

Relevance of Donation to Special Federal Tertiary Institution Libraries in Zaria, Kaduna State.

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Abstract

This paper examine the relevance of donations to Special Federal Tertiary Institution Libraries in Zaria, Kaduna State, the objectives of the study are: to find out the donor agencies available to the libraries; the donations given to the libraries and to find out how relevant are the donation from the donors. The study adopted qualitative research approach. While structured and open-ended interview and relevant documents, including gift and donation files, acquisition records and library accession registers were used to collect data for the study. The population of the study consisted of the Special Federal Tertiary Institution Libraries under study while the subjects of the study were the 41 staff, which included the institutions' librarians (Liaison Officers) and the resources development unit library staff of each library. Descriptive statistical tools were used to analyze and present the data. The study discovered that the most donated resources to the libraries were books and journals; the findings also revealed that, though all the special federal tertiary institution libraries have one type of donor or the other, they mostly benefit from individual and corporate donors and also most of these resources were current but irrelevant, while those that were relevant were not sufficient to meet the needs of the libraries. In the light of the findings of the study, it was concluded that the special federal tertiary institution libraries studied were inadequately funded, thus, the libraries have sought for an alternative means in terms of donation to support or augment the major source of fund for library resource development, which has contributed positively but not sufficiently to the development of the library. The study recommended among others that, there is need for the government to increase library annual allocation to avoid problem of inadequate funds. And there is a need for those libraries under study to seek for support from local donors such as Nigerian Book Foundation (NBF), Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation (SEOF) that could contribute financially or other wise to their library; Donors should try to donate relevant resources to libraries this can be done by seeking advice from a professional librarian.

INTRODUCTION

The development of libraries in developing countries like Nigeria is described as a herculean task brought about by inadequate official support coupled with dwindling financial allocations. Acquisition of resources for the library is the basic foundation for library development, but Federal funding which provides critical assistance to the libraries through their parent institutions is inadequate. According to Okonofua (2011), poor funding is the principal challenge that most Nigerian tertiary institutions currently face which limits their ability to rate high in global ranking of educational institutions. He remarked that, as long as the government remains the major source of funding, there will continue to be funding gaps from the government sources due to the increasing number of government funded organizations. Likewise, libraries just like other higher institutions are striving to source for funds.

Chesanga (2000) stated that "many libraries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including tertiary institutions' libraries depend entirely on government funding for their operations which is no longer adequate". This has prevented the working out of any reasonable acquisition programme by the academic libraries. Thus, donation has become very important in library resources development. It is in the light of these that Akobi (2008) testified that "libraries currently achieve their library development goals through

donations". This notion was supported by Patricia (2009) who pointed out that most of the libraries, if not all, started with donations of books and money from individuals and organizations like the Ford Foundation and Carnegie Corporation. Today, most libraries in Africa still depend on donations in some form to remain functional.

Attama (2005) identifies ways in which institutional libraries can build their collections, including legal deposits, exchange, direct purchase, interlibrary Loan, bequeath (will), gift, donations and photocopies. Jones (2007) categorizes resources into four areas: collections to support students' learning and teaching, resources to support researchers, special collections, and "just in case" materials. But with recent development, it can also include internet resources and facilities that promote learning and acquisition of information.

Tertiary institution libraries are those libraries attached to universities, polytechnics, colleges of education and other similar institutions of higher learning. They have long been recognized as the "hearts" of their parent institutions. Tertiary institution libraries are often considered the most important resources of an institution of higher education that offer programs beyond the high school level; provide necessary training for individuals wishing to enter professional careers. The general image of a library brought about the

different categories of libraries by the entity that supports them. These entities include academic libraries; research libraries, special libraries etc. Weiner (2005) states that, the role of a library evolves as the priorities of the institutions evolve; and at the same time, tertiary institution libraries develop into distinct information centers with its own set of objectives and commitment within the academic community.

Statement of the Problem

Many libraries in Nigeria according to Adetimirin (2007) are reported to be under-funded and therefore constrained to acquire sufficient and relevant information materials for their users. Nwafor (1997) discovered that a low level of funding of libraries had led to the deterioration in the quality of library collections. This was supported by Ononogbo (2003) in Owolabi and Akintola (2003) who discovered that 91 percent of collections in the library being studied was derived from donations, gifts, and bequeath. The situation is the same at the Federal tertiary institution libraries where there is a continued influx of library users, especially from education and research institutions seeking information from poor and imbalance collections that do not even have adequate internet connectivity as an alternative source of information to cope with their varied demand (Zakari & Okojie 2009). This has made it necessary for libraries to seek alternative sources of revenue to support their activities due to rapid growth of information, and demand for additional services.

