Spring 4-29-2013

Fund Allocation as a Correllate of Sustainability of Departmental Libraries in Nigerian Universities

Abdulganiy Okanla Ahmed
Federal University of Technology, Minna Nigeria, ganiyokahmed@yahoo.com

Kenneth Ivo Ngozi Nwalo Dr
University of Ibadan, knwalo@yahoo.com

Library Philosophy and Practice

AbdulGaniy Okanla Ahmed
Department of Library
Information Technology,
Federal University of
Technology, Minna, Nigeria
ganiyokahmed@yahoo.com

Dr. K.I.N. Nwalo
Department of Library,
Archive and Information
Studies,
University of Ibadan, Ibadan
knwalo@yahoo.com

Fund Allocation as a Correlate of Sustainability of Departmental Libraries in Nigerian Universities

Abstract

Universities in Nigeria and the world over are engines of growth and development. They are increasingly recognised to have a broader role in the social, economic, technological and manpower development of a nation. In fact, the universities serve as the main source of supply of skilled manpower needed in the various sectors of the nation. The National Policy on Education (2004) acknowledges that university education shall make optimum contribution to national development by intensifying and diversifying its programme for the development of high level manpower within the context of the needs of the nation. The library has a great role to play in the provision of the right information in the right format to the right user and at the right time. Haruna and Mabawonku (2001), while stressing the importance of information for every profession, affirm that legal practitioners depend fully on a nugget of relevant, precise and timely information for success in their profession. This is why faculties and departments offering professional programmes in the university usually require well equipped departmental libraries. information, there is a tendency towards failing to satisfy users, thus the need for departmental or faculty libraries.

Introduction

Universities in Nigeria and the world over are engines of growth and development. They are increasingly recognised to have a broader role in the social, economic, technological and manpower development of a nation. In fact, the universities serve as the main source of supply of skilled manpower needed in the various sectors of the nation. The National Policy on Education (2004) acknowledges that university education shall make optimum contribution to national development by intensifying and diversifying its programme for the development of high level manpower within the context of the needs of the nation.

The library has a great role to play in the provision of the right information in the right format to the right user and at the right time. Haruna and Mabawonku (2001), while stressing the importance of information for every profession, affirm that legal practitioners depend fully on a nugget of relevant, precise and timely information for success in their profession. This is why faculties and departments offering professional programmes in the university usually require well equipped departmental libraries. In fact, knowledge of the various programmes in the university and information needs of both students and faculty members are vital to library effectiveness.

The central library of a university initially had the sole responsibility of providing needed services to the few members of staff and students in the few established departments. However, with time, more departments were created and resulting in increase in the population of users attended to by the main library. Bozimo (1992) describes libraries in tertiary institutions as the nerve/centre of activities that hold the key resources for departments in the teaching and learning process. Since the academic departments will have to patronize the main library for needed information, there is a tendency towards failing to satisfy users, thus the need for departmental or faculty libraries.

Departmental library, according to Prytherch (2000), is a library in a college or university which is established apart from the main library, and is restricted to one subject or group of subjects. Departmental library is also known as branch library, faculty library and laboratory collection. Provision of resources for a departmental library like any other library is subject to adequate funding. This implies that no resource can be provided without finance. Indeed, the value of a university library rests largely on the librarian's ability to obtain money for stock, staff and accommodation (Kolo, 1999). To Akinnigbagbe and Haruna (2005), funds are required for infrastructure, superstructures, personnel, equipment, books, journals, media and electronic resources. Effective library and information service require provision of resources for study and research, competent staff at all levels, generous space provision, functional building, furniture and equipment. Without adequate financial support, there can be no resources for teaching and research, good staff cannot be recruited; space cannot

be provided to house the resources, staff, readers, furniture and equipment and other physical facilities cannot be acquired (Ifidon and Ifidon, 2007).

