USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCE AND SERVICES FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT
Building an ideal nation requires a holistic approach. All facets of human activity must be harnessed while all indices of nation building must be taken care of. In doing this, all academic and professional disciplines are involved. Libraries are not exception. Therefore, there is need for use of library resources to be harnessed for accelerated national development. The thrust of this paper discussed the use of library resources and services for national development. The paper highlighted the concepts of national development; library; and use of library. The use of library resources for national development was reviewed. The aspects of national development that are enhanced through the use of library resources and services were also studied as well as the problems and opportunities in the use of library resources and services for national development. The paper recommended that there should be adequate funding, infrastructural development and regular power supply that will enhance use of library resources for access to information towards national development

INTRODUCTION
Over the years, development has been seen as an essential and critical aspect of growth and sustenance of any country. It enhances meaningful structures that improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications (Gboyega, 2003). Development implies improvement in material well being of all citizens which seeks to enhance personal security and livelihoods and expansion of life chances. Naomi (1995) believes that development is usually taken to involve not only economic growth, but also some notion of equitable distribution, provision of health care, education, housing and other essential services all with a view to improving the individual and collective quality of life. Similarly, National development, according to Longman dictionary of contemporary English, refers to a phenomenon that embraces a whole nation. National development is described as the overall development or a collective socio-economic, political as well as religious advancement of a country or nation. This is best achieved through the citizen's acquisition of the right kind of information.

Everyone needs information for survival. Information is power, Information gives knowledge, no wonder it is viewed as a valuable national resource useful for personal, community, economic, educational, cultural, social and technological development. The development of a nation and its human capital is dependent on the availability and use of information at its disposal. Akparobore (2011) opined that every

nation requires information that satisfies their socioeconomic objectives. Nigeria as a nation needs to provide its citizens with the right information at the right time irrespective of geographical location, whether it is urban or rural settlement. Since, no meaningful and effective development can take place without information and information resources, there is need to disseminate information to the various segments of people in the country and this could be passed to the populace through the libraries.

A library is an institution that supports learning and knowledge acquisition. Bello (2003) defined a library as a building, an instructional and self-development centre, which operate as an integral part of the entire school environment. Basically, libraries exist to provide information services to users (Edoka, 2000). Traditionally, libraries connotes a collection of materials, books, films, magazines, journals, maps, manuscripts, micro-forms computers, tape recorder etc. organized for use. Library can further be defined as a building stocked with books and educational materials fully processed and orderly organized by personnel and made accessible to the clientele for educational exploitation (Abubakar, 2002). Libraries of all types, has the mandate to acquire, process, organize, store and provide information to users in various forms. Libraries exist in many countries across the world and are often considered an essential part that has both educated and literate population (Wikipedia, 2013).

Public libraries are predominantly used by local people to access information that affects their daily activities in the area of education, employment, health, politics, economics, religion and agriculture. In addition, Oyegade, Nassarawa and Mokogwu (2003) sees public libraries as the peoples' university, the local gateway to knowledge, providing opportunities for lifelong learning, independent decision making and cultural developments of individuals and social groups. It is established, supported and funded by the community, either through local, regional or national government or through some other forms of community organizations (Iwhiwhu & Okorodudu, 2012). Ebiwolate (2010) affirmed that the fundamental aim of libraries is to provide timely, accurate, pertinent, and reliable information for its users. Olanlokun and Salisu (1993) noted that public libraries offer services to the public free of charge and also provide educational, social and political information to people in a particular community. The specific importance of public libraries as captured by Amonoo and Azubuike (2005) in Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA's) briefing paper, is to:

1) Make significant contributions to formal and informal education, including lifelong learning and various forms of literacy by providing facilities, resources and services designed to ensure access to relevant information in appropriate formats, language, content and contexts;

2) Ensure social inclusion and cohesion by providing access to information and knowledge to all women, men, and children. This critical access, when used by the disadvantaged—such as the poor, the elderly, the disabled, and the unemployed—forms the foundation of poverty reduction, since information poverty is often the root cause of economic poverty;

3) Preserve and promote cultural heritage and diversity and foster mutual understanding and respect among cultures and peoples;

4) Create citizen awareness and engender social values for democratic governance and traditions, by opening multiple windows to the world and its alternate possibilities through their collections, facilities and programmes; and

5) Harness information and knowledge for economic development through professional processing, storage and dissemination to stimulate innovation and human capacity for efficiency and productivity.

