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A Study on Awareness and Frequency of Use of National Bibliography of Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Earlier studies have concentrated on the history, formats, importance of national bibliography, awareness and use has not been investigated in Nigeria. This study, therefore, investigated the awareness and use of national bibliography of Nigeria by librarians and undergraduates in University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. The study employed descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised of all librarians in Kenneth Dike Library University of Ibadan and regular undergraduate Students University of Ibadan, which are 30 and 13189 respectively. Total enumeration sampling was used for librarians in Kenneth Dike Library and stratified proportionate random sampling technique was used to select the sample size of undergraduate students. The total sample size for the study was three hundred and sixty (360), made up of 30 librarians and 330 undergraduate students. Structured questionnaire was the instrument used for the collection of data. Five research questions were asked and answered and one hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance. Data collected were analyzed using the statistical package for social science (SPSS). The descriptive methods of analysis such as frequency table, percentages, mean, standard deviation and correlation were used. Among others, the study revealed that print national bibliography was more available than other formats like CD-ROM, internet, and on-line other than internet. It was established from the study that librarians and undergraduates are aware of national bibliography of Nigeria in print format, CD-ROM format, and internet format. They were not aware of microfiche format and floppy disk format of the national bibliography. Lack of skills in making use of national bibliography, poor awareness, slow internet connections and non sufficiency of national bibliography are some challenges of using National Bibliography. It was recommended that national bibliography should be made sufficient to users, most especially on the internet and more awareness should be created.

Keywords: Awareness, Use, National bibliography, Librarians, Undergraduates

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1.1 Introduction

The concept of national bibliography, as it is known today, was developed in the first half of the 20th century and was enunciated clearly at the first conference on bibliographic services organized by UNESCO in Paris in November 1950. (International Congress on National

Bibliographies: final report, UNESCO, Paris, as cited by Parent, 2007). The major achievement of this conference involved recommendations promoting the creation of national bibliographic services and national bibliographies. In 1977, IFLA and UNESCO organized an International Congress on

National Bibliographies which affirmed the acceptance of the concept of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and provided guidelines to support national bibliographic agencies in their work to create standardized national bibliographies (International Congress on National Bibliographies: final report, UNESCO, Paris, as cited by Parent, 2007). According to Shoyinka (1979) "Nigeria is the first country in Africa south of the Sahara to have a National bibliography. Although the National Library of Nigeria was not officially established until 1964, the national bibliography was published in 1950 by the Ibadan University Library".

National Bibliography is the accumulation of the authoritative and comprehensive records of the national output (i.e. products of the national publishing industry) of a country, published regularly and with the least possible delay. It is published according to international standards by the national bibliographic agency Zumer (2008). In the context of Nigeria, Ejedafira and Akporhonor (2013) viewed the National Bibliography of Nigeria as the country's heritage, preserved by the national library of Nigeria, and is a useful tool for scholars working on any research within or outside the country. The purpose, therefore, of establishing a national bibliography for Nigeria, according to Ejedafira and Akporhonor (2013) is to make public the available sources of information by Nigerian authors such as books, journals, articles, theses, archival documents, non-print media, and other types of indigenous sources. This is achieved through bibliographic control processes. Bibliographic control processes involve the identification, recovery, collection, and preservation of publications that originate in a country. The publications are of no value to the information community without the records indicating their existence and giving access to the content (Snyman, 2000).

1.2 Statement of the problem

The existence of the National bibliography of Nigeria provides a framework upon which the nation can know the strength of its national publications output in any format, irrespective of size or language domicile at the National Library of Nigeria; hence, becoming a medium for authors and publishers to advertise their product by its appearance on the list of new a title in the National bibliography of Nigeria. Also, the National bibliography helps librarians in collection development during library acquisition processes and also, as a cataloging tool for copy cataloguing. Most importantly, it serves as a tool for locating publications for researchers for research. So, the production of the National bibliography is a unique bibliographic function that no other library or institution is allowed to compile except the National Library of Nigeria. The national bibliography, therefore, serves as a conduit for meeting a high proportion of bibliographical needs of information seekers.

This is because no catalogue in all the libraries in Nigeria lists every item that has ever been published, and there will be times when information seekers will need to turn to the National bibliography on certain subjects or items published in the country. However, despite the importance of the National Bibliography, it has been observed that the National bibliography is been minimally used by undergraduates and librarians. This was discovered through observations and a one-on-one conversation with the head of the section, National Bibliography, National Library Abuja in 2015, who confirmed that regardless of the huge investment in the creation of the National Bibliography, it has been scarcely used. Perhaps, the lack of use is because the National Bibliography is not made available and accessible to these categories of information seekers or these categories of information seekers are not aware of its existence.