It is evident that fund allocation is an essential factor in maintaining a good departmental library. However, many studies have shown that there is inadequacy of funding of libraries in Nigeria and this has also affected provision of other resources. Anyanwu and Akanwa (2001) report that most libraries in Nigeria are faced with a myriad of problems associated with inadequate funding. Ifidon (2006) observes that the inadequate financial support has been a major problem confronting heads of libraries in developing countries especially in the area of collection development. The ten percent (10%) of recurrent expenditure recommended by the National Universities Commission for the running of university libraries, according to Salisu (2001) has not been adequately implemented and thus, a set back on the activities of such libraries. This could even be worse at present when universities and other public institutions are underfunded due the worldwide economic meltdown.

Under the prevailing condition, no doubt, services of departmental libraries in the universities can be adversely affected. If so, how can the resources be sustained? Sustainability in this context refers to the act of taking appropriate steps to ensure that departmental libraries in the universities are functioning optimally at all times. Specifically, it entails continuous provision of information resources and services backed up with adequate funding at all times.

It is pertinent to note that the policy of establishing a departmental / faculty library is not an end in itself but a means to an end. To Kumar (1997), once a library has been established, then, funds would be required on recurring basis to sustain it in proper order and shape. In view of the fact that the Federal Government of Nigeria could not fund the university libraries adequately, there is a strong need according to Adedibu (2001) to find ways of sustaining them before total collapse.

From the foregoing, it is evident that the importance of sustainability of departmental libraries in Nigerian universities cannot be over emphasized. In view of the fact that the established departmental/ faculty libraries need to be sustained, availability and adequacy of funds are very essential for appropriate provision of human and material resources. In essence, effective operation and sustenance of departmental library system will depend on adequacy of funds. In the light of this, the study attempts to establish the extent of relationship between fund allocation and sustainability of departmental/faculty libraries in Nigeria.

Research questions

To achieve the objectives of the study, the following research questions were raised:

1.   What are other sources of funds of departmental/faculty libraries in Nigerian universities?

2.   How adequate is fund allocation to departmental/faculty libraries in Nigerian universities?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested:

1.   There is no significant relationship between fund allocation and resources provision in departmental/faculty libraries in Nigerian universities.

2.   There is no significant relationship between fund allocation and sustainability of departmental/faculty libraries in Nigerian universities?

Literature review

Rosenberg (2002) affirms that though librarians in university tend to favour a strong central library, but in practice the provision of information is being decentralized. She notes that over the last ten years, there has been an explosion in the establishment and growth of collections at the departmental level. The author further posits that many academics and students cite departmental libraries and resource centers as the most important sources of information, and their first port of call whenever they need information. Once such a collection is established, staff and students stop using the main library. They find them up to date, easy to access, focused and relevant. Electronic communication, according to her, offers increase possibility for decentralized information retrieval. Academics demand connectivity at office or departmental level.

Bassi, and Jonathan (2008) observe that the present increase in the students population and academic staff in Federal University of Technology Yola is generating need for the establishment of faulty libraries in the various schools/faculties. They reveal that with the current population of the main users of the central library, it means that only about 7.11% of both academic staff and students can be accommodated in the Library as against at least 25% minimum number of users' population a university library is expected to accommodate. In view of the situation, the writers look into the challenges of setting up faculty libraries in the university.

The sustainability of academic libraries, according to Thompson and Carr (1987) is an important issue which the society needs to look into in order to have sustaining libraries. The writers further submit that the sustenance of academic libraries determines the quality of education in an academic institution which in turn has a great effect on the society.

Financial resource is fundamental in a library system. In fact, the degree of financial adequacy determines the effectiveness of such a library. Ndekwu (1991) remarks that it has become a common knowledge that institutions of higher learning in Nigeria are inadequately funded and thus, many services can no longer be adequately provided in such institutions. The writer argues further that even when funds are available, they are grossly inadequate because of the soaring prices of books. This situation being described over two decades ago has become even worse with the global economic meltdown of the present times

Rosenberg (2002) opines that addressing the sustainability of library development in Africa is not a new phenomenon. She adds that it is a problem that has been well recognised over the last 25 years. Sustainability, according to her has been addressed by African librarians and donor agencies but none of these initiatives have succeeded in revitalizing libraries and because most have been donor-led, they have only served to increase dependency on outside funding.

