

Article <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ijjkm.v9i3.8>

Effect of Economic Recession on Public Library Services in Lagos State, Nigeria

Uwem Eteng

Nigeria Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Yaba, Nigeria

Joshua Onaade Ojo

University of Lagos, Nigeria

Olukemi Titilayo Olaniyi

Federal College of Education (Technical), Yaba, Nigeria

Information Impact: Journal of information and knowledge management 2018, Vol. 9 (3) Pg. 97-116
ISSN: 2141 – 4297 (print)
ISSN: 2360 – 994X (e-version)

Abstract

The study examined the impact of economic recession in library and information services amongst public libraries in Lagos State. Data were collected with a self-designed questionnaire administered to forty-one (41) employees in the public libraries within Lagos State. The data were analysed with descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation while the hypotheses were analysed with Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) tested at 5% level of significance. Findings revealed a positive and significant relationship between economic recession and library services. There is a positive significant at 0.582 at 5% ($p=0.00<0.05$ but negative relationship at 1.72-0.523, $p<0.05$ for economic recession and provision of library services; this implies that economic recession has a direct and an inverse influence on the provision of library and information services. The study recommends for adequate funding, library advocacy amongst the youth in the society, sustainability of public-private partnership embarked upon by the Lagos State Government.

Keywords: Economic Recession, Lagos State, Public Libraries, library Services

Introduction

The UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1995) states that “the public library shall in principle be free of charge and services should be provided on the basis of equality of access for all regardless of age, race, gender religion, nationality, language or social status”. In other words, public libraries are publicly funded libraries open to anyone who wants to use them. Our present day society emphasizes the empowerment of all through access to and use of information and considering the fact that it is only the informed that can participate in democracy effectively, the

public library, whose mission is to facilitate access to information and resources in a variety of media to its community serves as a veritable instrument in this respect. Its objectives for Africa as stated by the UNESCO Seminar of 1953 on Public Library Development as cited by Agbodike, (1992), stipulates as follows:

- To support and reinforce programmes of adult and fundamental education;
- To provide effective services for children and young people, including requisite services for school;
- To provide needed information and reference services;
- To promote and stimulate reading for pleasure and recreation amongst others

Libraries are established for the purposes of educational, social, economic and political development of mankind. Its services, resources and facilities should suit the local needs of its communities and users.

Lagos as a mega city has shown the need for befitting public libraries, the city, with its adjoining conurbation, is the largest in Nigeria, as well as on African continent. It is one of the fastest growing cities in the world and also one of the most populous urban agglomerations in the world. Lagos is a major financial centre in Africa; the megacity has the highest GDP, and also houses one of the largest and busiest ports on the continent. Lagos which was the capital of Nigeria since its amalgamation in 1914 went on to become the capital of Lagos-State, after its creation. Even though Lagos is still widely referred to as a city, the present day Lagos, also known as “Metropolitan Lagos”, and officially as “Lagos Metropolitan Area” is an urban agglomeration or conurbation, consisting of 20 LGAs and 37 Local Community Development Areas (LCDAs) including Ikeja, the state capital of Lagos State. The population of Metropolitan Lagos is approximately 20million as at 2015. It is apparent that there is need for development of public libraries in 21st century metropolitan city like Lagos, no matter the level of the economic recession, which may require collaborating with private public imitative that may assist in such project.

Objectives of the study:

The following specific objectives are also identified

Specific Objectives

- To find out the impact of economic recession on the provision of library and information service?
- To determine how economic recession affect the availability of library and information resources services?
- To find out the constraint of information resources service due to economic recession?

Research Questions

- What is the impact of the economic recession in the provision of library and information services
- How does economic recession affect availability of information resources services?
- What is the constraint of information resources services due to economic recession?

Hypothesis:

- Ho1: Economic recession has no significant impact on provision of library and information service
- Ho2: Availability of library and information resources services is not affected by the economic recession.

Literature Review

A library is a place where individuals access information and ideas. Libraries are not to be regarded just as a place for reading, according to Rubin (2015) they exist in many countries across the world and are often considered an essential part of having an educated and literate population. Information is an important resource which is essential for the progress of any individual and that of a nation, so access to right or relevantly updated information to its users is required at the right time for any literate society. Information has been defined by Business Dictionary. Com to be a verified, to be accurate and timely information presented within a context that gives it meaning and relevance. We can see from this definition that information has no substitute when it comes to national development. Any information society requires

information at every step. Access to information means unhindered access to-all the citizens which reflect the interest of the citizenry. It also refers to the means and mode through which information is made available by providing entire range of possibilities for making information and information services available to the public.

