Mobilisation and Use of Alternative Funds by University Libraries in Nigeria

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Abstract

Rationale of Study – This paper investigated the level to which funds raised are used in solving financial problems in university libraries in Nigeria.

Methodology – The study employed a descriptive survey to investigate fundraising in university libraries in Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of eleven (11) heads of university libraries in South-South geo-political zone in Nigeria. The entire population was used for the study. Data was collected through structured questionnaires. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics.

Findings – The study revealed that fundraising is necessary in university libraries because the institutions have limited options of coping with financial stress. The study concluded that there should be intensive effort to intensify fundraising efforts by university librarians. Librarians also need to utilise a wide array of fundraising approaches. There is also need for an appropriate structure to facilitate successful and well-organised fundraising efforts by libraries.

Implications – Alternative sources of funds in libraries have become necessary in the face of meagre funding from the government against increasing expectations on the part of the university libraries. Also, there should be a concerted effort to embrace other unexploited means of fundraising by librarians.

Originality – This is an original and empirical study which will serve as an eye-opener to librarians in raising funds for libraries.

Keywords
Funding, academic libraries, fundraising, library financing, sources of funding, alternative sources of funding

1 Introduction

University libraries are specifically those libraries attached to universities. Academic libraries, on the other hand, are libraries which are attached to academic institutes like polytechnics, colleges of education and other comparable establishments of higher learning beyond the secondary level. These libraries support teaching and research endeavours by the students and workers in the institutions. Haliso (2011) opines that academic libraries cater for the information needs of students, lecturers, researchers and community scholars.

Libraries are at the heart of educational institutions because of the basic roles they play in improving teaching and learning. It is imperative to note that for libraries to realise their goals, sufficient investment, in terms of funds, must be provided to support the cost of services and operations. Conventionally, libraries, including university libraries, have been perceived as a social and essential service provided by government. Consequently, there has been a propensity to depend exclusively on funds provided for them by the government or their parent institutions (Afebende, 2017).

Library funding is the act of providing or making accessible financial resources for use in increasing and equipping a library. These funds are required to support the provision of library services, acquisition of resources, and growth of human resources. In fact, funding has the ability to bring about regeneration, preservation, nourishment, and robustness of university libraries. However, the library is consistently a fraction of a wider university and its financial plan is negotiated with its parent institution. The parent institution, thus, takes the full responsibility for funding libraries, ordinarily from their operational budgets. These funds typically cover only the recurrent expenditure (Inyang & Igwechi, 2015).

The major duty of a university library is to provide suitable information materials for study and research to the members of the parent institution. If the library is to meet the objectives for which it was established, money is indispensable for the procurement and dispensation of resources, recruitment of staff as well as for buying and the protection of equipment. Where money is lacking, it is impractical to offer library services of any kind. Where it is scarce, the quality of the services offered is sure to be negatively affected (Anafulu, 1997).

The difficulty of funding remains an obstinate challenge for university libraries. It is an acknowledged fact that no singular library can purchase all titles and non-print resources that can sufficiently meet the needs and wants of all users in the academic setting. In the same token, it has not been possible for most university libraries to retain adequate

workforce with the requisite professional proficiency and necessary sense of commitment that is commensurate to the quality of library services demanded by users due to insufficient funding. The funding situation has been exacerbated by the present universal economic challenges which most institutions have to cope with.

This paper seeks to identify alternative sources of funds and investigates the adequacy of the sources of funds as well as the problems associated with alternative sources of funds for university libraries. The specific objectives of the study were to identify the main sources of funds for university libraries; explore various ways of raising funds for university libraries; assess the adequacy of fundraising efforts by university libraries; and examine the problems encountered in raising funds by university libraries.

2 Literature Review

Funds for library and information services are usually drawn from the university library's proprietor. The determination of such resources varies. This may be determined as a fixed fraction of received grants. It may also be determined on the basis of informal arrangements. Edoka (1992) in his paper on library funding stated that libraries have frequently fashioned out lofty plans to improve information services, new buildings or modifications, collection growth, and necessary new technology among others. In most of these cases, however, such plans are not realised because funds are not easily found for their execution. It is, therefore, tactically significant to focus attention on alternative library funding. All library activities are, to a large extent, influenced by the amount of funds a library is able to muster. For library activities to be successful, they must be backed up with adequate funding. Alternative sources of funds, therefore, become essential for libraries to allow them to provide high-quality and excellent services to their clients (Njeru, 2012).

