

Pages 86-93



TINGITY

Journal of

LIBRARY, ARCHIVAL AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

(T-JOLAIS)

**JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION, PLATEAU STATE CHAPTER**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

1. Cyber Crimes, Security and Creativity: Lessons for Librarians. *Ameh, G. J.* 1-7
2. Sustainability of Professionalism in E-Cataloguing. *Etubi, M.* 8-11
3. The Impact of Education Trust Fund Intervention Grant to Higher Institutions in Nigeria: Study of Academic Libraries. *Olusola, B. B., Salaam, M.O.* 12-15
4. Effective Communication as a Correlate of Efficient Human Resources Management in Academic Libraries: an Example of Federal University of Technology Minna and University of Ibadan Libraries. *Onwukanjo, S. A.* 16-24
5. Redesigning Jobs to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century Library in Nigeria. *Onuoha, U. D.* 25-30
6. The Librarian and Information Service Delivery in the 21st Century. *Oye, P.O.* 31-35
7. Community-Based Library and Information Services in Mbaitoli LGA of Imo State, Nigeria. *Nnadozie, C. O.; Egwim, F. O. and Ossai-Onah, V. O.* 36-44
8. Social Scholarship in Academic Libraries: Support for Researchers in UniJos. *Ndor, J. J.* 45-49
9. Use of the Catalogue in the University of Calabar Library: Users' Reaction. *Esin, J. E.* 50-53
10. Automation Software Challenges to the Academic Libraries in Nigeria. *Osondu, M. C.* 54-60
11. Readership Promotion Campaign and Reading Culture in Selected Secondary Schools in Akure, Ondo State Nigeria. *Akerele, J. A.; Afolabi, F. A. & Ogunniyi, S. O.* 61-65
12. Continuing Education Needs of Academic Librarians in Nigeria: Challenges for the 21st Century. *Diyoshak, R. D.* 66-69
13. Factors Affecting Reading Habits Among University Student: A Case Study of Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma. *Efosa, E.F; Ayeni, S.O. and Jumogha, O.* 70-74
14. A Comparative Analysis of The Implementation of National Board For Technical Education (NBTE) Curriculum For Cataloging And Classification in Selected Polytechnic Library Schools in Nigeria. *Amkpa, S. A. and Dalyop, D.* 75-80
15. Strategic Planning as a Tool for Library Automation. *Akanni, O. T.* 81-85
- *16. Factors Affecting The Attitude of Librarians Towards Research in Library and Information Science: A Case Study of Imo State, Nigeria. *Akinde, T. A. and Nse, J.* 86-93 *
17. Information Literacy: of What Significance? Is It Really Necessary For All? *Ajani, M. A. and Gomina, H. A.* 94-103
18. An Investigation of Appropriate Security Measures For Theft And Mutilation of University Library Information Resources. *Uzuegbu, C. P. and Ononogbo, R. U.* 104-109
19. The Changing Role of Librarians in the 21st Century. *Dakur, M.B* 110-113
20. Re-Branding Customer Service in Nigerian University Libraries. *Onifade, F.N.* 114-117

**TIN-CITY JOURNAL OF LIBRARY,
ARCHIVAL AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**Journal of the Nigerian Library Association,
Plateau State Chapter**

VOL. 2, NO. 2, DECEMBER 2011.

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN LIBRARY

T-JOLAIS

Journal of the Nigerian Library Association, Plateau State Chapter.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-chief

Victor Chuks Nwokedi

University of Jos Library,

P.M.B. 2084,

Jos, Plateau State.

E-mail: victorchuksnwokedi@yahoo.com

Phone: 08036123508

Prof. A. Ochai

University of Jos Library,

P.M.B. 2084,

Jos, Plateau State.

Phone: 08034513663

E.S. Mamman

National Institute of Policy and
Strategic Studies, Kuru, Plateau State.

Phone: 08025014804

J. Hundu

School of Biblical Studies,
Jos, Plateau State.

Phone: 08036071830

D. Abubakar

University of Jos Library,

P.M.B. 2084,

Jos, Plateau State.

Phone: 08030405923

N. Okonkwo (Mrs)

National Film Video & Sound Archives,
Nigerian Film Corporation, Jos

Phone: 08033800306

EDITORIAL ADVISERS

Prof. S.E. Ifidon

Department of Library & Information Science,
Edo State, Nigeria.

