LAFIA JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
LJLIS Volume 1, Number 1, 2022
https://lalibjournals.org/index.php/LJLIS
ISSN: Print - 2814-0702, Online - 2814-0710
(LJLIS)

CHALLENGES OF LOCAL PUBLISHERS IN THE PRODUCTION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
The study assessed the challenges faced by local publishers in the production of information resources or state universal basic education board in Kaduna state. The research objectives sought to identify the major problems of local publishers in the production of information resources for Universal Basic Education (UBE) in Kaduna state and suggest possible solutions to the problems identified. The population of this study comprised of the staff of Kaduna State Government Printers and the staff of Kabido Printers publishing unit. The entire staff of the publishing unit of Kaduna State Government Printers and Kabido Printers were used as sample for the study. Findings showed that textbooks are the major information resource produced by the local publishers as it is the basic information resource used by SUBEB for teaching and learning. It was further revealed that inadequate power supply were the major problems confronting the production of information resources for State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Kaduna State by local publishers. It was concluded that if the publishing houses will make use of the possible solutions to the identified problems, they could curb the problems confronting the publishing of information resources for SUBEB in Kaduna State. Based on the findings, it was recommended that publishers should be encouraged in the production of other information resources, SUBEB should encourage the production of other information resources such as novels, charts among others and the government should enforce strong rules on piracy so as to ensure that production is on-going year-in and year-out, which will in turn lead to the expansion of the publishing houses beyond Kaduna state and employment of more hands to meet with the increasing demand for their services and adequate provision should be made so as to enable an uninterrupted production process of information resources by stabilizing power supply for the publishing houses.

Keywords: Local Publishers, Information Resources, Universal Basic Education

Introduction

Publishing is a medium of communication that has a profound impact on everyone's life, conveys much of the past's history, helps us understand ourselves and the world we live in, and is an important instrument for presenting our present to the

future. Publishing According to Akangbe (2014) is a media of communication which falls under the print media. Publishing has been defined by so many people in different ways. Publishing can simply be referred to as "making generally known" or "noising abroad". It has been defined elementarily as the profession or business of publishing books (Akangbe, 2014). Publishing, as a medium of communication, is an important element in the educational process, as well as a source of amusement for individuals of all ages.

Nigeria has a thriving publishing business, with possibly the most publishing houses of any African country. People read to stay informed about the past and the changing world, to discover inspiration, relationships, and enjoyment, and to obtain information. Book is seen as a catalyst for mental growth and social integration. Book is a medium of mass communication which propels effective utilization of other media (Ojo, Victor, Atewolara-Odule, 2016). Through research on the relative literature, the library record has been one of the primary trademarks by which each succeeding world civilization has been measured. Civilization's historical record has been rebuilt. There are various types of information resources. Some are in printed form, while others are not (i.e., electronic form). Information resources, in whatever form they may exist, give lasting properties that no other communication medium does. The transition to the digital era has resulted in a significant shift in the way books are published. Paperbacks and hardbound books have made the move to eBooks and Kindle. Physical book sales are declining due to the growing popularity of eBooks. The transition to the digital era has resulted in a significant shift in the way books are published. Paperbacks and hardbound books have made the move to eBooks and Kindle. Physical book sales are declining due to the growing popularity of eBooks. This paper therefore assessed the challenges faced by local publishers in the production of information resources for the UBE.

Statement of the Problem

Publishers have an important part in educational growth. According to Gora and Jibril (2020), as new developments in the field of book publishing emerge as a result of the information and knowledge explosion, the use of general books, particularly print books, as well as the use of audio-visual and non-print media, has become increasingly important. Many educational publishers have broadened their product offerings. Based on a preliminary study on the challenges faced by local publishers, the researchers found that despite efforts put in by publishers in ensuring continuous publishing of information resources, publishers in Kaduna state have fallen behind in terms of keeping up with the current trend of book production, as well as meeting the basic necessity of producing resources for the successful implementation of the UBE program in the state.

Against this backdrop, the researchers examined the challenges experienced by local publishers in the provision of information resources for Kaduna state's Universal Basic Education program.

