Relationship between Librarians and Institutional Management: Funding Perspective

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Introduction

A library, mostly an academic library, must be up—to—date, at the same time permit access to resources in its collection. It must provide services and direction to users, as well as healthy spaces and conducive atmosphere in which they can work. In addition, an academic library must house collections that are unique which should be part of the university's and in fact, the nation's legacy (Fowowe, 1988).

Hisle (2011), opined that if we are to make offspring who are autonomous and better to fit into their instant situation and relate well with the globe at large, we need bright, developed and sufficient library services, like knowledge resources centres, media centres, institutional resource centres, and so on. Without any doubt, the degree to which young people and workers of today will be encouraged, learned and educated will be shaped by the limits of the contents of the library materials available within their organizations. A broad collection and abundant supply of resources are required to hearten autonomous study, so that young persons or workers from tender age can learn to reflect so that their poise and views are enhanced as a result of energetic mental efforts.

Functions of Libraries

The major task of an academic library is to offer suitable information resources for study and research to the members of its institution. Also the functions of academic libraries, as posited by Edoka (2000) are as follows:

- To make available information resources that are necessary for the academic programmes of the parent institution.

- To make research information materials available in accordance with the needs of faculty researchers and students

- To present information materials for leisure and for personal and self-development of users.

- To provide study accommodation in a diversity of locations.

- To provide guard and security for these resources

- To co-operate with the other libraries at appropriate levels for improve services.

- To provide specialized information services to appropriate segments of the wider community.

Objectives of the Libraries

It will be necessary to examine the objectives of academic libraries as asserted by Ifidon (2006). These include:

- The recognition of the organization and its purpose. The organization in this case is the institution and its functions.

- The understanding of the requests of the clients and the organization. Again, the patrons are the personnel, students, researchers and outer patrons of academic library while the organization remains the institution.

- The skill to take action and adjust suitably to change in the environment..

- The capability of the organization to refurbish itself so as to be able to handle problems of both expansion and deterioration.

- Enhancement of existing services and modernization of innovative ones.

- The prerequisite of adequate contribution and outputs to guarantee a known quantity in service.

- The development of workers' performance and attitudes as it is through individuals that the work gets done.

- Growth of organization skills and provision of tools and opportunities that allow the organizational managers to do excellent job.

- Creation of discernible, and occasionally, solid results- taking into consideration the objectives of academic libraries which include the provision of information materials to enhance teaching and learning.

Relationship between the Librarian and Parent Institution

According to Dhawan (n.d) the individual in charge of the library must be the library authority, accountable for control and running of the library. He should play a leading role in decision making, should communicate freely among the groups across the organization, and have financial and managerial powers. The library authority' should be reporting to the top management in the organization. There is need to set up a library adversary committee, which, would perform the role of advertising the library on its growth and development. It will also act as a border between the patrons groups,

the administration and between the users group, for ensuring even implementation of the library function and services without compromising policies put out for library growth.

The library is an organization that existed for centuries. In many cases, a parent institution goal determines the library's purpose and functions. The organization where professionals, paraprofessionals and other expert work with a general aim, that is, making information accessible to library users, the professional librarians are the main actors. They ensure that the library is well-funded, has ethics, policy, and procedure for service, while being guided by professional beliefs (Adedoyin, 2006).

Hisle (2011) are of the view that libraries are well-known to gratify the teaching, learning and research needs of the academic society. The education materials in print, audio-visual and electronic formats and good learning situation of the university library make it a place to attain learning skill. It is there to help the parent institution to accomplish its task of education and research.

The responsibility of academic libraries is shifting. They are attempting to lessen their core activities by anchoring their significance with the main activities of the organization they serve, i.e. research and teaching. In the world of internet, the information is readily accessible to the users, thus the libraries are seeking to implant their activities inside academic programs, rather than just partisan or aligning with them, this can be achieved if the parent institution and the librarians have pleasant connection with each other. The relationship between librarians and parent institutions should be seen in terms of teamwork and not divergence. Better and pleasant relationship between the two would help the organization attain its decisive goals, i. e. better and enhanced teaching and research (Chaddha, 2009).

