

APPLICATION OF COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN BUILDING LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated the application of collection development policy in building information resources for effective services delivery in academic libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Two objectives with corresponding research questions were raised. Survey research design was used. The population of the study was 121 librarians and library officers from seven academic libraries in Nasarawa State. Self-structured questionnaire was used for data collection. Data collected were analyzed using frequency, percentages, mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions while the null hypotheses were tested using Chi-square. The study revealed that academic libraries in Nasarawa State applied collection development policy on printed library information resources on high extent while application of the policy on non-printed library information resources is on low extent. Further, the study revealed that academic libraries in Nasarawa State faced constraint in application of collection development policy such as globalization, poor funding, lack of seminars. Recommendations were made that, librarians should insist on having functional collection development policy to achieve standard library collections, efforts should be made by library schools to include Management and Budgeting as core courses for student's librarians as this will help in the understanding of policy in administration, librarians (in Nasarawa State) should strive to be participating in workshops, and seminars particularly, on methods of improving collection development policy, by doing so, their libraries' collections would meet the needs of the users and enough Funds should be made available to facilitate application of collection development policies in academic libraries.

Keywords: Application, Collection Development Policy, Service Delivery, and Academic Libraries

Introduction

The essence of establishing a library in any institution/organization is to select, acquire, organize, preserve, store and provide access to knowledge that is available in different documentary formats to support the parent institutions in achieving their aims, goals

and mandate. The basic mandate of any library is to meet both current and future information needs of its users by acquiring information resources that are relevant, current, quality and reliable at affordable cost to satisfy users' information needs and demand. Uganneya, and Agoh, (2013) described library in the context of four major components that is the books and other literary information materials, the personnel/staff who arrange the books for use, the building/accommodation where the books are arranged and users who make use of the library. This clearly indicates that a library must acquire quality, relevant and current information resources that will satisfy user's information needs. The library should employ trained and qualified personnel/staff to organize and render services to users, the library should also have an accommodation to store the information resources available and should have users who make use of the library.

Adebisi (2016) stated that, academic institutions are categorized into university and non-university such as, colleges of education, polytechnics, school of nursing, among others, other than secondary schools. Libraries in these institutions perform functions directly correlated to the mission of each institution they serve. The library is the heart of these institutions since all they do revolve on selection, acquisition, organization and dissemination of information resources in different formant. Basically, these libraries support all academic programmes offered in the institutions.

Academic libraries, according to Obasi, (2015) are libraries which are charged with the responsibility of providing adequate information resources to satisfy the needs of well-defined specialized users, who are lecturers, researchers, administrators, and students of a particular academic institution. These information resources to be provided should be varied enough, to meet the functions of teaching, research and development, publication and community services particularly, of the lecturers and students, and library users in general.

Collection development in academic libraries comprises of all the activities involve in the selection, acquisition, preservation, evaluation and weeding of information resource, it is also geared towards working on the whole library collection to identify areas of weakness and areas of strength then device a plan of action to improve on the areas of weaknesses and maintain areas of strength in order to have a balanced collection to satisfy user information needs and demand, and to achieve the goal, objectives and mandate of the institution that established them. Ode, (2015) defined collection development as the aspect of the library and information work that is responsible for selecting and acquiring information resources that will enable library and information practitioners to perform their numerous functions to the users effectively. According to Ochai (2017), collection development is the process of planning a stock acquisition programme not simply to cater for immediate needs, but to build a coherent and reliable collection over a period of years, to meet the objectives of the institutions. To Ozioko and Ekere (2011) collection development is not only viewed from the angle of growth in volumes and titles, but in the quality of acquired information resources in

enhancing effective information delivery and the usage of such to reduce user frustration. Collection development is one of the fundamental functions of any library. It is the process through which library professionals engage in building and maintaining library information resources. From the forgoing, collection development means the planned and systematic building of library information resources. Collection development may involve a library that is starting on initial collection, or developing an already existing library collection.

Library information resources are materials and documents that carry knowledge and ideas of authors in different documentary formats, which are selected, acquired, processed and made available in the library to users. Cassell, (2016) defined library information resources as those information bearing materials which enable the library to fulfill its goal of meeting the information needs of its users in both printed and electronic formats. The printed information resources are those information bearing materials which are produced by mechanical means, they are texts or document in hard copies which are selected, acquired, processed and made available in the library to meet the information needs of users. Examples are textbook, Dictionaries, Encyclopedia, Journal, newspapers, magazines, reports, etc. Electronic information resources are collection of information which can be accessed only by the use of electronic gadgets.

Building library resources in academic library is the process of obtaining and/or procuring information resources to be added to the library already existing collections to satisfy the information needs of the users and it work. It is a means by which books and non-books information resources are added to the library. Lamb (2015) says building library information resources is the process of selecting, ordering, and receiving information resources for library or archival centres by purchase, exchange, or gift, which may include budgeting and negotiating with outside agencies, such as publishers, dealers, and vendors, to obtain information resources to meet the needs of the institution's users in the most economical and expeditious manner. This shows that, the procedures of building library information resources usually begin with checking for information resources otherwise selection, ordering, budgeting and ends when the resources ordered for are received and certified by the acquisition staff of the library, based on the funds available and the methods involved in the building information resources in the academic libraries.