However, libraries in the developing nations have relied on donation as a major method of resources development as noted by Okiy (2010):

that Africa's economic crisis has resulted in large budget cuts for African higher education, including university libraries. Furthermore, enrollments have skyrocketed. African libraries have become highly dependent upon ... donors. In some institutions, 90-100 percent of the budgets for collection development are provided by donors, and almost all information technology comes from outside the country....

The situation in Nigeria is similar to that of other developing countries; studies have shown that underfunding is the bane of libraries in Nigeria and libraries cry out for updating with current books, periodicals and research findings. From the above context; this research work seeks to assess the relevance of donation to the need of users in Special federal tertiary institution libraries in Zaria, Kaduna State.

Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the donors that give donations to the special federal tertiary institution libraries in Zaria, Kaduna.
2. To determine the type of donations given by these donors to the special federal tertiary institution libraries in Zaria, Kaduna.
3. To determine the relevance of the resources donated to the special federal tertiary institution libraries in Zaria, Kaduna.

Significance of the Study

This study is of paramount importance because, it will reveal the effect of donations on the development of library resources and encourage the libraries under study to identify other avenues for generating fund internally. It is expected that the result of the study will encourage the government to increase the funding of government owned institution libraries through its parent organization. The study is expected to encourage donor agencies to donate relevant resources to libraries by seeking advice from professional Librarian.

Scope of the Study

The study is limited to the libraries in the Federal tertiary institutions in Zaria, Kaduna state that differ from universities, colleges of education and polytechnics, In this research, institutions of higher education that offer programmes beyond the high school level; provide necessary training for individuals wishing to enter professional careers were studied. Therefore, libraries studied included those in the special Federal tertiary institution, they are: Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT) Library, Zaria; Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT) Library, Zaria; National Research Institute for Chemical Technology Library (NARICT), Zaria; and Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology Library (NILEST), Zaria. The study looks at the relevance of donation in the four special federal tertiary institution libraries in Zaria, Kaduna.

Research Method Adopted for the Study

The study adopted the qualitative methodology approach. The population of this study consisted of the four Special Federal tertiary institution libraries understudy. The subjects of the study included the Librarians of the institutions (Liaison Officers) and the staff of the Resources Development Unit of the libraries, which were made up of 24 professional and 17 non – professionals. The overall total of 41 (professional and non – professional staff) were used for this study. A stratified Sampling technique was adopted. The research instruments used for the study were structured and open- ended interview, focus group and documentary sources. Out of 41

respondents, 38 (93%) were interviewed because three (3) of the staff were on leave as at the time of the interview. The data that relate to the research questions were collected, organized and analyzed. The data was tabulated and discussed.

Review of Related Literature

Funding of Nigerian tertiary institutions and their libraries was not much of a problem until the Nigerian economy ran into problems in the early 1980s as a result of the world oil glut and poor internal management of resources (Agboola, 2002). The devaluation of Nigerian currency with the continuous funding of the institutions and their libraries without regards to this prevailing inflationary trend affected the growth and development of libraries resources both in terms of quality and quantity. He also submitted that the situation has drastically affected the growth of library collections both in quality and quantity. From the above scenario, it can be said that government have been unable to give the expected financial support to education and libraries at large. Recognizing the issues above, foundations, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies have taken a profound interest in providing support to libraries through their various organizations. This has made libraries to enjoy funding opportunities ranging from capacity building of library personnel to provision of ICT facilities and Databases (Whyte, 2004).

Donor agencies according to Osinulu and Daramola (n.d) are agencies established either by the government, individuals or non-governmental organizations (NGO) to render assistance to people/organizations to alleviate poverty or suffering in one area or the other that require immediate attention. While each donor is different, their approaches to support tend to group them into their natural constituencies—multilateral organizations, bilateral donors, foundations and others. To this effect, several donor agencies have been discovered from the literatures which include Book Aid International, Book for Africa, MTN Foundation, Carnegie cooperation, Mac Arthur, Ford foundation, Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation, Rockefeller, World Health Organization etc.

In addition to the above, Zakari and Okojie (2009) discussed recent interventions which have saved the libraries in Nigeria from total collapse. They identified donor agencies such as the Carnegie cooperation, Mac Arthur and ford foundation, Book Aid International (BAI) and the Library Development Funds (LDF) arrangement by the National University Commission (NUC) have continued to serve as face-saving devices for the degenerating academic and public libraries, and further state that many academic libraries have

successfully sought aid and support from Nigeria Book Foundation (NBF), efl. Net, Journal Donation Project (JDP) and so on. Sources of financial support for libraries are also derived from individuals, corporations, private foundations, etc.