Phone: 08028429291

Prof. M. Afolabi

Department of Library and Information Science,
University of Uyo, Nigeria.

Phone: 08035415470

Prof. M.G. Ochogwu

Library and Information Science Unit,
Department of Educational Foundation,
Benue State University,
Markurdi, Nigeria.

Phone: 08037039424

Prof. M.K. Dawha

Department of Library Science,
University of Maiduguri,
Maiduguri, Nigeria.

Phone: 08053533888

Prof. V. Dike

Department of Library & Information Science,
University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Phone: 08035664021

Prof. I. Haruna

Department of Library Science,
University of Maiduguri,
Maiduguri, Nigeria.

Phone: 08036469642

1. **Cyber Crimes, Security and Creativity: Lessons for Librarians.** *Ameh, G. J.* 1-7
2. **Sustainability of Professionalism in E-Cataloguing.** *Etubi, M.* 8-11
3. **The Impact of Education Trust Fund Intervention Grant to Higher Institutions in Nigeria: Study of Academic Libraries.** *Olusola, B. B., Salaam, M. O.* 12-15
4. **Effective Communication as a Correlate of Efficient Human Resources Management in Academic Libraries: an Example of Federal University of Technology Minna and University of Ibadan Libraries.** *Onwukanjo, S. A.* 16-24
5. **Redesigning Jobs to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century Library in Nigeria.** *Onuoha, U. D.* 25-30
6. **The Librarian and Information Service Delivery in the 21st Century.** *Oye, P. O.* 31-35
7. **Community-Based Library and Information Services in Mbaitoli LGA of Imo State, Nigeria.** *Nnadozie, C. O.; Egwim, F. O. and Ossai-Onah, V. O.* 36-44
8. **Social Scholarship in Academic Libraries: Support for Researchers in University of Jos.** *Ndor, J. J.* 45-49
9. **Use of the Catalogue in the University of Calabar Library: Users' Reaction.** *Esin, J. E.* 50-53
10. **Automation Software Challenges to the Academic Libraries in Nigeria.** *Osondu, M. C.* 54-60
11. **Readership Promotion Campaign and Reading Culture in Selected Secondary Schools in Akure, Ondo State Nigeria.** *Akerele, J. A.; Afolabi, F. A. & Ogunniyi, S. O.* 61-65
12. **Continuing Education Needs of Academic Librarians in Nigeria: Challenges for the 21st Century.** *Diyoshak, R. D.* 66-69
13. **Factors Affecting Reading Habits Among University Student: A Case Study of Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma.** *Efosa, E. F.; Ayeni, S. O. and Jamogha, O.* 70-74
14. **A Comparative Analysis of The Implementation of National Board For Technical Education (NBTE) Curriculum For Cataloging And Classification in Selected Polytechnic Library Schools in Nigeria.** *Amkpa, S. A. and Dalyop, D.* 75-80
15. **Strategic Planning as a Tool for Library Automation.** *Akanni, O. T.* 81-85
16. **Factors Affecting The Attitude of Librarians Towards Research in Library and Information Science: A Case Study of Imo State, Nigeria.** *Akinde, T. A. and Nse, J.* 86-93
17. **Information Literacy: of What Significance? Is It Really Necessary For All?** *Ajani, M. A. and Gomina, H. A.* 94-103
18. **An Investigation of Appropriate Security Measures For Theft And Mutilation of University Library Information Resources.** *Uzuegbu, C. P. and Ononogbo, R. U.* 104-109
19. **The Changing Role of Librarians in the 21st Century.** *Dakur, M. B.* 110-113
20. **Re-Branding Customer Service in Nigerian University Libraries.** *Onifade, F. N.* 114-117

Factors Affecting the Attitude of Librarians Towards Research in Library And Information Science: A Case Study of Imo State, Nigeria

Taiwo Adetoun Akinde (Mrs)

Cataloguing Unit, Kenneth Dike Library, University Of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

Telephone: 08034282471, 08191125447

E-Mail: Taiakin2006@Yhoo.Com

And

Judith Nse (Mrs.)

