**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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 ***ABSTRACT***

*The greatest problem of any society is lack of authentic, efficient and right information to function effectively. No society can function without proper information, as such, this paper tends to examine the roles of the library in providing information services for the attainment of sustainable development goals, three research objectives were set to put the paper in the right perspective. It also emphasized the roles libraries plays in the society which are educational, informational, research, conservational, cultural and reference roles. The paper focused on eight of the seventeen points Sustainable development goals. The challenges libraries and librarian may face while providing information services for SDGs were also discussed and recommendations was made on how the challenges can be handled.*

**KEYWORDS:** Library, Information, Services, Attainment, Sustainable, Development, Goals.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Every human being no matter the level of education, sophistication, affluence, and location needs information to function effectively in the environment. Not every information available in the society is useful to man. A lot of information and information resources are available; some are good and authentic, others are rumor and gossip, such could be misleading, harmful and destructive. The library is an agent that selects information resource based on certain criteria (the author, publisher, place of publication, ISBN or ISSN bearing in mind the philosophy of the library and the intended users. Just as human body receives a lot of signals from the environment to the brain, the brain selects and synthesizes those that are useful to the working of the body system and rejects those that are not necessary.

The library, like many social institutions, is continuously undergoing growth and development. According to Ranganathan (1988) library is a growing organism, libraries will continue to grow in the future. According to Edem&Ofre (2008)Libraries are a part of the information highway that connects people to the world of knowledge, they are created to conserve knowledge; preserve cultural heritage; provide information; serves as centers and foundation of research and recreation. Different types of libraries tend to emphasize one or moreof these social roles as such, this paper will focus on the objectives stated below.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To ascertain how library service could help achieve sustainable development goals
2. To outline likely challenges to achieving sustainable development goal in Nigeria.
3. And suggest possible solutions to challenges facing accomplishment of SDGs.

**LIBRARY AS CATALYST FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL**

A library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to materials or virtual space or both. Library collection includes books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, e-books, films, maps, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, audio books, databases and other formats. Different types of libraries exist to provide information resources and services to various categories of people in the society. These include school library, academic library, special library, private library, public library and national library. Each of these has special roles to play in the society. Some of these roles are:

* **Libraries as Promoters of Education and Preservers of Education Resources**:

Getting the right education is the best thing that can happen to anyone. According to Martin Luther King, Jr “nothing inallthe world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity”Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/quotes/6686/> on 26th March 2018

According to Francis Bacon (1597) ‘knowledge itself is power”. However, People suffer as a result of ignorance. Hosea 4:6b (KJV) “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”.

According to Walter cronkite “Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation” Retrieved 27th March 2018:<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/220528>

Boucher, Julie J.; Lance, Keith Curry (1992) sets three major roles libraries play in education as:

**Firstly,**

1. By teaching information skills, andproviding access to education
2. By providing leadership and expertise in the use of information and information technologies,
3. By participating in networks that enhance access to resources outside the school or community.

**Secondly**, libraries help ensure equity in education by:

1. Helping children start school ready to learn;
2. Addressing the needs of student most at risk;
3. Providing access to information and ideas unimpeded by social, cultural, and economic constraints;
4. Ensuring free and equal access to information and ideas without geographic constraints; and
5. Helping students stay free of drugs and violence, in an environment conducive to learning etc

**Thirdly,**

1. Impacting academic achievement for individuals and assisting them in lifelong learning,
2. Preparing individuals for productive employment,
3. Promoting the enjoyment of reading, promoting functional literacy among adults,
4. Preparing individuals for responsible citizenship, and equipping them with skills to make their societies and states to become first in the world in the area of sciences, mathematics achievement, social sciences and acts and culture.

In addition all types of library are:

1. Community Information Center wherever they exist, where current information on community issues and services are made available free of charge to all in printed and non-printed format.
2. Formal and Non Formal Education Support Center, they assists students and those who are not able to go to formal schools with educational materials that will help them meet their educational objectives in life. The public and national libraries are major players in this.
3. Independent Learning Center: They support individuals of all ages in pursuing a sustained program of learning independent of what any educational system can provide.
4. Preschoolers Door to Learning: They encourage young children to develop an interest in reading and learning through services for children, and for parents and: children together.
5. Serve as Reference Centers: The library of all type actively provides timely, accurate, and useful information for its community residents.
6. Library campaign: Tise, (2009) defined library campaign as a strategy designed to advance the lifelong education of the public by the promotion, support, assistance and improving the use of libraries through the activities of librarians and user groups.
7. Mobile Library Services (MLS) and Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI): Libraries should intensify efforts to take library services to those in the remote areas and those who for one reason or the other could not come to the library. For the illiterate also, study groups should be organized and have librarian who can read and understand their local dialect assist them to read and interpreted to them.
* **Libraries as Centers for Research and Information**

