Influence of Planning on Library Resources Provision in University Libraries in North Central Zone of Nigeria

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Abstract

Purpose: *The purpose of this paper is to determine the influence of planning on library resources provision in university libraries in North Central zone of Nigeria.*

Design/Methodology/Approach: *This study was based on ex-post facto research design. The population of the study consisted of Ninety-nine librarians and twenty five library officers in this zone. Questionnaires was the main instrument used for data collection. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive analytical tools and regression analysis.*

Findings: *The results of the study showed that whole planning was carried out, though not to a very large extent($\bar{x}$ =2.51)., libraries resources were provided to a small extent ($\bar{x}$ =2.42). The results /Lalso showed that planning has a high significant influence on library resources provision in this zone.*

Practical Implication: *Planning is of high significant influence in library resources provision and library managers should consider financial, human resources and infrastructural planning critical in library management.*

Originality/Value: *the originality of this paper lies in its argument that the success of library depends on the quality of it planning at different levels such as financial and infrastructural planning.*

Keywords: *Library resources, planning, university librarians, library resources provision, North central zone, Nigeria.*

Paper type: Empirical

Introduction

Planning is the managerial variable by which a library through an imaginative pooling of its resources can ensure not only its survival but also its growth and attainment of excellence in fulfilling its mandate. According to Thompson (1962) planning enables a library to provide appropriate buildings and other requisite infrastructure by which to effectively do current business, to survive in the business and to develop and grow. Plans for the current business are those that are necessary for the day- to- day activities, that is, plans which the managers require for appropriate allocation of men, machines, materials and methods for each assignment or work schedule. Plans for continuing in business are the plans that concern the changing character of the business, technological changes and changes in the habits and expectations of the workers and the society at large. No wonder, Nwachukwu (2007) described planning as the first and most important function of management whose essence is to reduce rising cost as well as prepare for and predict future events. The author further delineated three levels of management at which planning, like other functions of management, operates with varying degrees of emphasis: top management, middle management and line management. For instance, the top management executives formulate the organization's goals and strive to position the organization within the context of its environment, whereas operating plans are the dominant focus of middle and first line managers. Thus, planning consists of strategic planning (which is the major preoccupation of top management executives), and operational planning that dominates middle and line management cadres. The university library, for instance, consists of library and information professionals, and various categories of staff with different professional backgrounds and trainings, such as secretaries, accountants, IT specialists, and a variety of sub- professional and clerical personnel. The university librarian is the top executive of the university library. He is mainly occupied with formulating the university library's plans, through which the university library will be able to deliver effective services

in the light of the parent university's mandate, such as research, teaching and preservation of knowledge in disciplines and programs offered as well as community service. In discharging this important responsibility, he is assisted by one or more deputy university librarians who may also be directly in charge of specific divisions of the university library where they directly supervise the operations of all the staff under them. This is the essence of operational planning, which is the level of planning that dominates the attention of line and middle level managers. The planning and supervision of activities in the various divisions and departments of the university library is not the responsibility of the university librarian but that of the heads of the library divisions, departments and units.

The success of any enterprise, such as a library, depends on the quality of its planning. Proper planning is of essence, for instance with respect to a situation where a library aspires to achieve essential library spaces and other facilities that will be secure and conducive for storage, preparations, offices, study and research (Radar, 2007). Achieving such ends requires that the planning process is done step- by- step to determine the actions and resources required to achieve them (Carlisle, 1976). This position is corroborated by French (1974) who further reiterated the import of planning to the future of the entire library as an entity, and the necessity for articulating specific plans for individual resources, services and to guide major developments like the selection and implementation of a new library system. Planning is a process which consists of the identification of the mission, objectives and action plan of a library. The objective of a university library is to provide accurate, timely and relevant information to its target users. Therefore its planning process should note the activities which will be needed for effective information delivery and as such consideration must also be given to the types, quality and quantity of the resources needed. The activities include those which relate to acquisitions, processing, cataloguing, classification, indexing, exhibition, lending, reference, library orientation and teaching of library use skills. As for the resources needed, consideration will relate to library staff; books, journals and databases; building spaces and equipment to house the staff and information resources; and budget. The library decides the course of action for each department giving the various specific targets for implementation. Management is interested in the quality of performance achieved, and so in the planning process provision should be made for feedback which helps to further guide the planning process.

