

Management of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Research Output in University Libraries in Kenya and Nigeria.

By

Katamba Abubakar Saka, PhD

Kabiru Dahiru Abbas, PhD

Abdulsalam Abiodun Salman PhD

Abstract

The study investigated the management of completed undergraduate and postgraduate research works (undergraduate projects, masters/doctorate theses and dissertations) submitted to university libraries in Nairobi (Kenya) and Abuja (Nigeria). Five research questions were formulated to guide the study. Survey research design was employed using quantitative paradigm. Six university libraries in Kenya and Nigeria were purposively selected (three in Kenya and three in Nigeria). Structured questionnaire was administered on the six university librarians in both countries. All copies of questionnaire were completed and returned in usable form. Data was organized in tabular form. Results showed that bachelor's and master's degree theses were acquired by five university libraries (two in Kenya and three in Nigeria) and that all the surveyed university libraries in Kenya and one from Nigeria acquired the research works in both hard and soft copies. Other major findings revealed that the research works were technically processed, organised, arranged and preserved by shelving. Lack of sufficient space was however identified as the major constraint to adequate management of research works in the university libraries in the capital cities of the two countries. The study recommended among others that university libraries in Kenya and Nigeria should acquire both hard and softcopies of the research works, and cover all the programmes run in the universities as well as making available sufficient space that will accommodate these very important collections.

Keywords: Management strategies, Research output, University Libraries, University Librarians, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Africa, Kenya, Nigeria.

Introduction

Universities all over the world are established to cater for teaching, learning, research and community services as well as providing undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

For this objective to be achieved and for the roles to be played and services to be effectively performed by the universities, libraries are established to help support these vital roles. The functions are to support the curriculum and research of students and faculty members of the university (Akor & Akran, 2014). One of the statutory functions of the university libraries is to acquire information resources for undergraduate and postgraduate programme and to support undergraduate, postgraduate and faculty members and researches. These information resources include but not limited to; textbooks, serials, ICT, reference sources and research works. Research works (projects, theses and dissertations) are considered vital and important information resources because of their currency and that research findings are adequately reported and disseminated through write-up in journals and presentation at workshops, seminars and conferences. Most of the research works are piece of research report submitted for the award of diploma, first degree, postgraduate diploma, masters and doctoral degrees respectively are meant for national development (Saka, Bida & Majinson, 2015).

The role of research works in national development cannot be underrated especially in the area of social, economic, cultural and educational development. The university libraries world-wide acquire, process, store and disseminate series of information resources (research works inclusive) on request to meet the information and research needs of both students and faculty members of the universities. Research works are mostly acquired through legal deposit by which specific numbers of completed research works are required by libraries. For effective accessibility and use of projects and theses, they need to be processed and organized by way of accessioning, stamping, cataloguing and classification (Ukwueze & Madumere, 2014). They can be preserved through shelving, dusting, photocopying, digitization, spraying of chemical, etc. In this era of information resource acquisition and management, printed documents undergo another form of preservation known as digitization (Saka, 2013). However, university libraries encountered problems in the management of information resources. It is due to this problem of the management of projects and theses in university libraries that the researchers seek to rectify by investigating the coverage, format, processing, organization, preservation and challenges of managing research output in university libraries of Nairobi (Kenya) and FCT Abuja (Nigeria) respectively. The concepts of research works and output were used interchangeably to mean pieces of research reports submitted in hard and/or softcopies for the award of degrees, postgraduate diploma and higher degrees respectively.

Statement of the Problem

Completed research works are submitted to university libraries through various departments. They are documents which are submitted in both hard and softcopies to

university libraries are vital because they are primary sources of information resources which contain report research findings of research scholars. University libraries in Kenya and Nigeria acquired and accommodated large volume of projects and theses emanating from different disciplines, courses, programmes and academic departments, research institutes and centres but it seems this category of information resources are not well managed by the university libraries. It is against this background that this study intends to investigate the management of undergraduate and postgraduate research works output in the university libraries of Nairobi (Kenya) and Abuja (Nigeria).

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:-

1. What type of programmes are covered by the research output in university libraries in Kenya and Nigeria?
2. In what format are the research outputs submitted to and acquired by university libraries in Kenya and Nigeria?
3. What are the methods of processing, arrangement and organization of research output in university libraries in Kenya and Nigeria?
4. What are the methods of preserving research output in university libraries in Kenya and Nigeria?
5. What are the challenges in the management of research output in university libraries in Kenya and Nigeria?

