Collection Development Models in Academic Libraries in South-South, Nigeria

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Abstract

Rationale of Study – The study investigated collection development models in academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria.

Methodology – This study was designed as a descriptive survey. The population consisted of 30 academic collection development librarians purposively sampled from academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria. The instrument for data collection was a 3-point scale (Agreed- 3, Undecided- 2 and Disagree- 1) questionnaire. Out of the 30 questionnaires administered to respondents, 27 were retrieved and used for the study. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Findings – The study revealed that the main method for developing academic library collections was through purchase; respondents have adequate knowledge of "just-in-case" and "just-in-time" models of collection development; and that a majority of the respondents use the "just-in-time" model in building their library collections.

Implications – As a result of insufficient funds to address purchase of library resources and embark on just-in-case model, chief librarians must advance and put forward fund raising strategies to circumvent government inability to provide funds adequately.

Originality – To best knowledge of the author, this study is the first of its kind in investigating the application of "just-in-case" and "just-in-time" collection development methods in academic libraries in South-South Nigeria.

Keywords

Collection development, "just-in-case", "just-in-time", academic library, South-South, Nigeria

1 Introduction

Generally, a library has been viewed variously as the intellectual power house of any learning institution and the pivot on which all the academic functions revolve. According to Amaakaven (2011) and Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009), this implies that the library has a significant part to play towards the success of students and lecturers in educational institutions. In fact, patrons depend on libraries for their research information needs. Libraries in higher education institutions make available reliable and cost effective access to information, whether held in or outside their vicinity. Also, Akporido (2012) noted that the library plays a key role in ensuring the success of students and researchers.

The library collection includes reading materials such as recording, books, manuscripts, pamphlets, reports, serials, e-resources and other information resources that make up the documentary assets of a particular library (Ifidon, 2006; Ratha, 2016). These represent the foundation of the academic library (Nwosu & Udo-Anyanwu, 2015). The resources are acquired using either the "just-in-case" or "just-in-time" philosophical approaches to collection development. "Just-in-case" is a model of collection development that involves collecting resources in anticipation of use. On the other hand, "just-in-time" is collecting resources when required by users in order to minimise unnecessary costs. The most important item in a library is a live collection. Supporting this view, Ifidon (2006) stated that good-looking and huge library structures, adequately trained staff, and the latest information storage systems can only be valued if exceptional services are rendered to patrons through them.

While the library building houses the collections, the library staff acquire and manage the resources while also training the library patrons on how best to access and use the resources (Pandita, 2004). In doing that, Mannan and Khan (2010) suggest that libraries should prepare a Collection Development Policy Manual (CDPM) to facilitate adequate control of the whole collection development process. A collection development unit is created and saddled with maintaining collection development policy and revising it often according to the need and situation of the library. Although collection development division is mandated to oversee collection development activities, the functions is often hijacked by the management of the institutions. This interference affects the effective performance of this important function in an academic library.

The purpose of this study was to investigate collection development models in South-South, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study were to analyse how academic libraries in South-South Nigeria are building their collections; assess the librarians' knowledge of "just-in-case" and "just-in-time" models of

collection development; and identify the model which is mainly used by collection development librarians in South-South Nigeria.

2 Literature Review

Collection development of materials in various formats is initiated to meet the instructional and research requirements of the specific library users (Khademizadeh, 2012). According to Khademizadeh (2012), the heart of a library is its collection. Therefore, the collection development division of the library is one of the most important sections of the library. Collection development increases the volume of reading materials of a library for the satisfaction of patrons.

In recent times, the term collection development has been used to encompass a broad range of activities such as selection, acquisition and assessment of library collection (Ratha, 2016). The activities include selection and determination of patrons' requirements. The activities also include anticipating and responding to the needs of potential patrons, planning for library cooperation, and negotiating electronic resources agreements and review (Johnson, 2014). Other collection development activities include formulating and revising acquisition policies, interpreting information collections resources, pointing out challenges and responding to issues posed by materials selected, and ensuring cooperative collection development and management. The goal of any collection development activity must be to provide the library with a collection that meets the requirements of the patrons. To reach this goal, each segment of the collection must be developed in accordance with the mission of the library and patrons' information needs.

