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)

INFLUENCE OF AWARENESS ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL DEPOSIT LAW AMONG PUBLISHERS IN RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
The study investigated influence of awareness on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. *The population of the study was 243 which comprised of management staff of National library, authors and publishers. Questionnaire titled "Influence of Awareness on Compliance with Legal Deposit Law among Publishers Questionnaire" (IACLDLPQ) was used in collecting data for the study. The study was analyzed using mean and standard deviation for research questions while Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test all the null hypotheses at .05 level of significance. The study revealed that sensitization seminar and sensitization workshop have much influence on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State. The study recommended among other things that the Federal Government through National Library should organize sensitization seminar regularly to adequately sensitize publishers on the reason to comply with legal deposit law.*

Keywords: Awareness, Legal Deposit Law, publishers

Introduction

The implementation of legal deposit depends not only on satisfactory or even superior legislation, but also requires certain procedures to be in place to ensure the successful execution, monitoring, and management of a legal deposit programme. The International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) Section on National Libraries stated that *"National libraries have special responsibilities, often defined in law, within a nation's library and information system. These responsibilities vary from country to country but are likely to include the collection via legal deposit of the national imprint (both print and electronic) and its cataloguing and preservation; the provision of central services (e.g., reference, bibliography, preservation, lending) to users both directly and through other library and information centers."*

The characteristics of a national library therefore make it the appropriate choice to host the national bibliographic agency. National libraries have national responsibilities, often enshrined in law. This gives them the authority to negotiate with

publishers and trade representatives on legal deposit, digital rights managements and other issues of national significance.

By and large, publishing is the process involved in bringing to the knowledge of the public; learning, entertainment and informative materials. Ajibola et al, (2008) explain that publishing activities involve the manufacturing of newspapers, magazines, books, newsletters, journals, reports and many other printed materials. To publish is to make public what ideas, opinions and messages that have been conceptualised, organized and developed by an individual or group of individuals for the purpose of sharing with others. The process of book publishing begins from the author whose creative zeal enables him to conceptualize the ideas and thoughts that can be published. This could be his / her personal experiences or professional knowledge, the predicament of his / her society, contents meant to educate and mobilize his / her people. From his / her creative reasoning, he / she can also develop a manuscript. The role of the author as a book publishing professional is basically that of writing manuscripts and handling it to the publisher. His roles also include being the one who conceives of the ideas and thoughts that are developed into manuscripts. In the same vein, Okpobo (2012) asserts that "an author is not an island. They need the professional service of the publisher, without the publisher an author cannot be ". The reverse is the case here because the publisher cannot be if an author is not available.

Legal deposit is a legal requirement that a person or group submit copies of their publications to a repository, usually a library. According to Lariviere (2010), legal deposit is defined as 'a statutory obligation which requires that any organisation, commercial, or public, and any individual producing any form of documentation in multiple copies, be obliged to deposit one or more copies with a recognised national institution. Therefore, national library of Nigeria or national library of all countries are mandated to deposit copies of their publications with the national library. The authors also asserted that the legal deposit law prescribes the number of copies of publications to be deposited with the National Library of Nigeria (NLN), which comprises 3 copies of commercially produced book, 10 copies of publications by or on behalf of a state government, and 25 copies of Federal government publications. It is stated that two copies of such publications should be kept in the NLN for permanent preservation. This can only be achieved by effective sensitization to create awareness among authors and publishers.

Moreover, sensitization (to something) is the process of making somebody/something more aware of something, especially a problem or something bad. Through workshops, conferences, campaigns the public is educated on many issues such as health, security etc. It is an attempt to make one or others aware of and responsive to certain ideas, events, situations, or phenomenon. Awareness is the level of sensitization created among authors and publishers to enhance the compliance with legal deposit law. Awareness is the state or ability to perceive, to feel, or to be conscious of events, objects, or sensory patterns. In this level of consciousness, sense data can be confirmed by an observer without necessarily implying understanding.

Statement of the Problem

The National Library of Nigeria with the obligation has stated the role of publishers and authors in legal deposit. The enabling Act also stipulated the number of copies to be deposited by the three categories of publishers, penalty for non-compliance, exemptions, and equally specified what constitutes a 'book'. Effective legal depository practices guarantee the citizens and researchers nationally and

globally of access to collections of the nation's published resources. This is possible and can be successfully implemented with the positive and committed participation of the legal depository library, publishers and authors as stakeholders. However, it has been noted that legal deposit law has not been effectively implemented in Nigeria, and publishers and authors have not been effectively complying with the legal deposit obligations. This could be attributed to low level of awareness of legal deposit law among publishers and no study has been found within the scope of the researcher's literature search to investigate whether awareness is responsible to non-compliance of legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State. This brings the quest to assess the influence of awareness on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State.