Based on the foregoing, the importance of public libraries can only be achieved through effective use of the library.

The use of library entails the utilization and access of information resources and services such as user education (orientation/instruction services), inter-library loan/connection services, abstracting and indexing services, bibliographical services, reference services, library services and circulation services. Other services offered through use of library are photocopying services; compilation of reading list and bibliographies; and publishing (Ifidon, 2002). Anyoagu (2007) also asserts that use of library support the user's accessibility of information from both physical and virtual resources which includes current awareness services; selective dissemination of information; document delivery services; repackaging services;

facsimile services; binding services and referral services. Awala-Ale (2004) noted that libraries play an indispensable role in the community; they promote the reading of literature among grown-ups, adolescents and children; they provide familiar information and reference centres where the citizens can secure reliable and interesting advice on practical matters as well as where he is helped to get to his bearings in the complexities of modern community life.

Use of library resources and information which is the only preoccupation of libraries is a necessary ingredient in life. In this information age, one must be attuned with reliable and up-to-date information for rational decision-making, enlightenment and all round development. With the advent of information and communication technology (ICT), libraries not only provide information traditionally but also in electronic forms, hence bibliographic databases, full text documents and digital library collections are always available to users. Information made available by using the libraries plays a vital role in educational planning and has become a global phenomenon of great importance and concern in all spheres of human endeavour, especially in the education sector. It is the integral part of the main plan and achievement of educational activities which is aimed towards sustainable national development.

For the Nigerian nation to develop and be effective and efficient in achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs), it is essential to have well equipped libraries. Ezekwe and Muokebe (2012) opined that well stocked libraries with books and other digital materials are best legacies that the human race can claim to have. This means that use of the library resources provides all round information on how to fight disease, achieve educational literacy, curb maternal health care issues, reduce poverty and unemployment, of which without a library it is not worth its salt.

Regrettably, it is however noted that libraries can only support the national development agenda when they are well equipped with modern facilities such as good reading environment with fully air conditioners, good lightning systems, recent information resources, and information communication technology tools to render services to its patrons. Regretablly, Ebiwolate (2010) and Zaid and Popoola (2010) observed that the establishment and development of libraries across Nigeria are mostly limited to urban settlements, academic and research institutions that are predominantly located in the urban areas: a situation that has resulted in high level of illiteracy and ignorance among the people. Moreover, even in the urban areas, public libraries are not able to provide the necessary services needed by its clienteles due to inadequate infrastructure and lack of government support. Onohwakpor (2009) noted that the Nigerian public libraries are yearning for improvement as their services suffer one form of neglect or the other due to lack of fund, inadequate infrastructure and lack of manpower. Therefore, the poor use of library and its resources have hampered information access for sustainable national development. Therefore, this paper focuses on use of library and national development

Literature Review
National Development
Basically, development is seen as the growth of a phenomenon. Aremu (2003) sees development as a process of enhancing the productive forces of a country for the actualization of more prosperous and meaningful life for all its citizens. Agbo and Onyekweodiri stated that the development of any society is measured by its military, socio-economic, political, and technological advancement. At the national level, there will be an improvement in the general well-being of the people while at the individual level, development implies activity, increased skill and capacity, self-discipline, greater freedom, responsibility, and material well-being (Agbo & Onyekweodiri, 2014). Therefore, national development on the other hand, depicts unending process of qualitative and quantitative transformation in the capacity of a state to organize the process of production and distribution of material benefits of society in a manner that sustains improvement in the wellbeing of its individual members in order to enhance their capacity to realize their full potentials, in furtherance of the positive transformation and sustenance of their society and humanity at large (Onuoha, 2013). National development entails an ensemble of sustained improvement in the political, social, economic, health, and environmental aspects of any organized political society (Sowunmi, 2004)

