

Research Article

ANALYSIS OF RELEVANCE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES PROVISION IN LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY BY LAWMAKERS IN KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study analysed the Relevance of Information Resources Provision in Legislative Library by Lawmakers in Katsina State. In order to achieve this objective, quantitative research method was adopted, whereas survey design was employed for the study. Questionnaires were used for data collection from the respondents. The respondents were the thirty four (34) legislative members in the assembly and three (3) library staff. Total of 37 questionnaires were distributed. Statistics, tables and percentage were used for data analysis. The research revealed that the library requires relevant information resources to meet the information needs of the Lawmakers who are the core users of the library. It was also gathered that, internet and other electronic resources were not found in the library and that may be linked to lack of involvement of library staff when acquiring of new information resources. The study recommends that, the library should be given full autonomy to acquire its own resources, the provision of Internet, ICTs become necessary particularly in this Covid-19 pandemic and for future reoccurrences.

Keywords: information, lawmakers, legislatures, library, provision, resources.

INTRODUCTION

The role of the lawmakers can never be achieved without a need for current and relevant information, if there are no libraries and information services in the legislative houses, there cannot be an effective legislative process. Katsina State legislatures like all other States of Nigeria came in to being as a result of handing over of power through elections in to various political offices of Executive President, National Assembly, State Executives and their Legislatures. The State has 34 local Government councils, and therefore each council have its own representative in the State assembly. Provision of information resources entails the making of information resources and sources available to targeted users. However, libraries provide different types of information resources in order to meet the information needs of the community they are serving which will enable them to achieve their organizational goals. Ifidon, (2005) describe the role of information in decision making "It enhances the quality of decision made, facilitate social change and serve as instrument for conflict prevention and conflict resolution" In this regard, to achieve a better legislative process, libraries attached to State legislature must provide accurate and relevant information resources to their special users, it is imperative upon them to find out the kind of information needs of their users in order to make an appropriate selection and acquisition.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Information plays an important role in all human endeavors; these days' people have fully come to realize the importance of information, to be informed presupposes timely access to relevant information resources to achieve effective decision making. A study conducted by Bappa (2001), showed that most of the respondents indicated the inability of the library to provide them with the relevant information resources. As such it is imperative to say that provision of current and

relevant information resources is the bedrock for better legislative process by Lawmakers. However, despite the importance of information resources in Legislative library, it is not known whether the information resources provided are relevant to meet the needs of the Lawmakers. This study analysed the relevance of information resources provided in State legislative library for the Lawmakers in the Katsina State of Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the objectives of the study

1. To Identify the Types of Information Resources Provided in Katsina State Legislative Library.
2. To Determine the Relevance of Information Resources Provided in Katsina State Legislative Library.
3. To Identify the Challenges associated with the Provision of Relevant Information Resources in Katsina State Legislative Library.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What Types of Information Resources Provided in Katsina State Legislative Library?
2. What is the Relevance of Information Resources Provided in Katsina State Legislative Library?
3. What are the Challenges associated with the Provision of Relevant Information Resources in the Katsina State Legislative Library?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The importance of information resources provision in the legislative libraries cannot be overemphasis. Information resources as indispensable complements in the attainment of legislative goals meant that the establishment and nurturing of a legislative library to provide relevant information resources for the law-makers. Bappa (2001), referenced Zubairu (1981), describes the resources that