Federal University Of Technology, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria

Abstract

This work is about factors affecting the attitude of librarians, especially in Imo State, to Library and Information Science (LIS) research. The purpose of the study is to determine whether the research contributions of librarians in the State in terms of published works are really significant or not; to identify constraints to LIS research and suggest solution to the lack of research publications of librarians in the State. The work delved on the history of LIS research in Nigeria from the colonial era till date after which relevant literatures were reviewed. Survey research method was used for the study and three research questions were formulated as a guide for the study. The target population is the total number of Librarians in academic libraries in Imo State, which is seventy five (75) in this instance. Since the population is not too large, the total population was purposively used and no sampling was required. Questionnaire was the main instrument used for data collection; hence, seventy five (75) copies of the questionnaire were given out to all the librarians in the State. Sixty (60) of the librarians participated in the research and duly filled and return their questionnaire (representing 80% rate of return). Data so collected were analyzed descriptively, while research findings were presented in tables and discussed. It was found that majority of the librarian in Imo State are not publishing. Also, among the constraints to LIS researches as perceived by the respondents are: lack of mentoring or inability to find someone to help in "breaking the ice"; low level of author collaboration; negative attitude to quantitative techniques; terminating academic work at either 1st/ 2nd degree level that may not have been research based in the first instance; lack of time because of heavy workload and the rigidity of library procedures; lack of relevant / current library resources available where librarians are working and lack of or inadequacy of personal library of LIS books and journals. However, the study concluded and made recommendations on how the LIS research efforts of librarians in the State can be enhanced.

Key words: Factors, Affecting, Attitude, Librarians, Publishing, Imo State, Nigeria

Introduction: An Historical Perspective

Research has been defined as a systematic study, investigation, inquiry etc. that leads to the discovery of new field or aspect of knowledge, better ways of doing and making things, an articulated proofs of enquiry into the unknown which lead to logical conclusions and follow a universally accepted scientific method, publish for the use of the member of the community (Ahanene, 2004).

Research in library and information science (LIS) has been undertaken in Nigeria since the colonial era. It has spanned over six decades. At the beginning it was carried out mainly by the expatriate librarians. However with the establishment of the Institute of Librarianship University College, Ibadan in 1959 (now the Department of library, Archival and Information Studies in the faculty of Education,

University of Ibadan, the development of librarianship in Nigeria blossomed and a sizeable number of Nigerian Librarians were produced. The research capacity of local librarians improved and many research publications emanated from local librarians.

LIS researches in Nigeria have turned out some literatures since its early days from the late 1950's to the '70's. Published research reports on Librarians' Education, Bibliography, LIS Professional Associations, Technical Services, Personnel Management, Library Laws and Legislation, Interlibrary cooperation and, Information science to mention a few were visible. In the 1980's, according to Nwafor (1987), research efforts of Nigerian researchers as indicated by eight library and information science journals published in this country suggested that contributions by Nigeria librarians may even be significant, quantitatively.

However, the situation in the 1990's is nothing to write home about because of the economic recession and the Structural Adjustment Programmes of the Nigerian Government which led to the death of many library journals and the combinations of volumes and issues of the surviving ones, thus reducing the publishing output of librarians (Oki, 1997/98).

With the emergence of Information Communication Technologies (ITCs), however, the Internet, e-mails, Local or Wide Area Network, Web designing, Portal creation, Digital / Electronic / Virtual library, Library Automation, etc. in Nigeria scene in the 2,000's, Library and Information Science (LIS) research efforts and activities have somehow increased.

However, much is still to be desired when one gives a cursory look into the quality and quantity of papers/works found in library and information science journals/books (where librarians published their research works). Hence the present work is an attempt at investigating factors affecting the LIS research efforts of librarians in Imo State and by extension Nigeria.

Background Information on Practising Librarians and Libraries in Imo State

The study centers on Librarian in Imo State. There are seventy-five (75) librarians in the State and forty-eight (48) or 64 % of them are working in the academic libraries of the six recognized institutions

of higher learning in the State, namely, Federal University of Technology, Owerri; Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Owerri; Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri; Evans Enwerem University (formerly Imo State University), Owerri and Imo State Polytechnic (formerly Michael Okpara College of Agriculture and Technology), Umuagwo, Ohaji Local Government Area of Imo State.

