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Importance of Library to Lawmaker: Case Study of Edo State House of Assembly

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ABSTRACT

The research concern of this study was to find out the importance of libraries to lawmakers. The objectives of the study were to: To find out the importance of libraries to effective legislation; To state the indispensability of information for effective, quality and meaningful representation by the lawmaker.; To find out the reasons for the lackadaisical attitude to the use of libraries by lawmakers; To examine the state and the total organization of the libraries. Edo state House of Assembly provided the data and the institutional setting. Survey research method was used for the study. The major findings were that; Libraries are important to lawmakers and indispensable to effective legislation; All the lawmakers use the library occasionally; Lack of relevant materials is a hindrance to library services to lawmakers. Poor funding is responsible for the poor state of the library information materials and other facilities; Lawmakers cannot succeed effectively without a modern functional library; there is poor reading culture among Nigerian lawmakers. The study recommended among others that; there should be a periodic national conference by the Nigerian Library Association, Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria and National Institute for Legislative Studies, to sensitize lawmakers both at national and State level(s) on the importance of libraries to lawmakers. ; Legislative Libraries should in collaboration with other libraries and experts, mount occasionally programmes of user education and information literacy to enhance the capacity of library users. Parliamentary Librarians should take the advantage of modern information technology for the augmentation and innovation of parliamentary library services significantly; qualified personnel should be recruited to manage parliamentary libraries across the country. It should not be a dumping ground for career civil servants.

Keywords: Importance of library; Lawmakers; Legislative library

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

The study is aimed at finding out the importance of libraries to lawmakers. The lawmakers can be described as the treasury of power in any society because they are the people in the legislative arm of the government empowered to make laws. The legislature is an integral component of government, which is the system through which a country or state is ruled. Such a system usually develop out of people's historical experience, culture, custom or common practice.

Since ancient times, the communist system and pre-industrial society, government had always been organized along these lines: the executives; legislature and judiciary, their fusion or separation varies from one system to another or from one society to another. One thing is clear, whether the organs are fused or separated every government or political system performs three vital functions namely:-

- (i) Legislative: law making
- (ii) Executive: implementation of law
- (iii) Judiciary: interpretation of law

The organ of government that is concerned in this study is the legislature. It is the most important arm of government, it lay down basic principles through the lawmaking, which the executive has to use or apply in the implementation of laws. And which the judiciary has to use as it frame or reference in adjudicating cases related to these laws; (Benney, 1968)

The unique position of the legislator as representatives of their constituents expose them readily to the need of the populace. Hence, some writers refer to them as the society errand boy or post office where the burning desires of the people are deposited for government('s) attention. (Epiphany, 2013). The importance of the legislature cannot be over emphasized, without the legislator; (,)it is not possible to have a functional democracy for they are the eyes, the ear and the voice of the people in representative democracy (okoye, 2006). Writers often see the

functions of legislature as solemnly that of lawmaking, but in reality their functions extend beyond that. Other functions of the legislature include:-

- (i) Effective representation of their constituencies
- (ii) Amendment of laws and the constitution in order to respond to the changes and adjust to new political ideas.
- (iii) Political education for political awareness
- (iv) Control of public funds and checking of the executive in order to forestall frivolous spending by the executive. This is done by scrutinizing the annual budget. Apart from the monetary issue there are other ways in which the legislature can act as watch dog of the executive, they make use of question time, a period during which ministers receive query from private members.
- (v) Ratification of appointment made by the executive and they also ratify agreements and treaties that the executive wish to enter into.(Akamere,2013).

The functions of the legislature enumerated above by Akamere appears detailed but Okoye (2006) in his article listed the above function of the legislature and added that the legislature has the constitutional power to impeach the president or state government on grounds of abuse of office, unconstitutional acts, misconduct and incompetence. When there is legislature that performs its functions effectively, the executive arm of government is on its toes; the latter cannot afford to derail because the legislative arm is constantly watching and taking appropriate action to ensure that why the executive arm does the interest of the people, it should be in conformity with the constitution. This could be why Okoye (2006) refers to the legislature as the hub of functional democracy.

Library and information service

Despite the clearly documented role of the legislator, in practice he finds himself performing other roles not easily defined or documented. The legislator will discover that they are ward representative(s) as lawmakers and party workers,(.) whatever their role is legislators need information, if their role is to oppose or sustain the government of the day effectively, whether it is to scrutinize the activities of the government(...or) they need information, if their

role is to represent their constituency and defend the interest of their people they need information to do this effectively.

