Article

Planning a Collection Development Policy for Effective
E-Resources' Acquisition in Federal Universities in
South-South Zone, Nigeria

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Abstract
The study investigated planning as a factor for effective acquisition of electronic resources in the federal universities in South-South Nigeria. A descriptive survey design was used for the study. A sample size of 614 comprising the 69 Professionals and 85 Para-professional Librarians, 10 IT personnel / System analyst and 450 Post graduate students registered 2014/ 2015 session in the three federal universities in South-South Nigeria was used. A questionnaire of 9 items was used for data collection. Out of total number 614 copies of questionnaire distributed, 578 copies were returned and analyzed using frequency, tables, percentages and mean rating. Findings revealed from the study that e-resource are preferred by users to print, acquisition librarians are involved in planning for acquisition and management of e-resources, staff training and retraining is required to update knowledge and information on e-resources. Libraries should not depend on government alone for funds of e-resources. Based on the findings, recommendations were made. Implications for the study were enumerated and suggestions for further research made.

**Keywords: Planning, Collection development policy, E-resources, University
libraries, South-South zone,**

Introduction

The issue of transition from acquiring print to acquiring electronic resources requires managerial ability as the need to adapt the internal organization to the new situation is indispensable. Proliferation of digital products and changing modes of access have made managing electronic resources a complicated and arduous task Graham and McAdam (2004) found from their study that most of the challenges in response to the demands of processing and managing of electronic resources occurred in acquisition and cataloguing sections. This emergence of electronic information resources has tremendously transformed information handling and management in Nigeria university libraries, so there is need for proper planning in acquisition of e-resources.

Planning in acquisition of e-resources refers to the ability, factors, and skills needed in handling these tasks which includes planning, training, and funding. Effective management requires planning which starts with libraries developing a prioritized list of goals for electronic

resources to guide their work. Bothmann and Holmberg (2010) noted that creating a small electronic resources committee of key players in a library electronic management work is the first step. The key players from various divisions identify all the staff involved in electronic resources workflow from administrative support personnel to administrators. It is essential to define the scope of the service to be established. This will require strategic planning, including an information audit of needs of the customers and management, which will require consultation with customers, both current and potential, because without a foundation work a sound base for the service will not be established. Pantry and Griffiths (2002), stated that the objective is to establish that the acquisition managers co-ordinate the access to a wide range of resources by organization particularly in terms of licensing and the use of the electronic services, agreeing who uses the resources. Planning will help to establish a relationship between the vision of the library and what is to be acquired to accomplish the set goal.

The aim of this study is to determine the place of planning in effective acquisition of e-resources. Specifically it seeks to establish the place of planning as a veritable technique towards the implementation of a successful collection development policy.

Literature Review

The selection, acquisition, dissemination and preservation of e-resource are similar to that of print materials, they differ in various aspects. These various aspects make academic librarians face numerous challenges while developing e-resource collection. Flatley and Prock (2013), in their research article emphasized the need for a structured selection process with consistent selection criteria for e-resource development in university libraries. The market is flooded with publications and a library is supposed to acquire only those which are best suited for their users and this can only be achieved when the concerned authority has clear cut picture of what their users need and based upon it the library must have a collection development policy. A collection development process is that which permits the library to develop collection of materials as per information needs and services requirement of the users. Evans (2004) defined collection development as a process that allows for identification of the strength and weakness of the collection of a library in terms of the needs of the users and the resources of the community. Vogel (1996) argued that selection of electronics resources outside the guidance of a collection development policy leads to haphazard, unfocused grouping of resources that may not support

the mission of the library. According to Vashishth (2011), the main problem in building collection in e-resources are quotation system, cost factor, rate of library discount, unorganized book trade and reminder books.

Walter (2013) opined that e-resources can be selected and acquired either as individual titles or as an e-resources collections (packages) that represent particular subject area or publishers. The available options vary by aggregator, for instance e-brary allows libraries to select individual titles or to choose from more than fifty subject based packages. EBSCO offered only tile by-title selection until the release of their first e-book collection in early 2012. Acquisition Librarians use various multiple tools and selection criteria while selecting an e-resource; however selection of e-resources is mainly dependent upon the recommendation by faculty and the subject relevance of the types of e-resources. They use different methods to acquire the e-resource depending upon the type of e-resources like purchase, gifts and donations, and legal deposit and subscription.