The history of Nigerian public libraries divides into pre-and post-1967 periods, 1967 being the year in which the federal government, in a vain attempt to halt the slide to civil war, abolished the four regions and Federal Territory of Lagos and substituted a twelve-state structure. The early period can be reconstructed from pages of *West African Libraries*, *WALA News*, and *Nigerian Libraries*; from annual reports; from articles written for overseas journals by Nigerian-based librarians and by visitors to the country; and subsequently written theses and dissertations (Adeyemi, 1971). The post-1967 period is much more difficult to piece together because progress –report type notes and articles appear less often, and little or no printed information has been produced about some of the states’ library services-usually, although not always, because the services themselves hardly existed (Davies, 2012). The main problem is the difficulty of providing services purporting to be for all but accessible only to some and, in fact, made use of by only a few in a country where the culture is oral, not written. Most of the adults are not literate, literate and illiterate alike want public library spending priority given to improving the water supply and health care, the schooling their children receive, the access roads to their towns and villages, and the provision of electricity.

According to Vogel (2011) cited in Nwofor, Ilorah & Nwako (2015) describes the library as the “ultimate democratic institution” which provides you with a dozen experts better versed than “Google” in locating what you need from an enormous store of books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, videos, CDs, pictures, government documents, pamphlets, websites and microfiche Ian (2011) corroborates this assertion pointing out that librarians are a vital element in a democracy more so in the information age-an age characterized by so much wealth of information that an average person cannot navigate through. “Information is the lifeblood of democracy” states (Ogunshola; 2011) and the public librarians are there requesting its users to take anyone of their millions of volumes for free.

The public library makes information accessible to all without any barriers. Vogel (2011) indicates that all you need is your ID (Identity Card) which allows you to use the library. Libraries have evolved into information centres -information in forms beyond those big volumes. Presently widespread access is ensured. Establishing the place of public library in liberal democracies, He pointed out that: These are places for people who want to know; libraries nationwide have a steady increase in patronage since at least 1990. They hold a special and sentimental place in the mind of the citizenry and are widely regarded as institutions where browsing and borrowing lead to meaningful knowledge ...Libraries are fundamental institutions in a democracy.

Public libraries also make accessible information resources which facilitates reading leading to imaginative growth and attention that fertilizes both private and public life. Attainment of higher education through reading also mitigates prejudice, meddling and pettiness while increasing support for civil liberties required for a free, innovative or productive society. In Corroborating this assertion, Osuigwe, (2012) stated that it is a vital part of the civilized society. Libraries among other institutions like the media, the judiciary have defended access to all kinds of information; ensure intellectual freedom for democracy to thrive. They also provide information for cultural awareness and social integration. The idea of public libraries all over the world was encapsulated in this description of the Minneapolis public library as “a civic pride ... a few stations of government that is open to all, helps us to become better people and improves society... a basic pillar of democracy” which will introduce the radical poor into a culture of decency and prosperity, it will prepare them to understand and accept the principles of capitalism and democracy” –this implied that reading will save all humankind not just the elite.

This study is focusing on the recent economic recession as it influences the development of library and information services amongst public libraries in Lagos-State. According to Farayibi, (2016) stated that economic recession is a downturn in the economy. It is often characterized by symptoms such as rising prices of goods and services, inability of government to meet its financial obligations, exchange rate fluctuations, and poor performance of other macroeconomic variables which defines the state of the economy per time. He observes further, that economic recession is a recurrent issue because of the cyclical nature of the global economy. That is why most countries, especially the developed ones, often diversify the structural base of their economy to withstand any external shock. From historic viewpoint, there was an economic

depression in the US in 1930s. Recently, in the dawn of year 2008, there was a global financial and economic meltdown attributable to the collapse of the US Sub-prime mortgage institutions; then the Euro Zone crisis and others. These cases showed that world economies face different cycles at different times. However, these countries instituted proportional policy responses which included bailout policies and stimulus packages to cushion the effect of the crisis and stimulate the economy back to normalcy. The case is however different in Nigeria.