Objectives of the Study

This study is aimed at assessing the problems faced by local publishers in the production of information resources for Universal Basic Education programme in Kaduna State.

1. To identify major information resources produced by the local publishers in Kaduna state for Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme.

2. To identify the major challenges faced by local publishers in the production of information resources for Universal Basic Education (UBE) in Kaduna state.
3. To suggest possible solutions to the problems identified.

Review of Related Literature

Information Resources for UBE by Local Publishers

Local publishers primarily generate information materials for the Universal Basic Education program in Kaduna State, which are then supplied to school libraries. Adetoun, Kolawole, and Ajibola (2011) assessed State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) Libraries in a number of South-West Nigerian states. They recognized textbooks, dictionaries, and fiction books as the most usually available learning materials in SUBEB/library, despite the availability of additional learning resources such as periodicals, magazines/newspapers, maps/atlases, and encyclopedias. It may also be extrapolated from their research that information resources such as journals, magazines, and electronic resources should be made easily accessible to students in order to "catch them young" in this information age.

Problems of Publishing Houses in Nigeria

Since the beginning of the history of book publishing in Nigeria, the industry has not been based on international standards in comparison to their counterparts in the industrialized world. This could be due to the issues that the publishing sector is facing. In line with this, James (2011) cited issues confronting Nigerian publishing houses as follows.

Severe Infrastructural Problems

For reasons concerning infrastructure, some industries were forced to relocate to other bordering nations in 2009. As a result, publishers are confronted with the high cost of running generators for day-to-day operations. The researcher believes that infrastructure such as energy should be made available to lower the cost of providing information resources.

Lack of Information on Published Books

There is a difficulty with the availability of information on published books on the continent. According to Adegoke (2001), the main difficulty facing the publishing sector in practically all African countries is a lack of information on what is being produced. One of the difficulties impeding the industry's progress toward a larger proportion of the educational book market was a lack of trustworthy data on a number of titles released annually in various categories.

Self-Publishing

Self-publishing allows the author to have far more personal control over the entire process and make more money per copy than through a traditional publisher. It also necessitates a significant amount of labor on the part of the self-publisher, who is responsible for performing all of the duties and services that a commercial publisher would ordinarily handle. Because there is no article submission and approval process, this model is typically less time-consuming in terms of elapsed time. On average, self-publishing can save 6 to 12 months compared to the conventional publisher approach. Self-publishing results in the publication of far too many substandard publications, as well as little marketing help for the great majority of works.

Substandard Production

It is no longer news that Nigerian publishers have resorted to using low-quality materials (e.g., newsprint instead of high grammage wood-free paper) in book

manufacturing, while editorial and design competency has deteriorated dramatically due to insufficient training facilities. The bulk of books published in the country do not satisfy internationally acceptable standards in terms of physical and aesthetic quality, as well as content quality (Ifaturoti, 1997). According to the expert, publishers should to learn how to generate standardized books.

Inadequate Productivity of Nigeria's Paper Mills

In Nigeria, there are three pulp and paper mills with a total installed pulp capacity of 102,000 mt per year and a paper capacity of 207,000 mt per year. Since 1990, newsprint production has declined from 31,000 mt per year out of a total installed capacity of 100,000 mt per year to only 3,000 mt in 1993. Due to a lack of replacement parts and other logistical issues, the Nigerian Newsprint Manufacturing Company (NNMC) has been closed since 1994. The pulp and paper industry's production has been hampered by a lack of working capital, spare parts, and long fiber availability; therefore, there is a need to increase or make available finance so that the pulp and paper industry can do well in the production of papers that will be used in the production of information resources.

Book Reading Culture

Atinmo (1998) investigated the cultural and linguistic elements that contribute to a lack of leisure reading among neo-literates. She attributed such people's poor reading skills to their reliance on oral means of social communication. Adegoke (2001) discovered that the majority of literate people rarely read for pleasure. Students, for example, tend to read only to pass exams; many hardly ever read books outside of their specialties. Nigerian graduates at all levels are frequently lacking in information literacy and/or sophistication. Nigerians should develop the habit of reading for enjoyment so that publishers are not left with stacks of unsold books.