The legitimate relationship between the constitutional bodies in the university on one hand and the university librarian on the other hand has been described with special prominence on the library committee. But the university librarian's working rapport does not end with these groups. Other officers and groups whose work directly involve the operation of the library include the Bursar, The Director of works, the faculty boards and their Deans (Ifidon, 1992). He went further to state that initial budget primed by the library is sent to the Bursar for his recommendation and ultimate collation with those of other departments. The problem of the librarian in assigning priorities to the demands is substantial. To amalgam this problem are aggressive demand from the other department of the university and the socio- economic trends of the country. One of the main persons required to determine these conflicting interests advocate adjustments and give an official permit to budgetary procedure is the Bursar. Although the librarian's original budget estimation may be greatly pruned in the end, the advisory relationship between him and the Bursar could influence the final picture.

Benefit of Improving Librarian and Parent Institution Relations

Since both parent institution and the librarian have general goals, it is beneficial to have an excellent relationship between them. Better relation could lead to healthier and optimal use of the library and its service by the organization. The more they sense good about the library, the more they will persuade the students to use the library and its materials. Improved librarian/parent's institution relations increase the participation of the parent institution in the library, collection development activities and interest of the librarians in teaching, research, instructional design and curriculum development (Chaddha, 2009).

The relationship between librarians and individuals have evolved over time, and how it has taken steps to toughen and buttress the role of librarians and information professionals can revitalise their dealings with users and help build a library that users wish and desire. The healthy relationship between librarian and parent institution will also enjoy exceptional opportunism and librarians will centre on how to advance information services to their patrons (Lachance, 2012).

Funding and Library Resources

Ehigiator (1997) opined that libraries are unprocessed and this is to say that they develop or shrink with time, depending on how much life is infused into them. Fund is required to provide the information needs of the academic library. The academic library is a social service organization that is capital intensive. Fund is essential for building, physical services, books and non-books resources. Journals, employees, overhead cost etc.

According to Fowowe (1988), since the library is the university's vital organ, it follows that it must be appropriately supported monetarily. Ample funding must be considered as basic requirement for the effective development of academic libraries. In this respect, it must be acknowledged that funds are necessary for the resources and services which are provided for library users. Funds are also essential for the workers that retrieve and make accessible the library resources and maintain services. The cost of all these will signify the level of funding required by the library.

If the library is to meet the objectives for which it was established, money is important for the procurement and dispensation of resources, for procurement and preservation of tools. Where finance is missing, it is impracticable to manage library service of any kind and where it is laughable, the effectiveness of that service is bound to be negatively affected. As a result of this, there is need for both librarian and parent institution to work amicably to ensure necessary funds are made available to librarian for the acquisition of information resources and information service delivery to library users(Anafulu. 1997).

The American Library Association (2006) is of the view that libraries of all types need money. The quantity of funds that library receives directly influences the quality of its services. While bulk of funding for libraries comes from state and local sources, federal funding provides vital support, giving libraries across the nation the financial assistance they require to serve their communities. The American Library Association (2006) went further to say that user demands for conventional and new library services have been budding during those decades. Electronic entrance to library resources through the World Wide Web and other networks has improved demands for text delivery each year. Demand for help with access difficulties, position and machinery issues, continue to grow at an exponential speed. The need for training and teaching of users has also grown enormously and continues to do so. Patrons demand for more and better services have resulted in the need for more library employees, improved staff training and development and efficient skill. A new belief of services is rising which centre on library clients, students and faculty and their precise information requests. As higher education goes through rethinking procedure in terms of the learning society and country, libraries and parent institution will need to become more concerned in discerning their new and significant roles in this new setting.

It is extremely necessary for a library to process the materials that will enable it meet its target. Gorgeous building, well qualified employees and new information storage and salvage systems can only be acceptable, if outstanding services are given to users. The librarian must first build up the outline of the library and its parent organization. This can be done by diligently studying the documents relating to the establishment of the library in order to decide:

- The functions of the parent institution and the objectives of its library.

- The patrons to be served and the levels which every group will operate.

- The disciplines that constitutes the main area of attention.

- Immediacy of other library materials

- Amount and constancy of annual book financial support (Odusanya and Osinulu, 2014).