If Information is to be at the disposal of everybody there must be library and information services. If there are no library and information services, there cannot be good educational institution or governmental institution. Today's world has emerged as what has become known as information society. This is because information has become the driving behind the development of nations. Through the history of mankind, the communication of information has provided the raw materials for social development. In addition, information plays a vital role in every process of interaction between people and between nations. It enhances the quality of decision made, facilitates social change and serve as instrument for conflict prevention and conflict resolution (Ifidon, 2005)

Libraries as information gateway have over the years maintained one of civilization's greatest traditions of gathering and disseminating of hard won Human wisdom. In this way, Libraries have been and will be the engine-room of civilization and development. Infact, without information provided by the libraries over the years progress made by man in various fields would have been impended, because scholars in various fields had depend upon libraries for quality and' hard' information for major breakthrough and exploit. No wonder those who have affected their generation mightily had great regards for books and are friends of libraries, they see the library as an indispensable tool for progress. From Aristotle of 4 BC, Jesus, Mohammed and other great religious minds to Hitler and even Clinton of our modern day.

Through the library those with sufficient drive and curiosity can uncovered the deepest truth using book to employ the thought and actions of others and inform their own creativity, Book charges us to use our mind to find better ways of conducting ourselves and managing the great problem of human existence. The libraries have provided resources to explain and confront our most social problems and one can also find solace there in time of stress indulging in the great work of literature. Literature are crucial to the survival of numerous such as schools, hospitals, farms or any other institution you can name, because they ensure that we need not learn the lesson over and over again from the scratch. Unlike our Stone Age ancestors, we can learn from the experience of those who came before and this gives us give us a remarkable power for change and growth.

Joel-Ikokoh (2009) describe the library and information services provided by legislative library thus ;

“ legislative library and information services provide reference and research services to committees, members, and staff of the General Assembly, and the legislative information to the public. The library offers core services for learning and research. It plays the role of support to the legislative learning through the provision and control of information in print and other media, through assistance with its retrieval and through provision of facilities for its use; It gives the legislature an ability to gather information from primary and secondary sources of information to enhance their research work. It serves as access to scholarly literature and information held elsewhere. The library helps the legislature to be able to quote, paraphrase and summarize accurately and to also cite sources properly. The library serves as a tool of excellence and in the promotion of lifelong learning by the provision of learning environment which integrates reading places, information technology and materials for study and research. It serves as an official depository for the publication of the legislature. It has a collection of first sort in all media. The library serves as a store house of knowledge or a super high way. According to Banjo (1981), the library plays the role of contributing to the speedy development of community, implants ideas, opens up minds, fires imagination, releases the brake of ignorance and reinforces the dynamics of progress, inspires young men to see vision and when they grow old, it helps them to dream peaceful dreams’.(Ottong, and Nkebem2014)’.

Having discovered the role of library in effective legislation Adejokun (2012) the Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly called for a functional and an up-to-date legislative library to broaden the knowledge base of the staff and lawmakers. He stressed that the legislative library was mandated to provide research and information services to honorable members and staff of the assembly but rarely did that happen because of lack of materials. He pointed out that this had led to limitation of service to the staff and honorable members , he stressed that “The NASS library’s mission is to further the process of NASS in Nigeria by providing confidential, non-partisan information services to the legislative assembly and to sustain a research and legislative collection unique to the country.” But the libraries are not adequately provided for, thereby hampering their mandate; there is hardly a sound world standard library in any of the NASS branches. Similarly, Pullinger(2013) the librarian and Director General, Information Services, House of Commons, London, United Kingdom, opined that Nigeria needs a well-equipped legislative library to boost its democracy. According to him, “This means the legislature will be well informed about the business that comes before it... Individual members of the National Assembly (NASS) are well informed to carry out their parliamentary duties in their constituencies... The public is well informed about the importance of NASS in their national life.” He then pointed out that there was the need for the legislative library to take a leading role

in democracy-wide information management activities through the indexing of materials to facilitate access to knowledge. How brilliant an idea this would be, if only Nigerian legislators would ever make use of the library.

Without doubt the legislature requires unbiased, relevant, timely and hard information provided by the library department of the legislative house. This is a vital factor that enables legislators to fulfill people's expectation on them. For a legislator, valour, independent judgment and commitment to national interest are very important. (Edon, 2006), Egbe (2012) opined that the strength of the legislature lies in its capacity to scrutinize the political and administrative actions of the government, he stressed that unless there is adequate information legislature cannot effectively oversee the executive and perform a legion of other functions, adequate information can only be found in the library.

Significance of the study

This work will be of great value to the lawmakers as it will enlighten them about the importance of information provided by the library and other sources for effective legislation and representation. It will also appraise the importance of libraries to the lawmakers and strive to proffer suitable solutions to the unenthusiastic attitude by lawmakers to the use of libraries. The entire populace will also benefit in the sense that their complains will be better presented in the house by their representative for quality attention. Lastly, this study will contribute to knowledge, assist government when designing Houses of Assembly and researchers who wish to carry out further investigation on related problems.

Statement of the Problems

Njoku (2008) posited that in building or conceptualizing a law-making complex, the library department cannot be undermined because of the all-important role it is going to play in enabling the law makers to fulfill their functions. In other words, the law making complex cannot be said to be fully ready for use by the lawmakers without a well-equipped library department, just as any university or educational institution cannot be said to have properly and academically taken off except a functional library is in place. In agreement with Njoku (2008), Onaiwu (2014) stated that libraries are established in the House with the primary function of assisting and supporting the lawmakers to carry out her pyramid functions.

