

## ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL PUBLISHERS IN THE PRODUCTION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

By

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### Abstract

*The study Assessed Local Publishers in the Production of Information Resources for Universal Basic Education Programme in Kaduna State. The research objectives sought to identify major information resources been produced by the local publishers in Kaduna state for Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme, examine the effectiveness of local publishers in the production of information resources to the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme. The population of this study comprised of the staff of the Social mobilization department of the Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board, the staff of Kaduna State Government Printers and the staff Kabido Printers publishing unit. Out of a population of 60, 52 were sampled from the staff of SUBEB, and 28 each for a population of 30 (for both State Government and Kabido publishing houses) making a total of 108. Questionnaire was the instruments used in collecting data from the respondents. Simple random sampling procedure was used in selecting the respondents. A total of 108 copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents while 106 were filled, returned and used for the analysis and the data collected from the respondents were organized and presented in frequency distribution tables, percentages and charts. Findings showed that textbooks 33(58.9%) are the major information resource produced by the local publishers (Kaduna State Government Press and Kabido Press) as it is the basic information resource used by SUBEB for teaching and learning, contributions/services of Kaduna State Government Press and Kabido Press is effective as indicated 17(34%) of the SUBEB respondents 28(50%) of the publishers*

**Keywords:** Local Publishers, Information Resources, Universal Basic Education, State Universal Basic Education Board.

### Introduction

Publishing is a medium of communications that deeply affect the lives of all, conveys much of the heritage of the past, and helps us understand ourselves and the world we live in and significant tool for future (James 2011). Publishing as a medium of communication is a significant tool of educational process and provide entertainment for people of every age. Nigeria has a vibrant publishing industry, with perhaps the largest number of publishing houses in any African country. At one stage, prospects for the publishing industry in Nigeria appeared rosy. The Federal Government established paper and pulp making industries, and an elaborate plan was drawn up for achieving self- sufficiency in the production of resources for the nursery/primary, secondary, and tertiary tiers of education. Unfortunately all that, or most of it, collapsed following the nation's economic downturn of the 1980s, book famine descended on Nigeria (Chukwuemeka, 2004).

The nation's educational, business and social life would not survive long without information resources, judges and attorneys must examine law time continually, doctors constantly refers to the repositories of medical wisdom and experience and government of fiscal must be aware of all the ramification of new legislation. Teachers and pupils find in textbooks the event

knowledge of history, philosophy, the science literature and social science accumulated through the age. People in every walk of life read to keep abreast of the past changing world, to find inspiring, relation and pleasure and to gain knowledge books explain and interpret almost every aspect of life.

The library record has been one of the principal hallmarks by which each succeeding world civilization has been measured through research on the relative literature. Ifaturoti (2007) stated that factual record of civilization has been reconstructed. Information resources exist in different forms, some in printed form while others in non-print form (i.e electronic form). In which ever form they may exist, information resources provide the permanent characteristics of no other communication medium, the newspaper reporter and radio commentators write and speak to the audience video-tapes, audio-tapes, microforms and microfiches which may deteriorate those provided on high quality paper and bound into volumes, may extremely long live of care properly.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Publishers have significant role to play in educational development. Publishing have been a low priority in most third world country's developmental plans. As new development occurs in the area of book publishing as a result of information and knowledge explosion, the use of general book particularly print books and the employment of audio-visual and non-print media have become so imperative (James 2011). Many educational publishers have diversified their products. The need of audio-visual and entertainment centres for UBE programmes. Favorites pictures, adaptation, utilization, the original illustration are some of the significant roles played by educational publishers in the country.

According to James (2011), despite the effort made by these publishers, unfortunately, publishers in Kaduna state are left behind to meet up with current trend associated with book production, to meet up with the basic requirement to produce resources for successful implementation of UBE programme in the state.

It is against this background that the researcher intends to assessed the contribution of local publishers in the production of information resources for Universal Basic Education programme in Kaduna state.

### **Objectives of the Study**

This study is aimed at assessing the contribution of local publishers in the production of information resources for Universal Basic Education programme in Kaduna State. The aim of the study would be achieved through the following objectives:

1. To identify major information resources been produced by the local publishers in Kaduna state for Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme.
2. To examine the effectiveness of local publishers in the production of information resources to the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme.