Due to the strategic importance of collection development in academic libraries, it is glaring that a policy document is expected, in order to guide the operations of the library activities and act as a buffer against unjust complaints from critics as Okoye, (2015) pointed out that, a collection development policy is the blue print that guides the library in its collection development. According to him, it may be written or unwritten, and usually consists of the following; introduction, philosophy and goals, selection policy, acquisition policy, special format, gifts, weeding, intellectual freedom, and revision.

Collection development policy is very important to the library as it assists staff to build a balanced and healthy collection which can meet user's information needs. The need for the collection development policy in a library is closely related to the operation of a well-established collection, as it supports the library's role in providing resources to meet the learning, teaching and research needs of its intended users. Today each library attempts to keep a balance between developing their own physical collections and providing remote access to information sources. Collection development policy give an indication of the scope of a library's existing collection, plans for the continuing growth of collections as well as the type of information resources the library aims to acquire. Academic libraries are developing collections primarily to support the current and anticipated research and service programs of their respective institutions.

From the foregoing, it is important to note that, proper building of information resources for effective service delivery in academic libraries require skills, knowledge and appropriate guidelines known as collection development policy which usually take into consideration the aims, objectives and mandate of the parent institutions. It also creates a standard that serves as a guide for academic libraries to follow for building a functional library information resource.

Statement of the Problem

Collection development policy is important to academic library as it is designed to guide the systematic growth and management of information resources of print and none-print, audio visual and electronic materials. Collection development policy supports the provision of information resources to meet teaching, learning, and research needs of its students and staff.

The recurrent annual budget for academic libraries allocation will not improve, and continuity and consistency in terms of building library information resources will not be there. Therefore, the library might not build information resources that would support the library's mission if collection development policy is neglected. The implication of this is that such libraries may have numerous information resources but cannot satisfy the information needs of the community they serve. Several libraries in the world including Nigeria have realized the place of collection development policy as a veritable tool for applying on building library information resources; however, the question that remains unanswered is the extent to which libraries apply the policy to their collection building for effective service delivery.

To the best of researcher's knowledge, despite so many researches and recommendations to academic libraries, little or no consideration is given to collection development policy to guide the building of information resources in academic libraries in Nasarawa State. These doubts have led the researcher to begin to question the availability, and the extent which collection development policy is applied on building information

resources for effective service delivery in academic libraries in Nasarawa State. This has therefore created a knowledge gap which the study intends to fill.

Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives are to:

1. Determine the extent of application of collection development policy on printed library information resources for effective service delivery in academic libraries in Nasarawa state, Nigeria.
2. Determine the extent of application of collection development policy on non-print library information resources for effective service delivery in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions;

1. To what extent is collection development policy applied on collection building of printed library information resources in your library?
2. To what extent is collection development policy applied on collection building of non-printed library information resources in your library?

Methodology

The population of this study is made up of one hundred and twenty-one (121) librarians and library officers who are involved in collection development policy from seven (7) academic libraries in Nasarawa State Nigeria. Census sampling technique was used to draw the sample while a self-developed questionnaire titled “Application of Collection Development Policy on Building Library Information Resources for Effective Library Service Delivery in Academic Libraries Questionnaire (ACDPBLIRALQ)” was used in data collection. Descriptive and inferential statistics were both used to analyzed the data that was generated from the instrument. Weighted means and Standard Deviation were employed to analyze the research questions. For each research question, real limit of numbers was used to determine the decision level as follows: 2.50 and above was considered “Very High Extent/Strongly Agreed while 2.49-2.30 was considered “High Extend/Agreed. 2.29-2.00 was considered Low Extent/Disagreed and 1.99–1.00 was considered Very Low Extent/Strongly Disagreed while the null hypotheses were tested using Chi-square.

Results

The results of the study are presented according to research questions answered below

Research Question One: To What Extend is Collection Development Policy Applied on Prints Library Information Resources in your Library.

Table 1: Mean Scores and Standard Deviation on the Extend of Application of Collection Development Policy on Building Prints Library Information Resources.

S/N	Item	N	\bar{x}	SD	Decision
4	Books	120	2.5000	.80961	Very High Extent
5	Reference Materials	120	2.4500	.86821	High Extent
6	Periodical	120	2.3613	.90882	High Extent
7	Reports	120	2.4500	1.12160	High Extent
Cluster Mean Scores and Standard Deviation			2.44	0.93	High Extent

Key: N= Number, \bar{x} = Mean, SD= Standard Deviation

Table 1 shows that all the four (4) items have mean ranges from 2.5000 to 2.3613 and standard deviation 1.12160 - 0.80961 with a grand mean of 2.44 and standard deviation 0.93. this result shows that collection development policy is applied on printed library information resource for effective service delivery in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

Research Question Four: To what extent is collection development policy applied on non-prints information resources in your library?

Table 2: Mean Scores and Standard Deviation Analysis on the Extend of Application of Collection Development Policy on Building Non-Print Library Information Resources.