National development has political variables which include the level of political stability, free and fairness of the electoral process, representativeness of political institutions, and respect for human rights. The economic parameters include the gross national product, nature of income distribution, and pattern of resource management, among others. The social dimension will capture gender equality, social justice, the living standard of the citizens, including access to social services like water, education, electricity, and roads. The environmental aspect reflects the character of resource exploitation, nature of environmental degradation, and level of environmental awareness among the citizens (Obinozie, 1991)

Library
The term Library came from the Latin word liber, meaning "book" (in Greek) and in the Romance languages the corresponding term bibliotheca). According to Dictionary of Library and Information Science (2004), library is a collection of group of books and/or other materials organized and maintained for use (reading, consultation, study, research etc). Library is a place set apart to contain books, periodicals, and other materials for reading, viewing, listening, study, or reference, as a room, set of rooms, or building where books may be read or borrowed (Dictionary.com). British Dictionary defines library as a room or set of rooms where books and other literary materials are kept. It is a collection of literary materials, films, CDs, children's toys, etc, kept for borrowing or reference.
Aguolu (1989) in Hammed (2010) defined library as a "Collection of records of human culture in diverse formats and languages preserved, organized and interpreted to meet broad and varying needs of individual for information, knowledge, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment". Encyclopedia Americana defined a library as a place or a building where book and non-book materials are kept for the purpose of reading and research endeavour. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, It is a building where print and nonprint materials are kept for the advancement of learning and study. The library can also be described as a social institution for the exploitation of knowledge contained in published matter. According Aina (2004), library is a designated building where information in prints and in other formats are collected, organized, carefully prepared according to some specific or definite plan, and made accessible for reading and consultation by all ages and interests.
A library can also be described as a systematic acquisition of information materials in different forms, originating, storing, preserving and made available and accessible for use. Adele and Milheim (1995), argue that "Libraries are not simply storehouses of books but provide proactive services to their users both from within the library's stock and from a wide range of external sources." Some of the services according to them are enquiry services, bibliographic assistance, library instruction, interlibrary loans, photocopying, and computer facilities.

Use of Library
Information is of paramount importance to the development of an individual and for the growth of the nation. Information can be put into several uses and for various purposes. The library as the store house of knowledge and information provides both access to information resources and the information itself. Use of library helps the various private and public institutions to achieve their objectives which also enhances information literacy and prepared individuals for lifelong education. Library use by citizens provide access to information resources; expert professional support to facilitate thorough and accurate use of all resources, access to library materials and services to the community. Libraries are important in helping an individual generate information for the purpose of effective learning and research.
Valentine (1993) gave reasons why usage of libraries is also on the decline. He revealed that people seek the fastest ways leading to satisfactory results when doing research or any task. They easily get very uncomfortable asking for help in using the library and spending frustrating hours trying to find information in print formats that are not necessarily and readily available in one source. Ezeala (2008) scored the effectiveness of use of library resources in libraries of Polytechnics in Nigeria as ineffective because students indicated dissatisfaction with library resource and that library's collection are outdated and the library resource that can substitute print collection are not available in most of them.

In a study by Alemna and Adanu (2005), they found that the widespread use of the Internet on institutions such as college and university campuses worldwide has contributed to an increased curiosity about what types of online activities the users engage in. It can be seen from the findings of a study conducted on users of the Internet at the University of Ghana library that they concentrated mainly on e- mail, research and browsing. Sulemani and Katsekpor (2007) also concluded that the access to the library resources can encourage its use by an individual which will have an impact on their information seeking behavior. Users of the library prefer to use of electronic databases and full text journals to the traditional print indexes and abstracts and hardcopy publications which enables them to have easy access and use of the library resources for their personal development.