In fact, Fayose (2003) reported that three main methods exist through which information resources can be obtained for any library; purchase of resources is one of them. An additional method by which the collection is developed is through gifts and bequests (Edoka, 2000). Examples of bequests are uncommon in Africa but a reference point is the donating of late Obafemi Awolowo's private law library to the Ogun State University, Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria.

Gifts can either be books or cash specifically meant to be used for buying library materials. Nonetheless, gifts present unusual challenge that is uncommon to other types of collection development techniques. Having a gift policy or guiding principles is necessary because a number of gifts have conditions attached to them. However, as noted by Iwara (2014), a good number of renowned libraries established their status using personal collections that they acquired as well as with the earnings from endowments.

Another method of library collection development is through library cooperation. Through this means, two, or more, participating libraries go into unforced agreement to send to each other the lists of publications which they have for exchange. According to Ifidon (2006) African university libraries have only modest exchange programmes because their parent bodies do not have considerable number of publications to make available for exchange. Nevertheless, Oladokun (2014) supported library exchange and stated that many libraries have special area of knowledge that can be tapped to answer research needs of patrons.

2.1 "Just-in-case" model versus "just-in-time" models of collection development
Generally, libraries apply the "just-in-case" philosophy of collection development (Harris, 2013). "Just-in-case" collection is a situation where librarians try to develop in-depth collection in every discipline in an academic institution. Collections are developed to serve known courses of study and research strengths. "Just-in-time" collection development model, on the other hand, submits that library users will obtain whatsoever information required, but the library would not spend energy in obtaining what patrons do not want. Therefore, libraries react to needs as they arise, and immediately. The "just-in-time" philosophy of collection development is totally different from that which libraries have traditionally deployed. This dissimilarity according to Harris (2013) and Maina (2002) is normally termed in the literature as "just-in-time" versus "just-in-case" collection development.

The idea behind the transition from "just-in-case" to "just-in-time" collection development is to enhance the practice of preparation as well as creating a stable collection of library information resources over time. This is based on a continuous evaluation of the information requirements of users, and investigation of usage information. This is in addition to users' data distribution estimate which is usually inhibited by financial restrictions (Reitz, 2001).

Collection development librarians develop their collections with a view to meeting the needs of users as well as to cover in-depth those fields in which research is, or may be, carried out in their institution. This means that, should a researcher require information in a particular topic, there is ample possibility that the researcher would locate some materials locally to begin a literature search (Singh, 2004). "Just-in-case" collection is readily available even before the need is required. Collections developed in this way display various degrees of depth and breadth in knowledge areas in which research is needed. These "just-in-case" collections are valuable repositories of research materials, but are costly to build up and to maintain. Maina (2002) found that studies show that unacceptably large proportions of library

materials go unused by the patrons they are supposed to serve as a result of the use of the "just-in-case" model. This means that a large amount of money is spent annually on materials that were considered potentially useful to the patrons by collection development librarians but which are, in fact, never considered as valuable by the patrons. Increasingly, collection development librarians are discarding the "just-in-case" model because of changes in the information environment and economic downturn. Library materials' budgets have been reduced for the past few decades. Similarly, scholarly communication has changed dramatically and the range of possible formats in which information is made available is changing rapidly in the new digital environment. Another reason for moving from the "just-in-case" model to "just-in-time" model of collection development is that it is difficult to speculate and project which materials researchers might require (Bird, 2015). This is a subjective exercise which often leads to over-buying of library materials.

2.2 Commonly-used model in building academic library collection

The choice between "just-in-case" and "just-in-time" collection development models is, basically, an organisational decision (Price-Wilkin, 1997). "Just-in-time" collection development is not only a procedure for rationalisation of information resources acquisitions. Rather, it is also a library viewpoint that emphasises meeting patrons' needs with 100% quality assurance while at the same time eradicating wastage. It is about delivery of the right information resources to the right patrons at the right time of need. Most libraries are applying this approach to collection development as a result of their lean financial standing. The purpose of "just-in-time" model is to reduce information provision time as well as decrease the use of available funds while increasing quality of service (Buckwalter, 2009). According to Fergusson, Ferguson and Rothschild (1993), "just-in-time" approach also requires fewer financial inputs but achieves better quality.