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legislative libraries in Nigeria should acquire for their users. These resources are basic reference materials and other information materials especially dictionaries, encyclopedia, biographies, law publications, dictionaries, Newspapers and magazines. Abubakar (2006), on the other hand while identifying the types of information resources that should acquire in research/special libraries which legislative libraries are among acknowledged that "they select and retrieved specialized materials mainly research reports, thesis, dissertations, gazettes, law reports, journals, reports of committees of National and State Assemblies etc.". The provision of information resources for use by members of legislative so as to make the laws of the state depends on the way resources have been physically and intellectually organized. Thus, the primary mission of a legislative library should be to encourage, support and guide the legislators in the choice, access and utilization of relevant information base on their information needs to carry out their legislative functions: acquiring, maintaining and preserving all necessary information resources regardless of their formats and forms become mandatory. Joseph (2011), reported that, the parliamentarians are not satisfied and would like to have more on the reading resources relating to seminars and conference papers, political literature and parliamentary reports, books and related publications. He further noted that the library is yet to develop its capacity on the resources relating to information Network and internet. Subsequently, law-makers need information on various information resources due to the nature of their work; so far it was accurate, reliable, and timely as well as satisfies their needs. To buttress the above point Maharazu (2017) stated that law practitioners regularly used textbooks/monographs and learned journals as their main sources of information. The information resources could be print or non-print which means the sources that contain information in a printed format as monographs, serials, technical reports, maps, directories, atlases etc. the non-print materials include Audio Tapes and Cassettes, Photographic records, Video cassettes, Films, Microfilms and Computers. Hamalai (2010) stated that Lawmakers need information to be able to perform their legislative functions as well as deliberate on issues. Such information on various aspects of law-making and national development can be stored in published or unpublished forms, electronic and other forms. Legislative libraries are faced with major challenges especially in Nigeria which may affect their effective utilization and satisfaction of users information needs. This ultimately made legislative libraries to assume a seasonal outlook in terms of information resources and services. Aina (2004) viewed that one important aspect of the legislative process in a democratic setting that is lacking in Nigeria is a well-funded research unit as well as a well-stocked library. Storage space, reading facilities, office space, working areas are lacking by special libraries. Another basic problem is underfunding of legislative libraries. Consequently availability of information resources has always been affected in so many ways: user needs assessment survey, collection development, staff development etc. Based on the research findings of Abubakar (2010), on a survey of information needs and seeking behavior, the factors affecting availability of effective information resources and services are inadequate funding of the library, Lack of modern information technology and obsolete library resources among others. Inadequate funding for legislative libraries may be influenced by the recognition of those libraries by their parent bodies as just store houses or mere archives for books and parliamentary Dictionary not as a place where information resources and services could be provided for effective utilization and satisfaction of legislator's information needs. This corroborated Aligrudic (2009), when he stated the problem affecting the parliamentary of Montenegro, is a drawback that is mostly connected with a neglecting of the Library and the librarianship as a service and profession of a minor importance for the parliament, as well as unrecognizing of the information values in the contemporary world.

Joseph (2011), citing Big (2009), in his research and information on Nigerian National Assembly revealed that parliamentary library in Nigeria is small and grossly ill-stocked with books that are not up to date. He also identified the absent of internet facility, inadequate skilled staff and irregular use of the library by the legislators. This is supported by Ogunyomi (2010), as he stated that "the National Assembly Library has insufficient books and operational space". In others, the libraries were equipped with old and outdated publications". Brunner (2000) further posited that library of Kaduna State Legislative House consists basically of a spacious room with only some books left at the shelves. The library and research department of River State Legislative House does not dispose of any archives or books to work with. While Imo State House of Assembly library does exist as a room, but does not have any information resources. The above views corroborates Joseph (2011), in the research findings reveals that "the Cross River State Legislative House has a room in the complex, which not spacious enough to make allowance for real functioning library". The respondents (50%) consider the library not good enough, library holdings were relatively few, and lack professional librarian. Their findings also find that, the scale and quality of the services offered by the library is relatively low due to the absence of a well trained library staff.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study used survey research method as it is the most convenient and appropriate in carrying out a study particularly considering the nature of the respondents. "Survey research does not just seek the current status of population characteristic, but also tries to discover relationship among variables" (Graziano, 2007). The population of the study was categories in to 2, the Lawmakers which were 34 and 3 library staff. However, considering the number of the general population, the researcher considers census population. "If the general population of the study is too small to take a sample out of it, the use of the entire population will yield more reliable research result" (Toluhi, 2001) therefore the study samples were 37 Questionnaires were administers to the respondents, 34 representing 92% of the total questionnaires distributed were returned and found usable for the study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Types of Information Resources Provision

This question was asked the respondents to indicate the types of information resources provided for them.