Use of the library resources enables the improvement of knowledge of one's information base (Agim, 2018). It provides them with relevant information that can build and grow their knowledge on various fields and educational areas. In essence, education is no longer technical, but must include new cognitive, social and situational processes (Farkas, 2006). These processes can include topical areas in academics, national, political, social or economic issues. However, the use of library resources is very important as it allows citizens to be literate on the various aspects. The kinds of library resources where such information are found are journals, magazines and serials. Most of these library resources have educating topics that can grow the users' knowledge on their job skills. Individuals, who use the library resources mostly, are much more knowledgeable with issues and opportunities on entrepreneurship which will empower them on the various aspects of job placements (Agim, 2018). Using the library could create the needed awareness and knowledge of national issues by being sensitized from the contents of the resources

Use of library and National development
Use of library and national development are two sides of a coin, they cannot be isolated from each other. The impact of library use and its services is greatly felt in ministries, banks, schools, colleges and universities who have libraries. These libraries have permeated the entire fabric of their task and activities. The library institution is recognized as one of the most fundamental building blocks for human development. Its importance in nation building cannot be over emphasized. A major outcome from the use of library is to sustain development through knowledge gotten from the library resources. No nation can grow beyond its information capacity. Library use enhances the means for acquiring education and knowledge which is the bedrock for growth, the key to development, the greatest investment and asset and enhances sustainable development in a nation. Therefore, the library has played a great role to play towards the realization of the broad goals of national development.

A large majority of the world's population in developing world lives in a state of poverty. The problem of urban population, rural stagnation, unemployment and growing inequalities continue to face less developed countries, which Nigeria belongs. With the use of library, individuals can access information that will help them to curb economic menace and poverty. Nigeria has the capacity to engender meaningful development through effective funding of her national and public library. This will greatly affect her quest to improved quality of life of her citizens through information dissemination from the library usage.

The essence of using library is to be well informed on local and world affairs which have direct effect on national development. As more information sources become available online, the information needs and research activities of the citizens are been expanded and limitless. The use of library services and resources usually add value to the intellectual content of the users by making them knowledgeable to access the resources anytime and anywhere (Chowdhury & Margariti, 2004). As pointed out by Chowdhury and Margariti (2004), the introduction and development of internet and its associated web technologies in the past decade have significantly influenced the way libraries provide improved services to the citizens who need them for their economic and educational advancement. Libraries are now trying to meet the needs of the community by automating their collections and enhancing their library resources.

The information services provided by the use of library are believed to have contributed to the political, social and economic development of a nation through the library's provision of relevant and current information to wide community of users. Sokari (2006) agrees that "information is necessary for people to

be liberated from the shackles of ignorance, misconceptions, economic stagnation, social unrest, and political instability. Social cohesion cannot be achieved without timely, accurate, and relevant information." According to Chegoni (2014), the libraries have played a vital role in the social, political, economic and cultural development of the society by enabling citizens to have access to information services that has increased their profession, task and business activities. There is a growing recognition that library services, particularly in public libraries, are an integral part of the national socio-economic development and improvement of the general quality of life (Kibat, 1990).

Weiss, Van and Benard (2000) stated that the information provided by the public library serves as the cornerstone of successful socio-economic development because it plays a key role in decision making. According to Opeke (2004), since information has received a widespread acceptance as the essential feature of production, acquiring useful information from the library services will enable the citizens to consume and utilize them for their personal growth that will adds value to national development. For sustained national development, use of library services and its effective and proper dissemination is an integral and powerful force to reckon with. No meaningful national development can take place if copious attention is not paid to libraries and information centers. Since research discoveries and inventions and the incubating homes of researchers most of the time, are libraries and information centres, it logically follows that the invaluable roles that libraries play in national development cannot be overemphasized (Fabunmi & Folorunso, 2009). Issa (2003) pointed out that economic and national power and status for instance are leveraged on the widespread use of information and knowledge which the library provides.