Lagos-State as a commercial nerve centre of the country might not have been directly affected by the economic recession, but the political will to develop public libraries in the state by the current administration is better than any other states in Nigeria. Prior to the recession, according to Nwokocha (1998 cited in Omotosho & Okiki, 2012), observes low patronage; lack of current materials; lack of trained personnel; inadequate funding; and suggestions for improvement, including the involvement of multinational organizations in funding. Libraries' resource constraints are also illustrated by the fact that libraries find the lack of funds or staff time to promote library resources and services to the community to be one of the most significant barriers to improving service to the community. It is also visible that the Public library facilities in key research and education sector are not very impressive. No widespread usage of digitization is visible either in those libraries. This de-facto indicates to the lack of knowledge at policy level. At present time, without the introduction of digital libraries it is not possible for the country to meet the challenge of MDG at the education sector. Although most libraries have staff that are trained in generalized skills, such as the use of electronic resources in the library, that can be made responsive to the needs of the users' community, the majority of libraries do not have a staff person who has received training in serving the needs of patrons who request health information.

Abdulkarim (2010) carried out a study on the current situation of public library services in Nigeria, the result shows that public libraries services have declined dramatically over the past year due to the effect of both the economic and political situation in the country. The financial crisis has affected the structure and maintenance of the building, the size, and the contents of the collections and the overall provision of services. So therefore, the main library activity now is just to serve as reading and study rooms for students, who in the majority of cases use their own materials and do not consult the library collections. The financial crisis is not only the problem, but also public libraries lack adequate and professional work force needed to handle the affairs of

the library. Even with the availability of few staff, the inability of the state government to train them in the field of library profession to some extent affects the quality of services rendered by them (Abdulkarim, 2010). Against this backdrop, Public libraries are challenged with the provision of services that will help in the actualization of the health Millennium Development Goals. With the advent of ICTs, most libraries in this 21st century are migrating from traditional library settings and provision of services to the digital or electronic library settings. This is however not true of most public libraries in Nigeria. Most public libraries have not been able to computerize their collections, not to even talk of using computers to provide services, but rather they are still indulging in the use of traditional library setting to provide services to users, although, another depiction of public libraries in Nigeria is that it lacks well-defined policies.

Methodology

The study adopted the descriptive survey research design for a population which consisted of the entire library personnel (professionals and para-professionals) in Lagos-State Library Board (in Charge of Public Libraries). The population detail of each library is reflected in table 1 below:

Table 1: The Population of the Study

S/ N	Name of Library	Location of Library	Professional Librarians	Para-Professional Librarians	Total
1	Ikeja Secretariat Library.	Oba Akinjobi Street, Old Secretariat, Ikeja	1	1	2
2	Herbert Macaulay Library	338, Herbert Macaulay Road, Yaba	1	2	3
3	Ikorodu Divisional Library,	T.O. Benson Road, Ikorodu	1	2	3
4	Tolu Public Library,	Temidire Street, ToluSchl. Complex	1	1	2
5	Isolo Public Library,	Holy Saviour College Road, Off Osolo Way,	1	2	3

6	Epe Divisional Library,	Isolo. 2 Recreation Field, Epe	1	1	2
7	Badagry Divisional Library,	Marine Road, Badagry	1	2	3
8	Borno House Library,	3 Block 130, Jakande Estate, Amuwo-Odofin, Mile 2.	1	2	3
9	Ipaja Public Library,	24, Akinogun Street, Shagari-Estate, Pako Bus/ Stop, Ipaja	1	1	2
10	Ilupeju Public Library,	Opposite LSDPC, Ilupeju	1	1	2
11	Henry Carr Public Library,	Behind Conoil Petrol Station, Cement B/Stop, Agege.	1	1	2
12	Merian Public Library, Meiran.	Meiran	1	1	2
13	Mushin Public Library	Palm Avenue, Mushin	1	1	2
14	Ijede Public Library,	Ijede, Ikorodu.	1	1	2
Total			14	19	33