## Review of Related Literature

Information resources produced by the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Program in Nigeria are made available at the library within the school, which is within easy reach of the pupils/students and their teachers respectively.

## Published Materials

Published materials as put down by David, Philip, and Unwin (2013), fall into two main categories, periodical and non-periodical; *i.e.*, publications that appear at more or less regular intervals and are members of a series and those that appear on single occasions (except for reissues of essentially the same material).

## Periodical Publications

According to McGee (2004) periodical publications may be further divided into two main classes, [newspapers](#) and [magazines](#). Though the boundary between them is not sharp, there are magazines devoted to news, and many newspapers have magazine features. Their differences of format, tempo, and function are sufficiently marked: the newspaper (daily or weekly) usually has large, loose pages, a high degree of immediacy, and miscellaneous contents; whereas the magazine (weekly, monthly, or quarterly) has smaller pages, is usually fastened together and sometimes bound, and is less urgent in tone and more specialized in content. Both sprang up after the invention of printing, but both have shown a phenomenal rate of growth to meet the demand for quick information and regular entertainment. Newspapers have long been by far the most widely read published matter; the democratizing process of the 19th and 20th centuries would be unthinkable without them. Magazines, close behind newspapers both historically and in terms of readership, rapidly branched out from their learned origins into “periodicals of amusement.” Today there is probably not a single interest, frivolous or serious, of man, woman, or child, that is not catered to by a magazine.

## Non-Periodical Publications

The non-periodical publications ([books](#)) constitute by far the largest class; they are also, in one form or another, the oldest of all types of publication and go back to the earliest civilizations. In giving permanence to man’s thoughts and records of his achievements, they answer a deep human need. Not every published book is of lasting value; but a nation’s books, taken as a whole and winnowed out by the passing years, can be said to be its main cultural storehouse. Conquerors or usurpers wishing to destroy a people’s heritage have often burned its books, as did Shih Huang-ti in China in 213 bc, the Spaniards in Mexico in 1520, and the Nazis in the 1930s. There is no wholly satisfactory definition of a book, as the word covers a variety of publications (for example, some publications that appear periodically, such as *The World Almanac* and *Book of Facts*, may be considered books). For statistical purposes, however, the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization defines a book as “a non-periodical printed publication of at least 49 pages excluding covers.”

There are, of course, many other types of publications besides books, newspapers, and magazines. In many cases the same principles of publishing apply, and it is only the nature of the product and the technicalities of its manufacture that are different (David, Philip, and Unwin 2013). There is, for instance, the important business of map and atlas publishing. Another important field

is [music publishing](#), which produces a great variety of material, from complete symphonic scores to sheet music of the latest popular hit. A further range of activities might be grouped under the term “utility publishing”; *i.e.*, the issuing of calendars, diaries, timetables, ready reckoners, guide books, and all manner of informational or directional material, not to mention postcards and greeting cards. A great deal of occasional publishing, of pamphlets and booklets, is done by organizations to further particular aims or to spread particular views; *e.g.*, by churches, religious groups, societies, and political parties. David, Philip, and Unwin, (2013) stated that this kind of publishing is sometimes subsidized

### **Information Resources for UBE by Local Publishers**

Information resources for Universal Basic Education program in Kaduna State are mostly produced by local publishers are they distributed to school library. Amucheazi (2001) mentioned school libraries as one of the facilities needed for quality assurance of the UBE programme. Adetoun, Kolawole and Ajibola (2011) in their study “An Evaluation of State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) Libraries in Selected States in South-West Nigeria” identified information resources such as textbooks, dictionaries and fiction books to be the most commonly available learning resources in SUBEB/ library even though other learning resources such as journals, magazines / newspapers, maps/ Atlases, encyclopedias are also available. It can further be deduced from their study that information resources such as journals, magazine as well as electronic resources be made readily available to students so as to “catch them young” in this information age.