Table 1: Information Resources Provided

S/N	Types of Information Resources	Freq.	%
1	Government publications (eg Constitution, gazettes, law reports)	15	44
2	Encyclopedia	21	62
3	Dictionary	28	82
4	Newspapers and Magazines	26	76
5	Books	29	85
6	Electronic Resources (CD, Projector, Satellite, Computers e.t.c)	4	12
7	Internet	0	0
8	Almanac	29	85

The Table above shows that 29 (85%) indicates books and almanac respectively were the major information resources provided by the library. The respondents 28 (82%) also indicates dictionaries were provided in the library. The findings further shows that 4 (12%) respondents indicate that information resources on electronic

resources were not provided. Moreover, the analysis further revealed that 15 (44%) evident that the library does not have required information resources on government publications, electronic and internet resources. The above analysis corroborated with the findings of Abubakar (2010), on a survey of information needs and seeking behavior, found out that the factors affecting availability of effective information resources and services are inadequate funding of library, Lack of modern information technology and obsolete library resources among others.

Relevance of Information Resources Provided

Respondents were asked to rate the relevance of the information resources provided by the library

Table 2: Relevance of Information Resources

S/N	Information Resources	Very Relevant		Relevant		Not Relevant	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1	Government Publications (eg Constitution, gazettes, law reports)	2	6	7	21	21	62
2	Encyclopedia	3	9	9	26	18	53
3	Dictionary	17	50	9	26	4	12
4	Newspapers and Magazines	12	35	13	38	5	15
5	Books	6	18	21	62	3	9
6	Electronic Resources (CD, Projector, Satellite, Computers e.t.c)	1	3	6	18	23	68
7	Internet	0	0	3	9	27	79
8	Almanac	21	62	7	21	2	6
	Total	62	183	75	221	103	304

Table above, revealed that majority 21 (62%) of the respondents indicated that Almanac provided by the library were relevant. It is also depicted from the table that 17 (50%) of the respondents indicated that dictionaries provided were relevant and useful. The table further revealed that Newspaper/Magazines 13 (38%) were also indicated as relevance by the respondents. Accordingly, the respondents who indicated that the resources are not relevant such as the internet 27 (79%), Electronic resources 23 (68%) and Encyclopedias 18 (53%) by implications show lack of satisfaction with the information resources provided by the library. However, for those who indicated that information resources provided are very relevant or relevant, it could be as a result of them satisfying their information resources that are much provided by the library.

Challenges associated with Provision of Relevant Information Resources

Table 3: Challenges associated with the Provision of Relevant of Information Resources

S/N	Challenges	Freq	%
1	Lack of funds from the parent organizations	21	62
2	Hard to get relevant information resources in market	13	38
3	Acquisition of new resources is always done without the knowledge of the library	26	76
4	Lack of space to accommodate larger resources	28	82
5	Theft and mutilation of library resources	21	62
6	Poor classification system	15	44
7	Inadequate professional library staff	5	15

Table above shows that majority 28 (82%) of the respondents indicated that lack of space to accommodate large resources in the library is a challenge to provide relevant information resources. Meanwhile the respondents 26 (76%) indicated that acquisition of new resources is done without the knowledge of library staff which

seen as another challenge. Furthermore, lack of funds, theft and mutilation 21 (62%) respectively were also affecting the provision of relevant information resources.

Conclusion

It was observed that the library requires relevant information resources to meet the information needs of the Lawmakers who are the core users of the library. It was also gathered that, internet and other electronic resources were not found in the library and that may be linked to lack of funds and the fact that library staff were not involved when acquiring of new information resources.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:-

1. The library should have full autonomy to utilize its available funds in collection development this will enable the library acquire necessary resources to meet the information needs of its users.
2. Internet, ICTs should be given priority to enable the lawmakers have access to abundant information online. The application of technology particularly in this Covid-19 pandemic is paramount important.
3. The library space should be looked in to so as to accommodate more information resources that will cater the needs of the users.

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