Funds Utilization and its Impact on Research Institute Libraries in Kaduna State

By

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Abstract

This study was carried out to assess funds utilization and it impact on research institute libraries in Kaduna State. Twelve research institutes in Kaduna State with the exception of one which did not have a library were used for the study. The survey research design was adopted for the study, and questionnaire was used as the main instrument for data collection. The population consists of the directors, account officers, librarians and the users of eleven research institutes studied. The proportionate sampling was used to draw a sample size 133 from the eleven research institutes. The research data was analyzed by the use of frequencies and percentages. The findings indicated that they were highly utilized were grossly under funded by their parent organizations in budgetary allocation. Consequently, they were rendered ineffective in meeting the information requirement of users for effective and efficient search. The inhibiting factors to effective services in research institute libraries just require the attention of management to adequately fund the libraries, provide necessary information, infrastructures and to demonstrate sufficient research will. The issue of ICT for integrated services is important for research institutes' libraries in the twenty-first century, which is lacking. Finally, that a budget is essential for effective utilization of any funds allocated to the library. The viability of the research libraries to provide felt needs and services to support research is dependent on the availability of funds. The findings concluded that if budgets are faithfully implemented and conscientiously monitored, they would bring positive change in the provision of library services to researchers.

Introduction

Research institutes occupy a very important position in the life of a nation. They are established to engage mainly in research and development which are indispensable in national development. The performance of their tasks enables a country to participate meaningfully in competing with other nations in equitable sharing of natural endowments and thus, become self-reliant. Gosh and Wesley (2002) remarked that "growth and development of a nation is focusing on research and action-research in social, economic, socio-economic and human development with special emphasis on the improvement in the quality of life and public policy."

The recognition of the vital role research plays in the economic development made the colonial government to establish research centres. A great deal of research institutes in the areas of chemical and engineering, agriculture, etc were established by the colonialists in Nigeria for the purpose of research and development of the local raw materials for industrial utilization in Britain. For example, agricultural research institutes were established in Ibadan, Samaru Zaria and Umudike in 1938.Other research institutes were the Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (FIIRO), Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON), Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism. More research institutes were established since Nigeria gained independence to carry out research in various fields. Ghosh and Wesley (2002) observed that "Today more and more organizations in Nigeria are involved in research, action-research and advocacy on various development issues, particularly in the social services

and human development sector." There are forty-four research institutes in Nigeria as recorded by Odubu (1997) and Ifidon and Okoli (2002). Out of these 44 research institutes in Nigeria, there are twelve (12) found in Kaduna State. The Nigeria Establishment Directory (2009/2010) listed the research institutes in Kaduna State as follows:

1. National Water Resources Institute (NWRI), Kaduna established in 1965.
2. National Agricultural Extension Research Liaison Services (NAERLS) Zaria established in 1927
3. Geological Survey of Nigeria, Kaduna established in 1919.
4. National Institute of Transport Technology (NITT), Zaria established in 1986
5. Nigeria Institute for Trypanosomiasis and Research (NITR), Kaduna established in 1951.
6. National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI), Kaduna established in 1924.
7. National Research Institute for Chemical Technology (NARICT), Zaria established in 1975.
8. National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism (NIHOT), Kaduna established in 1979.
9. Savanna Forestry Research Station Samaru, Zaria established in 1964.
10. Centre for Energy Research and Training (CERT), Zaria established in 1985.
11. Federal College of Forestry Mechanization Afaka (FCFM), established in 1976.
12. Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) Zaria established in 1924.

Research libraries were established alongside the institutes which manage the information generated

through research. The libraries provide an absolutely fundamental service which affects the whole of the institute and without which it would cease to function as a centre for research. Therefore, adequate funding should be considered a basic necessity for the effective development of the research libraries. Anafulu (1999) observed that "If a library is to meet the objective for which it was established, money is then essential for procurement and processing of materials and for the purchase and maintenance of equipment and as well as personnel emolument." According to Idris (2001), "Funding is the allocation of money and it is released for a specific purpose. It is the application of money, men and materials aimed at the achievement of the goals and objectives of an organization. "Therefore, the activities carried out by research libraries are dependent on the financial support of the private sector.