### **Research Design Adopted for the study**

Survey research method was adopted in this study. Banilower, McMahon, Smith & Weiss (2001) stated that survey research involves the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions. Survey research design according to Osuala (2001) in Achufusi (2013) is a research which studies both large and small populations by selecting and studying samples chosen from the population. The population of this study comprised of the staff of the Social mobilization department of the Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board, the staff of Kaduna State Government Printers and the staff Kabido Printers publishing unit. According to Chief Librarian SUBEB, there are sixty (60) staff in the social mobilization department, while the publishing houses have thirty (30) staff in the publishing units of both the Government printers and the Kabido printers respectively. This gives a grand total of one hundred and twenty (120) staff. A sample is a smaller (but hopefully representative) collection of units from a population used to determine truths about that population (Field, 2005). Sampling size determination involves establishing the number of observations to include in a statistical sample while ensuring representativeness. Respondents for the study will be randomly selected. Phasinger (2005) stated that it is practically not possible to study a whole population of interest, hence, a given sample or portion of the population will be drawn known as sample size for feasibility, practicability and convenience of the researcher. As a matter of fact, the minimum sample size recommended by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) in their table for determining sample size from a given population is 52 for a population of 60, and 28 each for a population of 30 (for both publishing houses) making a total of 108. Krejcie and Morgan (1970) recommendation is considered for selecting sample size in this present study. The instruments used for collecting data

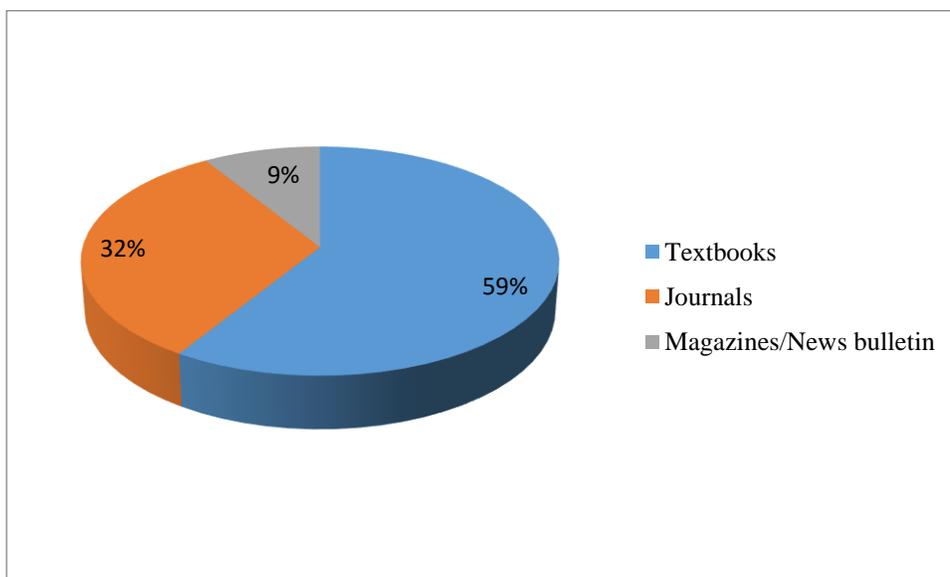
in this research were interviews and questionnaire. The questionnaire was analyzed using the frequency distribution, percentage tables and charts.

## Result and Discussion

### Types of Information Resources Produced by Local Publishers for SUBEB

**Table 1: Types of Information Resource Produced by Local Publishers for SUBEB**

Info Resources	Frequency	Percent
Textbooks	33	58.9
Journals	18	32.1
Magazines/News bulletin	5	8.9
Total	56	100.0



**Fig. 1: Types of Information Resource Produced by Local Publishers for SUBEB**

Table 1 and Figure 1 revealed the major information resources produced by the local publishers for use by SUBEB in Kaduna State. It was discovered that textbooks was the major information resources produced by the local publishers as indicated by the respondents. 33(59%) of the major information resources produced are textbooks, 18(32%) are Journals while 5(9%) are Magazines/News bulletin. This could be attributed to the programme of SUBEB which is education. Textbooks are produced for distribution by SUBEB to schools for utilization by students in order to boost their academic performance. The findings of this study conform to that of Adetoun, Kolawole, and Ajibola (2011). Their study revealed that information resources such as textbooks, dictionaries and fiction books are the most commonly available information

resources produced by local publishers for use in SUBEB/ library. This implies that the major information resource produced by the local publishers for SUBEB is the textbook. There is therefore need to improve in the production of other information resources such as journals, magazines / newspapers, maps/ Atlases, and encyclopedias.