Purpose of the Study:

The main purpose of this study was to determine the influence of planning on library resources provision in North Central zone of Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to determine

1. The extent of library resources provision in university libraries in North Central zone.
2. The extent of planning practices in university libraries in the zone
3. The influence of planning practices on library resources provision in university libraries in the zone.

Literature Review

The fear of failure by individuals, groups and organizations to attain expected levels of performance resulting in undesirable consequences like loss of reputation, prestige and income all of which can jeopardise the desired stability, growth and prosperity generated the need to plan (Unugbro, 2005). Planning in the organizational context is a process that involves a step- by-step determination of an organization's actions and the resources required to achieve them (Carlisle, 1976). According to Hatzell (2006 304), planning is a systematic effort to organize the future performance of human beings, money, goods and services within some identified constraints of time span. Planning is one of the major management functions and involves defining goals, establishing strategy for the attainment of the goals and mapping out actions to integrate and coordinate the actions (Nwachukwu, 2007).

Many authors like French (1974) concur that planning includes the establishment of goals and objectives and the determination of activities and resources required to achieve the objectives within some specified time frame. So important is the variable of planning to the success of the library that Peter Brophy (2005) declared that every manager must undertake it given that planning concerns the future of the entire library as an entity, and more specific plans may be articulated for individual services or to guide major development like the selection and

implementation of a new library system. This involves assessing both the external environment (which for a university library means both the parent university and the broader information world) and the library itself and setting down directions which will be followed. Unugbro (2005) agreed with this position with the assertion that planning enables managers to analyse present conditions to determine how to reach desired future state and to produce and integrate objectives, policies and strategies, and concerns an assessment of the present situation (including the resources, procedures and outcomes), the desired goals and objectives, and the resources and procedures needed to attain them as well as designing a means of obtaining a feedback.

It is generally agreed that planning as a process consists of certain actions like identification of the mission, objectives and action plan of a library. According to Aina (2004), planning has five major parts: vision statements; mission statements; goals and objectives; environmental scanning strategy, and policy statements. Mission statements are the statements of purpose which provide the overall theoretical framework on which the subsequent planning can be founded. The mission statement is an explicit and concise description of the library service which the management intends to provide for the library and information user community. The library's mission constitutes its vision and purpose or why the library exists. Objectives, on the other hand, are the results the library is determined to achieve in each of its areas of service. How, when or in what ways the library will contribute to actualizing those results is usually contained in the library's action plan. Objectives and action plan are essential in the planning process because they identify important areas of activity for the library and thereby establish targets of performance. Specifically, objectives and action plans guide the actions of decision makers; identify priority activities, and help in assessing performance and demonstrating accountability. Planning ensures that the user community, management and staff understand why the library exists and the goals it is trying to achieve. Planning furthers continuity in service regardless of changes in management staff; long term commitment to library service among the stakeholders; the library's ability to respond to changing trends in the world, and the library's ability to affirm to library authorities that library funds are being spent deliberately and

responsibly (Sourcebook for Public Libraries, 1994).

Methodology

The research is an ex-post facto research designed to determine the influence of evaluation (managerial variable) on the provision of library resources in universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. The population consisted of all the ninety-nine librarians and all the twenty-five chief and assistant chief library officers in the university libraries in all the six state and four federal-owned universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. The major instrument for data collection was questionnaire.