Aspect of National Development that are enhanced through the use of library
Development has to do with qualitative and sometimes quantitative changes in the life of a people or an individual. At the national level, there is an improvement in the general well-being of the people while at the individual level, development implies activity, increased skill and capacity, self-discipline, greater freedom, responsibility, and material well-being. For some people, libraries are so abstract that it cannot have any impact on their practical life (Agbo & Onyekweodiri, 2014). Consequently, such people believe that libraries are irrelevant to the development. This misconception persists because of peoples ignorant of what the library is all about. They fail to realize that libraries are one of the most (if not the most) useful enterprises ever undertaken by man. This is evidence by human development, which shows that libraries have been the greatest force that has contributed in shaping human civilization. Therefore, there will be the need to look at the various aspect of national development that has been touched and improved through the use of the library.

Social Aspect
Social responsibility as a social behaviour is also a part of librarianship (Kagan, 2005). Libraries prepare citizens for a lifetime of civic participation and support them throughout. In other words, libraries build social capital as they encourage civic engagement (Kranich, 2001). People draw on their social connections to find employment, adjust childcare to irregular work schedules, or exchange services (Portes, 2000). Libraries offer real and virtual civic spaces where citizens can speak freely, share similar interests and concerns, and pursue what they believe are in their public interest. Ultimately, free discourse among informed citizens assures civil society and civil society, in turn, provides the social capital necessary to achieve common goals (Agbo & Onyekweodiri, 2014).

In most rural communities, the library is also the community meeting place, where there is free and available space for groups and associations to meet (Amberg, 2010). It is, therefore, a venue to reach out to different groups in the community and to develop awareness and consciousness. Libraries have been known to encourage formal social networks—club memberships, volunteer groups, and informal group dynamics - quilters club, storytelling group, book club, farmers forum, flower arrangement classes, chess players, etc. (Brown & Duguid, 1996). Majekedunmi (2012) also indicated that the community library enhanced the self-awareness of individuals, the development of a sense of belonging in the micro community of the library, and subsequently, cohesion in the macro community.

Public libraries are among those few institutions which are able to contribute to social inclusion as well as to integration of minorities and immigrants. They facilitate social inclusion through offering media in the native languages of ethnical minorities and immigrants. In addition they organize events, exhibitions and meetings with regard to the cultural backgrounds of these groups. In order to promote their integration into society and to ensure their equal status and equal treatment libraries provide language courses and further media to introduce language, culture, legal, political and social basics of the national society.

Political Aspect
Over time, information has promoted and empowered citizens for participation in the democratic process; maintains the rule of law and creates a viable outlet for the injection of public opinion. Wright (2001) opined that information informs the policy-making process of political leadership, all of which nurtures the building of sustainable peace for the enhancement of the state. A significant service provided by public libraries is assisting people with e-government access and use of federal, state and local government information, forms and services (Wikipedia, 2013).

Another essential role of libraries is "the propounding and propagation of a political ideology for national development and cohesion" (Anyika, 2005, p. 13). "If information and knowledge are central to democracy, they are the conditions for development", Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general stated once (Froehlich, 2000). Jemo (2008) affirmed that democracy is possible when the citizens are enlightened through access to information and knowledge. He added that free and open libraries are vital to the success of democracy. People use public libraries to get information for education goal and do research and thus promote democratic ideals (Jemo, 2008).

While highlighting the functions of a national library, Edoka (2000) stated that its usual functions among others are to collect and preserve national literature and to acquire foreign document of national importance and interest. He added that the many national libraries particularly in developing countries like Nigeria, assume wider responsibilities like serving as the repository of government archives. This suggests that national libraries are instrumental in the governance of a nation. Public libraries are also a key place for dispensing government information; people already come to the library for information and other activities, therefore they become the perfect locations for distributing government information (Radijeng, 2013).