Makondo and Katuu(2004) admit that libraries in African universities are faced with declining financial resources, and as a solution to the provision of better content and access, libraries have turned to IT as an alternative to providing up-to-date information to their clients. They, however, buttress that installing IT is not an end in itself but its sustainability. As Montviloff (1995) states, " the application of IT alone does not automatically provide the whole solution to the library information system problem of improving the content of and access to information. More critical is the development of long term strategies that will positively forge a sustainable plan for the use of IT in Libraries".

Methodology

The descriptive survey of correlation type was the research design adopted for this study. The university librarians and heads of departmental/ faculty libraries in conventional federal universities in Nigeria formed the target population. Stratified sampling technique was employed to select six universities from the six geo-political zones in Nigeria, while purposive sampling method was also utilized to select the universities operating faculty library system. The universities selected include Ahmadu Bello University Zaria (ABU); University of Benin, Benin-City(UNIBEN); University of Ibadan (UI); University of Ilorin (UNILORIN); University of Maiduguri (UNIMAID) and University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN). Five faculties that were selected include Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Social Sciences. The questionnaire was physically distributed by the researchers with an assistant in each of the universities while the interview with the university librarians was personally conducted. Out of 36 copies of questionnaire distributed to heads of departmental/faculty libraries 34, were returned and found usable showing a response rate of 94.4%. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics and Pearson Product Moment Correlation.

Table 1: Demographic data of respondents (Heads of departmental/faculty libraries)

Item description	UNIMAID		UNN		UNIBEN		UNILORIN		UI		ABU		TOTAL
Highest qualification	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
School cert.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Diploma	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	7
Bachelor	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	7
Master	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	-	2	3	1	-	18
PhD	-	-	-	1	-	-	--	-	1	-	-	-	2
Total	3	3	1	5	3	2	3	1	3	3	3	4	34
Gender Male	16 (47.1%)												
Female	18 (52.9%)												
Working experience0-1	1 (2.9%)												
1-10	4 (11.8%)												
11-20	18 (52.9%)												
21-30	11 (32.4%)												
31 and above	-												
Total	34 (100%)												

Table 1 indicates a total respondents of 34 who are heads of departmental/ faculty libraries in the universities understudy. There were 7 (20.6%) respondents each from UI and ABU while 6 (17.6%) each of the respondents were also from UNIMAID, UNN and UNIBEN. UNILORIN however had 4 (11.8%) respondents giving a total of 34.

Out of 34 heads of departmental/faculty libraries who responded to the questionnaire, 18(52.9%) were female while 16 (47.1%) were male. The range of working experience, 1 (2.9%) of the respondents fell within 0-1 years, 4 (11.8%) for 1-10 years and 18 (52.9%) for 11-20, while 11 (32.4%) were for 21-30.

Research Question 1: What are the sources of funds of departmental/ faculty libraries in Nigerian universities?

In order to find out the sources of funding departmental / faculty libraries in the selected universities for the study, the University Librarians were interviewed since the heads of faculty libraries are not directly responsible for the funding. The findings reveal that apart from the fund allocation which comes

from the government through the university management as overhead cost, the university libraries studied have other sources of funding as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 : Additional sources of funding of university libraries

S/N	Other sources of funding	Universities affected
1	Education Trust Fund (ETF) (library intervention)	All the six universities
2	Library development fee/student registration fee	All the six universities
3	Overdue fine	All the six universities
4	Endowment / philanthropy	All the six universities
5	Photocopying services	UI, UNIMAID,
6	Bindery services	UI, UNIMAID, UNIBEN, UNILORIN
7	Cyber café service	UI, ABU, UNIMAID, UNILORIN

In the Table 2, it is shown that all the six universities studied have other sources of funding their libraries, (including the faculty libraries). The sources include Education Trust Fund (through special intervention), library development/ students' registration fee, overdue fine and endowment / philanthropy. For instance, in 2010, University of Ibadan library benefitted from Macarthor Foundation grant, University of Benin library got eight million Naira(N80, 000,000.00) from a friend of the library who is an alumnus the same year, while a company donated an e-library at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 2007.