Haider (1985) stated that the quest for alternative sources of funds has been advocated by a number of scholars. The practice in various libraries has also shown that this has always been considered as one of the successful methods to cope with financial crisis in libraries. Alternative funding includes all funds arriving from any source other than the main fundraising sources within the parent institution.

Discussing the financial challenges of academic libraries, Mahmood, Hameed and Haider (2006) suggested that fundraising plans should be developed and executed by libraries to raise alternative funding. According to them, alternative sources of funding include affluent individuals. Similarly, public charities can also provide funds to transform academic library

services. When the rich in society are ready to donate a little part of their resources for this dignified cause, there will be an improvement in the financial standing of libraries. When a team of librarians are sent for this mission, and are not successful in their efforts, they should not be discouraged. The authors further recommended that university libraries should raise funds from both the federal, state and local governments, and donations from individuals.

There has been no intensive work on alternative sources of funding in libraries. Talking about donations as an exchange of activities in libraries, Bushong, Cleveland and Cox (2018) are of the view that seeking out for donations and developing procedures of exchange are the duties of collection development in the present managerial structure of university libraries. They point out, however, that there is not much work done in this regard.

According to American Library Association (2006), diverse global organisations have been granting funds for the growth of libraries. These include Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The British Council has also assisted a number of libraries to acquire British periodicals by paying subscriptions on their behalf and by donating books and other information sources. Obtaining grants from governments or other sources is a strategic way to complement the academic library's funding needs. Some libraries constantly write proposals for grants in a bid to obtain support from donors. Grants can be particularly supportive when the library collaborates with other types of libraries or groups outside the academic setting for materials and information distribution as well as coaching.

Inyang and Igwechi (2015) stated that libraries can embrace diverse fundraising methods. They can do it as part of their own institution's fundraising efforts such as an unusual capital crusade. They can also divide fundraising work with the university management or hire an outside firm to do it for them. They need to have an excellent monetary plan for fundraising, lucid goals and a strategic programme to succeed. Successful fundraising is based on numerous key factors. These include stating the library's objective and economic condition; selecting the most excellent group for fundraising; identifying possible donors; building rapport and endurance; obtaining aid from employees; and fostering energetic dealings with donors in the future.

Libraries are a subset of the society and can obtain funds by soliciting for assistance and endowments. A university system, for instance, has nothing to lose by giving names to

particular collections such as Okafor Library Science Collection, Alao Africana Library or Umaru Engineering Library, if by so doing, funds can be attracted for the growth and preservation of such collections (Edoka, 1992). Rosenberg (1997) opined that as a result of the lean financial environments under which all libraries operate, there has been a move to find new and additional sources of funding.

With appropriate structures for effective and resourceful responsibility and simplicity, funds can be generated to balance the short-falls in monetary allocations. The experiences of the closed business centres can be successfully utilised in this direction. Sufficient funding in aid of the library may not always come in cash, but may also be in kind. This means that the library can go out to ask for money and resources (Ifidon, 1992).

Okiy (1997) argues that in the face of dwindling library budgets, stiff increase in the prices of library materials, low and unbalanced exchange rate of the Naira against the US Dollar - amidst overwhelming enrolment figures in the universities - other sources of funds and library resources must be identified and harnessed to help all the university libraries Nigeria to uphold the expected quality standards.

It has become more and more necessary for libraries to source for funds besides the government grants to support activities that were once thought to be the responsibility of tax payers. Many librarians today are not comfortable with the use of more time and energy necessary in making connections and writing grant proposals in order to get required funds (Bremer, 2003).

Akporhonor (2005) is of the view that it is essential to link any system for internal income with the desire to meet the needs of the library collection development, equipment purchase, or building construction. Income yielding activities will vary with the situation and assignment of each library. According to Okiy (1997), there are many other sources of funds which can be harnessed to prop up the academic libraries. These include fee-based services, partnerships, endowment, Petroleum Trust Fund, Education Tax-Fund (TETFund), local government councils' levies, gifts and aids, resource sharing, partial recovery of academic cost and friends of the library.