Vital democratic systems require a well-informed citizenry. To be able to form a political will and to participate in democratic decision-making, citizens must have unrestricted access to all the information needed and related to subjects of public and individual interest. This implies the absence of censorship in any form. Libraries have to adopt a non-biased attitude and to provide the broad range of opinions. A second obligation consists in their role as transparency institutions. As such they "should collect information materials issued by official bodies, particularly those that deal with citizens' rights and entitlements" (IFLA Manifesto on Transparency, 2008). With their collection of printed and digital material, the library makes "available the most accurate and unbiased educational, scientific and technical, and socially relevant information to each and everyone" (ILFA Manifesto on Transparency, 2008). This is the way the library contributes to equality in the society, which is one of the core principles of democracy.

Economic aspect
Akparobore (2011) opined that every nation requires information that satisfies their economic objectives. Effective and efficient economic development in the 21st century, by definition, demands access to information by all segments of society on an almost infinite range of topics: from how to find a job, to how to start a business, or how to provide information on study possibilities. In view of the foregoing, it is believed that libraries can promote growth by helping people to obtain the information they need in order to access economic opportunities, improve their health or support their communities, to name but three benefits that libraries can provide (Amonoo & Azubuike, 2005). The realization of the enormous power of

information has made libraries and information resource centers inevitably present in all sectors of a nation's economy. Libraries represent a strong investment in an economic community. They offer all citizens opportunities to gain access to and use information and knowledge that can enable them to actively participate in society. This contributes to the economy by enabling members of the community to improve their employability skills, and health and wellbeing, use their creative potential, expand reading and literacy skills, and create new knowledge (Amonoo & Azubuike, 2005). The role of libraries in promoting the marketing of the tourism sector cannot be underestimated. Libraries as reservoirs of information are the most reliable information reference centers where tourists can seek information on hotels, motels, national parks, mountains, and other interesting places (Agbo & Onyekweodiri, 2014).

Public libraries contribute to local economic development. They are addressing issues on literacy, workforce training, prosperity of small-businesses and quality communal life. Reference desks have taken a new turn as they now house special sections for entrepreneurs where they can find sources of information about local and international businesses (Yusufu, 2011). In the words of Glass, Clifford, Harris and Rose (2000), "public libraries can play a large role in economic development by providing resources for existing businesses and for potential business startups. Furthermore, although in decline, agriculture remains the direct and indirect base for the economic livelihoods of the majority of the world's population (IFAD, 2001).

Agriculture is often seen as the mainstay of the Nigerian economy. It is equally incontrovertible that libraries have the greatest impact on agricultural development of a nation. Libraries provide relevant information on agricultural improvement to all agricultural officers, extension workers, researchers, peasant farmers, policy makers, etc. on the new method of improving livestock and better farming practices that will meet the increasing need of the population. Libraries make such information available and also provide positive steps towards improving the declining food security of a country (Agbo & Onyekweodiri, 2014).

Edoka (2000) stated that one of the functions of a public library, which has positive implication for economic development of a nation, is to give the user access to information over the whole range of human activities such as agriculture, crafts, commerce and industry. He added that some public libraries concentrate on special services such as …business information service. The improvement of the financial status of corporate organizations in a nation goes a long way in enhancing the economy of a nation, and in this sense, special libraries contribute to the economic development of a nation.

Problems and Opportunities in the use of library for National Development
Library and information services are fundamental to the goals of creating, disseminating, optimally utilizing and preserving knowledge. They are instrumental in transforming an unequal society into an egalitarian, progressive knowledge-based society. Developments in information communication technology (ICT) have enabled libraries to provide access to all, and also bridge the gap between the local, the national and the global (Singh & Mohammad, 2008). Yet the use of library has been faced with poor access. There are a few libraries which are using state of art technologies to disseminate knowledge to their respective user community. There is lack of cooperation among the libraries of different organizations and which cause the lack of union catalogues at national level. The national library failed even to do this immense task. One of the major problems faced in the effective use of library resources and services are lack of bibliographic control at national level which causes duplication in research. A considerable number of libraries had not been developed bibliographic databases of their documents for putting them on network.

To summarize, the major constraints faced in the use of library for national development according to Singh and Mohammad (2008) are:
- A considerable percentage of the population is illiterate or functionally literate making libraries of minimal use to them.