Some of the university libraries generate funds through photocopying service (UI and UNIMAID), bindery services (UI, UNIMAID, UNIBEN, UNILORIN) and cyber café services (UI, ABU, UNIMAID, UNILORIN). It is pertinent to note that the departmental/ faculty libraries benefit from other sources of funds generated through their main libraries. These sources provide supplementary funds for the provision of resources and sustainability of the libraries for effective use.

Research Question 2: How adequate is fund allocation to departmental libraries in Nigerian universities?

In order to determine the adequacy of fund allocation to department/ faculty libraries in universities, some statements were made for the respondents (heads of faculty libraries) to either affirm or reject by "Yes" or "No". The result is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Responses on fund allocation to departmental/faculty libraries in Nigerian universities (N= 34)

S/No	Items	Yes %	No %	Total
1	The university library is adequately funded for effective departmental/ faculty library services.	10 (29.4)	24 (70.6)	34
2	The university management usually releases adequate fund for the development of departmental/ faculty libraries.	6 (17.6)	28 (82.4)	34
3	The financial provision is judiciously utilised by the university library management towards effective departmental/faculty library.	13 (32.2)	21 (61.8)	34

From Table 3, most of the heads of departmental/faculty libraries 24(70.6%) signified that the university libraries were not adequately funded for effective departmental/faculty library service in the Nigerian universities. In addition, out of a total respondents of 34 (heads), 28(82.4%) indicated that the university management does not usually release adequate fund for the development of departmental/faculty libraries in the universities studied. Similarly, majority of the respondents 21(61.8%) also indicated that the university library management does not judiciously utilize the financial provision towards effective departmental/faculty library services.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between fund allocation and resource provision of departmental libraries in Nigerian universities.
Table 4 : Correlation coefficient (r) for the relationship between fund allocation and resource provision in departmental libraries in Nigerian universities

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	Calculated r-value	Critical r-value	Decision
Resources provision	34	2.6987	0.43676	33	0.731	0.349	Ho: rejected
Fund allocation	34	2.6765	0.50399				

Table 4 shows that the calculated r-value of 0.731 is greater than the critical r-value of 0.349 at 0.05 level of significance and for 33 degrees of freedom. The null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between fund allocation and resources provision of departmental/faculty libraries in Nigerian universities is therefore rejected. This implies that there is positive high correlation between fund allocation and resources provision.
Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between fund allocation and sustainability of departmental libraries in Nigerian universities.
Table 5: Correlation coefficient (r) for the relationship between fund allocation and sustainability of departmental libraries in Nigerian universities

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	Calculated r-value	Critical r-value	Decision
Sustainability	34	2.6765	0.47486				
Fund allocation	34	2.7647	0.50399	33	0.779	0.349	Ho: rejected

As shown in Table 5, the calculated r-value of 0.779 is greater than the critical value of 0.349 at 0.05 level of significance and for 33 degrees of freedom. The null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between fund allocation and sustainability of departmental/ faculty libraries in Nigerian universities is therefore rejected. This implies that there is significant and strong relationship between fund allocation and sustainability of departmental/ faculty libraries in Nigerian universities.

Discussion of findings

The findings revealed that the government was the major source of fund to the university libraries through the university managements. The study also discovered from the interview with the university librarians that the fund allocation to the university libraries was spent to run both the main and faculty libraries. This is in line with the finding of Ifidon and Ifidon (2007) which disclosed that the government subvention constitutes the major sources of funds to university libraries in Nigeria. They highlighted the implications of over-reliance on government for financial support and thus enjoined every library to source for funds and have a clear strategy on how to finance its operation.

The findings further revealed that university libraries under study were not adequately funded for effective departmental/ faculty library service. The majority of the respondents also disclosed that the university managements do not usually release adequate fund for the development of departmental/ faculty libraries in the universities. In addition, the study reported that many of the respondents indicated that the university library management does not utilize the financial provision judiciously for effective departmental/faculty library services It can be deduced from the findings that the inadequacy of fund allocation to the university main libraries would perhaps have an adverse effect on the activities of departmental/ faculty libraries. This is similar to the findings of Salisu (2001) which reported that the ten percent (10%) of recurrent expenditure recommended by National Universities Commission for the running of university libraries had not been adequately implemented and thus a set-back on the activities of libraries. Anyanwu and Akanwa (2001) similarly revealed that the Nigerian libraries are faced with a myriad of problems associated with inadequate funding.

