

# COMPLIANCE TO PUBLISHING STANDARDS BY PUBLISHERS FOR DEPOSITION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

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## **Abstract**

*This study examined the compliance to publishing standards by publishers for deposition of information resources in National Library of Nigeria (NLN), two objectives guided the study, to identify the type of published information resources deposited in National Library of Nigeria and find out the extent to which publishers comply with the publishing standards of National Library of Nigeria. Quantitative research methodology was adopted and cross-sectional survey research design was used for the study, the population of this study comprised of ninety-four (94) NLN staff in thirty-one (31) state branches existed during this study in international standard and program department and legal deposit department and one thousand one hundred and forty-four (1,144) registered publishers. The entire population of NLN staff was used and two hundred and ninety-one (291) publishers were sampled, census sampling technique and simple random sampling technique were used. Self-developed questionnaire was used for data collection, descriptive statistics were used for data presentation and analysis. The study found out that books (Nigeriana and foreign) were the types of published information resources that are mostly deposited in NLN and preliminary pages was the publishing standard that publishers were highly complied with. The study concluded that there was a high level of compliance with the publishing standards by publishers and the study recommended that; the NLN should redesign the policy/legal deposit law in such a way that it will motivate/encourage the publishers to deposit all other published information resources to NLN and also the NLN should introduce/create a unit that will ensure full compliance with publishing standards before assigning any standard number to published information resources.*

**Keywords:** *Compliance, Information Resources, National Library of Nigeria, Publishers and Publishing Standards*

## **Introduction**

Legal deposit of the information resources is the responsibility of the publisher and author (for author – published work) it extends not only to commercial publishers but also to private individuals, clubs, churches, associations, societies, and organizations. Legal deposit is an obligation on publishers, authors and distributors to place their publications with designated libraries to establish and maintain an archival record of nations published output. This has great

advantages to authors, publishers, researchers and the general public, since through legal deposit, publications are made available to readers, preserved for the benefit of future generations, and become part of the national heritage. Lariviere (2010) defines legal deposit as a statutory obligation which requires that any organization, commercial or public, and any individual producing any type of information resources in multiple copies should deposit one or more copies with a recognized and assigned National Institution. Information resources that can be found in any type of library (NLN inclusive) are in both print and electronic formats such as textbooks, journals, indexes, abstracts, newspapers, magazines, reports, CD-ROM databases, Internet, tapes, diskettes, computers, microforms etc. These information resources are the 'raw materials' that libraries acquire, process, preserve and make available to their patrons to assist them in making better and informed decisions to further development in the society (Popoola & Haliso, 2009).

The National Library of Nigeria has a lot of purpose for publishing standard in the production of information resources, in order to safeguard publications for posterity's sake among the purpose also includes: National Bibliography, Commercial Exposure Worldwide, Self-recognition Worldwide, Easy access to publications, Free cataloguing of publications, to maintain standards of publication in Nigeria, to safeguard publishers and Authors intellectual property in Nigeria. The purpose of standard of Publication is to coordinate and standardize the international use of International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN) to identify uniquely one publication or edition of a publication published by one specific publisher in one specific format. The Publishing Standard has maintained its relevance by adapting to changes in the book market itself.

### **Statement of the problem**

National Library of Nigeria is saddled with the responsibility of providing information resources to the populace of the country it serves, the library is aware of intellectual and scholarly capacity of Nigerians in churning out publications in form of books, serials and electronic publications at the same time provide standard for publications for acceptance into legal depositary of the library through issuance of International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), in large capacity. The impact of publishing standards in our society is unquantifiable and this is why the degree of development in a nation can be strictly attached to its degree of literacy which information resource publishing stimulates (Abegunde, 2003).