Bremer (2003) suggested twelve steps of acquiring funds from private sources as follows: 1) State the need for funding from the community's perspective; 2) Investigate the community's current fundraising climate; 3) Establish a fundraising advisory committee; 4) Develop a comprehensive community-based strategies based on different fundraising

methods; 5) Ensure all money goes into a tax deductible fund; 6) Structure the request in a project format, matching outcomes with potential donor's priorities; 7) Research foundations to establish which resources align with their projects mission; 8) Research the giving patterns of local corporations; 9) Ask individuals for aids and pledges, in person and via mailings; 10) Arrange particular events and make press releases; 11) Work together with other associations; and 12) Keep contact with donors, including those who declined the appeals.

Above all, it is significant to know that donors will only do well to support projects that will empower people and result in enduring improvements in the community. Fundraising should be approached from analytic point of view. Giving grants creates the opportunity to maintain important programmes with the potential to change peoples' lives (Bremer, 2003). There are differences in educational, administrative and fiscal systems of higher education between USA and the developing countries. In the USA, about half of the colleges are funded privately, while most colleges in developing countries rely on government funding. It is now imperative for university libraries to look out for other non-governmental sources of funds (Bushong, Cleveland & Cox, 2018)

3 Methodology

This study employed a descriptive survey to investigate fundraising in university libraries in Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of eleven (11) heads of academic libraries in South-South geo-political zone in Nigeria. Since the population was small, all the chief librarians (respondents) were used in the study. A structured questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The items were structured on a 4-point Likert Scale (Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree). The libraries which were part of the study are Delta State University Library, Abraka; Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun, Delta State; John Harris Library, University of Benin, Benin City; Ambrose Alli University Library, Ekpoma; University of Calabar Library, Calabar; University of Port Harcourt Library, Port Harcourt; River State University of Science and Technology Library, Port Harcourt; Niger Delta University Library, Wilberforce Island Amassoma; Federal University Library, Otueke; Ignatus Ajuru University Library, Port- Harcourt; and University of Uyo Library, Uyo. The questionnaire was personally administered to the heads of university libraries and was retrieved immediately. Therefore the return rate was one hundred percent. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics.

5 Findings and Discussion

The findings show that eight (8) head librarians have Master's degrees in Library Science representing 72.7%. This means that a greater number of heads of university libraries in Southern Nigeria are Master's degree holders while three (3) had PhD representing 27.3%.

5.1 Main sources of funds for university libraries

The findings show that "Government Grant" had the highest mean of 3.82; "Restricted Funds" had the mean of 3.45; and "Internally Generated Revenue" had the mean score of 3.36. In fact, all the sources listed were accepted as the main sources of funds. The study concluded that apart from government grants, which are the main source of funds, internally generated revenue and restricted funds are the other sources.

The study revealed that the main source of funds for university libraries in Nigeria is government grants. Nigerian libraries nation-wide depend mainly on annual budgetary allocations from the government. This confirms the view that funds for Nigerian library and information services are usually derived from the parent institution. The findings are in line with those of Hisle (2002) who pointed out that university libraries in developing countries rely primarily on government funding. As such, they do not pay attention to well-planned fundraising. The study is also in agreement with that of Iwuji (1990) that college libraries obtained the most part of their funds from their universities whose main sources of monetary prop up is the government. The study also corroborates the study of Okiy (2005) that funds for library and information services are conventionally obtained from the library owner, which is the government.

5.2 Ways funds are raised for university libraries

Table 1 presents the ways through which funds are raised by university libraries. It reveals that the main strategy through which funds are raised by university libraries in Nigeria is "Gifts and Donations" with the mean of 3.90. In addition to gift and donations, all other items listed were accepted as ways of raising funds in university libraries. Gifts and donations are precious sources for enriching the libraries' book collections. No library can afford to purchase all reading resources which are required by the users. So, the library relies, to some extent, on acquiring publications through other methods. The findings also agree with those of Okiy (1997) whereby she opined that there are many other sources of funds which can be used to support the university libraries which include gifts and donations, education tax fund, fee-based services, partnership, local government councils,

levies, and excess fund from library growth fund for federal universities. The study also agrees with the findings of Njeru (2012) that as libraries are part of the society, they can generate funds by soliciting for donations and endowments.

