

Winter 11-22-2018

The Relevance of the Academic library in Actualizing an Accreditation Exercise: A Case Study of Michael and Cecilia Ibru University (MCIU) Agbarha-Otor.

Stanley Okolo

stanleyokolo45@yahoo.com

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Okolo, Stanley, "The Relevance of the Academic library in Actualizing an Accreditation Exercise: A Case Study of Michael and Cecilia Ibru University (MCIU) Agbarha-Otor." (2018). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 2136.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/2136>

The Relevance of the Academic library in Actualizing an Accreditation Exercise: A Case Study of Michael and Cecilia Ibru University (MCIU) Agbarha-Otor.

Okolo Efe Stanley (CLN)

Collection Development Librarian :Rode Ceci Library

Michael and Cecilia Ibru University, Agbarha-Otor, Delta State.

Email: stanleyokolo45@yahoo.com, okolostnl@gmail.com

Phone: 07061264762, 07014516311

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the process of accreditation exercise in Michael and Cecilia Ibru University stating the relevance of academic library in actualizing the accreditation exercise, in compliance to the National Universities Commission's definition of accreditation. The focus was on the library holdings, the strength of the library staff. This study seeks to provide an insight into the accreditation exercise at Michael and Cecilia Ibru University, with a view to sharing experiences of the library as the integral part of the institution. The paper thus concluded that if the institution must attain a world class level, there is the need for the library to be equipped continuously with the necessary resources and facilities so as to go beyond the present level. The University accreditation status with the NUC is also an affirmation that the institution is persistently committed to the Commission's principles and philosophy of accreditation.

Keywords: Accreditation, Michael and Cecilia Ibru University, National Universities Commission, Academic library,

It is a well-known fact that the library is the heart of any parent organization that the library is established to serve, it is a collection of information resources which cut across both book and non-book materials. The concept library is likened to the heart because, as the heart of every living animal circulates blood to every part of that animal so also the library as a store house of information is responsible for the circulation of information and its resources to all the departments that exist in that organization for which it is established.

All over the world and in Nigeria in particular, for any school, be it secondary or tertiary to be allowed to graduate their students, they have to pass through a process known as accreditation. The term accreditation according to Adeola (2014) citing Corazon (2002) stated that it is a process of self-study and external quality review used in higher education to scrutinize an

institution and/or its programmes for quality standards and need for quality improvement. It is a medium for validation in which colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning are evaluated. The standards for accreditation are set by a peer review board whose members include faculty from various accredited colleges and universities. The board aids in the evaluation of each potential new school accreditation or the renewals of previously accredited schools.

To this effect therefore, the academic library has a stake in the whole exercise else the accreditation process will not be successful. In doing this, the library needs to be equipped with the necessary resources that will enable it to pass just as it was done in Michael and Cecilia Ibru University.

BRIEF HISTORY OF MICHAEL AND CECILIA IBRU UNIVERSITY.

Olorogun Michael & Dr. (Mrs.) Cecilia Ibru shared the same passion for education, which led to the establishment of an International standard at Michael and Cecilia Ibru University (MCIU). Olorogun Michael Ibru had the love for education and always wanted to open a university, but this was brought to reality by Dr. (Mrs.) Cecilia Ibru the perfect partnership and cooperation. Dr. (Mrs.) Cecilia Ibru derived her passion for education from her father Chief Edward Sido, LLB who established various primary and secondary schools while he was alive. The Michael and Cecilia Ibru University is the first educational project of the Michael and Cecilia Foundation. MCIU is established to reduce poverty by raising well-rounded graduates who will be builders of any society in which they find themselves.

At MCIU we believe that education is a means to reduce poverty, and is the bedrock of societal development. Therefore, the world over, University education has been identified as the most powerful tool for social reform, which imparts knowledge, skills and character to the individual

through teaching, learning and experimental activity. It provides an opportunity for advanced learning to students towards the granting of academic awards at the bachelors, Masters and doctorate levels. MCIU was granted an operating licence on March 5, 2015; by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to “operate as a Private University in Nigeria”. Thus, in pursuance of our ‘legal form’ objectives, MCIU has positioned herself to be a Premier Higher Institution of learning in Nigeria; which shall, in every sense and standard, be renowned for best-in-class quality, cutting-edge excellence and sublime in international product delivery. All programs offered presently have been granted accreditation status by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION (NUC) AS AN ACCREDITING BODY