The role of the library therefore is of primary importance to lawmakers and the other staff in performing their numerous and diverse functions. Egbe (2012) observed that it appears from the submission, resolution, motion, and disposition taken by lawmakers in Nigeria that they do not make adequate and judicious use of the library in performing their all-important assignment. Is it that they do not know or realize the importance of the service, the parliamentary library and her research unit can provide in making them become effective legislators? It is, therefore, the aim of this project to investigate the importance of libraries to lawmakers.

Objective of the Study

- i. To find out the importance of library to effective legislation.
- ii. To state the indispensability of information for effective, quality and meaningful representation by the lawmaker
- iii. To find out the reasons for the lackadaisical attitude to the use of libraries by the lawmakers
- iv. To examine the state and the total organization of the libraries.

Literature Review

The legislators require a very good library to meet their information need and it is essential to establish a special library for lawmaker, that is, a legislative library with information and research service to help in meeting the information need of legislators in the course of performing their official duties. The term legislative library and information service is used to emphasize the fact that the work of the library is not limited to supplying books as many people think. A good library does many other things besides providing books either for borrow or use in the library. It also offers reference service (help people to find answers to questions especially by searching publications), abstracting, indexing and review service to keep people aware of latest development in their fields. Legislative libraries are special libraries designed to offer prompt information service to lawmakers of all categories, lawmakers should be current in their knowledge, and have correct and up to-date fact concerning things, people, event throughout the world before they can formulate and execute sound policies and programmes and pass just law for the benefit of their people. It is essential for a legislative library to have the right books, journals and other materials. The various categories of staff, have to be well equipped and proper

administrative structure should be established (Nzonta ,1993). In the same vein, Egbe (2012) the former clerk of Edo State House of Assembly stated that the contribution of the library department to lawmaking is invaluable for it is the storehouse of knowledge of the legislative assembly. It should have a wide collection of reference books, journals, newspapers and other reading materials, collect, analyze and store statistical data on the programme of public agency and make them available on demand. He adds that sadly, the legislative assemblies in Nigeria hardly make financial provision for the procurement of books and materials for the library. He noted that, Nigerians have a poor reading habit but it is considered that lawmakers should be among the exceptions to this trend. He stressed that in pluralistic society and as a player in the globalizing world the lawmakers must refresh their memories, get new information and make research and enquiries on his own, if he is to make any mark, for information technology has reduced the geographical dimension between the race and region. The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) (2002) proposed a framework that the legislature at any level need a good library centrally located with current and relevant resources on Humanities, Social Science, Health, Housing, sports, political literature, and Law.

To Nwambi (1979) a one-time clerk of the Cross River state house of assembly stated that he had observed and is aware of the extent to which our legislatures need libraries. He called for an urgent need for a library in the Cross River state House of Assembly, which should be recognized as the information, reference, research and storage centre for the legislature and ultimate keeper of the recorded proceedings and debate of the house. He warned that decision should not be based on the insufficient and faulty data gathered from haphazard sources of information. He saw the need for our legislators to be aware of the development in their constituencies, states and countries by getting access to newspaper, magazines, reference, logbooks and government publications. He wondered how legislators could prepare their speeches and reports without the above mentioned materials and give a picture of the United State of America where the congress and senate members call at the library of congress for virtually everything; analysis of issues, legal research, interpretation, transaction, assistance with statement and draft of speech, the drawing up of chart and distribution of constituent' mail. He pointed out that the library of congress has congressional research service department that respond to the request of congress and a pneumatic tube that speeds book back and front connected the library to the capitol. Herman (1976) stated that the gathering, analysis,

organization and synthesis of information pertinent to the increasingly varied and complex subject dealt with by parliament, is an undertaken which the Member of Parliament cannot assume alone. Hence, libraries, documentation, study and research services have been created in most countries to assist the members in their search for reliable information. He stressed that library services provides indispensable assistance to members who are inevitably called upon to marshal a wealth of contradictory facts, figures, opinions and viewpoints in a world of ever increasing specialization and complexity, members of parliament are not alone in their requirement for information; their special position in the governing of the country makes it mandatory for their information needs to be met.