### Effectiveness of the Information Resources Produced by Local Publishers for SUBEB

**Table 2: Effectiveness of Information Resources**

	SUBEB		Kaduna State & Kabido Press	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Very Effective	13	26.0	5	8.9
Effective	17	34.0	28	50.0
Partially Effective	6	12.0	0	0
Others	14	28.0	23	41.1
Total	50	100.0	56	100

**Key:- F- Frequency; %- Percentage**

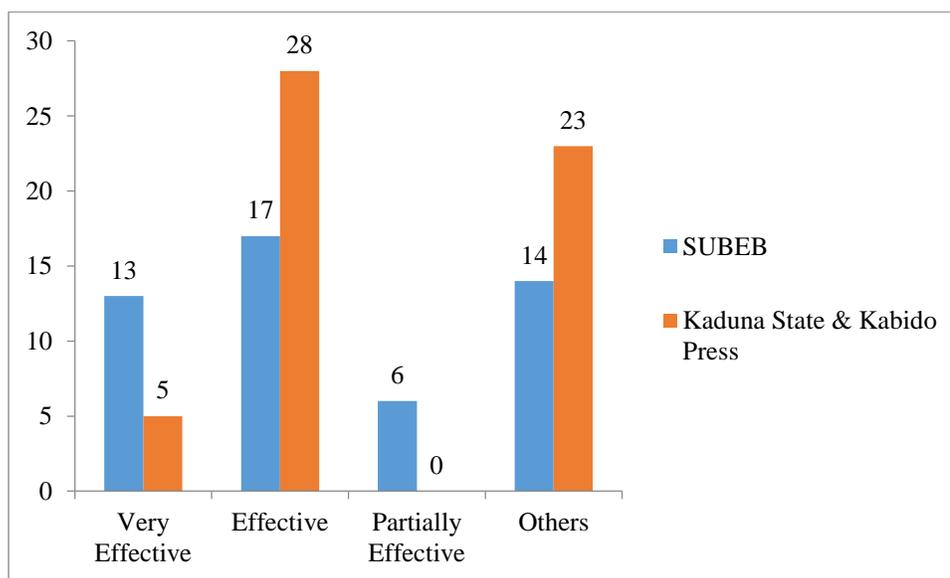


Fig. 4.4.2: Effectiveness of Information Resources

Table 2 and Figure 2 indicates the effectiveness of information resources by SUBEB and the publishers. It is discovered that 17(34%) of the SUBEB respondents indicated that the contribution of the local publishers is effective in their programme and 28(50%) of the publishers

indicated that their services to SUBEB is effective. Responses from the respondents indicate that the services of the publishers are effective. This was followed closely by respondents that indicated different opinions (others) with 14(28%) and 23(41%) for SUBEB and the publishing houses respectively. 6(12%) of the SUBEB respondents indicated that publishers' contribution are partially effective while none of the publishers indicated that their services was partially effective. This finding implies that services of local publishers for SUBEB is not very effective as only 13(26.0%) for SUBEB staff and 5(8.9%) of staff of the publishing houses indicated that the services rendered were very effective. This agrees with Ifaturoti (1997) who stated that the recent recession of most national economies in Africa has had devastating effects on local publishing industries and that publishers' production and running costs have skyrocketed while sales and earnings have plunged to unprecedented depths. There is need to improve on the quality of services rendered by the local publishers for SUBEB so as to have a very effective service delivery.

### **Conclusion**

The paper assessed local publishers in the production of information resources for Universal Basic Education programme in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The contributions or the role played by local publishers in production of information resources for Universal Basic Education programme can never be overemphasized. It is therefore concluded that textbooks are the major information resource produced by the local publishers (Kaduna State Government Press and Kabido Press) as it is the basic information resource used by SUBEB for teaching and learning. Contributions/services of Kaduna State Government Press and Kabido Press is effective.

### **Recommendation**

1. To encourage the production of other information resources, SUBEB should encourage the production of other information resources such as novels, charts etc.
2. There is the need for improving the quality of the services rendered by the local publishers to SUBEB by acquiring hardware and software for Desktop publishing, employing professionals and enough man-power so as to make their services very efficient and very effective.

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