Also, eight (8) or 10.7% of the librarians are found in the Federal/State Ministries and Parastatals e.g. Ministries of Education, Finance, Information, Health, Land Survey and Urban Planning, Secondary Education Management Board and Federal Medical Center, all in Owerri, the capital city. Other employers of librarians in the State are: Imo State Library Board and the National Library of Nigeria, these employed fourteen (14) or 18% and five (5) or 6.6% of the librarians respectively.

Though, we have on record the enviable strides of some dynamic librarians who are on the forefront of research activities in the State, the main issue is that their number is negligible compare to the number of librarians found in the State, especially those on the register of the Nigeria Library Association (NLA) Imo State Chapter. This disparity then becomes the focus of this paper.

Attitude of Practising Librarians to LIS Research: A Review of Literature

Studies in the past (Harvey, 1961 and Nwafor, 1987) have found that apart from the academic librarians who are forced to either publish or perish most librarians without faculty status did not bother to publish. A situation which has persisted till date.

Justifying the need for librarians to publish Olsgaard (1984) maintains that contribution to the professional literature comprise an important criterion in measuring 'success' among librarians. And in his article "Advancement in the library profession" in which he sought to find whether or not publications constituted a factor in the advancement of Heads of College Libraries and Public Librarians. He discovered that the answer is in the affirmative.

Gaughan (1980) was to confirm this further when he stated in his rating of 43 elements considered essential in a librarian's curriculum vitae, that an applicant's publications output count in no small measure. This view was corroborated by Akinde (2006) in her work, when she wrote on how authorship of articles/paper

enhances the personality profile and marketability of librarians.

In this regard, Isaac (1983) also wrote that "librarians clearly would need more and better research into all aspect of the profession. The underlying reason for all the research we do is to help our client, community and the world. Furthermore, Coughlin and Snelson (1983) asserted that:

We must believe that...librarians want to improve the management of their libraries, their own performances and the collection libraries house... In order to do any of these things... librarians must... add to the stock of new knowledge and maintain their heritage by performing and reporting original research.

According to Kaser (1976), in spite of the expressed need to research and publish, the situation in fact, is that "a very small segment of the profession at any given moment is the fountain head of a very large share of the writing in the field". Buttressing this point, Harrison (1982) asserted that "a cursory glance (at library literature) proves that librarians don't in fact write". He went on to say that "the majority who don't write are firmly of the opinion that too much has already been written by their colleagues in the profession". This is in line with the finding of Onadiran (1987) when he stated that one of the reasons advanced against pursuing research in the field of librarianship was that "no original problems are left to investigate".

To Rogers (1984) however librarians' reasons for not engaging in original research are not tenable, according to him "Librarians are so concerned with library routines that they will meticulously file main entries, create added entries and worry about the classification tables...". Activities which (though are necessary) should not be the major or only focus of librarians.

In summary, the attitude of librarians to LIS research reflected through their publication outputs and as seen by several authors in this review, which still persist to some extent till date, is not generally, very impressive.

Is this then true about Librarians in Imo State? What are the factors affecting the attitude of librarians (especially, in Imo State) to library and information

Science (LIS) research? The answer to this question is, therefore, the main thrust of this work.

Research Questions:

This study will be providing answers to the following research questions.

- i. Are Librarians in Imo State really publishing?
- ii. What are the factor affecting the attitude of Librarians in the State to LIS research.
- iii. How can the LIS research efforts or output of the Librarians in the State be enhanced?

Research Methodology

Survey research design was employed in this study. The population is the total number of the librarians in Imo State, who have attained University education in librarianship either at 1st, 2nd or 3rd degree level, which is seventy five (75) in this instance. Since the population is not too large, the total population was purposively used and no sampling was required.

The main instrument that was used for data collection is the questionnaire. In all, seventy five copies of the questionnaire were given out to the librarians in the State. Out of this, sixty copies (representing 80% rate of return) were duly completed and returned. Thus, subsequent analysis will be based on the sixty copies of the questionnaire returned by the respondents.

The said questionnaire contained three sections. While Section A was on personal data, Section B dealt with the factors affecting the attitude of librarians in Imo State to LIS research, Section C, however, invited suggestions on how the LIS research efforts of librarians in the State can be enhanced.