Ottong and Nkebem (2014) citing Rugambura (2010) observes that parliamentary libraries have a key role to play in meeting information needs of parliamentarians, through the provision of crucial, and update parliamentary information. Parliamentary library according to Katsutship, Takami (2000) is the corner stone of any parliament, offering vast accumulation of resources such as books, serial document database and bibliographies. Miko (1994) adapted the earlier typology of parliaments developed by Nelson Polsby, linking the information needs of parliament to the functional level of parliament. The result of the study reveals that parliamentarians need to be provided with the most common source of parliamentary information, that the range of task they are able to perform is a function of resources that they have. Big (2009) in Research and Information Services, Nigerian National Assembly reveals that parliamentary library in Nigeria is small and grossly ill-stocked; Books in the library are not up to date. There is no Internet facility, staff are inadequate and poorly trained, legislators hardly use the library (Ottong and Nkebem, 2014)

Ferneyhough (2000) on the 73rd page of his book stated that the library of congress is the largest library in the world and has contributed immensely to the organization of knowledge world over through the library of congress classification scheme. He emphasized that the original purpose for the establishment of the library is to provide or render service to members of congress. He concluded that this is why one of her cardinal mission today is to make her resource available and useful to congress and the American people. Griffith (1989) stated that for many years the functions of the legislative libraries of the house of common in England, were primarily concerned in the creation and custody, and organization of good information materials for

members, but in the last thirty years there has been a major growth in the demand by members for information relevant to their parliamentary work, and the library has responded by establishing and developing a research and information service designed to provide members with factual answers to their enquiries. Torres (2000) study reveals that parliamentary library should contribute to the strengthening of democracy by providing parliamentarians and the citizen with direct information on the political process, thus meeting the society's need for transparency regarding policy making. Menhennet (1981) pointed out that the volume and complexity of the documentation and information available has increased massively. He stated that the function of a parliamentary library is not the provision of books and materials alone but on precise, objective, information with, if possible some research to members. Members still need a service which will give them precise information in an impartial manner, away from the traditional library service. He emphasized that there are several requirements for effective library service for legislators for the library has to be close and at hand near the chamber, as information was often wanted quickly and the research services have to be available at least all the hours when the house is sitting. It has to be completely reliable and up to date; and it has to offer some special service beyond the normal library facilities in view of member special needs. He reveals that in the house of common there has never been a joint library each house wanted its own librarian responsible to it. But there is much cooperation between the two libraries. He concluded that, on patronage, the house of common library in UK is much used, on a busy afternoon or evening there will be 70 to 80 members using the libraries for various purposes. Griffith (1989) added that for many years the functions of the legislative libraries of the house of common in England, were primarily concerned in the creation and custody, and the organization of good information materials for members, but in the last thirty years there has been a major growth in the demand by members for information relevant to their parliamentary work, and the library has responded by establishing and developing a research and information service designed to provide members with factual answers to their enquiries.

Njoku (2008) stated that the libraries are one of those sectors of the Nigerian economy which are so mute in their contribution that they are often not seen as a vital part of the engine of growth. He adds that, the truth is that there are millions of people in this country who are yet to appreciate the role library can play in building effective and well informed legislator needed to operate our presidential system of government. He stated that, legislator need information

recorded in books, pamphlets and journals. He added that the Nigeria Legislators need to consult books or statistical record to be able to tell or compare the population growth rate of Nigeria in 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1980, he also need statistical record to able to compare Nigeria expenditure on education with Algeria, Denmark etc. between given date. He wondered where a Nigeria legislator preparing for parliamentary debate on infant mortality rate in Lagos between 1969 and 1970 go for information if he needs to take a trip outside Nigeria when copies of united nation demographic year book lie unused in the library shelves a few meter away. He emphasized that, the Nigerian legislator preparing for parliamentary debate or wish to raise a motion on the floor of the house on the following topic may need to search the library for such materials:

- Divorced and crude divorce rate>magazines, health journals and newspaper publications.
- International and Local politics >political handbooks of the world and newspaper publications
- How to raise motion and be an effective legislator>A grammar on politics by Harrlod j > Laski
- Agriculture growth in the world> year book of forest produce by UNO (F .A .O)
- Issues of ECOWAS>Africa Magazines e.g Africa
- Medicine, smoking and medical service > Medical and health journals
- Sport, physical fitness, drug abuse> sport journals. He concluded that there are several materials housed in the library that can create effective legislature and remarked that good laws in Nigeria depend on the quality of the contributions made by legislature during parliamentary debate. Legislators contribution depend on the homework and the research they do, their homework and research depend on the libraries,he concluded that, libraries constitutes not only an indispensable instrument of intellectual development but also an essential equipment for government effectiveness.

Methodology

The instruments used for data collection for this study are the questionnaires and observation technique. The questionnaires were carefully designed for the lawmakers of Edo State House of Assembly. Copies of the questionnaires were personally administered to all the 24 (twenty four)

lawmakers of the Edo State House of Assembly. Out of which 23 (twenty three were dully completed and returned. Another data collection instruments for this study was the observation techniques. This source of data was used because it afforded the researchers the rare opportunity of understanding in detail the true state of condition of the library of Edo State House of Assembly and the level of usage. The observation techniques also enabled the researcher explained a few seemly complex questions. This was however made possible by the short stay of the researcher at the Edo State House of Assembly library.