The instrument consisted of three main sections, beginning with section A used to provide the needed demographic data. Sections B and C dealt with the provision of library resources and evaluation activities in the university libraries respectively. Section B had 46 items clustered under the four types of library resources, namely, information resources, infrastructural resources, financial resources and human resources. Section C, on the other hand, had ten items measuring evaluation activities in the University libraries. Each item in section B was designed to elicit responses that indicate the extent of library resources provided while the items in Section C were designed to establish the extent of evaluation activities in the University libraries

The instrument was subjected to face validity. Two senior lecturers in library and information science and an expert in educational measurement carried out the face validation. The expert and senior lecturers were specifically requested to validate the instrument in terms of the relevance and adequacy of content and clarity of the statements. The experts vetted the items of the instrument in the light of the study's purpose, constructs and hypotheses. This is to ensure that each instrument is capable of collecting complete, precise and accurate information.

The researcher and some research assistants specially trained for the purpose distributed the questionnaire to all the librarians, chief library officers and assistant chief library officers in each of the universities under study. A total of 124 copies of the questionnaire were distributed. Out of this number, 120 copies were returned but only 100 copies were correctly filled by the

respondents. This gave a response rate of 80.6%. Mean and Standard Deviation were used to answer the research questions posed in the study.

Results

Table 1: Mean ratings of respondents on the extent of library resources provision

S/No	Organization practiced	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
1	Information resources	2.43	0.58	SE
2	Infrastructural resources	2.61	0.52	LE
3	Financial resources	2.36	0.64	SE
4	Human resources	2.27	0.62	SE
	Over all	**2.42**	**0.59**	**SE**

VLE- Very Large Extent; LE- Large Extent; SE- Small Extent, VSE- Very Small Extent, SD-Standard Deviation, $\bar{X}$ = Mean

Table 2: Mean ratings of respondents on extent of Planning Practices in the library

S/No	Planning Practices	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
1	The library has a direction in which it wants to execute activities	2.94	.864	LE
2	Library has a projection of its means of achieving its goals	2.85	.848	LE
3	The library has plan to examine its environment to identify its inherent SWOT	2.85	.826	LE
4	Preparation of a collection development policy	2.65	1.022	LE
5	Development of a building programme which is like a road map	2.53	1.085	LE
6	Library has a budget for personnel cost	2.48	.996	SE
7	Library has a budget for building and equipment	2.25	1.038	SE
8	Developing a plan for generating internal revenue	2.17	1.096	SE
9	Developing a plan for attracting donor funds	2.14	.938	SE
10	A policy is available on staff recruitment	2.30	1.084	SE
11	A policy is available on staff training and development	2.42	1.039	SE
12	Articulation of conditions of service for staff	2.52	1.111	LE
	Over all	**2.51**	**.643**	**LE**

VLE- Very Large Extent; LE- Large Extent; SE- Small Extent, VSE- Very Small Extent, SD-Standard Deviation, $\bar{X}$ = Mean

Table 3: Standardized Beta Coefficients of the Influence of Planning practiced in the library

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Beta	Standardized Coefficients	Sig.
	B	Std. Error			
(Constant)	1.280	.172		7.444	.000
Planning practiced in the library	.327	.075	.470	4.353	.000

VLE- Very Large Extent; LE- Large Extent; SE- Small Extent, VSE- Very Small Extent, SD-Standard Deviation, $\bar{X}$ = Mean

Data in Table 1 reveled that library resources were provided to a small extent in ($\bar{x}$=2.42) in university libraries in North Central Zone.

Table 2 above shows the mean rating of the respondents on the extent of the planning practices in the University Libraries. The results reveal that planning activities were carried out to a large extent ($\bar{x}$=2.51) in the University Libraries. The greatest of all the planning activities in these Libraries are task execution according to direction ($\bar{x}$=2.51), application of SINOT analysis ($\bar{x}$=2.85), achieving goals through projection ($\bar{x}$=2.85), and preparation of collection development policy ($\bar{x}$=2.65).

Table 3 shows that planning has significant influence (β = 0.470, $p < 0.05$) on library resource provision.