Piracy and Copyright in the Electronic Age

According to Echebiri (2005), there is an alarming increase in the number of book pirates in Nigeria. He continued by stating that Nigerian book pirates are now known to hire their own sales reps and frequently succeed in selling books to naive or intentionally colluding school administrators. Piracy is a huge problem in Nigeria, and it has gotten a lot of attention. According to Okwilagwe (2001), nearly all Nigerian publishers have been victims of piracy, with around half of the country's publishing companies having had many of their titles pirated, and impacted publishing houses losing approximately 20% of their yearly revenue to pirates. A strong and aggressive anti-piracy regulation should be enacted to ensure that publisher publications are not pirated, as piracy will result in penalty in the form of fines or imprisonment.

Previous Studies

Ojo, Victor, and Atewolara-Odule (2016) investigated the problems of the Nigerian book publishing sector, as books are an efficient medium of communication for intellectualism. The study was descriptive in nature, with data derived from secondary sources. The study suggested that stakeholders should come up with unique ideas that can meet the industry's human and material needs. The report advised that stakeholders in the publishing sector work together to develop a robust publishing industry. Private investors, such as financial institutions and powerful individuals, should contribute significantly to the large cash inflow. Finally, publishing companies should make it a policy to provide their technical staff with current professional training.

Sunny and Uche (2012) conducted research on the prospects and challenges of publishing in Africa, with a particular focus on Nigeria. The questionnaire was used

as a data gathering device in the study. The study's population consisted of 361 people who work in an indigenous publishing enterprise in Nigeria. According to the research, the primary issues confronting the publishing sector include book piracy and a lack of infrastructure. The report advocated a collaborative approach to combating copyright infractions that includes all stakeholders, including authors, printers, publishers, retailers, the Nigerian Copyright Commission, and other law enforcement organizations. The study of Sunny and Uche (2012) is related to the current study as it looked into the challenges of publishing in Africa with focus on Nigeria. The current study differs from the reviewed study as this current study concentrates only on local publishers in Kaduna State.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was used. The study's population consisted of sixty (60) workers from the publishing units of both Kaduna State Government Publishers and Kabido Publishers (30 from each publishing firm). The population size was manageable, the entire population from the two publishing houses was used for the study. According to Umar (2015), if the total population is small enough, the researcher can include the complete population in the study. For data collection, a self-developed questionnaire about challenges faced by local publishers in the provision of information resources for Kaduna State's universal basic education program was employed. A benchmark mean of 3.00 and above were considered as agreed, otherwise disagreed.

Data Analysis

The result for the analysis is based on 56 respondents who properly filled and returned the questionnaire. The result for the study is presented in the chart below

