeria between 1960-1983 only the one at the university of Ibadan had a library.

Assessing the academic staff strength and their areas of contribution in four (4) university based library schools in Northern Nigeria, Saka and Yusufu (2007) in a field survey observed that out of eighty (80) copies of questionnaire sent to academic staff in four (4) library schools in North – West, North East and North Central zones, only 45 (56%) responded and that out of this figure 3 (7%) were on the rank of Associate professors, 10(22%) senior lecturers, 7 (16%) lecturer I, 6 (13%) lecturer II, 12 (27%) Assistant lecturer, 6 (13%) Graduate assistant 1(2%) did not indicated any rank while none of the academic staff indicated the rank of professor. In the area of specialization by highest degree obtained, it was discovered that 12 Ph.D holders obtained degrees in Library Science, and 1 Ph.D holder in Computer science. It was discovered that 22 academic staff obtained MLS degree, 1 obtained Master of Information Science (M. Inf. Sc.) degree while 2 obtained M.Sc Computer Science. At the first degree cadre, 4 obtained BLS in Library Science/Library and Information Science degree and 3 academic staff possessed B.Sc / B.Tech Computer Science degree.

Methodology

The survey research design was adopted for this study. The populations of the study were Heads of Departmental Libraries in Nigerian Library Schools. It involves selecting four (4) Departmental libraries in Nigerian university library schools covering South West, North West, South East and North East.

The following departmental libraries in Nigerian Universities were selected on the basis of Geographical location, years of establishment and those with libraries.

S/N	Departmental Libraries in Nigeria library schools	Year of establishment	Geo-Political Zone
1	LARIS Library, University of Ibadan	1959/1960	South West
2	Abdullahi Mohammed Public Library, Department of Library and Information Science, A.B.U. Zaria	1968	North West
3	Department of Library Science/laboratory, University of Maiduguri	1978	North East
4	Department of Library and Information Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka	1983	South East

To analyze the data obtained from this study, descriptive statistic (frequency and percentages) were used.

Questionnaire was the only research instrument used. The researchers personally administered questionnaire to two (2) library school libraries in North West (Ahmadu Bello University Zaria) and North – East (University of Maiduguri). Questionnaire for South – West (Ibadan Library School) and South East (Nsukka Library school) were administered by research assistants and colleagues. A total of four (4) copies of questionnaires were administered to Heads of the departmental libraries under study.

Table 1: Human Resources in University Based Library School Libraries under Study in Nigeria.

Table shows the number and qualifications of staff manning the four (4) Departmental Libraries in Nigerian Universities under study.

Table 1A: Qualification of staff in Departmental Libraries under study

Name of Departmental libraries In Nigerian Library schools under study	Qualification and Number of Library Staff							Total
	MLS	BLIS	HND	DLS	CLS	SSCE	Other	
LARIS Library University of Ibadan	1	2	–	4	–	–	–	7
Abdullahi, Muhammed Public Library, Dept. of Lib. & Inf. Science ABU Zaria	–	1	–	3	–	–	1	5
Dept. of lib. Sc./Laboratory University of Maiduguri	–	1	–	–	–	2	–	3
Dept of Lib. & Inf. Sc. Library, University of Nigeria Nsukka	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
TOTAL	2	4	=	7	=	2	1	16

Table 1B: Qualification and Number of Staff in Departmental Libraries under study.

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
MLS	2	13
BLIS	4	25
DLS	7	44
SSCE	2	12
Others	1	6
TOTAL	16	100

Tables 1A and 1B shows the qualification of staff in departmental libraries under study. Out of 16 staff manning the libraries 2 (13%) and 4 (25%) holds MLS and BLS degrees respectively. Holders of MLS degree were from LARIS Ibadan and Nsukka Library Schools while BLS holders were from LARIS Ibadan, Zaria and Maiduguri Library School Libraries. This shows that there are inadequate academic staff manning library school libraries.

The fact is not far from the views of Aguolu (2002) who lamented the acute shortage of teaching staff in both old and newly established library schools in Nigeria. From the data gathered through questionnaire, it was observed that 7(44%) of the staff in library school – libraries hold Diploma in Library Science (DLS) and are para – professionals whose jobs may be confined to accessioning and shelving of books. Abdullahi Public Library of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria and University of Maiduguri Library School Library each have 2(12%) staff that possess Senior School Certificate whose job may be related to those of DLS holders. Other category of library staff are cleaner with 1(6%) and from Abdullahi Muhammed Public Library of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria.

Table 2: **Quantity of Information Resources In Departmental Libraries Under Study**

Name of Departmental libraries	BOOK STOCK			Serials titles	Project/ theses	AUDIO VISUALS	
	Text-book volume	Reference materials	Govt document			AVM	Computer
LARIS, University of Ibadan	11660	1,200	-	147	1,050	-	3
Abdullah-Muhammed library, ABU Zaria	35,000	600	-	26	1020	8	5
Dept of lib library science, University of Maiduguri	1,560	20	-	40	1180	2	7 laptop computer
Dept of lib & Inf Sc Library, University of Nig, Nsukka	200	150	-	40	2,000	40	30
TOTAL	48,420	1,970		273	5,250	50	45

Table 2 shows the analysis of library collection in departmental libraries under study. Out of the total of 48,420 volumes of textbook and 1970 reference materials; 35,000 and 600 volumes respectively were owned/acquired by ABU Zaria library school-library. This may not be unconnected with the fact that until recently, the library was called "Samaru Public library". LARIS Departmental library of University of Ibadan stocked the textbook volume of 11,660 and the reference material was 1,200 volume. Nsukka Library school library stocked the lowest book stock of 200 text book. Although the departmental library of Nsukka

library school is purely student laboratory for practical lessons in cataloguing and classification.