Analysis of Data

The completed and returned questionnaires were analyzed. The method used in analyzing the data was by means of tables and percentage. After the questionnaires were collected they were subjected to statistical analysis based on percentage (%) responses for each item was tabulated. The method of analysis (percentage) was done by the total number of questionnaires received multiplied by One Hundred (100) and divided by set of responses.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

Table 1: Existence of library facilities

| Existence of library faculty | No of responses | Percentage |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Yes | 23 | 100% |
| No | -- | - |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

With 100% responses rate it is obvious that the legislators are aware of the existence of library facility.

Table 2: Proximity of the library facility

| Proximity of library | No of Responses | Percentages |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|

| | | |
|--------------|----|------|
| | | |
| Close by | 23 | 100% |
| Distant | - | - |
| Very distant | - | - |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

All the respondents, that is 23(100%) of the lawmakers agree that the library facility is close by.

Table 3: Present data on how convenience of library's opening hours

| How convenient is the library's opening hours | Responses | Percentage |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Very convenient | 16 | 70% |
| Fairly convenient | 7 | 30% |
| Not convenient | - | - |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

A total number of 16(70%) of the respondents responded that the library's opening hours is convenient. While 7(30%) responded that the library opening hours fairly convenient. One can conclude that the library's opening hours is not a problem. However, the lawmakers did not respond to question , on other time they would like to see the library open, except one who wants to see the library open always.

Table 4.Importance of library to lawmakers?

| Do you think library is important to lawmakers | Responses | Percentages |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| Yes | 23 | 100% |
| No | | |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

All the respondents overwhelmingly agreed that the library is important to lawmakers. Hence 100% response rate

Table 5.Difficulty in using the library?

| Do you find it difficult to use the library | Responses | Percentages |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Yes | 19 | 83% |
| No | 4 | 17.3% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

The percentage of responses on table 5 shows that 19(83%) of the lawmakers find it difficult to use the library and 4(17.3%) of the lawmakers use the library with ease.

Table 6 Usage of the library.

| How regularly do you use the library | Responses | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Daily | 1 | 4.3% |
| Once a week | 1 | 4.3% |
| Once a month | 1 | 4.3% |
| Occasionally | 20 | 83.2% |
| Not at all | - | - |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

Even though the responses admitted on table 5 that the library is important to lawmaking, their responses to the question, how regularly do you use the library, shows that majority of them do not visit the library regularly. Hence a total number of 20 (83%) use the library occasionally, while 1(4.3%) use the library daily, once a week and once a month respectively.

Table 7 Reason for not using the library regularly

| Reason for not using the Library | Responses | Percentages |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Lack of time | 23 | 100% |
| Library is not useful | - | - |
| Distance | - | - |
| Library not conducive | - | - |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

With 100% responses rate one can conclude that time accounts for the reason the library is used less regularly.

Table 8: is on why respondents visit the library

| Reasons for visiting the library | Responses | Percentage |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| To prepare for parliamentary debate | 2 | 9% |
| To check for a piece of information | 16 | 69% |
| For reference | 5 | 22% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

The percentage recorded on table 8 shows that 16(69%) of the lawmaker visit the library to check for piece of information,%(22%) for reference purpose and 2(9%) to prepare for parliamentary debate.

Table 9: information need

| Are your information need base on lawmaking only | Responses | Percentages |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| Yes | - | - |
| No | 23 | 100% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

All the Honorable lawmakers unanimously agree that their information need is not on lawmaking only. Hence 100% response rates

Table 10: Other areas of your information need.

| What are your other areas of information needs | Responses | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Recreation | 2 | 9% |
| Personal self-development | 9 | 39% |
| Further Academic Studies | 5 | 21% |
| To be acquainted with current literature | 6 | 26% |
| Total | 22 | 96% |

Table 10 shows that lawmakers use the library for various reasons, hence, 2(9%), for recreation 9(39%), for personal self-development 5(21%), further academic studies and 6 (26%) visit the library to be acquainted with current literature. However one of the respondents did not respond to the question.

Table 11: Lack of current materials

| Does lack of current information material hinder the process of lawmaking | No of Responses | Percentages |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| Yes | 13 | 57% |
| No | 10 | 43% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

Table 11 shows that 13 (57%) of the lawmakers believe that lack of current information materials hinder the process of lawmaking. While 10(43.4%) believed on the contrary.

Table 12: Library stock and users satisfaction.

| Are the information materials available in the library able to satisfy your information needs | No of responses | Percentage |
|---|-----------------|------------|
| Yes | 10 | 43% |
| No | 13 | 56% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

The response rate to the question, are the information materials in the library able to satisfy your information needs? Shows the materials available in the library is not able to satisfy the information needs of the lawmakers. Hence 13 (56%) respondent said NO and 10(43.4%) respondent said yes.

Table 13: is on how the lawmaker find out material useful to them.

| How do find out useful material | No of responses | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Ask the librarian | 13 | 56% |
| Ask colleagues | - | - |

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|------|
| Consult bibliography | 2 | 9% |
| Current awareness | 1 | 4.3% |
| Use of the public catalogues | 7 | 30% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

Table 13 shows that 13 (56%) ask the librarians for materials needed for research, 2(9%) consult bibliography, 1(4.3%) rely on current awareness service and 7(30%) use the public catalogue to access materials useful to their research.