- Poor resource allocation for infrastructure improvement and collection development for public libraries.
- Lack of national policies promoting ICT as a tool for development of library systems and services.
- Lack of adequate trained manpower in the use of IT.
- Lack of funds for acquiring necessary hardware and software facilities.
- Resistance on the part of library staff to change from their traditional practices to the use of IT.

Also, the problems identified by Alasa and Kelechukwu (1999), as militating against the use of libraries in Nigeria for national development include;

- Poor and inadequate telecommunication facilities
- Poor level of computer literacy even within the academic community.
- Poor computer facilities
- Poor level of awareness of internet facilities in the academic community.
- Minimum involvement of academic institutions in network building and diffusion in Africa;
- Ignorance of decision or policy makers of the power of information network on the economic and industrial development of a nation.

Zakari (1997), Ifidon (1998) and Kiondo (2004) have also identified gross under funding of libraries as a major obstacle in the acquisition and application and use of library. This is a major problem that should be addressed since adequate funding is at the core of the provision of the facilities required to equip the electronic libraries of the 21st century being advocated for education and national development in Nigeria. Despite the above problems, the use of library by citizens has got remarkable achievements. Efforts had been made to set up networks at local, regional and national level to deploy information and communication technologies and to build electronic information sources.

For instance in India as reported by Singh and Mohammad (2008), besides INFLIBNET at the national level to support university and college libraries , a number of other national networks and various library networks have also been developed including NICNET (National Informatics Centers Network), ERNET (Education and Research Network), CALIBNET (Calcutta Library Network), DELNET (Developing Library Network), etc. A number of educational institutions are members of such networks. These networks, especially INFLIBNET and DELNET, are engaged in compiling union catalogs, creating various databases of experts, providing training to library staff, online facilities, reference service, assistance in retrospective conversion, etc.

To overcome the problem of financial crunch and the rising costs of journals, Singh and Mohammad (2008) reported that librarians have formed consortia to subscribe all the required journals and databases. Some special libraries and research organizations have established consortia known as FORSA (Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy) to share electronic access to journal literature.

For the improvement of quality of library and information services through the systematic acquisition, organization and dissemination of knowledge, various library associations have been set up at national and state level (Singh & Mohammad, 2008). They annually organized conferences, seminars and training programs to trained and update library professionals with latest development in LIS. Recently libraries and research organizations realize the importance of digital libraries and they started the work of digitization of important documents (Singh & Mohammad, 2008).

From the Nigerian perspective, libraries at all levels of education in Nigeria should be well stocked with books and other information materials as a stepping stone to the provision of computers and their associated technological facilities for our libraries. Government will need to put in place suitable policies to enable Nigerian children to possess the skills to effectively use libraries and the present day information and communication facilities to apply information to their daily endeavours and hence be able to function effectively and compete favourably with their counter parts in other advanced countries of the world.

At the moment, the Nigerian educational system is not geared towards giving children a good understanding of the functioning and significance of libraries and other information media and their uses. Knowledge of the importance of libraries will enable children to learn to use, react to, select, reject, classify, check, interpret and search for information (Opeke, 2004)

Pupils and students should be taught how to navigate their way through libraries and the world of information and obtain knowledge from them. They should be taught not simply to reproduce knowledge from information sources but to construct knowledge in new and creative ways (Oberg, 1995). They also need digital literacy. This is the ability of an individual to identify any information required to satisfy a need, know how to use computers and digital systems to source the information as well as know how to use the information collected to solve a felt need. These are the skills that would empower the products of our educational system to fit well into the modern industrial system to which highly skilled manpower has become indispensable.

The present world now depends to a large extent on intensive information transfer by means of Information Communication Technologies (ICT). Therefore Nigerian pupils / students must be given the kind of training that would impart sufficient understanding of the technology that powers the information society. An information literacy programme should be incorporated into the curriculum of schools to provide students with a wider range of information handling skills which encompass accessing, processing and retrieving relevant, timely, accurate information for identified need (Opeke, 2004). Such skills will empower students to be conscious of the power of information in all spheres of life and hence be able to apply the same in decision making and the construction of structures that make for enduring political, social and economic development of a nation.