The magnitude of funding in rendering outstanding library services cannot be overemphasized. It is the paste that holds the building, collections and stuck together and allows the library to reach its goals. As such, funds can be well measured as the soul of the library. Laughable funds obstruct the success of any library (Anafulu, 1997). Like water and air, libraries have become an essential and integra1 part of human survival. Frequently called the reminiscence of the human race, libraries are believed to have on

their shelves the records of nearly everything which man has thought, dreamt of and invented. All these demand that, academic libraries should be sufficiently funded by government and parent institution for librarian to be able to carry out these activities as required (Ifidon, 2006).

Problems Militating Against Library Funding

One of the major inconveniences facing academic libraries in Nigeria is insufficient funding. Most academic libraries in the country are owned by higher institutions which are openly funded by the federal or state governments. Most university libraries are allocated 10% of the recurrent yearly budget of their parent institutions. In most cases, this has been noted to be derisory, as it is generally incapable to equip the libraries to the expected standards (David, 2018).

The core source of funding for academic libraries in Nigeria is from government resources and grants. The funding replica, method or level is really dependent on whether the institution is private, state or federal government owned. In general, both states and federal government budgetary requirements/policies and funding allocations to higher education have enhanced library financing and growth (Godwin,2017).

According to Osinulu and Daramola (2017), Federal Government of Nigeria evidently recognizes the vital roles library play in education and research during the provision of information services as suggested by the National Universities Commission (NUC), hence it recommends that a minimum of 10% of each university's recurrent budget be use on the advancement of their libraries. The policy further stipulates that 60% of the allocation be committed to the purchase of books and journals, while 40% is set apart for personal emoluments and procurement of goods and services in the library. The fund is expected to be paid into a different account from the usual university's funds. Nevertheless, it was observed that there was no full conformity with these financial rules. This is clear when it is realized that only2% of the national budget is allocated to education as against 26% recommended by the UNESCO.

Commenting on the underfunding of the educational segment, Inoyo (2014) in his convocation lecture titled "challenges and opportunities for university graduates in a period of economic and ethical decay" decried the pitiable level of funding education in Nigeria. As a country, he noted we are still far off the UNESCO given proposal that 26% of a country's total budget must be devoted to education. He informed that in 2012, N400.15bn or 8.43%, 2013, N426.5bn or 8.7% and in 2014, N495.2bn or 9.9% out of the nation's total budgets respectively was allocated to the education sector in spite of a quantum increase in our gross domestic product (GDP) over the time (67.7billion in 2003 to 522.6 in 2013) representing 672% growth by World Bank statistics. Studies and surveys by scholars have showed that libraries in Nigeria are working in a resource

guarded environment. According to him, libraries in Nigeria do not only lack sufficient funds to acquire books and required journals but that they cannot afford huge amount desired to purchase and maintain computers hardware, build and maintain infrastructure and employ and keep necessary personnel.

David(2018), stated that academic libraries in Nigeria have not been fully able to accept the use of modern technology and ICT. Many of the academic libraries lack the proficiency, personnel and capital required to run a digital library. Only a very few institutions adopted the digital system, consequently a lot more skills need to be done because even the few parent institutions that have adopted the new machinery are strictly constrained by a number of factors such as unpredictable internet services, poor power supply, lack of hardware and software and in most instances poor IT literacy amongst libraries.

According to David (2018) it is deplorable to state that most institutions are generally incapable to meet up with the 10% usually appropriated for the libraries as most universities are facing budget cuts stemming from awful management, poor economic policies and dreadful state of the economy. The subject of poor funding has also made academic libraries incapable to obtain new foreign and home-grown resources (books and journals) that would have helped drive the competence and efficacy of their roles. Funding has constantly been a very great problem to libraries. Libraries cannot on their own produce enough funds sufficient to run their services. They rely on funds allocated from their parents' institution and these funds are almost always insufficient to meet library needs (Godwin,2017).

Conclusion

Adequate funding by institutions of learning should be considered as necessary for the development of library. Apart from the heads of libraries, other faculty members who serve in one capacity or the other in the institutions where they are should join in soliciting for adequate funding for the libraries because they are meant to serve students and faculty members. That enough good books and journals must be purchased and this need to be made known to the parent institution to effect that library services cannot be run with meagre fund. Libraries must turn a new leaf to cope with the trend. The library today must adapt and embrace changes and must be ready to take up opportunities in order to follow the new development in the library world.

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