The Library Development Fund (LDF) which is usually ten percent of the university total budget according to the findings of Ifidon and Okoli (2003) was made available for some years but ceased to be operational from 31st December, 2001. This view is also shared by Olanlokun and Adekanye (2005) who disclosed that there is no specific library financial directive from the National Universities

Commission to the universities intimating them of the grant from the government but rather, the federal university libraries are only subjected to the mercy of their Vice-Chancellors who distribute the fund as they deem fit. In this kind of scenario, the degree of library development will be low especially where the Vice-Chancellor does not give priority to library and information services.

The test of the relationship between fund allocation and resources provision has shown that there is significant, positive and high correlation between the two variables. This means that the degree of fund allocation has a significant influence on resources provision as well as the sustainability of the departmental/ faculty libraries in Nigerian universities. As such, the more the financial allocation improves, the more the resources (information, personnel and physical facilities) are expected to improve.

Fund allocation is a major resource that is fundamental to an organization's effectiveness. This implies that resources provision to departmental/ faculty libraries depend to a great extent on the degree of finance provided. This is in agreement with Ifidon (2007) who noted that without adequate financial support, there can be no resource for teaching and research; good staff cannot be recruited, space cannot be provided to house the resources, readers' furniture and equipment and other physical facilities cannot be acquired.

The analysis on the relationship between fund allocation and sustainability of departmental/ faculty libraries in Nigerian universities showed that there is positive significant relationship between the two variables. This implies that the sustainability of the departmental/ faculty libraries lies on the extent of fund allocation to such libraries. In essence, it is not enough for an institution to establish departmental/ faculty libraries but also to strive towards their sustainability. This is similar to the view of Kumar (1997) who noted that once a library has been established, funds would be required on recurring basis to sustain it. This view is equally corroborated by Adedibu (2001) who noted that the Federal Government of Nigeria could not fund the university libraries adequately thus, the need to find ways of sustaining them before their total collapse.

Conclusion

This study has explored the relationships between fund allocation and sustainability of departmental/ faculty libraries in Nigerian universities. Considering the findings of the study, the sustainability of departmental/ faculty libraries is a major problem. The sustainability of university libraries in Nigerian particularly departmental/ faculty libraries in Nigerian universities is very important for provision of subject based or specialized information resources and services. The complementary services of the departmental/ faculty libraries have much impact on the major functions (teaching, learning and research) of the universities. Thus, the maintenance or continued existence of departmental/

faculty libraries will be of immense benefit to the user community (students and staff).

Sustainability and use of departmental/ faculty libraries in Nigerian universities require adequate financial support. The adequacy of fund allocation has major influence on the provision of qualitative and quantitative information materials, staff and other facilities which could further enhance the sustainability of departmental/ faculty libraries in Nigerian universities.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are hereby made:

i. Since the government is the major source of funding for the university libraries through their parent institutions, there is dare need to seriously improve fund allocation as the present level of funding of the libraries is grossly inadequate. The government through the National Universities Commission (NUC) should, as a matter of urgency revert to the implementation of the directive on Library Development Fund (LDF) which stipulated that 10% of the recurrent expenditures of each university be allocated to the university library.

The deplorable condition of the Nigerian university libraries including the departmental/ faculty libraries can only be improved with greater financial support to them. The Nigerian government can borrow a leaf from that of California which discovered through task force findings that there was serious degradation in the quality of California State University library collection as a result of funding shortfall in the early 1990s. The funding gap for the library collections was identified and estimated to be $12million annually thus, the governor increased the funding to eliminate the annual budgetary shortfalls for libraries as well as building maintenance and instructional equipment. It is important for a task force on university library funding be set up by the current government and the outcomes be adequately addressed.

ii. The Nigerian universities and their libraries should gear up effort towards improving their internally generated revenue (IGR) in view of the present economic meltdown that is also affecting the government is finances. The university managements are implored to search for other financial sources while the existing ones should be consolidated especially by soliciting more philanthropy. The departmental/ faculty libraries should borrow a leaf from the department of Library, Archive and Information Studies of University of Ibadan, Nigeria which succeeded recently in getting about 60 computer equipment from the Nigerian Breweries Company. The university library managements should provide certain freedom to departmental/ faculty libraries to embark on fund raising at faculty level as a supplementary effort.