Literature Review

Echezona (2008) conducted a study to determine the variables involved in managing special collection in government-owned university libraries in southern Nigeria using 75 librarians and library officers and questionnaire in data collection. Three research questions were formulated and guided the study. Mean was used in the analysis of data. It was reported that manual cataloguing and preparing subject collection were the few major methods of organising special collections in university libraries in southern Nigeria. In the management of Nigerian governmental publication in Nnamdi Azikwe library, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Ukwueze and Madumere (2014) reported among others majority of government publications were available and that they undergone in-house cataloguing and classification scheme as well as organizing them according to their classification numbers. Challenges in the management of government publications revealed major obstacles as non-compliance to legal deposit law and inadequate funds.

Ani (2014) maintained that the concept of preservation and conservation are used interchangeably and connotes different meanings as far as library and book world would

are concerned.

Saka and Ango (2016) assessed the management of postgraduate research works in six universities in Nigeria. These universities include Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto; University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Cross River State University of Science and Technology, Port-Harcourt; Federal University of Technology, Minna and African University of Science and Technology, Abuja. These universities offer postgraduate programmes. The target respondents were the university librarians or their representatives, while copies of questionnaire were administered on the university librarian or representatives. Study revealed that completed PG research works were submitted through Departmental Postgraduate Coordinator and that the collections were submitted in hard copies; organization of these was done through stamping, compilation of list and arranged according to departments. Shelving and air-conditioning were considered as the major methods of preserving research works, while space and manpower were among the problems of managing the research works.

Methodology

Survey research design was used involving universities that are located within Nairobi (Kenya) and FCT, Abuja (Nigeria) thus involving a number of cases. Quantitative research method was employed with the administration of questionnaire. The target respondents were the university librarians in the universities of Nairobi and FCT, Abuja, the capital cities of Nairobi (Kenya) and Abuja (Nigeria) respectively.

Six universities were purposively selected from the capital cities of the two (East and West) African countries i.e three universities from each country using capital cities as case studies. University librarians were the target respondents; hence they are the administrative and professional heads of university libraries as well as the chief custodians of information resources in university libraries. The selected universities are as follows:-

Table 1: Sample Size

S/No	Universities (Nairobi)Kenya	S/No	Universities (Abuja) Nigeria
1.	Technical University of Africa, Nairobi	1.	University of Abuja
2.	Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi	2.	NOUN Hqts Abuja
3.	Multimedia University of Kenya, Nairobi	3.	Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja

Copies of the structured questionnaire were administered on university librarians on 22nd June, 2016 at the three university libraries, Nairobi, Kenya while those of Abuja, Nigeria were administered on February 2017 by the research assistant. The retrieval of the completed copies was through the same channel. Data analysis was carried out first by sorting copies of questionnaire according to the five research questions. This was followed by data analysis in the form of ticking and tabulation with variables and the selected universities appearing in vertical and horizontal form.

The five tables below provide data analysis and interpretation of research findings based on the five research questions.

Table 2: Coverage of the Research Output Submitted to University Libraries.

Programme of Coverage	Nairobi (Kenya)			FCT, Abuja (Nigeria)		
	Technical University	Catholic University	Multimedia University	University of Abuja	NOUN Hqts, Abuja	Nile University, Abuja
First Degree		✓	✓	✓		✓
PGD		✓	✓	✓		✓
Masters Degree		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PhD		✓	✓	✓	✓	

Table 2 clearly spelt out the coverage of the research output by undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in university libraries of Kenya and Nigeria. Going by individual programmes in relation to individual university library, it shows that acquisition of research works mostly cover bachelor and master's degree programmes in five university libraries, out of which two (2) were Catholic and Multimedia University, Nairobi and the three university libraries in Abuja (Nigeria) which include University of Abuja, NOUN Abuja and Nile University Abuja respectively. This can be attributed to the fact that Catholic University is a private and missionary university funded by the East African Christian Missionary on one another and that Multimedia University run series of academic programmes on the other hand and that the first two universities in Abuja (Nigeria) are owned by the Federal Government. Two university libraries in Nairobi (Catholic and Multimedia) acquired completed research works in both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Lowest on the coverage was discovered from Technical University of Kenya, Nairobi as it seems to be a specialized university and thus emphasis on the first degree programme.