Source: www.lagosstate.ng.com

Total or complete enumeration will be adopted as the sampling technique. This is because of the small and manageable number of professionals and paraprofessionals (33), as at the time of the study. Hence, the sample size of the study will be 33 library personnel consisting of professional librarians and library officers who are the Para-professionals. A self-developed questionnaire was designed as the instrument for data elicitation. The questionnaire was divided into three- point Liket scales ranging from (SA) strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), disagree (D) and strongly disagree (SD). The items used of the instrument construction were generated from

the review of literature. Moreover, to determine the reliability of the instrument, 10 copies of the questionnaire were pre-tested using the data collected from Herbert Macaulay Library, Yaba. The Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the reliability of the questionnaire in measuring it's fitness in measuring the construct under study and the result an alpha coefficient of 0.12. The final draft of the questionnaire was distributed and retrieved. Analysis was done using descriptive statistics such as percentage (%), mean and standard deviation for the research questions while Pearson Product Moment correlation (PPMC) was used to test the hypotheses.

Findings and discussion

The data were analysed with descriptive statistics such frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation while the hypotheses were analysed with Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) tested at 0.5% level of significance.

Table 2: Demographic Results

Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentages
BLS	18	43.9
Diploma	19	46.1
MLS	4	9.8
Total	41	100.0
Gender		
Male	18	43.9
Female	23	56.1
Total	41	100.00
Years of Practice in Librarianship		
Less than 3 years	6	14.6
3-5 years	10	24.4
9-11years	5	12.2
12 years and above	20	48.8
Total	41	100.00
Designation		
Library officer	22	53.7

Higher library officer	15	36.6
Librarian II	2	4.9
Librarian	2	4.9
Total	41	100.00
Religion		
Christian	19	46.3
Muslim	22	53.7
Total	41	100.00
Status		
Married	29	70.7
Single	10	24.4
Widow	1	2.4
Divorce	1	2.4
Total	41	100.00

Table 2 shows the percentage distribution of the respondents based on their profile. The gender academic qualification of the respondent revealed that 19 (46.3%) had Diploma, 18 (43.9%) had BLS while 4 (9.8%) had MLS. Also, 23(56.1%) are female while 18(43.9%) are male. In addition, 39% of the respondent had up to 5 years' experience in librarianship, 12% had between 9 years and 11 years while majority, 49% had 12 years and above work experience. The Table further revealed that 22 or 54% are library officers, 15 or 37% are higher library officers while 5% are either Librarian II or Librarian respectively. Fifty-four per cent are Muslim while 46% are Christian. Also over three quarters of the respondents are, (70%) are married.

Table 3: Influence of economic recession on public library

S/n	Items	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	SD	Remark
1	General slowdown in economic activity	-	1(2.4%)	6(14.6%)	34(82.9%)	3.81	0.46	Agreed
2	Recession affected industrial products and information resources acquisition	-	4(9.8%)	30(73.2%)	7(17.1%)	3.07	0.52	Agreed
3	Drop in government spending	-	12(29.3%)	24(58.5%)	5(12.2%)	2.80	0.61	Agreed
4	Hampered library information resources	3(7.3%)	9(22%)	17(41.5%)	12(29.3%)	2.93	0.91	Agreed
	Grand mean					3.81	0.62	Agreed

NB: With the use of a 4-point Likert scale type, the expected average (mean) response per item should be 2.5 (either in favour or disfavour of what is being measured)

Table 3 presents responses to the impact of economic recession on the public library in Lagos state. The data revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that the Lagos-State public libraries might have been affected by the general slowdown in economic activity (= 3.81 >2.5) and that recession has affected some industrial products-such as book trade wholesale-retail-sales for library and information resources acquisition (= 3.07 > 2.5). In addition, most of the respondents agreed that drop in government spending might lead to financial crisis that will delay in implementing budget for public libraries development in Lagos-State (= 2.80 >2.5) and that provision of library information resources could be hampered during economic recession. Also, the grand mean of (= 3.81 > 2.5) indicates that majority of the respondents were in agreement that the economic recession have impact on the public library in Lagos state

Table 4: Provision of Library and Information Resources Services

S/N	Items	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdev	Rmk
1	Public library helps to better people and improve society	2(4.9%)	5(12.2%)	17(41.5%)	17(41.5%)	3.19	0.84	Agreed
2	Public libraries enhance democratic process	-	12(29.3%)	23(56.1%)	6(14.6%)	2.85	0.65	Agreed
3	Public libraries facilitate reading to imaginative growth level	2(4.9%)	13(31.7%)	19(46.3%)	7(17.1%)	2.76	0.80	Agreed
4	Public library make information accessible to all without barriers	2(4.9%)	17(41.5%)	15(36.6%)	7(17.1%)	2.66	0.82	Agreed
5	Library as an important factor in the provision of reading materials	3(7.3%)	13(31.7%)	16(39.0%)	9(22.0%)	2.76	0.89	Agreed