Emeghara (2014) stressed that the pervasiveness and inevitability of the application of e-resources to library collection is incontrovertible. He suggested libraries should formulate an acquisition policy that would make e-resources an integral part of the library collection subjecting the acquisition to stringent selection criteria with a view to ensuring relevance and needs. He further opined the concern in the acquisition of e-resources include the cost, coverage proprietary rights, license issues, agreements, technical support and training. Selection criteria include database brief to know scope and coverage, journals coverage list to ensure availability of relevant journals, trial request to assess platform and relevance, access by password and IP authentication, agreements to support multi – user license, cost of subscription and technical support.

Despite increasing electronic resources very little help is available to those involved in acquiring them. Information and library professionals involved with collection development are currently confronting the challenges of how to make informed decisions in the face of the bewildering array of electronic resources available. Legal deposit authorized some libraries by law to receive free of charge from publishers, producers or printers specified number of copies of

all new publications / edition within the country. This encouragement is known is legal deposit. Libraries receive gifts and donations just as document of various types and sizes. Edoka (2000) noted that virtually all libraries receive gifts in one way or the other. He also outlined possible donors such as private individuals, companies, international agencies such as World Bank, IMF, WHO, clubs and other libraries. University libraries face significant challenges related to the selection, licensing, acquisition and management of e-resources, so librarians have an important role in shaping the e-resources environment especially since publishers are yet to agree on the best ways of providing and marketing e-resources to university libraries.

Benny (2015), carried out a study on selection and acquisition of e-resources in academic libraries. The study area of 80 undergraduate colleges under Mumbai University was randomly selected with a well structured questionnaire. The respondents were asked to select the different tools they used while selecting e-resources. It found out 79% use selection tools, 59% select e-resources by Surfing the website while 44% of items use publishers / vendor catalogue. Data analysis done with mean rating reveals that librarians use multiple tools to select resource. Also the study, asked to mention the criteria used for selection of e-resource, 100% used subject relevance of the e-resources, 68% ease of accessibility, 65% authenticity of information 59% licensing agreement. All the librarians used, consider the subject relevance of the e-resources as the main criteria for selection. This implies that selection of relevant e- resources based on a well spelled out policy like collection development blueprint requires planning to enhance the usefulness of the e- collection. In a study on management of electronic information resources: a case study of University of Nigeria Nsukka library, Ugwu (2012) revealed that the University do not have a policy for development of Electronic Resources. This is indeed an administrative policy or practice that constitutes a problem for managing the library's Electronic Information Resources.

Methodology

The design of this study is descriptive survey, with the study area been South-South Nigeria, consisting of six (6) states namely: Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers States. There are six Federal University libraries in the South-South Nigeria which is made up of University of Calabar, Federal University of Otueke, Bayelsa State; University of Benin, Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, University of Uyo and University of

Port-Harcourt. The population of this study comprises 113 Academic Librarians, 285 Para professional librarians, 19 IT System Analyst and 13200 users in the six federal university libraries in South-South Nigeria namely: University of Port Harcourt with 3131 respondents, University of Uyo with 2526 respondents, University of Calabar with 3592 respondents, University of Benin 4200, Federal University of Petroleum Effurun 42 and Federal University Otueke with 31 respondents. The sample size is 614 comprising 69 Professionals and 85 Para-professional Librarians, 10 IT personnel / System analyst and 450 Post graduate students registered 2014/ 2015 session in the three federal universities in South-South Nigeria. The multi-stage sampling techniques was used to select these three university libraries. The proportionate stratified random sample technique was used to select the sample size of the population.

The research instrument used for the study namely: Questionnaire and observation checklists The questionnaire was used to elicit information from both Academic and Para professional librarians as well as IT/System analyst and users on the maintenance of e-resources in Nigeria university libraries. Copies of the instruments for data collection were administered directly by the researchers and a research assistant from each library under study. The researchers inspected and verified the availability of the facilities. Frequency counts and percentages were used to analyze the items; a criterion mean of 2.50 was adopted. Consequently any means that ranked from 2.50 and above were regarded as positive while below 2.50 were regarded as negative.