The idea behind the National bibliography through bibliographic control processes is to build a robust database of information resources that is useful to a broad spectrum of the audience; the control processes require time, human and material resources. Considering the history of the capture of the national bibliography in Nigeria, it is surprising to see that no study exists on the awareness and use of the National Bibliography of Nigeria by librarians and undergraduates. It is, for this reason, the research is carried out to ascertain the level of awareness and use of the National Bibliography of Nigeria by Librarians and undergraduates at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

1.3 Research Questions

This study intends to provide answers to the following research questions:

1. What is the extent of awareness of the National Bibliography of Nigeria among librarians and undergraduates at the University of Ibadan?
2. What is the frequency of use of the National Bibliography of Nigeria by librarians and undergraduates at the University of Ibadan?

1.4 Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses will be tested in the study at a 0.05 level of significance:

H₀1: There is no significant relationship between awareness and use of the National Bibliography of Nigeria by Librarians and Undergraduates at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

2.1 Literature Review

The National bibliography of Nigeria is an accurate, comprehensive, and authoritative bibliographical record of current publications.

These include a list of books, documents, pamphlets, serials, theses, dissertations, or other printed material produced in the country. This may also include audio-visual works, musical works, maps, globes and atlases, art reproductions, drawings and prints; and even works of fiction. Increasingly, new sources of information are becoming available via the web. A complete and timely national bibliography is, therefore, an important information resource for: selection and acquisition in libraries and similar institutions. Cataloguing (both directly for copy cataloguing and indirectly for cataloguing support), Verification of authorship and publication history, National bibliography, (2020) and International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, (2022). The content of the national bibliography, therefore, underscores the importance, thus its awareness, and frequency of use.

Teymourikhani and Akbari-Daryan (2013) find out that more than half of users are satisfied with the comprehensiveness of the national bibliography's resources. This fact confirms that the national bibliography is on the right track, regarding its mission of aspiring to make a comprehensive treasure of international cultural documentary heritage and selection of human knowledge. Also, Pitman et al (2008) as cited by Ejedafiru and Akporhonor (2013) stated that National Bibliographic Control (NBC) activities in Nigeria have been aimed at making public available sources of information by Nigeria authors such as books, sources, articles, theses, archival documents, non-print media and other types of indigenous sources for researchers and librarians to make use of it through print copies of National bibliography of Nigeria. Also, Ejedafiru and Akporhonor (2013) stated that a variety of formats exist with which to distribute the national

bibliography, and the Nigerian national bibliography services should embrace one or more appropriate formats to meet future challenges in Nigeria and beyond.

In another development, Igbashal and Agoh (2011) suggested that for the National Library of Nigeria to make a comprehensive bibliography available to users, the National Library should allow the 36 States and Federal Universities to be depository centers for all published works. Where there is no Federal University in a State, the State University or State Library should become the depository center. This will encourage all authors, printers, publishers, and other stakeholders to double their efforts toward the success of the bibliographic control project. The authors further suggest that all bibliographic compilation centers should be connected/networked with the National Library of Nigeria, well-funded and structured to meet the challenges of the task ahead. The networking and indeed, the computerization of the National Bibliography of Nigeria makes it easier to provide and make it available for use within a short period.

Furthermore, awareness of the existence of the National bibliography is one of the major determinants of its use. Awareness of the availability of any information resources is therefore an important variable that has been found to have a positive association with the use of information resources (Akidi, 2020). Specifically, Saijad UrRehman and Ramzy (2004) as cited in Ankrah and Acheampong (2017) assert that lack of awareness is among the primary reasons for underutilizing information resources like the National bibliography. This implies that though a user may identify his/her area of information needs, without proper awareness of how and where to get resources that will provide the information needed such needs may not be

met. In earlier research, Baro and Ubogu (2011); Togia and Tsigilis (2011) reiterated that lack or low awareness of the existence of information resources constitutes a major impedance to utilization. Also, Opeke and Odunlade (2011) in their study of awareness and utilization of resources concluded that awareness of the existence of information resources will lead to their utilization. Therefore, awareness of the existence of information resources is fundamental to utilization. As a result, there should be a deliberate effort to create awareness of the availability of various information resources available for teaching and research. Bhatt, (2011) stated that advertising is important in promoting library services. To create awareness, the library can advertise its products and services in newspapers, scholarly journals, magazines, newsletters, radio, television, and the web. Furthermore, Igbashal and Tsegba (2011) stated that awareness campaigns in form of workshops, conferences, and seminars could be mounted to sensitize authors, printers, and publishers about the need to compile a list and preserve every printed and published work.