NB: With the use of a 4-point Likert scale type, the expected average (mean) response per item should be 2.5 (either in favour or disfavour of what is being measured)

Responses to Table 4 reveals that majority of the respondents agreed that Public library as a civic pride of a few stations of government that is open to all, helps to better people and improves society (= 3.19 > 2.5), public libraries in Lagos-State are used as community centres which enhances democratic process (= 2.85 > 2.5) and that public libraries make accessible information resources which facilitates reading to imaginative growth level (= 2.76 > 2.5). Also, most of the respondents agreed that public library makes information accessible to all without barriers (= 2.66 > 2.5) and that library as an important factor in the provision of reading materials, organisation of reading promotion campaigns for adults and children (= 2.76 > 2.5). Similarly, the grand mean of 2.84 > 2.5 indicates that majority of the respondents agreed that public library provides relevant information Resources Services

Table 5: Constraint of library and information resources services

S/N	Items	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	St. Dev	Rmk
1	Lack of publicity on the contents of the public library information resources	1(2.4%)	2(4.9%)	1(2.4%)	37(90.2%)	3.81	0.64	Agreed
2	Non availability of desired electronic resources for public library users for current information resources	1(2.4%)	1(2.4%)	25(61%)	14(34.1%)	3.27	0.63	Agreed
3	Poor ICT skills on the part of the public users	-	14 (34.1%)	16(39%)	11(26.8%)	2.93	0.79	Agreed
4	Lack of patronage based on non-availability of library and information resources to meet their demand	2(4.9%)	7(17.1%)	19 (46.3%)	13(31.7%)	3.05	0.84	Agreed
5	Most incentives were inadequate because of impact economic recessions	-	5(12.2%)	22 (53.7%)	14(34.1%)	3.22	0.65	Agreed
6	Absence of sufficient training programme on electronic resources for smooth accessibility of information sources	1(2.4%)	7(17.1%)	23(56.1%)	10(24.4%)	2.78	0.96	Agreed
7	Paucity of workstations to access electronic resources in the public library because of lack of funds	5(12.2%)	9(22.0%)	17(41.5%)	10(24.4%)	2.98	0.76	Agreed
8	Low budget to develop relevance contents of electronic resources to	-	12(29.3%)	18(43.9%)	11(26.8%)	2.93	0.72	Agreed

9	public users Most of the library and information resources are obsolete due to inability of fund to update them	2(4.9%)	6(14.6%)	26(63.4%)	7(17.1%)	2.96	0.89	Agreed
10	Inadequate power supply to public libraries for maximum use of information communication technology facilities	5(12.2%)	2(4.9%)	17(41.5%)	17(41.5%)	3.12	0.98	Agreed

NB: With the use of a 4-point Likert scale type, the expected average (mean) response per item should be 2.5 (either in favour or disfavour of what is being measured)

Table 5 presents constraint to library and information resources services. Evidence from the data revealed that many of the respondents agreed that the constraint to library information services include lack of publicity (= 3.81 > 2.5), non-availability of electronic resources (= 3.27 > 2.5), poor ICT skills (= 2.93 > 2.05), non-availability of library and information resources (= 2.85 > 2.05), inadequate incentives (= 3.22 > 2.5) and insufficient training programme (= 2.78 > 2.5). Similarly, majority of the respondents also identify the following constraint to provision of library and information resources services, lack of fund (= 2.98 > 2.5), low budget (= 2.93 > 2.5), obsolete information resources (= 2.96 > 2.5) and inadequate power supply (= 3.12 > 2.5).

Hypotheses

Ho₁: Economic recession has no significant influence on the provision of library and information resources services

Table 6: Correlation between economic recession and provision of library and information resources services

Items	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Pearson Correlation	Significant (2-tailed)	Remark
Economic recession	41	12.63	1.72	-0.523**	0.000	Significant

Library and information Resources Services	41	14.21	3.29	
--	----	-------	------	--

** P Significant at 0.05

The data in Table 6 reveals that the r calculated of -0.523 is significant at 5%. This implies that there is a significant but negative relationship between economic recession and provision of library services; therefore that the economic recession has an inverse influence on the provision of library and information services. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected.