Table 14:: poor state of the library materials and facility

| What is responsible for the poor state of the library information materials and facilities | Responses | Percentages |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| Poor funding | 20 | 87% |
| Management indisposition | 3 | 13% |
| Poor reading culture | - | - |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

The lawmakers submitted that poor funding is responsible for the poor state of the library information materials and facilities. Hence, the response rate of 20(87%) indicated poor funding and 3(13%) indicated management indisposition as responsible for poor state of the library.

Table 15:is on if the poor state of the library materials and facility have negative impact on lawmaking process

| Does the poor state of the library negatively impact on the lawmaking process? | Responses | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 23 | 100% |
| No | | |

| | | |
|-------|----|------|
| Total | 23 | 100% |
|-------|----|------|

With 100% responses rate, table 15 shows that the poor state of the library have negative impact on the process of lawmaking.

Table16: How the poor state of the library has negative impact on process of lawmaking

| How the poor state of the library have negative effect on the process if lawmaking | No of Responses | Percentages |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| Inadequate collection of statistical Government records necessary for effective lawmaking | 5 | 21% |
| Non availability of current information materials relevant of lawmaking | 14 | 61% |
| inability to retrieve previous vote of proceeding | - | - |
| Library not conducive for parliamentary studies | 4 | 17.3% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

Table 16 shows that 4(21%) of the respondent believe that inadequate collections of statistical government records necessary for effective lawmaking negatively impact on lawmaking process, that non-availability of current information materials relevant for lawmaking negatively impact the process of lawmaking, while 4(17%) Submitted that the non-conclusive state of the parliamentary library negatively affect the lawmaking process.

Table 17 disappointment encounter in a bid to get relevant material.

| How often have you been | No of Responses | Percentages |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|

| | | |
|---|----|------|
| disappointed in not finding the materials you want or the correct solution to your problems | | |
| Always | - | - |
| Occasionally | 19 | 83% |
| Almost always | 3 | 13% |
| Never | 1 | 4.3% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

The study showed that 19(83%) of the respondents occasionally get disappointed when they cannot get the materials they want or correct solution to their problems. The study also showed that 3(13%) of the respondent almost always get disappointment not finding the materials they want or correct solution to their problems and 1(4.3) of the respondents said he has never disappointed not finding relevant materials or correct solution to his information need.

Table 18: Frustration

| User frustration | No of response | Percentage |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Inability to get relevant materials | 17 | 74% |
| Delay in receiving requested materials from the library | 1 | 4.3% |
| Poor library organization | 1 | 4.3% |
| Spending personal cash to by substitute materials | 4 | 17.3% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

Table 18 shows that the most serious frustration faced by the respondents is their inability to get relevant materials, which attracted 17(74%) responses. On their part, delay in receiving

requested materials from the library and poor library organization are also a problem since they attracted 1(4.3) and 1(4.3%) responses respectively. Spending personal cash to buy substitute materials appears to be a serious problem also since it attracted 4(17.3) responses.

Table 19: Functional library.

| Can the lawmakers succeed effectively without a modern functional library | No of Response | Percentage |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Yes | 1 | 4.3% |
| No | 19 | 83% |
| Partially | 3 | 13.4% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

The responses revealed that 19(83%) of the respondent agree that lawmakers cannot succeed without a modern functional library. While, 3(13.4) respondent feel that lawmakers can partially succeed without a functional library. 1(4,3%) respondent feels he can succeed without a functional library.

Table 20: Library organization

| What do you think about the arrangement of the library | No of Response | Percentage |
|--|----------------|------------|
| Very good | 6 | 26% |
| Good | 10 | 43.4% |
| Fair | 7 | 30.4% |
| Poor | - | - |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

Table 20 shows that 6(26%) of the respondent remarked that the library arrangement is very good. 10(43.4%) indicated that the library arrangement of resources is good while 7(30.4%)

reported what the library arrangement of resource is fair with this positions held by the lawmakers one can conclude that arrangement of the library resource is in order

Table 21:Library organization.

| What do you think about the arrangement of the library | No of Response | Percentage |
|--|----------------|------------|
| Very good | 6 | 26% |
| Good | 10 | 43.4% |
| Fair | 7 | 30.4% |
| Poor | - | - |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

Table 21 shows that 6(26%) of the respondents remarked that the library arrangement is very good. 10(43.4%) indicated that the library arrangement of resources is good while 7(30.4%) reported what the library arrangement is fair. With this positions held by the lawmakers one conclude that the arrangement of the library resources is in order.

Table 22 :Reading space.

| Is the library reading space adequate | No of Response | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Yes | 5 | 22% |
| No | 16 | 69% |
| Undecided | 2 | 9% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

5(22%) of the respondent said the library reading space is adequate. 16(69%) remarked that the reading space is inadequate, while 2(9%) are however, undecided.