Traditional users of the national bibliography include three different groups: publishers and the bookselling trade, libraries, and end users especially researchers Kett et al (2012). In a study by Krynicka (2010) on open access to national bibliography, the author stated that for national bibliography to be useful to library users it should fulfill the following conditions: has high quality and completeness of records with controlled access points; make data available for free; data should be easily available on websites of the library, it should provide reliable retrieval of bibliographic and authority records (easy and understanding to all, friendly interface with limited search result); and it should have useful tools for copy cataloguing or private use

(e.g. end-of-work bibliography). He further stated that the national bibliography is an important resource for selection and acquisition in libraries and similar institutions, cataloguing (both directly for copy cataloguing and indirectly for cataloguing support); and verification of authorship and publication history. Users' group and their context of use changed in National bibliographies from time to time. National Bibliography is considered the most important information resource for the general public, librarians, research scholars, publishers, catalogues, booksellers, and so on, are the main users of the National Bibliography. Cataloguers use National Bibliography for their cataloguing purpose. If the book is the same, one can use the copy cataloguing facility from an online National Bibliography. National Bibliography can be a source of data about a country's publishing output for official statistics. It has been serving scholars, librarians, publishes, booksellers, and those interested in the book world as a valuable tool of reference, Ahas and Banerjee, (2013).

3.1 Research Design

Descriptive survey research will be employed to determine the level of awareness and use of the National Bibliography by Librarians and

undergraduates at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. This method or research design was considered appropriate because of its flexibility which permits the use of a variety of data collecting techniques such as questionnaires, interviews, and observation, Aina (2004). Survey research is mainly an examination of current practices or approaches relating to an aspect of a phenomenon and an attempt to relate certain results to a particular cause to make effective moves for further improvement, Uhegbu (2009).

The Population of the Study

The population refers to the aggregate of all possible respondents from which the sample is selected. It is the totality of the items or objects under the universe of study, (Popoola (2011). The population of this study comprised librarians of the Kenneth Dike Library University of Ibadan and registered regular undergraduate students of the University of Ibadan. The total population of Librarians in the Kenneth Dike Library University of Ibadan is thirty (30), from the list of library staff in the University librarians' office 2015, (Table1). The total population of the University of Ibadan undergraduate registered regular students is thirteen thousand one hundred and eighty-nine (13,189)(Table 2).

Table 1: Study population of librarians in Kenneth Dike Library at University Ibadan

Kenneth Dike library	Number of Librarians
Librarians	30

Source: Statistic University librarian's office 2015

Table 2 Study Population of undergraduate students at the University of Ibadan

Faculties	Number of Students
Agriculture and Forestry	1372
Arts	1696
Basic Medical Science	522

Clinical Sciences	1163
Dentistry	192
Education	1615
Law	711
Pharmacy	423
Public Science	143
Science	2108
Technology	1342
The Sciences	1456
Veterinary Medicine	446
Total	13,189

Source: University of Ibadan MIS Unit. June 2015

Sampling Technique and Sample Size

The sampling technique is the scientific procedure of selecting samples from a given population, Popoola (2011). The sample size is the elements making up the sample that is going to be studied and generalizations or inferences about the population are made, Akinade and Awolabi (2009) and Awoniyi et al (2011). All Librarians in the Kenneth Dike Library University of Ibadan and all registered regular undergraduates' library users making use of the central Kenneth Dike Library were respondents in the study. Two sampling techniques were used for the study.

Total enumeration sampling was used for Librarians in Kenneth Dike Library. The purpose of using the total enumeration sample technique is because the total population of Librarians in Kenneth Dike Library is not too large. Eguzoike (2008) stated that when the population of the study is not too large, total enumeration sampling can be used. The whole population was thirty(30) Librarians.

A stratified proportionate, random sampling technique was used to select the sample size for undergraduate students. The stratified in this study is on the 13 faculties at the University of Ibadan. The sampling fraction that will be used for the students is 2.5% to give the researcher a sample population that will be within the range recommended by

Krejcie and Morgan (1970), which is 370 samples for a population between 10,000 and 14,000. The researcher uses 2.5% of the total population of undergraduate students of the University of Ibadan which is 13,189 to arrive at 330.