The National Universities Commission (NUC) is empowered under section 10 of Decree No. 16 of 1985 and was incorporated as section 4(m) of the National Universities Commission (NUC) Amendment decree of No. 49 of 1988; the commission is empowered to lay down minimum standards for the universities in the Federation and to accredit their degrees and other academic awards after obtaining prior license for their establishment (National Universities Commission, 2012). The specific aspect of the decree which gives authority to NUC to conduct accreditation is summarized in the statement: “To lay down minimum standards for all Universities in the Federation and to accredit their degrees and other academic awards after obtaining prior approval therefore through the Minister from the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed forces; provided that the accreditation of degrees and other academic awards shall be in accordance with such guidelines as may be laid down and approved by the Commission from time to time.” (National Universities Commission, 2012) The Commission in order to comply with the

provisions of the Decree, has been using experts from various universities in the country through their comments and recommendations prepared what they called the Minimum Academic Standards Report in respect of 13 disciplines currently being taught in Nigerian Universities. These are: Administration, Management and Management Technology; Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Home Economics; Arts; Dentistry; Education; Engineering and Technology; Environmental Sciences; Law, Medicine, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Physiology, and Anatomy; Pharmaceutical Sciences, Sciences; Social Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine. The objectives of accreditation as enumerated by the National Universities Commission (NUC) include the following:

1. Ensure that at least the provisions of the Minimum Academic Standards document are attained, maintained and enhanced;
2. Assure employers and other members of the community that Nigerian graduates of all academic programs have attained an acceptable level of competency in their areas of specialization; and
3. Certify to the international community that the programs offered in Nigerian Universities are of high standards and their graduates are adequate for employment and for further studies. The accreditation exercise was formally confined to undergraduate programs in universities, but today it covers undergraduate, postgraduate and institutional accreditation

According to NUC (2009) accreditation status laid down by the National University Commission (NUC) has outlined the below range of status for programs accessed and considered for accreditation.

Full Accreditation: This will be granted to any degree or other academic programmes that has satisfied the Minimum Academic Standards. Full Accreditation shall be granted for a period of six (6) academic sessions with a mid-term appraisal after three years. After the six academic sessions, there shall be a Re-accreditation visit.

Interim Accreditation: This applies to any degree or other academic programmes that has minor insufficiencies that must be rectified within a specified period. It shall be granted for a period of not more than two (2) academic sessions.

Denied Accreditation: this applies to any degree or other academic programmes, which has failed to satisfy the approved Minimum Academic Standards. Request for Re-visitation for the purpose of Accreditation shall come from the University concerned. Among the various requests of the National University Commission (NUC) and different set of criteria, that a department must meet for the course to be accredited is the curriculum and general facility, which the library is at its core

THE GOALS OF ACCREDITATION

Accreditation exercise is so important because it is set up to build up and actualize some objectives in tertiary institutions. It is a process that helps to checkmate all the happenings in the higher school of learning and they are as follows:

1. It helps to promote and foster good quality university education and training for the production of high quality skilled manpower and similar levels of business manpower for the society.
2. It helps to ensure uniformity of standards in all programmes offered by Nigerian Universities.

3. It certifies to the Nigerian Community that the programmes offered by an institution have satisfied the minimum educational requirements as lay down by the National Universities Commission (NUC).
4. It provides help and counsel to the established and developing institutions and programs where necessary.

IMPORTANCE OF ACCREDITATION

There is no gainsaying; accreditation has truly helped to build up the quality of tertiary institutions to meet up the standard and requirement for developing good human resources which later become resourceful to the society at large. It is a well-known fact that there is no nation that can develop beyond the quality of its higher education. To this effect therefore, the following are the importance of accreditation:

1. It certifies that an institution or program has met established standard
2. It involves the faculty and staff comprehensively in situational evaluation and planning
3. It assists prospective students in identifying acceptable institutions
4. Protecting an institution against harmful internal and external pressure
5. It helps to bring about proper welfare of staff in a given institution
6. Provision of room for staff development both in public and private institutions
7. It brings about farce lift to the institution thereby making it welcoming for people to embrace.

8. National Universities Commission (NUC) ensures the orderly development of a well-coordinated and productive university system that will guarantee quality and relevant education for national development and global competitiveness (NUC, 2009).

Furthermore, accreditation helps the institution to evaluate its efforts in enhancing the quality of student learning and the quality of programs and services offered, as well as challenging itself to examine its successes in accomplishing its mission. At the culmination of the internal review, peer evaluators representing the Commission apply their professional judgment through a preliminary assessment of the institution; to make the final determination of the institution's compliance with the accreditation requirements.

STEPS OF THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The following list discusses each step taken during the accreditation process:

1. **Preparation and self-examination:** The University prepares materials that effectively display the institution's accomplishments. The institution also creates a written report of its accomplishments according to the standards set by the NUC.
2. **Peer review:**

Administrative and faculty peers conducted an intensive review of the prepared materials, written report, and the general workings of the university. Teams of peer reviewers visited the institution.
3. **Visit and examination:**

In addition to the visits made by the peer reviewers, a visiting team was also gathered to visit the university. This team was made up of peers and members of the govern council of the university, the parent organization.
4. **Judgment action made by accreditation organization:**

After the previous steps were completed, the university calls upon the commission to review the steps and affirm the accreditation status of the university.