The Nigerian Universities Commission, the Nigerian Library Association, the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria, etc, should be properly sensitized and coordinated to carry out this exercise. Government should put policies in place to promote the provision of adequate library facilities and resources at all levels of the educational system in Nigeria. This being the primary place where the pupils and students are given the opportunities to experience well stocked libraries that would develop the spirit of independent inquiry and the manipulation of information to obtain knowledge. Information consciousness coupled with skills in handling ICT facilities to obtain quick and relevant information for decision making are the hallmarks of the highly skilled manpower required for national development in this highly information dependent global world of the 21st century.

The Nigerian government should rise to the challenge and provide all the essential resources to put the educational system in proper perspective by providing the right type of libraries which will enable the products of the educational system to serve as effective agents for accelerated economic, political and social development of the nation.

In the light of the foregoing, it is also imperative that librarians in all types of libraries should possess literacy among other competencies so that they can adequately guide library users. According to Quinn (1992), such competencies include:

- Expertise in the concepts of the organization of knowledge
- Skills in information transfer theories
- Skills in synthesis of information
- Sensitivity to information transfer issues
- Appreciation of the use of information to gain competitive advantage
- Training in worldwide information resources
- Experience in the techniques and skills of information retrieval
- Training in information dissemination techniques.

Conclusion

Information is a vital tool in all forms of human endeavour. It is the link pin of national development (Achitabwino, 2007). In order to grow more efficiently in all aspects of society, developing countries must collect and provide access to adequate and up-to-date information on food security, health, democracy, population, education, family planning, youth empowerment, gender equality, environment, etc (Achitabwino, 2007). In this regard, it is imperative that effective use of libraries for enhanced dissemination of information. Therefore, the importance of libraries in the developmental process of any nation cannot be overemphasized as the development of any nation in this information age is dependent on the ability of its citizens to access relevant information that could be used to harness such development. Use of library enhances reading which provides the vital skills for both work and life and it is a principal building block in education, without which no true educational revolution can take place. The inability to use the library for education can act as an impediment to the development of any nation. Use of library education is as important to nation building as the library itself because without the library, rural access to information will be defeated. Public libraries most especially contribute to sustainable national development. The Nigerian state needs to rejuvenate its public libraries (public institutions) to better lots of the citizens and to improve information dissemination which would engender development in all sectors in the various states and the nation in general. Nigeria needs to recognize and improve services that are provided by public libraries in order to reduce high rate of illiteracy and other forms of social ills that are associated with juvenile in the society.

Recommendations

To rejuvenate the public libraries, the following recommendations are proffered:

i. In view of the important role the libraries have to play in building reading culture and increasing literacy level in the country, better attention should be paid by government to library development.

ii. The library school curriculum should be expanded to accommodate the new trends in librarianship thereby emphasizing the use of ICT.

iii. Also government both at federal and state levels must partner with librarians in their quest for reviving reading culture in the country by so doing government will be putting a round peg in a round hole.

iv. When a well trained librarian manages a well equipped library, users of the library can properly be guided in the usage of the library, exposing them to correct information, knowledge and facts, to be applied in their daily activities, making them better people and building a better nation.

v. Effort should be made by the government at all levels to allocate sufficient fund annually and ensure its utilization to improve public libraries. This will enable the public libraries to have modern infrastructures and equipments which would encourage user's access for sustained national development.

vi. Government should ensure that a committee is set up to monitor public library activities from time to time to ensure that public libraries play their role effectively in national development.

vii. Librarians in public libraries should be sent for training and retraining in librarianship both within Nigeria and overseas to ensure adequate service delivery to the library users.

viii. Nigeria libraries can be linked to provide networking and access to literatures both local and foreign through investment in assistive technology which will boast national development

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