On the other hand, the "just-in-case" model enables the library to obtain maximum quantity, but it incurs a higher burden of storage and finance. This present world is unable to acknowledge the "general good" concept that "just-in-case" model is known for. The approach encourages a shift from the notion considering the main purpose of libraries as being the sharing of resources for the good of all. Libraries were known as areas where people experienced the "just-in-case" model of collection development. However, this understanding has changed to the "just-in-time" mindset put forward by some financial planners who discard anything that is old fashioned. Bird (2015) noted that they are more concerned

with the practicability and usability of the whole collection; not just collecting them. Presently, everything must be assigned a price tag in order to be worthy of survival.

"Just-in-time" model is an approach that assumes that library users are abreast with whatever information resources they need and can locate it in the library. There is no provision for accidental location of materials on a bookstand (Bird, 2015). Like Nigeria, most libraries in developing nations are using the "just-in-time" model. This stance was as a result of the severe cut in financing of libraries.

3 Methodology

This study applied the survey research design. The population under study consisted of 30 collection development librarians who were purposively selected from 30 academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria. South-South geopolitical zone is comprised of 6 states. The states are Delta, Edo, Cross River, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Bayelsa. The whole population was used for the study because it was not large to warrant sampling. The instrument for data collection was a 3-point scale (Agreed- 3, Undecided- 2 and Disagree- 1) questionnaire. Out of the 30 questionnaires administered to respondents, 27 were retrieved and used for the study. This represent 90% return rate. The collected data was analysed using descriptive statistics.

4 Findings

The first objective of the study was to investigate how academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria are building their collections. Table 1 presents the findings of the study in regard to this objective.

Table 1: Methods of building academic library collections in South-South Nigeria

S/N	Items	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
1.	Gifts (donations)	16	59.3
3.	Purchase	25	92.6
4.	Bequeathal	6	22.2
5.	Library cooperation	10	37.0

Table 1 shows that the main methods for developing academic library collection is through purchase 25(92.6%) followed by gifts 16(59.3%). The least approach in the table is bequeathal 6(22.2%). Evidently, the main method of building library collections in South-South Nigeria is through purchase of materials.

Table 2: Knowledge of Just-in-Case and Just-in-Time Models of Collection Development

		3	2	1		
S/N	Items	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Total	Mean Scores
1.	A good number of library materials go unused by the patrons they are supposed to serve as a result of employing the "just-in-case" model.	17	-	10	27	2.6
2.	"Just-in-case" model allows for bulk purchase of materials never considered valuable by the patrons who are to use the resources.	21	-	6	27	2.5
3.	Collection development librarians are discarding the "just-in-case" model because of changes in the information environment and economic recession.	15	3	9	27	2.2
4.	Reduction in library budgets has made the use of "just-in-case" model unsustainable.	27	-	-	27	3
5.	Information is acquired when it is requested in "just-in-time" model.	19	-	8	27	2.4
6.	In "just-in-time" model, information is acquired when it is required.	19	2	6	27	2.5
	Grand Mean					**2.5**

Table 2 shows that the respondents have adequate knowledge of just-in-case and just-in-time models of collection development. The highest mean score was recorded for 'reduction in library budgets has made the use of "just-in-case" model not feasible (3.0) while the least in the table is 'collection development librarians are discarding the "just-in-case" model because of changes in the information

environment and economic recession (2.2). Generally, all the items are above the cutoff point (2), an indication that the respondents have knowledge of the models.

Table 3: The model mainly used by collection development librarians

Models	Percentage
"Just-in-case" model	8 (29.6%)
"Just-in-time" model	19(70.4%)

Table 3 revealed that out of the 27 collection development librarians studied, 8(29.6%) agreed that they mainly use "just-in-case" model while 19(70.4%) reported that they mainly used "just-in-time" model. This shows that a majority of the respondents use the "just-in-time" model in building their library collections.