In all, the questionnaire had four (4) unstructured open ended questions and two (2) structured close ended questions. The questionnaire was developed by the researcher from the insight gotten from the review of related literature.

Furthermore, the researcher visited some of the libraries under review and also took advantage of the quarterly general meeting of the NLA Imo State Chapter, to administer the questionnaire personally on hand to hand basis. This facilitated early responses and offered the respondents opportunity to clarify their doubts. While some of the questionnaires were collected back immediately, some others were returned on a second visit to the library.

Finally, the data collected was descriptively analyzed using tables, simple percentages and frequency distribution.

Findings and Discussions

Research question 1:

Are librarians in Imo State really publishing?

In order to answer this research questions, the

respondent were asked two questions, first, they were to either tick "Yes or No" to the question: "Have you presented, authored, co-authored or published any article(s) / book(s) in the past?"

TABLE 1 reveals that twenty-nine (29) or 48% has published in time past while thirty-one (31) or 52% have never published.

TABLE 1: PUBLICATION FREQUENCY OF IMO STATE PRACTISING LIBRARIANS

S/N	Options	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	29	48
2	No	31	52
	Total	60	100

Secondly, they were asked to give an answer to the question "How many papers do you have to your credit?"

From Table 2 below, it was discovered that, all things being equal, thirty one (31) or 52% of the librarians have never published, while ten (10) or 16.5% have only published one to three times. Eleven (11) or 18.3% have published four to six times while three (3) or 4.9% have published seven to nine times respectively. However, five (5) or 8.3% have published ten times and above. In summary, 29 or 48% of the respondents representing 38% of librarians in Imo State are actually publishing. Also, table 3, revealed that the most popular publishing media among these librarians is journal. This is so because of the fact that most of them are in academic libraries where works published in scholarly and referred journals are preferred for promotion purposes because of opportunity for peer-review which always enhance the quality of work.

TABLE 2: PUBLICATION OUTPUT OF IMO STATE LIBRARIANS

S/N	Options	Frequency	Percentage
1	None	31	52.0
2	One - Three	10	16.5
3	Four - Six	11	18.3
4	Seven - Nine	3	4.9
5	Ten & Above	5	8.3
	Total	60	100

TABLE 3: PUBLISHING MEDIA OF LIBRARIANS IN IMO STATE

S/N	Options	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Journals	16	55.17
2.	Books	5	17.2
3.	Reports	2	6.9
4.	Manuals	2	6.9
5.	Conference proceedings	4	13.8
	Total	29	100

Result of the findings:

From the above analysis therefore, it can be said that majority of the librarians in Imo State are not publishing. This confirmed the assertions of Kaser (1976) and Harrison (1982) that "librarians don't in fact write". In addition it was found that those that are publishing patronized journals.

Research question 2: What are the factors affecting the attitude of librarians in Imo State to LIS research?

To answer this question, the respondents were instructed to tick freely from twenty one (21) factors which represent options.

From Table 4 below, the major factors affecting the attitude of librarians in the State to LIS research are seen as:

1. Lack of time because of heavy work load and rigidity of library procedures and finance. This was the opinion of forty nine (49) or 7.39% of the librarians. This is understandable since majority of them are in the lower/middle cadre and may not be able to control their time and / or earn fat salaries.
2. Lack of relevant library resources available and accessible where librarians

are working. Forty seven (47) or 7.09% of the librarians agreed with this statement.

3. Family commitment is also seen as a major factor, this may be because of the fact that majority of the librarians are female and within child bearing age (as seen from the biographical data collected). This factor was indicated by forty five (45) or 6.79% of the respondents.
4. Lack of adequate exposure to continuing education programmes (e.g. seminars, workshops, conferences, etc) was seen by forty-three (43) or 6.49% of the respondents as a factor.
5. Absence of Research Committee in Libraries which can supervise and advise objectively on staff research activities. This was the submission of forty two (42) or 6.34% of the librarians.

Other factors as revealed by the respondents are:

- a. Lack of institutional motivation for author via recognition and prompt promotion. (as indicated by thirty-nine (39) or 5.88% of the librarians).
- b. Lack of appropriate tools reporting

“research in progress” which will eliminate duplication and ensure librarians’ currency and laziness (as shown by thirty-six (36) or 5.43% of the respondents.