Donation made to libraries varies and could be in form other than fund, all non-monetary interventions are referred to as “in-kind” donations. These can include sponsorship or training of library personnel, provision of information resources and equipments to the library, etc. Zakari & Okojie (2009) stated that library facilities such as library processing tools, software and computer hardware, journals, staff training etc has been acquired through donations. Busayo (2008) stated that most libraries have internet access sourced through donation and most of the new books and journals stocks were donated by international agencies. SEOF (2012), reported that their foundation donated to more than 50 higher institutions and public libraries, over 100 Secondary and over 100 primary schools across the country delivery of five 40-foot containers of books, computers and supplies to libraries in Nigeria and Gambia. The books are for varied fields of knowledge: Agric Sciences, Business and Economics, Computer Sciences, Communication skills, English Literature, Medical and Health Sciences, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Astronomy, Biology, Sociology and Anthropology, French Language Studies, Religious Studies, Engineering, Law (including some sets of West Core complete Law libraries), Assorted Reference bookstand an array of General Library and leisure books among others. They also include some quantities of desktop and laptop computers. Institutions will receive one but mostly a combination of some of the above subjects.

Book Aid International (BAI) is another donor agency that has contributed to the development of academic libraries in Northern Nigeria, as Mohammed (2002) stated that “BAI provides more than 750,000 books each year to more than forty of the poorest countries in the world. More than 85% of the books go to Sub- Saharan African counties, including Nigeria” and concluded that their libraries were highly improved. Adeyomoye (2011) stated in his study that Nigerian Book Foundation (NBF) donated 300 volumes of books to libraries in south – west geo-political zone of Nigeria while others received between 100 and 300 volumes of books in their institution libraries.

The quantity and quality of information materials are fundamental to the survival of a library or information centre and to its parent body. In this regard, Nwalo (2000) notes that that availability of relevant information materials is the hallmark of a library while Oyelude (2004) observes that it is one

of the good qualities of a library. For effective learning, teaching and research in the university, the library information resources should be relevant, current and in a variety of formats such as text books, journals, magazines, indexes and abstracts, encyclopedia, government publications, publications of international organizations, theses and dissertations, research and technical reports, microforms and electronic databases. Therefore, the usefulness of gifts and donations to any institution library resource development is underscored by the adequacy, currency and relevancy of the donated resources. Studies have shown that some resources donated to libraries are not very relevant to the needs of the users of the library. As Edem (2010) noted that, associate problems with donations include deficiency in subject coverage, foreign language materials, and irregular giving patterns as well as an increasing tendency towards electronic resources acquisition where manual procedures are available. In contrary, others reported that the feedback from supplies of donated resources to the beneficiaries of donation is that libraries are richer for it and users have access to varieties of quality books, librarians that have received publications from donor agencies like Sir Emeka Offor Foundation (SEOF) and Book Aid International (BAI) confirmed the relevance of the publications.

Finding and Discussion

Donor Agencies Available to Special Federal Tertiary Institution Libraries.

In order to identify the donor agencies to the institutions under study, the respondents were asked to indicate from a list of donor agencies that are

available to tertiary institution libraries in the questions. Table 1. shows the responses from the subjects.

Table 1. has shown that the common groups of donor agencies available to the libraries under study are individuals and corporate donors. Only two among the libraries received donations from BAI, none has received donation from foreign donors available. This indicates that donations from individual philanthropists mostly publishers and corporate donors like Nigerian Insurance management (NIM), Zenith Bank etc are the most common type of donors available to them. According to Adeyomoye (2011), corporate organizations, government and non-government agencies are the main targets from which gifts and donations are solicited. During the interview session with the Nigerian college of aviation technology library (NCAT), they revealed that, it is difficult to access the agencies especially foreign donor agencies. The implication for this is that, these donors do not give the libraries what is relevant to their needs and donations will be donor-interest driven.

Donations given to Special Federal Tertiary Institution Libraries.

Donations made to libraries vary and can be in the forms of funds, books, journals, library equipment, databases, etc depending on what the donors have and are willing to give. Therefore, to ascertain the types of donations given to these federal tertiary institution libraries studied, the respondents provided information to the question. Table 2. shows the responses in this regard.

Table 1: Donor Agencies Donating to Special Federal Tertiary Institution Libraries in Zaria, Kaduna state

S/N	Donor Agency	Name of Institutions			
		NILEST	NITT	NCAT	NARICT
A	MacArthur Foundation	X	X	X	X
B	Carnegie Cooperation	X	X	X	X
C	Ford Foundation	X	X	X	X
D	MTN Foundation	X	X	X	X
E	Book Aid International(BAI)	X	√	X	√
F	Nigeria Book Foundation(NBF)	X	X	X	X
G	Government Intervention(PTF, ETF etc)	X	X	X	X
H	Individual philanthropist (Publishers)	√	√	X	√
I	Cooperate Donors	√	√	X	√
J	Others (Please specify)	X	X	X	X

Key: X = Not Available √= Available

Table 2: Type of Donations given to Special Federal Tertiary Institution Libraries in Zaria, Kaduna state.