Statement of the Problem

The library occupies an important position in the research institutes. Fowowe (2006) described the library as the central organ of a research institute. It supports all the functions of the institute's research by providing both old and new materials in its collections and provides services and guidance to its clientele. A library, particularly a research library must be up-to-date and must house collections of special value which should be part of the institute's and the nation's heritage. Considering the importance and the place of the library as the central organ of a typical research institute, it follows that it must be properly supported financially. Adequate funding should be considered a basic necessity for the effective development of research libraries. In this regard, it must be acknowledged that funds are needed for the materials and services which are provided for the library's users/patrons. Besides, funds are needed for the staff that will obtain and make available the library materials and maintain the services. The cost of all these will represent the level of funding required by the library. Unfortunately, most research libraries are mere shadows of their former selves. The libraries could hardly subscribe to current publications and are always struggling to balance the demands for the support of research activities due to tight budgets. Not only that, Directors of research institutes found it difficult to release even the meager fund (if at all allocated) for the development of the libraries.

The importance of funding cannot be overemphasized bearing in mind the volume of activities the nation's research institute libraries are expected to embark upon. It is one thing to get the funds and it is another to utilize it. There is a general impression about government owned establishments of the allegations of financial imprudence against public officers who manage them. It is against this background that the researcher ventures into the study to seek the way forward with regards to funds utilization in research libraries in Kaduna State.

Research Questions.

The study seeks to provide answers to the following research questions:-

1. What are the sources of funds for research institute libraries?
2. How are funds accruing to research institute libraries utilized?
3. How does the utilization of these funds impact on the resources and services of research institutes?

Funding of Research Institutes their Libraries

In a typical research institute, the library remains one vital constituent which is supportive of research activities. Umoru (2005) remarked that research and publications have direct bearing on the extent and direction of the growth of individuals, institutions, communities and national socio-economic development. Fowowe (2006) described research libraries as "the central organ of a research institute which supports all the functions of the institute's research by providing both old and new materials in its collections and also provides services and guidance to its clientele." Because the library occupies an important position in the institutions and has a high level of responsiveness, it follows that it must be properly supported financially. Fowowe (2006) observed that "adequate funding should be considered a basic necessity for the effective development of research libraries." Funding is the allocation of money and it is released for a specific purpose. Idris (2001) defined funding as "the application of money, men and materials aimed at the achievement of the goals and objectives of an organization." Otowo (2004) added that "funding includes other forms of resources such as land, buildings, machines and equipment." The fact that funding plays a vital role in the establishment of the library and is essential for procurements, processing of materials, hiring of personnel for purchases and maintenance of equipment cannot be over emphasized.

Books, periodicals and other relevant forms of services like abstracting and indexing are expensive and are often subjected to fluctuating inflationary trends determined by global economy. Edoka (1996) opined that "research libraries face financial difficulties that are largely explained in the context of Nigeria's economic situation and which is the crux of the predicament of the library. Boacli and Harvard-Williams (1984) expressed disappointment over the poor financial situation of the library in West Africa, where budgets are fixed or reduced and in some cases, especially research institutes libraries, are not even having any financial policy statement. Ogundana et al (2002) observed that "most government libraries are not provided for in the annual

budgetary provisions in Nigeria." He added that where they are provided for, such funds are not released and where they are released the librarian is often bye -passed in determining what should be the priority need of the library. Studies have proved that Nigerian research institute libraries are not being provided for in the annual budgetary allocation. Mohammed (1997) and Ifidon and Okoli (2002) discussed that "research libraries in Nigeria do not have any fixed amount set aside for their development." The interesting finding by Ifidon (1991) is that "only an average of 0.41 percent is spent on research libraries development and that the libraries do not have their separate departmental budgets to spend, rather their expenditure on library matters is authorized from the centralized budget by the Directors." Meggison and Owushi (2002) added that "research institutes libraries are rated as low-priority development projects, thereby, making it difficult to allocate a proportion of the budget for effective library services. Majority of them depend on the miscellaneous allocation. Mohammed (1997) observed that "the research institutes that the libraries depend on, do face problem of dwindling allocation by the government due to poor economic policies and policy implementations which is biting hard on every sector of the economy." More to this, he said the institutes are supervised by different ministries-Federal, State and Parastatals each with its divergent goals and priorities. They lack uniform policy of funding, so that, even where there might be a written policy or statement on funding the libraries, it is rarely implemented strictly. He concluded that, financing of the libraries is largely a function of the extent of the relationship between the librarians and their Chief Executives or percentage roles of the libraries in the scheme of things in the establishment. Whatever the case may be, this study intends to reawaken the knowledge of the Chief Executive of the research institutes in Kaduna State in particular to behold the importance of the library and thus, make every effort to allocate a portion of the budget for the running of the library services.