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives guided the study:

1. The influence of sensitization seminar on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State.
2. The influence of sensitization workshop on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were asked:

1. What is the influence of sensitization seminar on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State?
2. What is the influence of sensitization workshop on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested at .05 level of significance:

$H_{o1:}$ There is no significant difference in the mean responses of National Library staff, authors and publishers on the influence of sensitization seminar on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State.

$H_{o2:}$ There is no significant difference in the mean responses of National Library staff, authors and publishers on the influence of sensitization workshop on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State.

Review of Related Literature

Legal deposit is an internationally recognised practice within the global library community, which ensures that the documentary heritage of a nation is collected, accessioned, stored, protected, preserved and made accessible for the benefit of its citizens and future generations. Legal deposit is a statutory obligation that requires publishers who publish material, including digital content, to deposit a copy or copies of their publications in designated national and regional repositories within the context of national legal deposit legislation. Legal deposit was first introduced in 1537 in France, when King Francois I issued a royal decree, 'Ordonnance de Montpellier' forbidding the sale of any book without first having deposited a copy in the library of his castle. The decree was abolished during the French Revolution but was reinstated in 1793 as a formality to obtain copyright protection. Although not a popular decree, the system gradually found its way to other European countries and further afield. These countries adopted and formalised legal deposit to suit their domestic situations with the main objective of preserving and making their national published documentary heritage available to the public (Larivihre, 2000).

In Nigeria, the story of legal depository began formally in April 1950, exactly four hundred and thirteen years after the Ordinance of Montpellier. It was known as Nigeria Publication Ordinance No. 13 of 1950, later amended to Publication Act 29 of 1951, which culminated in the promulgation of the National Library Act No. 29 (section 4) of 1970. Legal Deposit law in Nigeria stipulates that all published materials in Nigeria and about Nigeria be submitted to the National Library free of charge for preservation and for posterity (Gbadamosi, 2015).

The National Library of Nigeria as the apex library of the nation and the bibliographic agency is therefore responsible for collection and preservation in all formats, the record of intellectual output of Nigerians, and maintains the key objective of making such information accessible to the citizenry and beyond. This is achieved majorly through legal depository practices, which form part of the bibliographic control efforts of the National Library of Nigeria. Collection of legal deposit and also enhancing compliance of publishers and authors with legal deposit obligations through the enforcement of the law engenders effective legal depository practices of the National Library of Nigeria. Since 1970, the National Library of Nigeria has been responsible for collection of legal deposit of the country's publication output. The National Library of Nigeria equally developed modalities for enhancement of compliance of publishers and authors, as any law that is not enforced cannot be called law in its right sense and cannot also achieve its purpose of enactment. According to Lariviere (2010), legal deposit is defined as 'a statutory obligation which requires that any organisation, commercial, or public, and any individual producing any form of documentation in multiple copies, be obliged to deposit one or more copies with a recognised national institution'. Omolayole (2013) and Nwosu (2013) opined that section 4 of the National Library Act No.29 of 1970 confers on the library the depository obligation of the nation with the implication that resources published in the country must be deposited in the National Library of Nigeria.

Moreover, Lariviere (2010) posited that the development of a legal deposit collection of published resources in its broadest sense depends on a legislative foundation in order to ensure publishers' compliance; and that the legislation must also be enforceable for it to be taken seriously by depositors. Akidi (2017) opined that it is obvious that fundamental to the achievement of the National Library of Nigeria's mission of bibliographic control is the collection of published works of the country; and this is achievable through an enabling law called legal deposit law. In the same vein, Fourie and Burger (2017) affirmed that for bibliographic control to be effective, there need to be: Legal deposit legislation; and a regulatory, controlling and advisory body, among others. National Library of Nigeria is the depository library of the country and thus, is responsible for collecting, preserving and providing access to the written and cultural heritage of the citizenry, about Nigeria and published in Nigeria. In addition, while it is necessary to have legal deposit based on legislation, the involvement of publishers is desirable to engender the conviction of the critical benefits derivable unsystematically depositing copies of their published information resources to a national institution responsible for recording and preserving them for present and future generations. Thus, national libraries through their legal depository practices, adopt modalities/ means of enhancement of compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligations, so as to make the law enforceable. Mmejin (2018) agreed that a good number of authors and publishers comply with the legal deposit law and that they get the awareness and encouragement through seminars, workshops.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey design is a type of research design that aims at obtaining information to systematically describe a phenomenon. It was used because it helps to answer what, when, where and how questions regarding the research problem, rather than the why. Survey research design permits the collection of data through the use of questionnaire and used for opinion survey (Akpabio and Ebong, 2009). Explanation by Uzoagulu (2011), confirmed that using this design enables the researcher to collect, organize, analyze and describe data as they exist without any interference, hence, it is the choice of the researcher to adopt the design.