Discussion

The results of the data analysis in table 3 depict that planning has a highly significant influence on library resource provision in the University libraries studied. This findings is ,interesting in the since that it is an indication that the library management should take the issues of information planning, infrastructural planning, financial planning and human resources planning very seriously. The success of any library today depends on the quality of its planning at different levels as identified above. This finding is consistent with that of Etuk (2008) which revealed that staffing, physical

facilities, coordination and planning have significant relationships with postgraduates' theses availability in Universities in the South-South Zone of Nigeria. The study further recommended that adequate attention be paid to management variables such as planning, organizing, staffing, and coordinating for information resources availability in the University libraries, especially in South-South Zone in Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Planning was found to be carried out to a large extent in providing resources by the university libraries. Some of the very significant planning activities include executing activities based on the goals or directions, achieving goals based on projections, application of SWOT analysis, and preparation of collection development policy and developing a road map for the library. These findings are interesting as they included specific planning activities that can be executed to facilitated library resource provision. It is recommended that: The Federal Government of Nigeria should look into the funding situations in Nigerian universities with a view to increasing the recurrent expenditure remitted to Nigerian universities. This definitely will increase the percent of the Library Development Fund (LDF) and that University librarians should

begin to get involved in knowledge innovation as a means of developing knowledge resources for their university libraries.

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Scholarly Electronic Journals: Availability and Usage in Universities in Nigeria

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Abstract

Purpose; *Current scholarly journals published abroad have become so expensive and scarce because of their inflationary cost. University libraries in Africa and the third world countries find it difficult to subscribe to print journals because of their meager budgets. Electronic journals have come as a better alternative to print journals. The paper seeks to know where the University of Nigeria stands in the new paradigm.*

Design/Methodology/Approach: *A survey research was adopted to find out from the university academia, the availability and usability of this new medium scholarly communication in the Nigeria's premier university. A structured questionnaire was used to elicit responses.*

Findings: *Availability and usage of e-journals were confirmed to a large extent by respondents. The purpose and various means of access to e-journals were delineated in the research. Problems which hinder effective use of both internet and e-journals were outlined.*

Research limitations/Implications: *The research was limited to a sample of population of academic staff drawn from various faculties of the University of Nigeria. It was limited only to the use of internet to download teaching, learning and research resources and access to resources and holdings of databases licensed to the University library.*

Originality/value: *The paper increases understanding of electronic journals; their nature; relevance and authenticity of peer review publications. Strategies for greater success in accessing e-resources in the library were of value.*

Keywords: Internet, Worldwide web, databases, e-resources, e-serials

Paper type: Research paper.

Introduction

Serials are publications of writers, researchers, institutions, organizations etc which are issued regularly in successive parts on a continuous bases. Since their origin in the 17th century, serials, especially scientific journals, have become an essential part of the process of science and scholarship. Until the new information revolution, serial publications are paper based. Now however, serial publication are available in diverse formats, especially digital formats. A literature survey carried out by this writer shows that some serials publications published in digital formats are distributed on CD Roms, the Internet, e-mail and world wide web (www) pages. Serial published and distributed electronically in the aforementioned formats are called electronic serials (e-serials).

Electronic serials include such publications as: journals: bulletins; Newsletters; reports; magazines; newspapers etc, distributed in digital formats. Some e-serials are open access publication. Peter Suber has given a definition of open access as literature that is "digital, online, free of charge and free of most copyright and licensing restitutions" (Suber, 2007).

Some e-serials have paper equivalents. Some of them are purely electronic. Some are digitally reformatted print journals. Some are free, some are available by subscriptions only. For some, a subscription to the paper format automatically gives you free access to the electronic format. The different types of e-serials have brought a blurring boundary between them that it is difficult to categorize them by some taxonomies as those used on print journals.

Electronic serial (e-serial) have a lot of advantages over print journals. There is the ability to access full text of an article without the hassles of foraging for misshelved issues on the