Sources of funding Research Institute Libraries
It is obvious that research libraries are integral part of research institutes which produce a constant flow of value-added, customized services which fulfill the information needs of researchers. These libraries are not autonomous; they are managed by their parent organizations (research institutes) which are established by government .Research institutes in Nigeria are funded by the Federal Government who release funds based on the proposal made by the institutes. Because the libraries under these institutes are not autonomous, the activities carried out by them are dependent on the financial support from the federal government through their parent organizations. Ogundana (2002) observed that "most government libraries are not provided for in the annual budgetary provisions. "Mohammed (1997), Ifidon and Okoli (2002) out rightly stated that "research libraries do

not have any fixed amount (budgetary allocation) set aside for their development. Besides, directors of research institutions are more interested on income earning research activities and the library according to Munn (1987) is seen as "a bottomless pit being infinitely expandable and always in pursuit of undefined and unattainable goal and that nobody has succeeded in making a cost- benefit analysis of the contribution to its organization."

More studies have proved that research libraries in Nigeria do not have a funding policy on its own but that its parent organization (research institute) is to finance the services of the libraries from its budgetary allocation from the government. If at all such expenses shall be given to the library; it will be some fall-out of the institute's budget. This is evident from Ifidon (1991) who observed that the level of support to research libraries development is only an average of 0.41%. She added that the head Libraries prepare their respective preliminary budgets every year. But when the parent institution budgets are approved, they do not have their separate departmental budgets to spend; rather their expenditure on library matters is authorized from the centralized budgets by the directors. Momoh (1997) said "the parent organizations do experience the problem of shortfall in subvention from government which sometimes forces them to privatize and commercialize certain of their services to meet up with some research needs. It is true that these do happen among the research institutes in Nigeria, but they have failed to suggest ways that could sensitize government and the management of the institutes to behold the importance of the libraries and manage them as they should for the development the nation as a whole.

Internal and External Sources of Funds for Research Libraries
Macarney (1990), Dipeolu (1998) and Munzali (2000) viewed that" research libraries should employ a positive approach to earn internal revenue in order to reverse the traditionally poor image of the libraries. Such ways that they suggested include: a fee-based services in support of institution's consultancy or research activities which the library might be asked to cost its support too; consultancy services, fines and other charges to library users etc". Momoh (1983) gave some of the internal sources of fund as; "photocopying and bindery services. He said these could fetch as much money as about 10% of the institutes' annual estimates. Others are workshops, seminars, compilation of bibliographies, abstracting and indexing services for local journals, newspapers and other publications that could fetch money." Igbinosa et al (2002) identified gifts and donations as important external sources of funds for library development. They can come from different bodies which are either local or foreign. They can be by individuals or corporate bodies;

philanthropists; foundations; unions and associations. Various organizations such as the British Council, Brothers' Brothers, Carnegies, and Rock- Feller etc. have taken upon themselves to donate materials to libraries. Research libraries should identify these organizations and then take positive steps to work out modalities on how to reach them. There are friends of the libraries and Alumni associations. With properly co-ordinate efforts, by the librarians of research libraries and information centres of research institutes in Kaduna state, this could form a veritable source of research library collection development. These ways serve as encouraging the research libraries to exist, but fall short of providing needed information materials that would meet the objectives for establishing the institutes. This is because these bodies (international) do not give physical cash, rather; they offer texts in form of books which are mostly not current and not in line with the mandate of the institutes. Others can only offer tokens and not shoulder the whole responsibility of the libraries since they are not the founders of the organizations. Therefore, this is a pointer to the librarian and management of the research institutes in Kaduna state to keep reflecting the needs of the libraries giving it a separate name or heading in the annual budget of the institutes.

Funds Utilization by Research Institute Libraries and Information centres.
Generally in Nigeria, research institute libraries and information centres have been rated low in the scale of priorities by the government and their parent organizations. Ifidon and Okoli (2002) observed that "the head (librarian) of research institute libraries was not directly responsible to the Director for the day–to-day running of library right from inception; that stock was limited and that very limited services were rendered." This is not withstanding the overall objective of the library which is to produce the best possible results within the resources available to the organization. Jubb and Green (2002) observed that" in America, librarians are constantly struggling to balance the demands for the support of research because the funds are mostly got from miscellaneous provided by the parent organizations. They further stated that researchers believe that funding the library should be near the top of the institution's priority list because they make the most use of the library. This is not so due to tight budgets that research institutes are getting from the government making it difficult for the library to acquire library resources thus, leading to poor services. This has become a matter of concern to researchers.