Therefore, the total sample size for the study is three hundred and sixty (360), made up of 30 Librarians and 330 undergraduates. See table 3.1 and table 3.2. The sample size is within the range recommended by Krejcie and Morgan (1970).

Research Instrument

The research instrument used for this study was a questionnaire. The questionnaire design for this study named "Questionnaire on awareness and Use of National Bibliography of Nigeria by Librarians and undergraduates in the University of Ibadan Oyo State" (QAUNBNLUUI) comprises six major sections aimed at measuring the variables in the study, that is, the extent of awareness and level of use of National Bibliography of Nigeria.

Procedure for Data Collection

The questionnaire was administered to the respondents in their various faculties and it was collected within two weeks. The researchers distributed the questionnaire randomly to undergraduates and librarians in

Kenneth Dike library with the help of two research assistants who were briefed about the assignment.

Method of Data Analysis

The data analysis method used is descriptive statistical analysis such as frequency distribution tables and percentages. The statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) will be used for the analysis.

4.1 Presentation of Data and Result

The awareness and use of the national bibliography to Librarians and

undergraduates of the University of Ibadan were investigated and the findings of the investigation are presented below.

Research Question 1: What is the level of awareness of the National Bibliography of Nigeria by Librarians and Undergraduates at the University of Ibadan?

Table 3: Awareness of National Bibliography

Table 3 shows the distribution of respondents on awareness of formats of national bibliography and their percentages.

Format of National Bibliography	Not aware		Aware		Much Aware		Very Much Aware		Mean	Std. Dev.
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Print National Bibliography	59	17.7	80	24.0	56	16.8	139	41.6	2.82	1.16
CD-ROM	89	26.6	84	25.1	84	25.1	77	23.1	2.45	1.11
Online other than the Internet	60	18.0	130	38.9	72	21.6	72	21.6	2.47	1.02
Internet National Bibliography	58	17.4	108	32.3	66	19.8	102	30.5	2.63	1.09
Computer tape N.B	101	30.2	144	43.1	71	21.3	18	5.4	2.02	0.86
Microfiche National Bibliography	140	41.9	133	39.8	46	13.8	15	4.5	1.81	0.83
Floppy disk National Bibliography	144	43.1	121	36.2	54	16.2	15	4.5	1.82	0.86
Grand Total Mean									2.29	

The responses in Table 3 show that Print National Bibliography formats were aware, much aware, and very much aware with 80(24.0%), 56(16.8%), and 139(41.6%) respondents respectively. Meanwhile, CD-ROM format took 84(25.1%) for both aware and much aware and 77(23.1%) respondents for very much aware. The result of Online other than the internet shows that 130(38.9%), 72(21.6%), and 72(21.6%) respondents were aware, much aware, and very much aware. Internet National Bibliography format with 108(32.3%), 66(19.8%) and 102(30.5%)

respondents were in support of awareness, much aware, and very much aware, Microfiche National Bibliography format has respondents with 133(39.8%) that aware, 46(13.8%) respondents that were much aware and 13(4.5%) respondents that were very much aware while Floppy disk format has 121(36.2%), 54(16.2%) and 15(4.5%) respondents as aware, much aware and very much aware respectively.

Research Question 2: What is the purpose of the use of the National Bibliography of Nigeria by Librarians and Undergraduates at

the University of Ibadan?

Table 4: Use of National Bibliography Table 4 shows the distribution of respondents on the use of the national bibliography and their percentages.

Purpose of using N. Bibliography	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree		Mean	Std. Dev.
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
As library tool	30	9.0	62	18.6	130	38.9	112	33.5	2.97	0.94
To get materials for the assignment	26	8.7	10	3.0	210	62.9	85	25.4	3.05	0.79
To get materials for research	29	8.7	-	-	203	60.8	102	30.5	3.13	0.79
To get materials for my project	35	10.5	-	-	193	57.8	106	31.7	3.11	0.85
To get information on new materials in my discipline	14	4.2	6	1.8	197	59.0	117	35.0	3.25	0.69
To get materials for the seminar	45	13.5	18	5.4	187	56.0	84	25.1	2.93	0.91
To get information on career	14	4.2	34	10.2	174	52.1	112	33.5	3.15	0.76
To get information on relaxation	40	12.0	64	19.2	158	47.3	72	21.6	2.78	0.91
I don't use it	113	33.8	87	26.0	29	8.7	105	31.4	2.38	1.24
Grand Total Mean									2.97	