Hypothesis 2:

Ho₂: Economic recession has no direct influence on the constraint of library and information resources services

Table 7: Correlation between economic recession and constraint of library and information resources services

Items	N	Mean	Std. Dev	Pearson Sign Correlation (2-tailed)	Remark
Economic recession	41	12.63	1.720	0.582** 0.000	Significant
Constraint to library service	41	14.21	3.29		

** P significant at 0.05

Evidence from Table 7 revealed that the r calculated of 0.582 is significant at 5% (p=0.00<0.05). This implies that there is a positive and significant relationship between economic recession and constraint to library services; this implies that the economic recession has a direct influence on the constraint to library services. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The demographic results had shown that greater percentage of the library personnel in the Lagos-State Board Management of the 14 public libraries in Lagos-State are Diploma holders and this is followed by the bachelor degree holders in library and information science. The greater percentage of the human resources possessed Bachelor of Library and Information

Science, followed by those with diploma. Others are the mixtures of academic and library officers working as team and doing their professional jobs. The status of the staff was purposely ascertained so as to be very sure that the professional service rendered were based on their professionalism by the respondents. This finding is supported by Udomisor & Haruna (2010) that the employment policy allows the mixture of both professional and semi-professional staff to work in the library. The impact of the economic recession on public library as shown that information resources provision such as book acquisition had suffered due to lack of funding and delay in budget implementation. This finding has supported the view expressed by the editorial report of The Guardian Newspaper (2017) that governments promised to fund libraries should not be mere rhetoric considering that there had been similar impromptu promises that were not fulfilled. Added also is that the findings also was supported by Onatola (2004) in that many public libraries in Africa particularly Nigeria is underfunded because of low priority accorded libraries by decision makers in government.

On the provision of library and information resources services, the findings here revealed that public libraries makes accessible information resources that enhances democratic process in which the respondents agreed with the assertion made by Nwosu & Ogbono (2010) that public libraries promote information literacy and contribute to the development of the society and its citizens, this can be achieved through the provision of information resources for the development of information society. The major constraints revealed from the findings were lack of publicity, non-availability of electronic resources, lack of adequate information resources, insufficient incentives and training for personnel. The findings supported the view expressed by Olowu (2004) that some of the insurmountable problems affected information not accessible in the public libraries to the public in Lagos State and Nigeria in general. He discovered that public library development in the country in the year immediately after the independence and after the Nigeria civil war could not be sustained due to inadequate financial support by the establishing authorities, and demoralised inadequate workforce. There are other challenges like poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness of the need for information, lack of basic amenities, such as electricity, and lack of funds contributed to challenges associated with access to information.

Conclusion

The study has shown the role of the public libraries which is supposed to help in accessing information through required information resources in helping to develop information literacy programme among the populace most especially in the rural areas. The global economic recession which happened recently was a phenomenon that affected every various segment in the society, the incident caught many countries unaware both underdeveloped and developing countries: Nigeria was not left alone it manifested in the financial capacity of a number of projects including the development of public libraries. Many insurmountable challenges faced by Lagos-State government rendered some of the public libraries into a state of comatose, until the intervention of private-public partnership developed by the State recently and has resulted into the renovation of about five public libraries in Lagos –State as of today.

Recommendations

In view of the various challenges which Lagos-State Library Board face in their quest to support the development of public libraries in the state, the following recommendations are made:

- There is no doubt that funding is germane in the provision of infrastructural facilities; public library is an educational programme which should be accorded priority in the government scheme of things. It is therefore advised through this medium that Lagos-State being a commercial hub of the country should made funds available for the development of the public libraries.
- Lagos-State government through the ministry of education and that of information and strategy should developed library advocacy programme that will create awareness among the youth in the state. Such awareness should be an annual invent involving both primary and post–primary education in the state.
- Lagos-State library board should collaborate with United Nations bodies in the state such United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Children Fund (UNICEF) etc. and do a joint programme to mark Library Week or International Library Day. These programme will sensitised the public about the importance of public library.