Table 1: Ways of Fundraising **Sample size = 11**

Fundraising	SA	A	D	SD	Mean ($\overline{X}$) Score	Decision
	4	**3**	**2**	**1**		
Fee-based services	9	2	-	-	3.82	Accepted
Endowment	5	3	3	-	3.18	Accepted
Gift and Donations	10	1	-	-	3.90	Accepted
Unrestricted Fund	6	5	-	-	3.54	Accepted
Capital Campaign	3	8	-	-	3.27	Accepted
Parent Institution	7	2	1	1	3.36	Accepted
Planned Giving	8	3	-	-	3.73	Accepted
Education Fund	10	1	-	-	2.90	Accepted
Partnership	5	6	-	-	3.45	Accepted
Annual Fund	1	8	2	-	2.90	Accepted
Others						

5.3 Adequacy of fundraising for university libraries

The study revealed that funds derived from main sources alone are not adequate to run university libraries. There are other sources of income that were neglected which could have fetched them a lot of money to support their operations. Alternative sources of funds in libraries have become necessary in the face of meagre funding from the government against increasing expectations on the part of the university libraries. This financial situation is not limited to one geological area but is worldwide. This is compounded by the economic depression all over the world. Therefore, library administrators have to begin to source for other ways of raising funds to sustain the libraries as well as the library services. The study is in agreement with Bremer (2003) that it has become more and more necessary for libraries to search for funds aside from government grants to support activities that were once thought to be the duty of tax payers. The study is also in line with the study of Ngetich, Rotich and Otike (2016) that university libraries need adequate funding in order to successfully discharge their responsibility which is to support teaching, learning and research activities in the university. The findings also support the study of Olurayi (2013) that

academic libraries should include fundraising in their tactical plans. This will enable them to set up fundraising committees to attain the preferred targets each year.

5.4 Problems encountered in raising funds for university libraries

Table 2 presents the challenges university libraries face in their efforts to raise additional funds from alternative sources.

Table 2: Fundraising challenges   **Sample size =11**

Problems	SA A D SD 4 3 2 1	Mean($\overline{X}$)Score	Decision
Shrinking budgets and scarcity of funds	1 0 1 -	3.90	Accepted
Inadequate philanthropic culture of Nigeria citizens	8 3 - -	3.73	Accepted
Inadequate structures for effective and efficient accountability and transparency	5 3 3 -	3.18	Accepted
Librarians' inferiority complex toward fundraising	3 8 - -	3.27	Accepted
Uncooperative attitude of those involved in the fundraising process	6 5 - -	3.54	Accepted

Table 2 presents the problems university libraries in Nigeria face while fundraising. The table shows that "Shrinking budgets and scarcity of fundd" had the mean highest score of 3.90. In addition to shrinking budgets and scarcity of funds, all other items listed in the table were also accepted as problems militating against fundraising processes in university libraries. Nigerian libraries have been affected by inadequate funding for many years. Therefore, they cannot effectively meet their obligations. Most university libraries usually rely on funding from the government through their establishment. However, the funds they receive are not adequate to run the libraries. The findings corroborate those of Adegbija (2018) that as a result of the severe financial constraints under which most libraries operate, there has been a move to find new sources of funding. The study is also in line with that of Olurayi (2013) that most academic libraries do not have fundraising plans. Therefore, they are not readily involved in raising funds. Some are not even aware of the need to be deeply involved in raising funds for their libraries.

6 Conclusion

Funding of university libraries is a topical issue that can never be wished away and it is not just restricted to developing countries. While debating institutional funding, the unit that ought to attract attention most should be the library. If a country's institutions are the motor for economic and scientific advancement, then university libraries are at the core of

that motor. When libraries are well stocked, it can then be said that all is reasonably well with the institutions. It is hoped that with the findings and recommendations proffered from this study will be used to enhance the fundraising efforts by university libraries in Nigeria.

7 Recommendations

The following recommendations were made having in mind the importance of the subject to the growth, not only of academic libraries, but also other libraries:

- Government grants, being the main source of funds for the academic libraries, should be augmented. This has become necessary due to the fact that prices of goods and services have sky-rocketed in the recent past. The authorities concerned with making the relevant policies should be lobbied in this regard.
- Gifts and donations, being the main alternative sources of alternative funding for libraries, should be encouraged and sustained. Other alternative sources should also be harnessed as government grants alone will not be sufficient to meet the funding needs of the libraries.
- As stated earlier, funds derived from conventional sources are not adequate. Therefore, there should be a concerted effort to embrace other unexploited means of fundraising by librarians.
- Even though shrinking budgets and scarcity of funds constitute major problems of fundraising process in university libraries studied, adequate measures for effective and efficient administration of alternative fundraising processes should be put in place by libraries.

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