Research libraries in Nigeria face the same problem and even worse than the happenings in the developed nations, as there is no policy statement on funding research libraries. Mohammed (1997) Ifidon and Okoli (2002) affirmed that "research libraries in Nigeria do not have any fixed amount set aside for their development. Because they have no allocation policy, they depend mostly on their parent organizations (research institutes) and miscellaneous allocations. Government's attention is on education and other social services and not research. Tamino (1998) stressed that "the needs of researchers are not recognized as that of teaching." That notwithstanding, the libraries are given one form of money or the other for library development, it should be properly utilized or manage. It is one thing to get the funds, and it is another to manage it. Odubu (1997) viewed utilization of funds as an aspect of financial management. He added that" it is an activity and does not only apply to business firms, but also to non-profit oriented organizations, such as, research institutes, religious organizations etc; that need funds for their operations. That, its focus is on how funds acquired by a business or an organization is used. Weston and Brigman (1977), Schall and Haley (1980), Brockington (1983) and Shapiro (1990) all gave the definition of financial management as "the effect and efficient raising and use of funds, acquisition of resources among the firm's present and potential activities and projects."Omorege (1998) viewed financial management as an aspect which concerns on funds utilization. He said when funds are scarce the utilization becomes critical to any organizational existence.

Utilization of funds, therefore, based on this perception involves the allocation and expenditure of funds at the disposal of an organization on its various activities. Tamino (1998) suggested that "any funds allocated to research libraries for effective services should be utilized by the librarians so as to ensure judicious usage on the prioritized materials. Munzali (2002) in his own view said that administrators of research institutes should be sensitized by the Nigerian library Association (NLA) to prioritized activities in the utilization of funds. He added by saying that in as much as funds are used to pay salaries, the library services should also be considered to balance the equation so as not to have staff without the working implement. If directors of research institutes release the meager (miscellaneous) fund for the development of the libraries, Ogundana et al (2002) observed that "the librarians are often bye-passed in determining what should be the priority needs of the library. This affects the services of the library because what the funds should have been used for in meeting the needs of the users are diverted for another purpose that will not solve the library needs. "There are relatively tight rules on purchasing research texts which make it difficult to achieve the aim of establishing the library. This spills over to the use of inter-library loan, which is, in some cases discouraged for research- based materials. Jubb and Green (2002) observed that "the condition has so deteriorated that researchers have to purchase by themselves books they need for research because their

libraries cannot justify purchase through the library budget.

Effective utilization of funds by research institute for the development of library services will be that, the research libraries receive a single block vote which could be spent mainly on books, personnel, computers and everything else that makes up a modern library. In this regard, a budget is essential for effective utilization of any fund allocated to the library. If only the funds would be allocated to the library no matter how little it will be released and utilize for library development, will provide effective services by way of subscribing to journals, current and relevant resources for use by researchers. This will in turn enhance effective research for national policies and development. However, from their assertions they were focusing on academic libraries but their attentions were on service oriented institutions that could bring about development of organizations and the entire nation which research institutes are unavoidably included. According to Dipeolu (1998) "a positive approach by librarians of research institutes to income earning should be adopted to reverse the traditional poor image of research libraries as it were the reversed of deteriorating of existing collections of research libraries. The deterioration of existing collections of research libraries derives from the lukewarm attitude of government and parent organizations of these research libraries can be averted if World Bank facilities and other foreign aids can be extended to research institutes like it was done to Universities. This will help greatly especially in the subscription to current journals, books and most importantly, the application of information technological devices.

Data Analyses and Discussion
The survey research method was used for this study. The population for this study comprised all the research libraries of the twelve research institutes in Kaduna State. All the twelve research institutes' libraries in Kaduna State were studied except those which did not have libraries. The sample size used for the study was proportionately selected. A total number of 133 questionnaires were distributed to both the management staff of the institutes and the users of the library. Thirty-six management staff were sampled and one hundred users respectively. The questionnaire was administered to the respondents in person in their offices and the library. One hundred and thirty-three (133) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to researchers, students and principal staff of eleven research institutes in Kaduna State. Out of these, one hundred and ten were returned on completion, which represents 99.98% response rate .

Funding of Research Institute Libraries
The researcher sought to find out the sources of funds from the respondents and the data collected is shown in table 1.