- Head of public libraries in the state should encourage Lagos-State library board for the recent public library private partnership that had led to the development and rehabilitation of about five of such public libraries in Lagos-State. The idea of this laudable programme should be extended to other multinational bodies that can also assist in the rehabilitating other existing moribund public libraries in the state.
- The running of the public libraries should a joint venture between the local governments in the state and ministry of education, and that of the ministry of information. Public library is a community development programme, it is necessary that the local government should be used as the agent of creating awareness at the grassroots levels.
- Provision of basic amenities such as e-library, photocopying machine, restaurants, food café and etc., should be made available in the public libraries as it is done in modern day public libraries in abroad. A modern library in the 21st century generally is no longer a grave yard where restriction is placed in the use of basic amenities for relaxation.
- Finally, Lagos-State being the commercial hub of the nation, some of the public libraries can be turned into information brokerage centres, where information resources can be commercialised with the provision of information, and communication technology, people that are tramping into the country from neighbouring countries and from abroad would have access to first-hand information that would be rendered by some of the information brokerage centred established within the public libraries.

Reference

- Abdulkarim, M. (2010). Improving public libraries in Nigeria. <http://www.dailytrust.com/weekly>
- Adeyemi, E.A. (2014). Public library in Africa: harnessing information services, *Studies Higher in Education*, 28 (3), 112.
- Adimorah, N. E. (1983). An analysis of progress made by the public libraries as social institutions in Nigeria, *UNESCO Journal of Information Science Librarianship and Archives Administration*, 5(3), 160-167.

- Adimorah, N.E. (1983). How libraries contribute to communities and society, *Journal of Social Sciences*, 2 (3): 197-205
- Agbodike, E. (1992) Public library services for rural development. In rural development in Nigeria: dynamics and strategies. Edited by Olisa M.S.O and Obiukwu, J.I. Awka: Meslink Publisher, pp. 250-263.
- Davies, O.G. (2012). The role of public library in educational development, *Journal of Educational Development*.45 (3) 234-237
- Farayibi, A. O. (2016). Perspective on the Nigerian economic recession. Centre for Allied Research and Economic Development, Ibadan. Oyo State. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/310322305_Perspectives_on_the_Nigerian_Economic_Recession [Accessed Jan 02 2017].
- Ilorah, G. B. & Nwako, G. (2015). Importance of internet to libraries and national development, *ARPN Journal Science and Technology*, 8 (9), 500-517.
- Jan, M.B. (2016). Community libraries: a viable alternative to the public library. *Progressive Librarian*, 5: 17-27.
- Kerslake, E. and Kinnel, M. (1998) Public Libraries, Public Interest and the Information Society: Theoretical Issues in the Social Impact of Public Libraries. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*.30(3), 160
- Nwosu, R. & Ogbono, C. (2015). Information literacy and librarian faculty, collaboration: a model for success; *Chinese Librarianship; An International Electronic Journal*, 24.
- Ogunshola, A. (2011). Information is the lifeblood of democracy. *Anambra Tunes* (33), 7om/Magazine/Reporting. Retrieved 14/04/2017
- Olden, A. (2015). Constraint on the development of public library service in Nigeria, *The Library Quarterly*, 55, (4). 398-423.
- Olowu, B.D. (2014). Libraries and learning services: information literacy.<http://www.library.auk.ac.n/instruct/ii/whatis.htn>.

- Omotosho, A. M. & Okiki, O. C. (2012). Challenges of public libraries patrons in the use of information services for attainment of health millennium development goals, *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal) 6. (758)
- Osuigwe, N. and Udeze, N. (2010) Fee-based services in South East State public libraries. A Paper Presented at the NLA Anambra State Chapter Conference/AGM held on 5th-7th
- Rubin, R. E. (2015). Foundations for library and information science (4th Ed.), New York.
- The Guardian (2017, October). A time to build modern libraries, Guardian Nigerian, Tuesday, October 2. Pg. 16. www.guardian.ng
- Udomisor, H. & Haruna, M. (2016). Resources utilization by adults in Nigeria-the case study of two public libraries. *International Information and Library Review*, 26 (2) 88
- UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1995). IFLA public library news, Newsletter of the Section of Public Libraries (January) 12.
- Vogel, J. (2011) Can the public library and democracy survive? *The Rake Magazine*. [http: Archives. Secrets of the City](http://Archives.SecretsoftheCity)