iii. For a meaningful departmental/ faculty library system in Nigerian universities, the managements of university libraries should prepare a separate annual budget for the development of each faculty library. The impact of a separate budget is likely to be much felt by the faculty library users than the present system whereas the main library transfers information materials to the faculty at will. The directive of NUC that a separate library be established for certain professional faculties like law and medicine apart from the main library is a good reference for such faculty/departmental libraries to have a separate budget for a more effective operation. With this suggestion taken into consideration, the rate of sustainability and use of the departmental/ faculty libraries in Nigerian universities will be high.

References

Adedibu, L.O. 2001. Collection development in selected academic libraries during the World Bank project. *Middle Belt Journal of Library and Information Science,* 1.1& 2: 101-111.

Akinnigbagbe, B.M. and Haruna, I. 2005. Effect of environmental factors on staff performance in some selected academic libraries in North Eastern Nigeria. *Borno Library, Archival and Information Science, 6.2: 126-135.*

Anyanwu, E.U. and Akanwa, P. 2001. Funding of libraries to Nigeria: the way forward. *International Information and Library Review,* 33:347-358.

Bassi, M.D. and Jonathan, B. 2008. The challenges of setting up faculty libraries in Federal University of Technology Yola. *Borno Library, Archival and Information Science Journal,* 7.2:125 – 131.

Bozimo, D.O. 1992. Physical facilities requirements for effective library services in the polytechnics. Proceeding of the first National workshop on effective management of polytechnic library resources of librarians in Nigeria. National Board for Technical Education, September 23-24: 41-44.

Federal Republic of Nigeria. 2004. National policy on education. Abuja: NERC.

Haruna, I. and Mabawonku, I. 2001. Information needs and seeking behaviours of legal practitioners and the challenges to law libraries in Lagos, Nigeria. *Library Review,* 33:69-87.

Ifidon, S.E. and Okoli, G.N. 2003. Forty years of academic and research library service to Nigeria: past, present and future. *Forty Years of Library Services in Nigeria. Lagos: Nigerian Library Association.*

Ifidon,S.E. 2006. Modern theory and practice of library *collection development. Benin-City*: Justice Jeco Publisher Ltd.

Ifidon,S.E and Ifidon, E.I. 2007. *New directions in African library management.* Lagos: Spectrum Books Limited.

Kolo, S.S. 1999. Management of university library in the face of dwindling resources in the development economies: a case study of Nigeria. *Lagos Librarian,* 20. 1& 2:6-19.

Kumar, K. 1997. *Library administration and management.*New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House PVT Ltd.

Makondo, F.N.S. and Katuu, S.2004. An assessment of the sustainability of information technology at the University of Zambia library. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science,* 14.2: 109-123

Montviloff, V.1995. Implementation of policies for the application of information technology. Advanced Technology Assessment System (ATAS) issue 10: Information Technology for Development. Geneva: UNCTAD: 442-446.

Ndekwu, G. T. (1991). The budgetary process: getting what you want, the politics of budgeting and fund raising. Paper presented at the workshop on financial management for survival of libraries and information services, organized by the department of Library, Archives and Information Studies, University of Ibadan, 28-29 August.

Olanlokun, S.O. and Adekanye, E.A 2005. Collection development in an unstable economy: a case study of the university of Lagos library. *African Journal of Library Archives and information science,* 15.2: 142-148.

Prytherch, R. 2000. *Harrold's librarian glossary and reference book.* Aldershots: Gower Publishing Company Limited.

Rosenberg, D. 2002. The sustainability of libraries and resource centres in Africa. Retrieved July 3, 2008, from http://www.infs.ukzn.ac.za/kiad/ozrosen.doc.

Salisu, T.M. 2001. Ethical issues in library management: a critical perspective. *Nigerian Libraries, 35.1:56-62.*

Thompson, J.S. and Carr, R.1987. *An introduction to university library administration.* 4th edition. London: Clive Bingley.