Table 1 reveals that the eleven (100%) research institute libraries in Kaduna State were all funded by the Federal Government as the sole proprietor. Funding in five (45.45%) research Institutes a piece were supplemented by Education Trust Fund (ETF) interventions, and Gifts / Donations respectively. The remaining supplementary source of funding, which two (18.18) research institute libraries used was internally generated revenue. Interaction with the librarians affirmed that those Research Institute Libraries that did not benefit from ETF intervention missed it due to diversion of the funds meant for library development to other sectors of the institute. This led to a halt by the fund in allocating more funds to the organizations library for development

Table 1: Institutional Sources of Funds

Institutions	Govt.Subvs.	Gifts./Donations	Internally Gen. Rev. (IGR)	Fund Raising	ETF
NITR	✓	x	x	x	x
NWRI	✓	x	✓ x	x	✓
NITT	✓	✓	x	x	x
NAERLS	✓	x	x	x	✓
NARICT	✓	x	x x	x	✓
NAERLS NIHOT	✓	x	x	x	x
FCFM	✓	✓	x	x	✓
GSN	✓	✓	x	x	x
NIHT	✓	✓	x	x	x
FCFM	✓	✓	x x	x x	x
IAR	✓	✓	✓ x	x	✓

Key To Abbreviations

ETF - Education Trust Fund;   Gifts/Donts. – Gifts and Donations ; Govt. Subv. - Government Subvention IGR ;
 IGR - Internally Generated Revenue

Revenue Generation by Responding Libraries

Respondents support for libraries to generate funds is presented in Table 4.5.

Table 2:   Support for Revenue Generation in the Research Institute Libraries.

Level of support	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agreed	28	30.87
Agreed	33	36.3
Undecided	8	8.8
Disagreed	17	18.7
Strongly disagreed	2	2.2
Total	**107**	**100**

Twenty eight (30.87%) respondents strongly agreed and 33(36.3%) agreed that research libraries should engage in funds generation. Eight (8.8%) respondents were undecided while 17 (18.7%) disagreed with the position that libraries should begin to generate their funds, with the remaining 2 (2.2%) respondents strongly disagreeing that libraries should generate funds. This could be through overdue fines, photocopying, bindery services, etc.

Funds Utilization

The responses on how effectively the research institute libraries utilized funds for their development are shown in table 3.

Forty-eight (44.16%) respondents felt the research institute libraries effectively utilized allocated fund for their development because they purchased prioritized journals and books; 13(11,96%) felt so too because they were involved in selection of books through the distribution of catalogues to them. Another 13(11.96%) felt the same way because they were involved in the preparation of their library budgets. The remaining 18(16.56%) felt their libraries judiciously utilized their funds because the subscription lists they submitted to the libraries were attended to. Librarians should ensure that any funds allocated to research libraries for effective services should be utilized by them so as to ensure judicious usage on the prioritized materials.

Table 3: Responses on Judicious Utilization of Funds

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Prioritized journals/Books	48	44.16
Submission of subscription from-catalogue	13	11.96
Submission of subscription list	18	16.56
Preparation of library budget	13	11.96
Total	**107**	**100**

Table 4: Percentage of Respondents on Budgets as Regulating tools for the use of funds.

Are librarians accountable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agreed	19	19.19
Agreed	69	69.69
Undecided	5	5.05
Disagreed	3	3.03
Strongly disagreed	2	2.02
Total	**107**	**100**

Allocation (Budget) as a Means of Easy Control of the Use of Funds

Table 4 give respondents' perceptions on the effect of adequate funding vis-à-vis provision of control over expenditure, presentation and accountability.

Table 4.8 reveals that 19(19.19%) respondents strongly agreed and 69(69.69%) agreed, and 5(5.05%) were undecided that 3(3.30%) that librarians were accountable, due to budgetary controls, in the use of funds for library development. On their part, were 3(3.30%) and 2(2.02%) respondents respectively disagreed and strongly disagreed about the frugality of librarians in expending funds meant for library services. The finding of this study supports the observation of Boacli and Harvard Williams (1984) that even with the poor financial situation of libraries in West Africa, their librarians managed the few available resources well, and that they were not deterred by the obsolescence and out-of- context circumstance brought about by the changing technologies and the environment.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, it could be concluded that research institute libraries were funded solely by the Federal Government 9(81.81%) from its periodically allocated subventions which might or might not come at all and they depend heavily on TedFUND. The Institutes Librarians are very accountable even with the little or no budget allocated to them. They ensure that any money allocated or given as a gift are utilized judiciously. From the findings and interpretation of data analyzed, the following recommendations are

proffered with a view to enhancing the effective utilization of funds for research libraries in Kaduna State and the nation at large.

1. The researcher is optimistic that if budgets are faithfully implemented and conscientiously monitored, they would bring positive change in the provision of library services to researchers.
2. Directors of research institutes should allow the librarians of research institutes to be involved in budget preparation and itemize the library budgets as part of the whole institutional budgets for its consideration separately.
3. Funds meant for the libraries should be used on the acquisition of library materials and service delivery and to improve the number of staff for effective provision of essential services to the teeming library users.

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