- c. Indifference or lack of inner drive for self development and actualization. Thirty three (33) or 4.98% of the respondents agreed with this statement.
- d. Negative attitude to quantitative techniques and the subjective and the lackadaisical manner in which editors assess papers sent to them for publication (thirty-one (31) or 4.68% of the librarians consented to this).

TABLE 4: FACTORS AFFECTING THE ATTITUDE OF LIBRARIANS IN IMO STATE TO LIS RESEARCH

S/N	Options	Frequency	Percentage
A	Lack of mentoring or inability to find someone to help in breaking the ice	29	4.37
B	Low level of author collaboration due to diffuse research fronts.	25	3.77
C	Low level of invisible colleges due to differing opinions.	17	2.56
D	Negative attitude to quantitative techniques	31	4.68
E	Terminating academic work at either 1 st / 2 nd degree level that may not have been research based in the first instance.	20	3.02
F	Lack of time because of heavy workload and the rigidity of library procedures	49	7.39
G	Lack of relevant / current library resources available where librarians are working	47	7.09
H	Lack of institutional motivation for authors via recognition and prompt promotions	39	5.88
I	The subjective and lackadaisical manner in which the editors assess papers sent to them for publication	31	4.68
J	Lack of finance.	49	7.39
K	Absence of staff common -room for brain picking on professional matters	26	3.92
L	Indifference or lack of inner drive for self-development and actualization	33	4.98
M	Lack of or inadequate exposure to continuing education programmes (e.g. seminars, workshops conference etc)	43	6.49
N	Absence of Research Committee in Libraries which can supervise and advise objectively on staffs’ research activities	42	6.34
O	Lack of appropriate tools reporting research in progress which will eliminate duplication and ensure librarians’ currency	36	5.43
P	Inability to locate appropriate publishers for book publications or platforms for papers	18	2.72
Q	Lack of or inadequacy of personal library of LIS books and journals	27	4.07
R	Laziness	36	5.43
S	Family commitment	45	6.79
T	Health reasons	18	2.72
U	Others (please, specify)	2	0.30
	i) Lack of career or succession plans by the libraries	1	
	ii) Inability to read widely.	1	
	Total	663	100

Result of the findings:

From the foregoing, it was found that just as it had been opined by Rogers (1984), librarians lack time to write because of heavy work load and rigidity of library procedures. Among other constraints to publishing as found by the study are: lack of finance; lack of relevant library resources available and accessible where librarians are working; family commitment; lack of adequate exposure to continuing education programmes (e.g. seminars, workshops, conferences, etc); absence of Research Committee in Libraries which can supervise and advise objectively on staff research activities; lack of institutional motivation for author via recognition and prompt promotion; lack of appropriate tools reporting "research in progress" which will eliminate duplication and ensure librarians' currency; laziness; indifference or lack of inner drive for self-development and actualization; negative attitude to quantitative techniques and the subjective and the lackadaisical manner in which editors assess papers sent to them for publication are seen by the respondents of this study as factors affecting the attitude of librarians in the State to LIS research.

Research question 3:

How can the LIS research efforts of librarians in Imo State be enhanced?

The answer to this question, as submitted by the few respondents that care to make suggestions, has been integrated into the recommendations proffered by this study.

Conclusion:

This work traced the history of Library and Information Science (LIS) research in Nigeria from inception till date, after which past literatures on the attitude of librarians to LIS research were reviewed.

Those factors affecting the attitude of librarians in Imo State to LIS research were the main focus of the study. The data collected via the instrumentality of questionnaire were analyzed and the findings were presented and discussed. The study revealed that, majority of librarians in Imo State has not been publishing. Also, factors affecting the attitude of librarians in the State to LIS research have been found, among others, as lack of time, lack of finance, lack of or inadequate current/relevant resources, family commitment, lack of adequate exposure to continuing education programmes (e.g. seminar,

conference, workshops etc.) and absence of research committee in libraries.

Notwithstanding, we should remember that, writing is both a challenge and a satisfaction (Foster, 2006) though, not always easy, but the more we write, the more comfortable we become in creating a niche in the information universe and in sharing research and experiences with communities of scholars and professionals. Also we need to learn both from acceptances and rejections as strive to write 'against all odds'. Ultimately, the key is just to start!