Library of all types assists students, scholars and researchers to conduct in-depth studies, investigate specific areas of knowledge, and create new knowledge. Research is essential to growth, discovery and development. The resources and services provided by all types of libraries helps its users to carry out search. These resources include books, journals, newspapers, reference works, music scores, microforms, online databases (eBooks and electronic journal articles) maps, etc. They also include theses and dissertations, bibliographic databases, Internet sources, etc. In addition, Nwalo (2003) describes services to researchers to include answering reference queries, user education, compilation of reading lists and bibliographies, indexing and abstracting, interlibrary loan, and current awareness services

Anyira (2008) enumerated the services rendered to researchers to include lending library materials for a long period; providing specialized reference services; organizing introductory and orientation sessions for new researchers; and providing a secure and pleasant reading and researching environment. Ifidon (2006) classifies research resources as monographic and multi-volume books, general and subject-based encyclopedias, and general and subject-based dictionaries. Others are almanacs, directories, handbooks, general facebooks, textbooks, bibliographies, biographies, abstracts and indexes, documents, reports, microforms, and vertical files. Hopkins (2007) highlights sources of research information to include personal papers, letters, diaries and journals, photograph and paintings, maps, sketchers, advertisements, posters, banners, memoirs, news footage, newspaper articles, speeches, oral histories, minutes of meetings, material artifacts, computer software, e-mail archives, web documents, etc. Library of all type acquires, provide and help to disseminate intellectual and physical access to information and ideas for a diverse population whose needs are changing rapidly daily.

**LIBRARIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The 17 goals set in 25th September, 2015 by the United Nations to be achieved in the next 12 years (2030) in order to make our world better end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The SDGs is targeted to over-rides the 8-point Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs was focused only on developing countries, but SDGs all countries (169) developing and developed countries were covered without preconception. The reason for the development of SDGs was due to the failure of most targeted countries to achieve their set MDGs targets by 2015.

The 17 Point Goals are:

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being For All People
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduce Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life On Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

Each of these goals has its targets to accomplish; this paper will focus only on the first (8)

**Goal 1: No poverty:** According Parker et al. (2013), conscious efforts made by successive governments in Nigeria to cut the rate of poverty in the country date back to the pre-independence era. During that period, the colonial government drew up programs and strategies and laid out resources for the first 10 years development plan 1946-1955 targeting processing of raw produces” and currently libraries are becoming a great enhancement of such programmed in Nigeria and these anti-poverty programmed have brought positive change in selected Nigerian communities. Libraries in Nigeria are well known source of reading and informational materials including formal education materials. Libraries could capitalize on that mandate in order to fight poverty and also create and develop locally published and produced information, pamphlets, bulletins, newsletters, and fliers about Agriculture, Health, literacy and prosperity practices. Libraries could through librarians distribute the available information to churches, markets, health centers, mosques and any other public place. This is one of the cheapest and most plausible ways to promote literacy and provide necessary information to curb poverty in all its formats.

**Goal 2: Zero hunger:** libraries can assist in reducing unemployment among youths and increase the number of literates particularly in Africa by creating awareness of the entrepreneurship opportunities in the library of which many are unaware of. Though there are many entrepreneurial librarians today, the public doesn’t perceive the profession that way, nor is it aware of the innovations created by librarians to substantially increase the number of youths and adults who have relevant skills; librarians can take the lead towards training unemployed youths on entrepreneurship education. The idea of entrepreneurship education revolves around facilitating self-employment leading to economic and social development of the society; libraries can be a place for building such grounds and providing opportunities for individuals to become self-reliant and creating job opportunities. For instance, using the daily services of a library, librarians can equip youths with knowledge of printing, scanning, photocopy services, book lamination, compilation of bibliographies. Libraries can organize campaignsprogrammes to collaborate with different organizations such as schools, institutions, ministries, industries, non-governmental organization to educate youths and improve their literacy level.