Table 3: Format of Submission and Acquisition

Format	Nairobi (Kenya)			FCT, Abuja (Nigeria)		
	Technical University	Catholic University	Multimedia University	University of Abuja	NOUN Hqts, Abuja	Nile University, Abuja
Hard copy only				✓		✓
Soft copy only				✓	✓	
Both Hard and Soft copies	✓	✓	✓			

Out of the six university libraries in the two countries, five acquired research output in both hard and softcopies as it has being a policy in most universities in world today. Soft copies are required from each candidate more so that most theses and research works can be accessed online through open access or purchase through subscription. Out of the four university libraries, three are those of Nairobi (Kenya) and one from NOUN (Nigeria). From University of Abuja and Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja, only hardcopy of completed research works were submitted and acquired by the university libraries. This is an indication that these two university libraries in Abuja (Nigeria) are yet to fully integrate ICT into their service delivery.

Table 4: Processing, Organization and Arrangement of the Completed Submitted and Acquired Research Works

Technical Services	Nairobi (Kenya)			FCT, Abuja (Nigeria)		
	Technical University	Catholic University	Multimedia University	University of Abuja	NOUN Hqts, Abuja	Nile University, Abuja
Accessioning	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Stamping	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Cataloguing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Classification	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-
Compilation of Theses	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
Shelving	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arrangement on Cabinet/Boxes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arrangements by Departments	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Arrangement by Programmes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arrangement by Disciplines	✓	-	-	✓	-	-

Nine areas of technical services were outlined and expect university librarians or their representatives to tick the appropriate option(s). All the six university libraries arranged the acquired completed research works by shelving as it was the commonest and cheapest method of arranging or preserving collections in the libraries. With exception of Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja library; the other five university libraries catalogue and classify the acquired research works. This is an evident that university libraries after cataloguing the acquired collection classify and arrange them on shelves according to a particular classification scheme used in the university libraries.

It is surprising that Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja library neither catalogue nor classify the research output. Probably the university library lack qualified LIS professionals.

From the table, it revealed that Catholic, NOUN and Nile university libraries do not process the submitted research works by accessioning and stamping. These two processes are crucial in library technical services. Technical university and university of Abuja were the universities that arranged collections according to departments and disciplines.

Table 5: Preservation Strategies of Research Works

Method	Nairobi (Kenya)			FCT, Abuja (Nigeria)		
	Technical University	Catholic University	Multimedia University	University of Abuja	NOUN Hqts, Abuja	Nile University, Abuja
Shelving	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dusting	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-
Spraying of Chemical	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Natural Environmental Condition	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓
Air-Conditioning	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computerisation of the Collections	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Photocopying	-	-	-	-	-	-
Digital Back-up	-	✓	-	✓	-	-
Databases	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
IDR	-	-	-	✓	-	-

All the six university libraries within Nairobi and Abuja, the capital cities of Kenya and Nigeria preserved their research works by arranging them on shelves. The arrangement of collection on shelves is more of preserving them. Next method of preservation as revealed from the table was the "digitization" which was carried out by the three university libraries in Nairobi, Kenya and University of Abuja, Nigeria. This is the modern method of preserving original collection and thus lead to creation of databases. None of the university libraries preserved research output through storage, air-conditioning and photocopying.

Table 6: Challenges in the Management of the Completed Submitted and Acquired Research Works

	Nairobi (Kenya)			FCT, Abuja (Nigeria)		
	Technical University	Catholic University	Multimedia University	University of Abuja	NOUN Hqts, Abuja	Nile University, Abuja
Space	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Facilities	-	-	-	✓	✓	-
Theft	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-
Deterioration	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-
Manpower	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
Misplacement of used thesis/project	-	-	✓	-	-	-
Mutilation	-	-	✓	-	-	-

Space was the major obstacle to the management of completed/submitted research works in university libraries in Kenya and Nigeria. Adequate space is required to accommodate backlog, accumulated and future research works. Four university libraries Technical, Catholic, Multimedia from Nairobi (Kenya) and University of Abuja (Nigeria) faced different problems of missing copies, deterioration, misplacement and mutilation of research works. Out of the six university libraries, only university of Abuja faced four different challenges of missing copies, deterioration, manpower and misplacement of research works.