Table 23: library service to clientele.

| How useful is the librarian and his staff in finding answers | Response | Percentage |
|--|----------|------------|
|--|----------|------------|

| | | |
|-------------------|----|------|
| to your enquiries | | |
| Always useful | 18 | 78% |
| Sometimes useful | 5 | 28% |
| Never useful | - | - |
| Total | 2 | 100% |

Table 23 shows that the librarians and other staff of the library are useful to the lawmakers in their quest for information. Hence, the response rate of 18(78%) of the respondent indicating that the librarians and other staffs of the library are always useful and 5(28%) indicating that the librarians and other staffs of the library are sometimes useful to them in their quest for information.

Table 24: Area of interest

| Does the librarians knows your area of interest | No of Response | Percentage |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Yes | 21 | 91.3% |
| No | | |
| Total | 21 | 91.3% |

All the respondents agreed that the librarian knows their area of interest. But two of the respondents avoided the question.

Table 25: Information need.

| If the information needs of the lawmakers are met by the librarians | Response | Percentage |
|---|----------|------------|
| Well | 9 | 39% |
| Very well | 12 | 52% |
| Poor | 1 | 4.3% |
| Very poor | - | - |
| Total | 22 | 96% |

Table 25 shows that the librarians do their best to meet the needs of the lawmakers within available resources.

Table 26: Current awareness service.

| Do you normally receive a copy of any material to which the librarian has drawn your attention | No of Response | Percentage |
|--|----------------|------------|
| Yes | 23 | 100% |
| No | | |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

With 100% response rate, table 26 shows that lawmakers normally receive a copy of the materials to which their attention has been drawn.

Table 27: is on how long the lawmakers wait before getting requested materials.

| Duration the lawmakers wait before getting requested materials | Response | Percentage |
|--|----------|------------|
| Less than a week | 17 | 74% |
| One week | 2 | 9% |
| Two weeks | - | - |
| One month | - | - |
| More than a month | - | - |
| Total | 19 | 83% |

A total number of 17(74%) responded that they get materials they have been previously informed of at arrival, less than a week on arrival. However, 4(17.3) respondent did not respond to the question..

Table 28: is on the problems often encounter by the parliamentarians in bid to meet their information need.

| Problem encounter by the parliamentarians in a bid to meet their information need. | No of Response | Percentage |
|--|----------------|------------|
| Lack of time | 6 | 26% |
| Lack of funds | 1 | 4.3% |
| Lack of materials | 11 | 48% |
| Management lukewarm attitude on information sources | 3 | 13% |
| Total | 21 | 91.3% |

Analysis on table 28 showed that 6(26%) of the respondent stated that lack of time is an impediment to their information need. 1 (4.3%) stated that it is lack of funds. 11 (48%) stated that is lack of materials. While, 3 (13%) stated that it is management lukewarm attitude on information sources. However, 2 (9%) of the respondent did not respond to the question.

Table 29: service of a private researcher.

| Have you ever engaged the service of a private researcher in your bid to get information | No of Response | Percentage |
|--|----------------|------------|
| Yes | 17 | 74% |
| No | 6 | 26% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

The above table shows that 17 (74%) of the respondents have engaged the service of a private researcher in their bid to get accurate information. While 6 (26%) of the respondent have never done so.

4.2 Findings

The following are the major findings that have emerged from the study:

- i. The lawmakers are aware of the existence of library facilities capable of assisting them, in their bid to become effective legislators.

- ii. The location of library facilities is not a hindrance to the use of library by the lawmakers as library facilities are close by. This finding is in agreement with menhement (1981) view that parliamentary library should be close to the chambers as information could be wanted quickly.
- iii. All the 23 lawmakers of the Edo State House of Assembly who responded to questions, agreed that the library is important to lawmaker and indispensable to effective legislation.
- iv. The lawmakers occasionally use the library. This is however saddening. Because this will certainly have negative impact on the quality of laws made. Again, this is a direct opposite of the attitude of lawmakers to the library in developed countries as submitted by menhennet (1981) that on a busy afternoon or evening there is over 70-80 members of House of common in England using the parliamentary library.
- v. All the lawmakers occasionally use the library because of time. Time therefore accounts for the reason for the lackadaisical use of the library by lawmakers.
- vi. The information need of the lawmakers is not base on lawmaking alone. Other reasons are; checking for piece of information, personal self development. Recreation, further academic studies and to be acquainted with current literature. Other reasons are to prepare for parliamentary debate and to check reference materials.
- vii. Lack of relevant materials and more importantly current materials is a hindrance to library service to lawmakers.
- viii. The study revealed that the lawmakers also agree with the position of Egbe (2012), (the deputy of Edo state House of Assembly) that poor funding is responsible for the poor state of parliamentary libraries information materials and facilities. The study further revealed that, the poor states of the library has negative impact on the process of lawmaking, especially the non-availability of current materials, inadequate collection of statistical government records necessary for effective lawmaking and the non-conducive state of the library for parliamentary studies.
- ix. The lawmakers prefer to ask the librarian for needed materials rather to use the public catalogue. By observation the lawmakers even preferred to use the materials in their private office.
- x. Inability to get relevant materials, non-conducive state of the library and the lack of modern information facilities like the INTERNET are the frustrations the lawmakers are

facing. These frustrations also account for the lackadaisical attitude of the lawmakers to the use of the library.