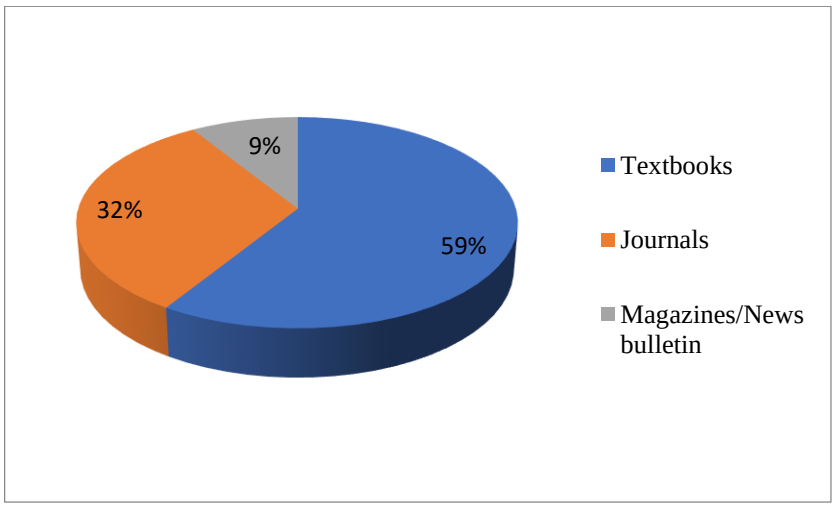


Fig. 1: Types of Information Resources Produced by Local Publishers for SUBEB

Figure 1 revealed the major information resources produced by the local publishers for use by SUBEB in Kaduna State. It was discovered that textbooks were the major information resources produced by the local publishers as indicated by the respondents. From the, it is evident that textbooks are the major information resource produced by local publishers as indicated by 33(59%) of the respondents, 18(32%) are Journals while 5(9%) are Magazines/News bulletin. This showed that local publishers produce more of textbooks that journals, magazines and news bulletins.

This could be attributed to the programme of SUBEB which is education. Textbooks are produced for distribution by SUBEB to schools for utilization by students in order to boost their academic performance. The findings of this study conform to that of Adetoun, Kolawole & Ajibola (2011) who found that information resources such as textbooks, dictionaries and fiction books are the most commonly available information resources produced by local publishers for use in SUBEB/ libraries. This implies that the major information resource produced by the local publishers for SUBEB is the textbook. There is therefore need to improve in the production of other information resources such as journals, magazines / newspapers, maps/ Atlases, and encyclopaedias.

Table 2: Problems Confronting Local Publishers in the Production of Information Resources for SUBEB (N = 56)

S/N	Problems	Mean	Std. Dev	Remark
1	High cost of materials	3.68	0.92	Agreed
2	Inadequate funding	3.05	1.37	Agreed
3	Obsolete equipment	3.98	1.24	Agreed
4	Piracy	4.09	1.23	Agreed
5	Inadequate power supply	4.09	1.20	Agreed
6	Technical know-how	3.06	1.35	Agreed
	Aggregate	**3.66**	**1.22**	

Benchmark*: Aggregate Mean ≥3.00 = Agree; Aggregate Mean < 3.00 = Disagree*

Table 2 showed the respondents' opinions on the problems confronting local publishers in the production of information resources for SUBEB in Kaduna State. The table revealed an aggregatemeanresponsescoreofbetween3.05 to 4.09. All the aggregate means are greater than the benchmark mean of 3.00. This implies that all the identified problems in one way or the other negatively affect the production of information resources for SUBEB by local publishers in Kaduna State. In particular, majority of the respondents were of the opinion that piracy and inadequate power supply are the major problems confronting the production of information resources for SUBEB in Kaduna State with mean response score of 4.09. Though above the average mean score of 3.00, the problem confronting the production of information resources for SUBEB by local publishers is 'inadequate funding' with response score of 3.05.

The findings from this study indicated that 'piracy' and 'inadequate power supply' were the major problems faced by local publishers in the production of information resources for SUBEB in Kaduna State. The problem of piracy is in line with Okwilagwe (2001) who opined that books are not adequately available for purchase in Nigeria and that this is the genesis of book piracy and photocopy activities in the country. Photocopy activities could be the least of worries of piracy as some group of individuals are involved in wholesale reproduction by way of printing of books and because of the advancement in technology, it is almost difficult, if not impossible, to know the original from pirated copies. It has assumed a very dangerous dimension.

The findings of the study also revealed that inadequate power supply is another major problem confronting the production of information resources for SUBEB in Kaduna State with a mean score of 4.09. This finding also conforms to that of Gora and Jibril (2020) who found out that power supply is one of the major problems confronting production industries in the country. The power sector which is the catalyst of industrial development is in comatose thereby making publishing houses

to make alternative power source due to the erratic power supply. Inadequate power supply is a major factor because most of production in publishing houses are being run on generators because even when the power is made available, the voltage is unable to carry the equipment used in the publishing of information resources. There is therefore need to improve the quality of infrastructure such as electricity in order to reduce the cost of publishing of information resources as well as enact strong rules governing piracy.