Recommendations:

In line with the submissions of the respondents therefore, the researchers made the following recommendations on how the LIS research efforts of librarians in Imo State (Nigeria) can be enhanced:

Creating time out of no time: Although library management and administrators are to be considerate in scheduling librarians' jobs/duties as to allow "time off" for research purposes, librarians themselves should also make use of every available time and opportunity, no matter how little. We all know that we always find time for what we really want to do; it is simply a matter of establishing priorities.

Author collaboration: This can alleviate the financial burdens and also enhance the quality of the work because of the opportunity for additional or differing perspective(s) brought to bear on the subject by the co-author(s). Senior librarians should also encourage the junior colleagues to participate in collaborative researches.

Financing staff research activities: Library staffs, especially professionals, can be required to submit research proposals or topic annually to a research committee as part of efforts at staff development and also to aid planning and budgeting in that regard. Institutional journals can also be sponsored whereby staff can published their paper free or 50% subsidy can be given to staff whose article is accepted for publication outside his/her institution. In addition, secretarial assistance, free photocopying etc. can also be provided for librarians that authored either a book or article by their libraries.

Use of current resources and ideas: Librarians should surround themselves with current resources. References resources like a good dictionary, style

manuals, thesaurus and books on research writing and methodology, etc. are invaluable. Also to select topics of interest, past studies could be placed in broader context, and hot topics could be captured at conferences or from conference invitations or announcements. In addition, Internet has become so indispensable to research and literature searching in so much that its importance can never be over-emphasized.

Improved reading habit: It has been observed that far too many librarians are "too busy" to read. This situation need not continue. Librarians are, in addition, counseled to avoid tunnel (myopic) vision in their reading. What people write in many fields are relevant to librarianship, hence librarians are to read widely.

The role of the Nigerian Library Association

(NLA): The NLA should encourage its members' currency by publishing and circulating abstracts of relevant library research or titles recently published or in-progress, both within and outside the country. Also, foreign donors / sponsors who have beneficial programmes and interest in staff development can be invited or lobbied by the NLA to provide free continuing education programmes for librarians.

References

Ahanene, E.M. (2004). Research methods for library science. Faculty of Social Sciences, Imo State University, Owerri. Mimeograph.

Akinde, T.A. (2006). Continuing education of practising librarians in academic libraries in Imo State. An MLS thesis of the Imo State University, Owerri.

Coughlin, C. and Snelson, P. (1983). Searching for research in ACRL conference papers. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*. Vol. 9 (1): 21-26.

Foster C. (2006). "Lessons learnt as author and editor" In: Hinchliffe, L.S. and Dorner, J. (Editors). *How to get published in LIS journal: A practical guide*. LibrarianConnect: Partnering with the library community; 2nd ed. San Diego C.A: Elsevier. Pg. 5.

Gaughan, T. M. (1980). Resume essentials for the academic librarians. *College and Research Libraries*. Vol. 41 (2): 122-127.

Harrison, K.C. (1982). Librarians as authors. *Library Association Record*. Vol. 84(3): 20

Harvey, J. F. (1961). Advancement in the library profession. *Wilson Library Bulletin*. Vol. 36 (4): 144- 147.

Isaac, F. (1983). Scholar or author? The librarians' new dilemma. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*. Vol. 9 (4): 216-220.

Kaser, D.A. (1976). Century of academic librarianship as reflected in its literature. *College and Research Libraries*. Vol. 37(2): 110-127.

Nwafor, B.U. (1987). Nigerian librarians and publishing. *Nigerian Libraries*. Vol. 23(1&2): 50-51.

Okiy, R.B. (1997/98). Publication output in the Nigerian libraries 1985-1992. *Nigerian Library and Information Science Review*. Vol.15 and 16 (1&2): 31-35.

Olsgaard J. N. (1984). Characteristics of 'success' among academic librarians. *College and Research Libraries*. Vol. 45 (1): 5-11.

Onadiran, G.T. (1987). The place of research in professional library education. *Library Scientist*. Vol. 5 (2).



ISSN: 2141 - 9612

Printed @ PalmGate Press Ltd. 08028181829, 077/835787
website: www.skyddo.com