Findings and Discussion

Table 1: Mean rating of extent of planning carried out in the acquisition of e-resources in libraries

S/N	Planning in acquisition of e-resources in libraries	NAME OF UNIVERSITY				Rating	Degree of Responses
		UNICAL	UNIUYO	UNIPORT	Overall Mean		
		Mean SD	Mean SD	Mean SD	Mean SD		
1	Retraining of acquisition librarians	3.69 .57	3.08 0.27	3.50 0.51	3.42 0.53	1ST	**HR**

2.	Planning a collection development policy influences acquisition of e resources in the Library	3.13 0.80	3.7 .6 1 1	3.0 .3 7 3	3.30 0.68	3rd	**HR**
3	Supervision and control influences acquisition of e-resources in the library	2.97 0.74	3.03 0.16	2.81 0.71	2.94 0.60	6th	**HR**
4	Training of Librarians, and users influences acquisition of e resources in the Library	1.85 0.54	3.74 0.64	2.97 051	2.84 097	8th	**HR**
5	Budgeting provision for acquisition of e-resources	3.56 0.68	3.08 0.27	3.31 0.47	3.32 0.54	2nd	**HR**
6	Feedback from academics and faculty members	3.46 0.79	3.08 0.27	3.31 0.47	3.28 0.57	4th	**HR**
7	Determination of allocation for subject area	3.15 0.84	3.13 0.41	3.33 0.63	3.20 0.66	5th	**HR**
8	Holding of regular meetings	2.28. 0.83	3.12 0.41	3.32 0.63	2.90. 079	7th	**HR**
9	Consultation with Publishers and Vendors	2.49 0.56	2.68 0.75	2.38 0.91	2.51 0.90	9th	**HR**
	Grand Mean	**3.03 0.43**	**2.94 041**	**3.10 0.55**	**3.02 0.49**		

Table 1 above shows the mean rating of the respondents on the planning carried out in the acquisition of management of e-resources in libraries. The overall mean showed that Retraining of acquisition librarians (mean = 3.42) is ranked highest, while Consultation with Publishers and Vendors (Mean = 2.51) is ranked lowest in extent of planning carried out in the acquisition of maintenance of e-resources in libraries. Also using the principles of real limit of numbers, the Table 1 shows that all the nine listed question items (items numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9) namely; Retraining of acquisition librarians, Planning a collection development policy influences acquisition of e resources in the Library, Supervision and control influences acquisition of e-resources in the library, Training of Librarians and users influences acquisition of e resources in the Library, Budgeting provision for acquisition of e-resources, Feedback from academics and faculty members, Determination of allocation for subject area, Holding of regular meetings and Determination of allocation by types of resources and Consultation with publishers and vendors respectively, were highly required (HR) in the Planning of acquisition of e-resources in libraries. Furthermore, analysis of the individual institution indicates that retraining of acquisition librarians is highly required and ranked highest in two of the three universities

namely UNICAL and UNIPORT (mean = 3.69 and 3.50) respectively in the planning carried out in the acquisition of maintenance of e-resource, while, Training of Librarians and users influences acquisition of e resources in the Library was highly required in UNIUYO (mean 3.74). It should therefore be noted that the just mentioned managerial variable, "Training of Librarians and users influences acquisition of e resources in the library" ranked highest among the rest in the planning of a collection development policy for effective e-resources' acquisition in federal universities in South-South zone, Nigeria.

The findings on extent of planning involved in the acquisition of e-resources in the library presented in Table 1 indicates that retraining of acquisition librarians is the greatest planning technique involved in the acquisition of e-resources in the library, followed by Budgeting provision for acquisition of e-resources. The third is planning a collection development policy to influence acquisition of e resources in the Library followed by Feedback from academics and faculty members. Others include determination of allocation for subject area, supervision and control influences acquisition of e-resources in the library, etc.

Summary of Major Findings, Suggestion and Conclusion

The findings among other things revealed that there is a good level of competency among staff in relation to e resources like planning, training and retraining of staff necessary for efficiency in acquisition of e-resources. Funding is the main factor that negatively affects acquisition of e- resources in academic libraries. Libraries and Information Science Schools' curricula should be structured to reflect acquisition of knowledge and skills demanded by acquisition librarian. Most of the libraries have inadequate fund for acquiring e-resources and so the users do not get their needy information at the right time. Libraries are at a disadvantage when acting alone in this environment and there is need for planning and cooperative purchasing through library consortia. It can be concluded that these problems would be overcome through proper planning in acquisition and management of e-resources in the federal universities in South-South zone, Nigeria, by way of a written down acquisition policy.

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