- xi. All the lawmakers submitted that they cannot succeed effectively without a modern functional library.
- xii. The study also revealed that the lawmakers are not exempted from the crowd of Nigerians infested with poor reading culture which has become a cankerworm bestriding every facet of the Nigeria Nation Egbe (2012) view that the lawmakers should have been an exception to this ugly trend but the contrary is the situation. This poor reading culture has obviously robbed the lawmakers of useful information and has limited their functional scope. No wonder Kalu (2004) stated that Nigeria Lawmakers are in comatose and have buried their head in the sand like the proverbial ostrich.
- xiii. Some of the lawmakers are not aware of, nor have made use of a private researcher in their bid to get relevant information. This is contrary of what is obtainable in developed countries and many fast developing countries where the lawmakers have recognized that information is sine-qua-non to quality legislature. This is the view of Straubelzee (1974) that the research assistant performing a different range of duties from those carried out by the staffs of the libraries. He concluded that they are able to inject political dimension into their work which the staff of the library serving members of other political parties may not wish to provide because of civil service rule
- xiv. Some of the lawmakers find it difficult to use the library.

Conclusions

The world is undergoing a global information revolution which futuristic and new paradigm observers have called the third wave of human development. Therefore, in today's world, information is power and any legislator who does not want to be seen as weak and inefficient, but wishes to be on-top of his game must embrace information. Information is not only relevant but also indispensable for planning, making faultless decisions, quality representation and lawmaking. The library remains the only place where this information can be made readily available. The information provided by INTERNET and other sundry electronic sources should never be substituted for the library, nor should it replace it. At best, it complements library

services to lawmakers. Therefore, the importance of libraries to lawmakers cannot be overemphasized because it is sine-qua non to quality laws and effective representation. But in a country like Nigeria, there is a lot to be done to reposition these parliamentary libraries if the all important function of library services to lawmakers is to be realized effectively. However, the findings in this study revealed that the poor state of the libraries has nothing to do with poverty but with the nonchalant attitude of the lawmakers. The attitude could be attributed to the poor reading culture among Nigerians which dovetail into poor funding of these libraries.

Recommendations

Guided by the major findings that emerged from this study the researcher proffers the following recommendations for consideration:

1. There should be a national conference by the Nigerian library Association, Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria and National Institute for Legislative Studies, to sensitize lawmakers both at national and State level on the importance of libraries to lawmakers.
2. Librarians must rise-up to fill the information gap that exists between lawmakers and the library by writing articles and other publication in journals ,newspapers , books etc on the importance of libraries to lawmakers.
3. There should be National parliamentary Association that will be issuing journals and bulletins. These will no doubts, develop this parliamentary aspect of librarianship.
4. Qualified personal should be recruited to manage parliamentary libraries across the country. It should not be a dumping ground for career civil servants.
5. When writing brief or conceptualizing House of Assembly Complex, the library should be given a pride of place. The idea of setting aside a room or office in the complex and tagging it a library should be discouraged.
6. Nigeria lawmakers should visit other parliament outside the country, especially in the United State and Great Britain to see for themselves how much the parliamentary libraries are been put to use.
7. The management of House of Assembly across the country should endeavour to acquire current materials relevant to lawmaking and weed out obsolete ones so as to reduce the frustration encountered by lawmakers

8. Modern information communication technology facility like the INTERNET should be established in the parliamentary libraries.
9. Management should organize exhibition and books shows to uplift the reading culture of the lawmakers.
10. The resources of the library should be frequently updated and strengthened to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the parliamentarians in the work.
11. The library should in collaboration with other libraries and experts, mount occasionally programmes of user education and information literacy to enhance the capacity of library users. Library personnel should be made aware of the concepts and principles of modern marketing. This can be performed through the holding of workshops, seminars, short-term courses, and other related programmes on the subject.
12. Parliamentary librarian should employ modern marketing principles to market their products and services for maximum utilization.
13. Libraries should take the advantage of modern information technology for the augmentation and innovation of parliamentary library services significantly.

14. Limitation of the study and suggestion for further study

Although serious efforts were made to ensure that the data was valid and the findings reliable, nevertheless, there could be some sources of error, these include the use of one House of Assembly and the exclusion of National Assembly for the study. It is therefore, suggested that similar research should be carried out in other State Houses of Assembly and the National Assembly. In addition the following topics should be considered to fill whatever gaps may exist in this project:

1. The condition of parliamentary Libraries across the country.
2. How libraries can aid effective legislations

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