Analysis of library collection equally shows that out of 273 serial titles in departmental libraries under study, LARIS Library of university of Ibadan top the list with 1,47 serial titles; this is attributed to the fact that it was the first library school being established in Nigeria. Further analysis shows that there are 5,250 Projects/Theses/Dissertation in departmental libraries under study. The Departmental Library of Nsukka library has the largest numbers of 2,000 projects. This was followed by departmental library of Maiduguri library school having 1180 projects/theses. While LARIS departmental library and Abdullahi Mohammed public library of ABU Zaria library possess 1,050 and 1,020 projects/theses respectively. It was discovered that the quantity of Audio-visual materials in departmental libraries under study was 50 in number. Nsukka library school library possess 40 audio visual materials, which included graphic materials and audio visual materials. Abdullahi Mohammed public library of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria has 8 Audio-visuals with 2 Television and video sets and 6 graphic materials (Posters, charts, maps etc). The departmental Library Laboratory of the University of Maiduguri use a single room as departmental library and computer laboratory. The departmental library owned 1 Television set and 1 video monitor. One very interesting thing was that Ibadan, Nsukka, Zaria and Maiduguri Library School Libraries owned different types of Audio-visual materials. For example LARIS departmental library own only computer, Abdullahi Mohammed public library possess 1 television/video set, graphic materials and computer. While departmental library of Maiduguri library school possess 1 television and video monitor as well as 7 laptop computer. Departmental library of Nsukka library school own graphics materials and computers.

Table 3:   Analysis of Information Sources in Departmental Libraries Under Study

Name of Departmental Libraries	Book Stock	%	Project/Theses	%
LARIS Library, University of Ibadan	12,860	25.52	1,050	20
Abdullah Moh'd Public Library, ABU Zaria,	35,600	70.65	10	19.43
Dept of Library Science Library/ Laboratory, University of Maiduguri	1,580	3.14	1180	22.48
Dept of LIS Library, UNN, Nsukka	350	0.69	2,000	38.09
TOTAL	**50,390**	**100**	**5,250**	**100**

LARIS - Library, Archival And Information Studies
UNN – University of Nigeria Nsukka
LIS – Library and Information Science

The Book stock here comprises of text books, government publications and reference materials with a total of 50,390. Table 3 shows the analysis of printed materials in library school libraries understudy showing the Book stock-cum-projects/theses columns with their corresponding percentages. Abdullahi Moh'd public library has the highest book stock of 35,600 book stock representing 71% of the total book stock. The library has both fictions and non-fictions as well as children's section with their literature. The lowest book stock was recorded in

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Nsukka library school library 350 (0.69%) book stock, which does not merit any form of computerization as being discovered in table 4.

In the column of projects/theses, it was discovered that Nsukka library school has 2,000 projects/theses.

Table 4:   The State of Computerization of Library Services in Departmental Libraries Under Study.

Library School Libraries	Libraries Not Computerized	Libraries partially Compu-terized	Libraries Fully Compu-terized
LARIS Library, University of Ibadan		√	
Abdullah, Mohd Public Library, A.B.U ZARIA	√		
Dept of Library science/ Laboratory, University of Maiduguri	√		
Dept of Library & information science, University of Nigeria Nsukka			√

To tick each column (√) signifies that respondent agreed with the statement on top of table in respect to each column. Where the column is left without ticking it means that the respondent disagreed with the statement.

From the table above, it was discovered from the responses in the questionnaire that LARIS Library services were partially computerized through digitization of the bibliographic records which include textbooks and theses titles. The serial titles and Nigeriana of LARIS Library are yet to be included in the data base – the LARIS departmental Librarian lamented with short note on the questionnaire. Information contained in the questionnaire (through ticking) indicated that the University of Nigeria Nsukka Library school-Library have computerized the four (4) library services. This may however be related to same processes of the digitization of Bibliographic records like that of LARIS-library of Ibadan Library school. Abdullahi Mohammed Public Library and Maiduguri library school library indicated not to have computerized any of their library routines and services.

Findings from the Study

From the results of the study, the following findings were discovered:

1. A single room is being used as departmental library and at the same time used as computer laboratory in University of Maiduguri library school. This does not tally with Aina (2007) proposal for library schools to have quality information resource center and ICT laboratory (among others);
2. The staff manning the departmental libraries under study were inadequate if we are to go by Ania (2007) proposal that for any library school embarking on library and information science programme to put in place quality staffing. The inadequate staffing confirm the findings of Saka and Yusufu (2007) where academic staff in university based library schools in Northern Nigeria were inadequate;
3. Information resources in departmental libraries under study were inadequate going by the proposal made by Ania (2007) that for any library school in Nigeria embarking on the programme should have initial book stock of 5,000 volume.

Conclusion

Based on the findings conclusions are drawn to the following areas:

1. Nigeria library schools do not have adequate accommodation for the departmental libraries;
2. Staff manning departmental libraries in Nigeria library schools are inadequate;

3. Library collection in departmental libraries of Nigeria library schools are inadequate;

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion recommendations are hereby proffered;

(1) There should be separate building for each of the departmental library and computer Laboratory in every Library School including those to be established in future,

(2) Qualified staff be employed to man and provide efficient services in Nigeria Library School Libraries,

(3) There should be a balanced collection in Nigerian Library School libraries. The collection in the departmental libraries should have 40% text books, 10% reference materials, 5% government publications and 10% serial publications. Others include 10% audio-visual materials and 25% computers.