Base on the researcher's personal experience and observations, it was discovered that, there a lot of discrepancies/inconsistencies in publication contents and pages, classifiers and cataloguers in Libraries and other Information Centres have difficulties in organising published materials for easy access to users, misapplications of ISBN and ISSN on publications. Walking on the street in Abuja Nigeria you find book vendors with books and other publications that are substandard, without key pages in a book such as title page, abstract, ISBN and bibliography among others, if these vital parts that are missing are been ignored our publications will not stand the test of time, they may be half baked resources for research purpose, they will not stand and compete with other publication from other part of the world. This prompted the researcher to find out the compliance to publishing Standard by publishers for deposition of Information Resources in National Library of Nigeria.

## **Objectives of the Study**

1. To find out the types of information resources deposited in National Library of Nigeria.
2. To determine the extent of publishers' compliance with publishing standard by National Library of Nigeria.

## **Literature Review**

This section provides the review of related literature.

### **Types of Information Resources Deposited in National Library of Nigeria**

NLN is in charge with collecting all information resources published in Nigeria by Nigerians and for Nigeria; the NLA Act in section 4 sub-sections (7) defines thus:

- i. All literary works such as books, pamphlet, sheet of music, maps, chart and compilation
- ii. Dramatic works
- iii. Collective works, such as encyclopedia, yearbooks, dictionaries or similar works.
- iv. Newspapers, magazines and periodicals
- v. All form in which documentary or oral records are published. This means that legal deposit includes non-book and electronic materials.
- vi. Official Publications (Gazette, reports & National Assembly Proceedings).
- vii. Reference Resources (Encyclopaedias, Dictionaries & Bibliographies etc) .
- viii. Gifts and Exchanges (foreign Monographs and Nigerian Materials)

Information resources apply to all types of printed resources (books, serials, pamphlets, maps, etc.) to most audio-visual resources (discs, films, videos, multimedia kits, etc.), to broadcast resources and to electronic publications (diskettes, CD-ROMs, on-line resources, etc. Agbaje (2002) described serials as sources of information (printed or electronic) that are produced at regular intervals. They include newspapers, minutes of meetings, newsletters, bulletins, government publications, magazines, journals, radio and television programmes, tapes, CDs, video tapes (printed or electronic) and other periodicals.

Another type of information carrier in the National Library of Nigeria is the reference resources. These are information resources borne out of research to provide most current information and facts. Significantly, these information resources are mainly for consultations and not for general reading. They include dictionaries, both subject and general. They give meaning to the words' pronouncements; etc. Encyclopedia describes things or events in detail more than the dictionaries. They include both subject and general. Examples are Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, Encyclopedia Britannica, etc. They are useful for research purpose. Other types of reference resources include biographical sources, almanacs, handbooks, directories, bibliographies, geographical sources (e.g. Maps, atlases and gazetteers), etc.

According to Aina (2004), Government publications are also part of the legal deposit collection in depository libraries by government ministries, parastatals, agencies and or its authority. They can be in different formats like book, audiovisuals, atlases, reference sources and serial publications. He opined that government documents fall within three categories such as Legislation publications: These include bills, decrees constitutions, debates, parliamentary debates and all such as emanate from legislative body in Federal, State or Local government; Judicial publications: These are publications that originate from court processes, examples include Law reports and Laws of the Federation; and Executive publication: These ones emanate from government ministries, agencies, presidency, and research institutes. They include

gazetteers, directions, commission of enquiry, annual reports, press releases, technical reports, developmental plans etc.

### **Extent of publishers' compliance to publishing standards**

The recent sensitisation across the country by National Library Nigeria conducted in 2018 showed aggressive exercise on compliance with legal deposit and international publishing standards for publishers, researchers, librarians, printers, authors, book sellers, academicians and government publishers. This is to ensure that the NLN would collect in totality all that is published in Nigeria in order to make same available to researchers and the general public.