S/N	Types of Donations	Name of Institutions			
		NILEST	NITT	NCAT	NARICT
A	Funds	X	X	X	√
B	Books and Journals	√	√	X	√
C	Software and Hardware	X	X	X	√
D	ICT Facilities	X	√	X	√
E	Databases	X	X	X	X
F	Training of Library staff	X	√	X	√
G	Library Equipment	X	√	X	√
H	Others	X	X	X	X

Key: X = No √= Yes

Table 3: Responses on the Relevancy of Donations to the Special Federal Tertiary Institution Libraries

S/N	Types of Donation	Name of Institutions															
		NILEST				NITT				NCAT				NARICT			
		HR	R	U	I	HR	R	U	I	HR	R	U	I	HR	R	U	I
A	Funds	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
B	Books and Journals	√	√	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	X
C	Software and Hardware	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
D	ICT Facilities	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
E	Databases	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
F	Training of Library Staff	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	X
G	Library Equipment	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	X

Key: HR =Highly Relevant, R=Relevant, U=Undecided, I= Irrelevant.

Table 2. above has revealed that, books and journals are the most donated resources to the libraries under study. This finding is in line with those of Mohammed (2002) and Busayo (2008) who noted that, books and journals are the most donated resources to libraries. The researcher observed that none of the libraries received database as donation unlike other tertiary institution libraries, which if given to them would have enriched their libraries. The implication of the above statement is that, these libraries under study will not be able to have variety of resources and will not be able to compete with their counterparts in other institution of learning.

Relevancy of Donations to Federal Tertiary Institution Libraries

In order to satisfy the diverse information needs of the academic community, the library collections whether purchased or donated must be relevant to the needs of the users. To ascertain the level of relevancy of donations the libraries received, the respondents were asked to state the relevance of the donations they got from the donor agencies. Table 3.provides information in this regard.

As earlier indicated that books and journals are the highest donated resources given to the libraries under study, the information shown in Table 3 above has indicated that the books and journals given are relevant to the needs of the library users.

From the interview, NITT librarian acknowledged that the donations of books they received from BAI were 30%-40% relevant and adequate. However, from observation, the researcher concluded that the donated resources are not averagely relevant because most of the books and journals from individuals were obsolete during the time of donations as many were bequeathed from will of dead individuals or they are irrelevant to the needs of the library. Also, training of library staff is relevant to them as pointed out by the respondents because the knowledge acquired would enable them to compete with their counterparts in other libraries and face the daunting task assigned to them, especially in this technology age. Hence, the implication is that with the growing digital information the library would not be able to meet up without resources like databases which they are incapacitated by underfunding.

Summary of the Findings

Following the analysis and discussion of the responses to the structured interview and the records consulted, the following are the findings of the study:

1. That though all these special federal tertiary institution libraries have one type of donor or the other, they mostly benefited from individuals who are publishers and corporate donor agencies. The reason for this as pointed out by the respondents was that the international body/donors were difficult to access while others have not made contact yet with the donors.
2. That the most donated resources to the respective libraries were books and journals. Few of the donors also support in the training of library staff.
3. Most of these resources were current but irrelevant, while those that were relevant were not sufficient to meet the needs of the libraries.

Conclusion

From the summary of the major findings of this study, it can be concluded that the special Federal tertiary institution libraries studied are inadequately funded. Thus, the libraries have sought for an alternative means in terms of donation to support or augment the major source of fund for library resource development, which has contributed positively but not sufficiently to the development of the library.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study and the conclusion reached, the following recommendations are made:

1. Although individual and cooperate donors were the main resources, there is need to seek for more support from international donor agencies (Mac Arthur, Rockefeller etc) and local donors like Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation and Nigeria Book Foundation (NBF) that could contribute financially or otherwise to the development of the library. This can be achieved by approaching those institutions libraries that have benefitted or are benefitting from these international donors on how to reach them.
2. Donation of books and journals are crucial but the donors should not only provide physical/tangible resources but intangible resources such as fund that would help to improve the library should also be provided.
3. It is recommended that donors should try as much as possible to donate relevant resources to libraries. This can be done by seeking for librarians' advice.
4. It is also recommended that donors should increase their support to libraries in the development or training of staff in order to cope with the challenge of current digital age.

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