Table 4 shows that (130+112) respondents representing 72.4% agreed and strongly agreed that National Bibliography was purposely used as a library tool for cataloguing, selection, collection development, etc. (210+85) respondents representing 88.3% purposely used National Bibliography to get materials for their assignment as agreed and strongly agreed, (203+102) respondents representing 91.2% used it to get materials for research purpose, (193+106) respondents representing 89.5% agreed and strongly agreed with the purpose of using National Bibliography for their project work. (197+117) respondents representing 94% purposely used it to get information on new materials in their discipline, (187+84) respondents representing 81.1% agreed and strongly agreed with the purpose of using the National Bibliography to get materials for a seminar presentation. To get information on career-related materials (174+112), respondents representing 85.6% agreed and strongly agreed while to get information on relaxation materials (158+72) respondents representing 68.9%) were agreed and strongly agreed.

5.1 Discussion of Findings

It was revealed from the study that among all the Faculties and libraries sampled on awareness and use of the National Bibliography of Nigeria by Librarians and Undergraduates in the University of Ibadan, the Faculty of sciences have the highest sampled population with 48(14.4%). This was followed by the Faculty of Arts and Education with 40(12.0%) and 37(11.1%) respondents respectively. The list of Faculty sampled was the Faculty of public health with 4(1.2%) while the Librarians in the Kenneth Dike Library statistical frequency of the sampled population were 26(7.8%) respectively. The study also indicated that Librarians and undergraduate students at the University of Ibadan are very much aware of the National Bibliography of Nigeria in print, CD-ROM, and online other than internet and also internet formats. It was also discovered from the study that Microfiches and Floppy disk formats of National Bibliography were not aware or otherwise said that National Bibliography did not exist in such format as few respondents filled for the formats. It supports the opinion of Holley (1996) who presented the result of a

survey of National Bibliographies of 52 countries which indicated that most countries use print, CD-ROM, and internet format of National Bibliography while computer tape, the floppy disk is losing ground.

The study revealed that the purposes of using the National Bibliography were numerous as it was discovered that the National Bibliography of Nigeria was purposely used as a library tool for cataloguing, selection, collection development, to get needed materials for individual assignments, research works, and as well as project write up. It was not only purposely used for the above mention points but also to get information on career-related issues and seminars. It supports the view of Katz (1982) who stated that the National Bibliography brings enormous order out of the chaos of tens of thousands of items published in a year. It was also found in the study that prints National Bibliography format was frequently used and this was followed by the internet Bibliography format. The frequent use of the National Bibliography in other formats such as CD-ROM, Online, and internet formats was very low.

The study also established that the independent variables AWNB were related to UNB which is the dependent variable as the independent variable was significantly correlated to the dependent variable. It shows that the usage depends on awareness of the National Bibliography. It agrees with the views of Baro and Ubogu (2011); Togia and Tsigilis (2011) all reiterated that lack or low awareness of the existence of information resources constitutes a major impedance to utilization. Ibrahim (2004) in his study “use and user perception of information resources” find out that the lack of awareness provided by the library was one of the obstacles to resource utilization. Opeke and Odunlade (2011), in their study of awareness and utilization of resources, concluded that awareness of the existence of information resources will lead to their utilization. Also, the purpose of bibliographic control is to list information sources systematic manner to enable us to

become aware of what information is available and where it can be located Bahrens, cited in Hjorland (2006). Hence all stakeholders in bibliographic control in Nigeria must ensure that incoming generations of information professionals are fully prepared for the increasing complexity of the information environment within which they will work and develop their careers. The national bibliography, like the British books in print, is very important for acquisition purposes, Ejedafiru and Akporhonor (2013).

The National Library of Nigeria is responsible for making users aware of the publications and their uses for easy retrieval of information. Retrieval of information is the science of locating, from large document collection, those documents that fulfill specific information Frakes and Baeza-Yales, (1992). Information retrieval is the area that deals with the storage, organization, management, and retrieval of information, where the goals of continual search in the field are to find better methods of doing the same, Azzopardi and Vinay,(2008). The national library as a repository of intellectual products plays a fundamental role in ensuring that national information is collected, organized stored, and pressured for the use of posterity. Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) have rightly observed that libraries are social institutions, created to conserve knowledge; preserve cultural heritage; provide information, and serve as a fountain of recreation; undergird and underpin education and research.

Conclusion

A comprehensive and timely national bibliography is an important information resource for research and development in Nigeria, hence, the need for the National Library of Nigeria to ensure that this information resource is appropriately made available and accessible for the targeted audience. It is, therefore, recommended that the National bibliographic of Nigeria should adopt more than one format as appropriate to meet the needs of its users.

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