S/N	Item	N	\bar{x}	SD	Decision
8	Audio Materials	120	2.2333	.67030	Low Extent
9	Videos Materials	120	2.2000	.79494	Low Extent
10	Compact Disk Read Only Memory (CD-ROM)	120	1.9667	.83950	Very Low Extent
11	Electronic Books/Periodicals	120	1.9667	.75519	Very Low Extent
Cluster Mean Score and Deviation			2.10	0.764	Low Extent

Key: N=Number, \bar{x} = Mean, SD= Standard Deviation.

Table 2 shows that all the four (4) items have mean ranges from 2.2333 – 1.9667 and standard deviation 0.83950 – 0.67030 with a grand mean of 2.10 and standard deviation 0.764. this shows that collection development is applied on lows extend on non-printed library information resources in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

Discussion

The study investigated application of collection development policy on building library information resources for effective service delivery in academic library in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Base on the finding of the study, discussions were made on each of the research question sought to answer and hypotheses tested.

On availability of collection development policy, the study found that collection development policy was available in the seven academic libraries in Nasarawa state, for building library information resources. All the responses on Table 1 accepted as their percentage was above benchmark of 50%. The finding was in line with Edem (2014) who in his study on the extent of application of collection development policy in academic libraries in Cross-River State, found that collection development policy was available in academic libraries in Cross-River State.

On the type of collection development policy, the study found that, academic libraries in Nasarawa State applied any type of collection development policy. Items on Table 2 such as written collection development policy and unwritten collection development policy were accepted as their percentage scores was above the decision point. This finding was in line with Chukwusa (2012) who conducted a study on implementation of collection development policy by public University libraries in Niger Delta area found that, public University libraries in Niger Delta use both written and unwritten collection development policy.

Extent of application of collection development policy on building prints library information resources in academic libraries in Nasarawa State as found in this study significantly applied on high extend on library information resources. The study shows that Books, reference materials, periodicals and reports. This finding agrees with that of Sambo (2014) who made a comparative study of acquisition of printed library information resources with collection development policy practices in University and college libraries in Borno State Nigeria. The study found out that, the application of collection development policy on acquisition of printed library information resources was sufficiently high in universities and college libraries in Borno State Nigeria.

On the benefit of collection development policy, in academic libraries in Nasarawa State, the study found that all the seven items presented on Table 5 were accepted as their scores means was above the bench mark. The findings agree with that of Frempong-Kore (2018) who compared the impact of collection development policy on building library

information resources in Maranatha University college and Ghana Christian University College libraries in Accra, Ghana. The study found that both universities have collection development policies, the policies have been reviewed since their inception making the policy of benefit to the Universities. Findings also reviewed that universities have been depending on the benefit of collection development policies to build their library information resources the policy feature so much on information building.

On the constraints of application of collection development policy, the study established that, academic libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria are faced with the constraints to apply collection development policy practice on building library information resources. All the items of Table 6 such as Inadequate professional library staff, Lack of cooperation from parent Institution, Problem of Funds, Lack of commitment to work, Library staff resistance to change, the use of ICT in posting unscreened information for academic library users, Negative staff attitudes/Indifference, Administrative bottlenecks to policy implementation and maintenance and Lack of revision policy had scores above the bench mark of 2.30. This is in agreement with Ali (2012) whose study on challenges of management of collection development policy in Academic libraries in North-West Nigeria. The study found that inadequate funding, internal and external interference, knowledge of acquisition librarian was among the constraints of application of collection development policy: The Way Forward maintains that, globalization (ICT) is a major constraint to application of collection development policies. Bello (2015) who carried out a study on collection development in libraries: challenges and solution for library professional. The study found that, collection development Librarians must be well educated to the level of a university degree and masters in library and information science, and must have a deep knowledge in budgeting, and management as these are vital to the understanding of policy and its application leading to effective library collection development. He further stated that, the policy should specify who is responsible for selection of information resources.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that, proper application of collection development policy can enhance the building of library information resources for effective library service delivery. The study also revealed that there was a significant application of collection development policy on building printed and non-printed library information resources in academic libraries in Nasarawa state. Also the study reviewed that if the constraints of application of collection development policy such as Inadequate professional library staff, Lack of cooperation from parent Institution, Problem of Funds, Lack of commitment to work, Library staff resistance to change, the use of ICT in posting unscreened information for academic library users, Negative staff attitudes/Indifference, Administrative bottlenecks to policy implementation and maintenance and Lack of revision of the policy are tackled, it will enhance effective service delivery in academic library in Nasarawa State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Librarians should insist on having functional collection development policy to achieve standard library collections.
2. Efforts should be made by library schools to include Management and Budgeting as core courses for student's librarians as this will help in the understanding of policy in administration.
3. Librarians in Nasarawa State should strive to participate regularly in workshops, and seminars, particularly on methods of improving collection development policy; by doing so, their libraries' collections would meet the needs of the users.
4. Efforts should be made to recruit more librarians so as to meet the needs of library users in academic libraries.
5. Adequate funds should be provided to the libraries parent organization in order to facilitate implementation of collection development policies in academic libraries.

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