5 Discussion of Findings

The main method for developing academic library collections is through purchase. This finding corroborates Edordu (1997) and Ogundipe (1987) who reported that acquisition through direct purchase of materials from vendors and publishers was the primary means of developing library collections. Also, Olanlokun and Adekanya (2005) noted that the library collections at the University of Lagos were acquired through purchase, gift, and legal deposit in that order. Acquisition involves selection, ordering, purchase, soliciting for gifts and exchange or library cooperation. In fact, Fayose (2003) and Nwosu and Udo-Anyanwu (2015) reported that three main avenues exist through which materials can be obtained for any library but the most common is by purchase. This is why libraries should have their own budget, of which a sizeable sum should be allocated to collection development. The finding of this study is further buttressed by Ifidon (2006) who reported that a breakdown by method of acquisition of the annual acquisition by twenty-five African university libraries shows that acquisition by purchase accounts for about 95% of the total annual additions to the collection.

In a study by Sasikala, Nagaratnamani, and Dhanraju (2014), collection development through purchase was found to be used more amongst the various methods of acquiring library collections. In that study, all the libraries (100%) agreed that the method used mostly was through purchase. The collection development librarians have adequate knowledge of "just-in-case" and "just-in-time" models of collection development. Thus, the finding of this study on adequate awareness corroborates Sasikala,

Nagaratnamani, and Dhanraju (2014). The study revealed that the librarians are aware of the workings of "just-in-case" and "just-in-time" models of collection development. Just like their counterparts in the developed world, the librarians studied are abreast with the two models of collection development. This finding could be attributed to a possibility that the acquisition librarians are grounded in their profession and are aware of what is involved in developing the collection with the ever dwindling library development funds. A reason adduced for shifting from "just-in-case" model to one in which information is acquired when it is requested, or when it is required, is that it is difficult to speculate as well as project which information resources students, faculty members and other researchers might require in future.

A majority of the collection development librarians use the "just-in-time" model in building their library collections. This finding agrees with Iwara (2014) when the researcher asserted that in this age of information explosion, the principle of comprehensiveness or selection of whatever comes out of the presses, is no longer rational, even if practicable. This means that a large amount of money is spent annually on information materials that were in fact never used. Currently, as noted by Saxenal and Dubey (2014), financial viability in conjunction with technological breakthroughs have created an atmosphere where access to scholarly information resources supersedes the celebrated pursuit for the great all-inclusive collection. Bonk and Miller (2008) noted that the rapid increase of journal rates and the drop in the value of the dollar have made academic librarians to come up with strong short-term methods to stabilize spending in order to pay bills. The "just-in-time" strategy of acquisition by some libraries in the United States of America began due to an increase in the price of journals. Collection development librarians must be prepared to make appropriate adjustments and improve their library's resources and services budget. Academic libraries in Nigeria, just like their counterparts in the United States, are weathering price increases for library information resources and the persistent drop in library budgets. Since the price rise differs in terms of subject and form of materials, collection development funds have been distorted leading to the adoption of "just-in-time" model of collection development (Martin, 2008).

6 Practical implication

The libraries acquire most of their resources through purchase and because of limited funds apply just-in-time model. The implication of this study is that chief librarians must advance and put forward

fundraising strategies to circumvent government inability to provide adequately. Solely relying on institutions' management appears not to be yielding the desired result in terms of library development.

7 Conclusion

From the foregoing, it is evident that the main method for developing academic library collections in South-South, Nigeria is through purchase; the respondents have adequate knowledge of "just-in-case" and "just-in-time" models of collection development; and the majority of the respondents use the "just-in-time" model in building their library collections.

8 Recommendation

Depending solely on institutions' management for funds appears not to be yielding the desired result. Therefore, Chief Librarians must advance funds raising alternatives as a result of the fact that the library collection was mainly developed through purchase and to enhance their use of "just-in-time" model in collection building.

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