**Goal 3: Good health and well-being**: Medical libraries, hospital libraries and other libraries is essential provider of access to medical research that supports and improve public health outcomes, Public access to health information in all libraries to be better informed about their own health and to stay healthy. For instance, if mothers are enlightened even at the senior secondary school level, they should be able to identify some minor sicknesses in their children as well as ways of preventing them. Ottong (2014) suggested that library should provide the information such as sanitation rules and regulations, environmental cleanliness, family planning, disease control, PTF drugs, immunization, location of good hospitals and clinics, laboratory Centre, news about international bodies and agencies responsible for health activities. Example World Health Organization (WHO).

**Goal 4:Quality education:** Educations enlightens and widen the scope of an individual hence giving one the curiosity to be productive and eradicate poverty.AccordingtotheHoly Bible Hosea 4:6 “mypeopleare destroyedfor lack of knowledge”.As such,library plays a vital role of creating awareness in the minds of the people on what to get, how to get, and where to get a resource to satisfy one’s information needs. Jain &Saraf (2013) asserted that Library activities and services are user centered; libraries try to provide the best services to all their users’ needs with librarian keeping user’ need in mind continuously. Libraries and librarians promote and protect the right to information by producing, providing access to and identifying, organizing, providing instruction, in the use of preserving recorded information and expression regardless of the format or technology.Libraries could design outreach programs, this can be done through organizing- workshops, seminars, use of mobile library buses, public displays and exhibition. Such can have positive impact on social transformation and prosperity. Information is power and libraries and information centers are the reservoir of this power. The marketing of information implies transference of information to the perspective or potential user for a consideration. Marketing of information is a set of activities by which information products (resources) and services are channeled to the potential users. Marketing helps in increasing user satisfaction, and brings in an element of competition, which results in providing better services. Focus is on saving time, money and labour and also adapting to the latest information technology. Therefore marketing and its techniques if applied to library and information services can help in vital to fulfill the expected needs of information of the users.

**Goal 5:Gender Equality**: As the general saying implies that ‘what a man can do, a woman can do even better’. Women now are given the equal right to political responsibility, social organization and economic decision-making. Gone are the days wherewomen were discriminated and denied some right like education, self-expression and right to opinion.Library supports gender equality by providing safe meeting spaces, programmes for women and girls on rights and health, and ICT and literacy programmes support women to build their entrepreneurial skills. For example, in Nepal, READ (Rural Education and Development) Information and Resource Centre’s Capacity Building Initiative helps women and girls gain insight and take control of their own lives. The empowerment programme includes seminars and workshops on women’s rights, gender equality, health, violence against women and other issues. The library encourages women to sign up for the women’s group which meets once a month in separate section of the library where its members feel free to speak their minds.

 **Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**.

Enlightenment brings about cleanliness. As people are becoming educated they would learn how to keep their surrounding clean, sanitized and healthy.

 Forsyth (2005) Librarians therefore can fully facilitate access to hygienic related information materials through rising awareness and publicity programme.

**Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**

Clean energy refers to any source of power that does not pollute the environment. E.g solar power, Geothermal, wind energy, biomass, ocean energy (tidal power), hydropower.With right education, people will be well positioned to build and maintain energy infrastructures that will sustain their communities and countries for a long time to come. Librarians should create public awareness through library campaign programme and mobile devices via social media platforms to all library users and ensure access to affordable, reliable, [sustainable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_energy%22%20%5Co%20%22Sustainable%20energy) and modern energy for all.

**Goal 8: Promote economic growth, productive employment and decent work for al**l.

The major problem of our society is unemployment, most of our graduate are unemployed and as a result most of them has adopted and practices on the popular saying “the survival of the fittest” which result in so many indecent acts. according to ILO (International Labour Organization), decent work involves opportunities for work that are productive and deliver a fair income, security in the work place, social protection for families, better prospect for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in decision that can affects their lives and equal opportunity and treatment for all men and women. Economic growth is an increase in the capacity of an economy to produce goods and services, compared from one period of time to another.

 Library should not relent effort in providing educational services since education is one of the strongest tools to ensure economic progress and prosperity. Bradley (2014) said that a well-informed society contributes significantly to the development of the nation as the availability of information resources would bring peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development. Haven’t said that, librarian should embark on live campaign programmes to sensitize government and various organization on the need to create more job and employment opportunity for the youth, this will go a long way to eradicate crime and other social vises in our society.