According to Charles (2019) posit that Level of Compliance of the Publishing Standard comply each time I publish my book, deposit the required number of legal deposit law, comply only when task force comes around, comply to legal deposit law during book fairs, comply when I publish books for sale, deposit usually after receiving claim and demand letters. This finding implies that lack of awareness about publishing standard has actually become a part of the intellectual production and management system, because some senior scholars who are policymakers in higher education do not know about the provision. Compliance among authors does not relate to demographic characteristics of the authors. Awareness and compliance among publishers do not relate to the number of years they have produced intellectual materials, although those who have national coverage are both more aware and also comply more than those with other forms of coverage. Also, those publishers who have been members of the Nigeria Publishers Associations (NPA) for a long time were more aware than the others, although non-compliance pervaded the whole industry. These findings relate to Ike's (2004) suggested that the indigenization of publishing in Nigeria in 1978 reduced the scale of operation of publishing houses, and that these small publishing businesses that sprouted thereafter may not be members.

Compliance and awareness showed that a large proportion of those authors who did not comply were not aware, the proportion of those who were aware but did not deposit was sufficient to speculate that there must be other factors than awareness that discourage compliance. With only half of the publishers who were aware reporting compliance, this speculation is stronger for publishers' awareness alone may not account for compliance level. This inference is supported by an examination of the records of deposit maintained in the library during 1990 to 2007. Although non-compliance pervaded the whole industry. These findings relate to that of Ike (2004) who found out that the indigenization of publishing in Nigeria in 1978 reduced the scale of operation of publishing houses, and that these small publishing businesses that sprouted thereafter may not be members of the association.

Among the publishers, only a few of those who reported non-compliance supplied their reasons for not doing so. Some respondents blamed the decreasing awareness and compliance of authors and publishers on the ailing economy and the fact that compliance is not enforced. According to one such respondent, non-compliance could be attributed to "prevailing customized publishing practice in Nigeria," which we understood to mean that publishers produce and deliver to authors who market their materials. Another respondent questioned, "does the law still exist in Nigeria? It's a long time we heard about the stuff from National Library". Other respondents raised issues covering cost of deposit, distance of depositories, lack of awareness about the provision, and general lack of education on the advantages of legal deposit (Ike 2004).

## Methodology

Quantitative research methodology using survey research design was adopted for this study. The study comprised of two groups of population (NLN staff of two Departments {International Standard & Program and Legal Deposit} and registered publishers in National Library of Nigeria) the former with a total population of ninety four (94) and the latter with a total population of one thousand one hundred and forty-four (1,144) and all population of the NLN staff were used while two hundred and ninety-one (291) publishers were used as a sample size using Krejcie and Morgan Table for determining Sample size. Census and simple random sampling techniques were used. The instrument used for collecting data was self-developed questionnaire. The data collected were analyzed and presented using descriptive statistics (frequency distribution and percentages), mean and standard deviation.

## Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion

### Types of Information Resources Deposited in National Library of Nigeria

This section presented the types of Information resources deposited in National Library of Nigeria; Table 1 provided the details.

**Table 1: Types of Information Resources Deposited in National Library of Nigeria**

S/N	Type of Information Resource Deposited	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Books (Nigeriana and Foreign)	80	97.6
2.	Newspaper	77	93.9
3.	Magazines	66	80.5
4.	Journals	77	93.9
5.	Bibliographies	51	62.2
6.	Dictionaries	44	53.7
7.	Encyclopaedias	53	64.6
8.	Reports	15	18.3
9.	Conference Proceedings	58	70.7
10.	Gifts and Exchanges (Nigeriana Materials and Foreign Monographs)	66	80.5
11.	Official Publications	64	78.0

*Source:* Field Survey, 2021

Table 1 revealed the type of published information resources deposited in NLN and books (Nigeriana and foreign) happens to have the highest frequency and percentage of 80(97.6%), then newspaper and journals with 77(93.9%) each, followed by magazines and gifts and exchange (monographs and Nigerian materials) with 66(80.5%) each, official publications with 64(78.0%), conference proceedings with 58(70.7%), encyclopedia with 53(64.6%), bibliographies with 51(62.2%) dictionaries with 44(53.7%) and lastly reports with 15(18.3%). It can be inferred that books (Nigeriana and Foreign) were the major published information resources deposited in NLN by publishers and reports as the least among the published information resources deposited. This finding is in line with that of Essharenana (2009) who said that textbooks form the major part of information resources in National Libraries. This implied that, the law/culture of depositing published information resources (books) is been observed and so reasonable number of published books can be found in NLN for utilizations and conservation.