Discussion

The major research findings are discussed below based on the five research questions. Research question one sought to find out the programme of coverage of the acquired research works. Result showed that higher degree programmes (Masters and PhD) with majority covering master's programme from five universities of Catholic, Multimedia,

Nairobi, Kenya and the three universities in Abuja, such as University of Abuja, NOUN and Nile Nigeria. No wonder, master's degree programme consisted of both professional and academic and that there is reasonable number of the completed research works in the second degree. This finding corroborates the findings of Saka and Ango (2016) who reported more concentration/acquisition of higher degree theses from PG school on the area of master degree programme. Format of submission was investigated and findings showed that higher degree research works were submitted to postgraduate schools in both hard and soft copies and were mostly from the three university libraries in Nairobi (Kenya). This has revealed that university libraries in Kenya acquired and preserved higher degree research works in a back-up format through softcopies thereby creating databases. This finding disagrees with the findings by Saka and Ango (2016) as the co-researchers discovered the submission of higher degree works in hard copies only.

Research questions three and four were answered and the result revealed that apart from cataloguing and classification of five university libraries' collection, they were arranged according to their classification numbers and were preserved by shelving. This is the commonest method of information resource arrangement and preservation in any library. This finding tally with that of Ukwueze and Madumere (2014) and disagree with the findings of Echezona (2008). The former co-researchers reported in-house cataloguing and classification and organizing the collection according to classification numbers. Echezona (2008) reported manual cataloguing and preparing subject index as methods of organising special collection in university libraries in Federal and State universities in Southern Nigeria.

It was discovered that shelving was the major method of preserving research works in all the six university libraries. It is simplest and commonest method of preserving the entire printed materials in libraries generally. This finding tally with those of Unegbu, Owolabi and Ikonne (2016) but does not agree with that of Saka and Ango (2016). The former co-researchers reported that that metal shelves were mostly used in sorting record in public schools. The later co-researchers reported that shelving and air-conditioning were the two major methods of preserving collections.

Research question five was answered with findings that "space" was the major obstacle to the management of submitted research works in the university libraries. Space is needed to accommodate both backlog and future collection. Lack of adequate space may lead to either misplacement or loss of collections within the university libraries. This finding is contrary to the findings of Ukwueze and Madumere (2014) and Unegbu, Owolabi and Ikonne (2016) as the former co-researchers reported non-compliance to legal deposit law and inadequate funds as major problems to the management of government documents in

Nnamdi Azikwe Library, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and the later co-researchers reported misappropriation of funds resulting from bad record management practices in public schools in Lagos State respectively.

Conclusion

Based on the major findings, the implication of the study is that with emphasis laid on the acquisition of masters theses, many researchers and users would have little or no idea/awareness of the other collection (first degree, postgraduate diploma and doctor of philosophy (PGD and PhD). It is evident that there was not only creation of databases but also open access research works with the submission of completed research works in both hard and soft copies. There would be little or no consideration to accessioning and stamping of collection and other vital methods of preserving research works might be ignored by the university libraries in Kenya and Nigeria. With the problem of space; there is going to be information scarcity, information overload and inaccessibility to the needed research works for research purposes.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion reached, the study recommends that:-

1. University libraries in Kenya and Nigeria should endeavour to acquire and assemble all the completed research works and to cover all the programmes run by the university.
2. All the university libraries in Kenya and Nigeria should make it mandatory for all departments to submit their students' completed research works in both hard and soft copies.
3. University library staff in the technical services unit or collection development, cataloguing and classification unit of the university libraries in the two capital cities of Kenya and Nigeria should ensure that all completed and submitted research works undergo accessioning, stamping, cataloguing and classification respectively.
4. Management of university libraries in the two countries should commit adequate funds to procure all preservation equipment such as computer, scanners, photocopies, dusting, machines, storage equipment, etc. If this is so, lifespan of the collections will be elongated and hence not only prolong their lifespan but maintenance of quality.
5. Management of university libraries in the capital cities of the two countries should expand their library complex particularly the theses and dissertations section. This is to

ensure that acquired research works (projects, theses and dissertations) apart from organizing them according to particular classification scheme, they can be arranged on shelves according to programmes, departments, disciplines or courses.

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