In addition, KabiruUbale&AbdullahiYahaya (2016) suggests that libraries and Librarians are expected to be in the forefront in contributing to the actualization of the United Nations SustainableDevelopment Goals (SDGs) by the target date of 2030. Some of the ways they suggested includes:

1. Raising awareness on the various development issues spelt out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2. Providing a place where information on developmental issues can be accessed

3. Establishment of a strong library campaign programmes

4. Selecting resources taking into account the development indicators raised in the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

5. Hosting local forum from time to time where people can talk through problems,such as HIV/AIDS, community health, education, civil and human rights etc.

6. Engage in partnership with other agencies in promoting changes needed to meetthe Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

7. Promote the establishment of libraries especially at the rural areas to enhance information dissemination at local level

8. Provide network of service delivery for government programmes and services

9. Advancing access to ICT and help people to acquire and develop new digital skill.

**CHALLENGES THAT LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS MAY FACE TOWARDS PROVIDING INFORMATION SERVICES FOR SDG'S**

1. **Threats of Google and Other Internet Search Engines**: The arrival of www, internet search engine has drastically reduced the turnout of users to the library. Since what they usually consult libraries for are now found with ease through the internet.
2. **Handling Research Data Management Tools**: Libraries are expected to be the only place for data curation and research management. Librarians need the support of their faculty and administrators to make this happen, but librarian’s must acquire computer literacy skills; metadata skills, information packaging and repackaging skills. To be able to manage date and online platforms effectively.
3. **Lack of Technological Know How**: Tanawade (2011) started that many librarians lack confidence in the face of increasing information technology.

Librarians, we must take responsibility, and must of a necessity acquire requisite and appropriate knowledge of how to make use of ICT products to communicate, create, recreate, solve problems, access information, manage, integrate, evaluate, design, collaborate, disseminate information and improve learning in all subject of human endeavours.

1. **Digital Licensing and Violation of Copy Right Laws**: Copying other people’s intellectual content online and presenting it as yours is a wrong move. The question of does physical ownership means the rights of reproduction and duplication must be answered? Physical ownership does not mean that the library owns the rights to reproduce and duplicate a piece of work. The copyright status of the original owner of information materials must not be violated or abused. If you must copy or digitalize then acknowledge the original owner. Also, libraries and librarians should look for a way to manage and protect digitalized collection from been abused
2. **Inadequate Funding:**Nwalo (2000) states that the problems inhibiting IT applications by African libraries include apathy and inadequate government funding.

Aptiade (2002) laments that libraries are not adequately funded, and this affects to a reasonable extent the librarian's commitment towards information service delivery.

1. **Poor Infrastructure:** Krolak (2005) posits that appropriate buildings are needed to provide protection to library materials. He added that books, computers, and audio visual materials are very sensitive and have to be protected from extreme weather conditions.

Aptiade (2002) agrees that when he asserts that most library buildings are dilapidated especially at the local level.

1. **Poor Internet Connectivity:** In a digital library, the internet plays a vital role, the resource online cannot be accessed without the internet.
2. **Understaffing of libraries:** Most libraries in Nigeria are understaffed, this make the librarians unproductive. In some libraries the system librarian is also the circulation, technical, reference and serial librarian. If this is the case, how would such library be able to provide information services that would yield progress?

**CONCLUSION**

 The roles libraries and librarians play in any society are indispensible, if qualitative education and right information are made available to the society at all levels, then the challenges societies are facing can be easily eradicated. Achieving sustainable development goals will depend on the willingness of the government at all level to make formal and vocational education available to all byproviding right information on preventive measures of outbreak of diseases, security and the need to live cleaning environment. From the above discussion on the sustainable development goals, the librariesand librarians should tackle on the SDGs to raise the standard and services provided for the benefit and total eradication of unemployment that leads to poverty and hunger within our community and nation at large.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Mass education should be made available to all children and adultirrespective of gender, tribe or race. Vocational education should also be made available and affordable be a major catalyst in promoting sustainable development goals.

2. Librarians and libraries should be effectively supported by the government and parent bodies in terms of facilities, finances and man power.

3. Librarians should always make research and attend professional seminars and workshops to acquire best and improved means of delivering library services especially in this era the of WWW, internet and social media explosion..

4. Information materials on sustainable development goals should be acquired and made available to all by all type of libraries.

5. Libraries and librarians should embark on media outreach campaign to sensitize the public on how the SDGs can be achieved.

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