5. Continuous review:

By accepting accreditation status, the university, agrees to undergo a review on a rotating basis every few years or sometimes every ten years. An institution is usually required to go through all the steps of the accreditation process each time it is reviewed. The purpose of the continuous review is to ensure that the accredited institution continues to maintain the required accreditation standards.

THE RELEVANCE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARY

The academic library as an entity is established by the parent institution for the purpose of meeting their need. The Michael and Cecilia Ibru University academic Library is called Rode Cecil Library and it is named after the late son of Cecilia Ibru. It is situated on the top floor of the power of faith building. It plays integral roles in educational development through its activities of research, services, acquisition, organization and dissemination of relevant information and education carrier materials in both print and electronic media to its users. Owoye (2011) opined that effective teaching and learning requires the support of librarians and well –equipped libraries. Chiedu (2014) on the other hand stressed the fact that for a library to be relevant to the purpose of accreditation, that library resources as well as physical infrastructure and facilities must be made available and adequate to achieve internal quality assurance whose ultimate goal is for the university to meet requisite standards while striving towards attaining a world class status. According to Adio and Olasina (2012), a well-equipped library is a sine qua non for the intellectual, moral, and spiritual advancement and elevation of the people of a community. The relevance of the academic library is so paramount to the level that when every

other department passes and it fails, those programmes will still not be granted accreditation and such it will affect the school in general. The reverse was the case with Michael and Cecilia Ibru University because during the accreditation process the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) teams were pleased with what they saw in the library except for the some areas of study having limited number of books which they pointed out and was covered with the electronic database.

The Library provides a sufficient number of qualified staff—with appropriate education and experiences in library and other learning/ information resources—to accomplish the mission of the institution. Provision of adequate library materials to support the nature, level and scope of the different programs offered by the institution was also put in place. The library also maintained adequate and well organized collections which are accessible to all students, faculty, administrative and research staff.

Actions were taken in compliance to team of accreditation recommendations with emphasis on planning, outcomes of previous evaluation, utilization of information resources, involvement and collaboration of faculty and students in collection building.

Books, Journals and other electronic resources were acquired to build up collections in every program offered in the institution. The library did not only focus on input measures such as strengths and weaknesses of book collection but other information resources and services such as staffing, library hours, technical services, public services, allocation of resources and other aspects of library operations were also well taken care of. Librarians were actively involved in the accreditation because the provision and use of library materials and services affects the quality of the students' educational experience

The library played a major role in the accreditation of academic programmes in the institution. The NUC set up a Quality Control Division (QCD) which did research to test the quality of Nigerian university academic programmes. The NUC set up benchmarks for each academic programme which were evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Percent
Staffing	32
Academic Content	18
Physical Facilities	27
Library	18
Funding	03
Employers' Rating	02
Total	100

SOURCE: NUC Manual of Accreditation, March 2013: National Universities Commission Pg. 114

Conclusion

Academic libraries cannot be ruled out if the success of an institution must be achieved. It is an entity that has the mission of achieving the vision of the parent organization for which it is established to serve. An institution like Michael and Cecilia Ibru University must continually empower the library if it is ready to move to the next level that will make the institution to become a world class university that everyone living in and outside Nigeria will be envious of. Okebukola (2006) maintained that libraries occupy prominent position in the management of university education all over the world. The class and quality of the library determine to a great

extent the quality of scholarship in an academic institution. The status and role of the library have transcended the collection of valuable scrolls of notable philosophers to the aggregation of millions of volumes of books and journals in both print and electronic forms.

Accreditation is a continuous process which by implication the equipping of the library must also be on a continuous bases because change they say is the only constant thing in life. After a successful accreditation, more students will now see the need to embrace and apply for programmes in your institution. Moreover, more courses will be introduced as such there will be more patronage which will make the institution to be opened to the larger world.

REFERENCE

- Adeola Bello M. (2014). Accreditation and the Role of the Academic Library in Undergraduate Programs: A case study of Fountain University Osogbo. *Jorunal of Humanities and Social Science* 19 (10) 45-48
- Adio, G. and Olasina, G. (2012) *The Role of Library in Educational Development*
- Chiedu, F. M. (2014) *Assuring quality of University Education: Reflections on the development of a relationship in the National Universitie Commission and University Education in Nigeria: Perspective on the development of a system: National University Commission Abuja.*
- National Universities Commission (2009). *Weekly Bulletin*, 4 (46) 9.
- National Universities Commission (2012). *Manual of Accreditation Procedures (MAP) for academic programmes in Nigeria Universities.* National Universities Commission Abuja.
- Okebukola, P. (2006) Okebukola counts blessing of varsity system. *Vanguard*, Thursday. Jan. 26