

# The Authors of the Literature on Nigerian Civil War

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## Abstract

*The article attempted to quantify the productivity of authors that contributed to the literature on the Nigerian Civil War between 1967 and 1982. The application of Bradford's Law of Scatter to determine the core/key authors was unsuccessful. However, it was observed that a few authors contributed most of the publications; single authorship dominated the literature while the Federal Government of Nigeria and its agencies produced the highest number of publications on the subject.*

## Introduction

The Nigerian Civil War marked a watershed in the annals of the country's history. Fought between May 31, 1967 and January 15, 1970, the War created such an unimaginable social, political and economic impact that it will continue to be remembered for a long time to come. While the war raged on, individuals and corporate bodies recorded the event as it unfolded resulting in a body of knowledge which is unique to the subject. This body of knowledge continues to serve as a means of recapturing the event as well as reviewing it. The characteristics of authors responsible for creating a body of knowledge in a subject area is one important variable in deciding what constitutes the inputs of an information system designed for retrieving bibliographic references on the subject. If the objective of this research is achieved, the result could be used in determining the optimum input for an information system designed for retrieving bibliographic references on the Nigerian Civil War.

## Review of Relevant Literature

Aiyepku (1976) has stressed the importance of authors as creators of the intellectual output in subject literatures. He described "authors" as "critical to the cumulative literature of a discipline" and warned that the study of the characteristics of subject literatures would be incomplete if it did not include a study of the quantity and