### Extent of publishers' compliance to publishing standard

This section presented the awareness on publishing standards of National Library of Nigeria, Table 2 provided the details.

**Table 2 Extent of publishers' compliance to Publishing Standard**

**Key: Highly Comply (HC), Comply (C), Rarely Comply (RC), Undecided (UND)**

S/N	Publishing Standards	HC		C		RC		UND		TOTAL		M	SD
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
1	International Standard Book Number (ISBN)	247	94.6	14	5.4	0	0	0	0	261	100	3.9	0.6
2	International Standards Serial Number (ISSN)	98	37.5	52	19.9	90	34.5	21	8.1	261	100	2.9	0.8
3	International Standard Music Number (ISMN)	54	20.7	72	27.6	126	48.3	9	3.4	261	100	2.7	0.8
4	Barcoding	50	19.2	44	16.9	152	58.2	15	5.7	261	100	2.5	0.7
5	Cataloguing in Publication (CIP)	68	20.1	90	34.5	98	37.5	5	1.9	261	100	2.8	0.8
6	Copyrights Authority	130	49.8	64	24.5	62	23.8	5	1.9	261	100	3.2	0.5
7	Preliminary Pages	252	96.6	9	3.4	0	0	0	0	261	100	4.0	0.7
8	Content Presentation	87	33.3	100	38.3	71	27.2	3	1.2	261	100	3.0	0.6
9	Images/Pictures/diagrams presentation	96	36.8	99	37.9	58	22.2	8	3.1	261	100	3.1	0.5
10	Book indexing	68	20.1	90	34.5	98	37.5	5	1.9	261	100	2.5	0.5
11	Citation and reference style	50	19.2	44	16.9	152	58.2	15	5.7	261	100	2.4	0.5

**Source: Field Survey, 2021**

Table 2 revealed the extent of publishers' compliance with publishing standards and it shows that, the publishing standard that publishers mostly comply with was preliminary pages with a mean value of 4.0, followed by ISBN with a mean value of 3.9, copyright authority with 3.2, image/picture/diagram presentations with 3.1, content presentation with 3.0, ISSN with 2.9, Cataloguing in publication with 2.8, ISMN with 2.7, barcoding with 2.5. All these standards were on the positive side because they have a mean value above the benchmark of 2.5. This inferred that, all the publishing standards were on the positive side and preliminary pages was the most common publishing standards that publishers complied with. This finding contradicts the finding of Ike (2004) who affirmed that publishers only comply with International Standard Number as publishing standard.

This implied that, when these publishing standards are strictly complied with, the published information resources will surely meet the global best practice especially the preliminary pages.

### **Findings of the Study**

1. Books (Nigeriana and foreign) were the types of published information resources that are mostly deposited in National Library of Nigeria.
2. Preliminary pages was the publishing standard that the publishers were highly complied with among the available standards.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

From the findings of the study it can be concluded that quite number of information resources in different format are being deposited to National Library of Nigeria and that the compliance level with publishing standards by publishers is not encouraging and this is as a result of inactive attitude of the overseers of compliance with the publishing standards because the publish information resources produced by the publishers are still having problems or are not in agreement with the global best practices. Base on the findings of the study, the study recommends that the National Library of Nigeria should redesign the policy/legal deposit law in such a way that it will motivate and encourage the publishers to deposit all other types of published information resources to National Library of Nigeria and the National Library of Nigeria should introduce/create or reinforce a unit that will ensure full compliance with publishing standards before assigning any standard number to any published information resources.

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