Possible Solutions to the Identified Problems

Table 3: Possible Solutions to the Identified Problems (N = 56)

S/N	Possible Solutions	Mean	Std. Dev	Remark
1	Make use of local materials	3.96	1.25	Agreed
2	Government support financially	4.27	1.04	Agreed
3	Replacement of obsolete equipment with modern technology	4.04	1.18	Agreed
4	Impose rules on book piracy	4.36	1.15	Agreed
5	Alternative power source	4.50	0.69	Agreed
6	Employ professionals	4.14	1.07	Agreed
	Aggregate	**4.21**	**1.06**	**Agreed**

Benchmark*: Aggregate Mean ≥3.00 = Agree; Aggregate Mean < 3.00 = Disagree*

Table 3presented the opinion of respondents on the possible solutions to the identified problems confronting the local publishers in the production of information resources for SUBEB in Kaduna State. It was discovered that the cumulative mean response of 4.21 is greater than the benchmark mean of 3.00 implying that their responses were noteworthy. Specifically, majority of the respondents were of the opinion that making provisions for alternative power source will help curb the issue of inadequate power supply as indicated by the highest mean of 4.50. From the table, it was also discovered that imposing rules on book piracy will help reduce the issue of book piracy as indicated by a mean response of 4.36. Other possible solutions include; government supporting the publishing houses financially, employment of professionals to man the machines used for the publishing, as well as replacement of obsolete equipment with modern technology with means of 4.27, 4.14 and 4.04 respectively. The finding is in line with the recommendation of Ojo, Victor and Atewolara-Odule (2016) that Government should embark on the formulation of developmental policies that would eliminate the scourge of book piracy and place full weight of law on pirates by bringing them to book.

The services being rendered by the publishing houses could be increased to a great extent if alternative power sources are made available, strong rule on piracy is being enacted, professionals are being employed as well as training of staff in the use of the new technologies.

Null Hypothesis Testing

There is no significant relationship between the identified problems and the possible solutions to the problems faced by local publishers in the production of information resources for UBE in Kaduna State.

In order to test the Null Hypothesis, the opinion of the respondents on the problems and possible solutions to the problems were subjected to Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). The result is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Correlation Analysis for the Relationship between Identified Problems and Solutions to the Problems of Publishing of Information Resources for SUBEB in Kaduna State

Variable	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	df	r-cal	p-value	Remark
Problems	56	31.46	7.06				
				54	0.95	0.00	Sig.
Possible solutions	56	33.39	8.02				

r-crit at df (54)= 0.28, P<0.05

The table 3 showed the summary of correlation for the relationship between identified problems and possible solutions to the problems. The table revealed that the p-value (0.00) is less than 0.05 alpha level of significance. In other words, the r-cal0.95 is greater thanr-critof0.95. Hence, the hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between the identified problems and the possible solutions to the problems of local publishers in the production of information resources for UBE in Kaduna State, is rejected. This is because the p-value of 0.00 is less than 0.05 level of significance. This implies that there is a relationship between the identified problems and the possible solutions to problems of publishing of information resources for SUBEB by local publishers in Kaduna State.

Conclusion

Publishing is channelled towards promoting learning and expanding knowledge. Based on this statement, the issue of publishing of information resources must be taken more seriously than before. Textbooks have been identified to be the major information resource produced by local publishers for SUBEB in Kaduna State. Several problems confronting the production of information resources for SUBEB by local publishers have been identified among which piracy and inadequate power supply and possible solutions are proffered. It is therefore concluded that the possible solutions if used could curb the problems confronting the publishing houses in the production of information resources for SUBEB not only in Kaduna State but in the country at large.

Recommendations

1. To encourage the production of other information resources, SUBEB should encourage the production of other information resources such as novels, charts etc.
2. The major problems confronting publishing houses can be tackled if the government can enforce strong rule on piracy so as to ensure that production is on-going year-in and year-out, which will in turn lead to the expansion of the publishing houses beyond Kaduna state and employment of more hands to meet with the increasing demand for their services.
3. Adequate provision should be made so as to enable an uninterrupted production process of information resources by stabilizing power supply for the publishing houses.

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