The population of the study was 243 which comprised 19 management staff of National library, 105 authors and 119 publishers. There is no sampling because of the fact that the population is manageable. Questionnaire titled "Influence of Awareness on Compliance with Legal Deposit Law among Publishers Questionnaire" (IACLDLPQ) with a four-point modified Likert rating scale of Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2) and Strongly Disagree (1) as response mode was used in collecting data for the study. The study was analysed using mean and standard deviation for research questions while Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test all the null hypotheses at .05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion

Research Question 1

What is the influence of sensitization seminar on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State?

Table 1: **Mean and Standard Deviation of Responses influence of sensitization seminar on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State**

SN	Statement	N	X	SD	Remark
1	The use of seminar information influence compliance with legal deposit law.	243	3.36	.86	Agree
2	Seminar information contents influence compliance with legal deposit law.	243	3.19	.81	Agree
3	The use of seminar information is necessary with legal deposit law.	243	3.17	.96	Agree
4	Seminar information only influences author compliance with legal deposit law.	243	3.17	.82	Agree
5	Seminar information is the best option to influence compliance with legal deposit law	243	2.95	1.14	Agree
	Clustered Mean		**3.17**		Agree

The result in Table 1 shows that all items fall within much influence with mean ranging from 2.95 to 3.36. The cluster mean is 3.17 which implies that the sensitization seminar has much influence on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State. The standard deviation also indicates the range of .86 to 1.14, this means that the respondents were not divergent in their opinion.

Research Question 2

What is the influence of sensitization workshop on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State?

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of Responses influence of sensitization workshop on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State

SN	Statement	N	X	SD	Remark
1	The use of workshop influences compliance with legal deposit law.	243	3.51	.86	Strongly agree
2	The contents the workshop in usually rich enough to compliance with legal deposit law.	243	3.20	.81	Agree
3	The use of workshop influences compliance with legal deposit law because it not organize regularly.	243	3.47	.89	Strongly agree
4	The use of workshop influences compliance with legal deposit law when it is back up by task force.	243	3.31	.87	Agree
5	The use of workshop information influences compliance with legal deposit law.	243	3.13	1.21	Agree
	Clustered Mean		**3.32**		Agree

The result in Table 2 shows that all items fall within much influence with mean ranging from 3.13 to 3.51. The cluster mean is 3.32 which implies that the sensitization work has much influence on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State. The standard deviation also indicates the range of .86 to 1.21, this means that the respondents were not divergent in their opinion.

Null Hypothesis 1

Ho_1: There is no significant difference in the mean responses of National Library staff, authors and publishers on the influence of sensitization seminar on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State.

Table 3: Summary of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the Influence Sensitization Seminar on Compliance with Legal Deposit Law among Publishers in Rivers State

N = 243

Source of Variance	Type III Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Corrected Model	1.947[a]	1	1.947	4.950	.028
Intercept	871.748	1	871.748	2216.692	.000
Sensitization Seminar	1.947	1	1.947	4.954	.028
Error	58.597	149	.393		
Total	938.000	151			
Corrected Total	60.543	150			

a. R Squared = .032 (Adjusted R Squared = .026)

The result of the analysis in Table 3 shows that the calculated F-ratio value as 4.954 with a degree of freedom of 2 and 242 and p. value as .028. The result indicates that the p. value is less than .05 ($p < .05$). This implies that the result is significant.

Therefore the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant difference in the mean responses of National Library staff, authors and publishers on the influence of sensitization seminar on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State is rejected. This shows that, there is a significant difference in mean responses of NLN staff, authors and publishers on influence of sensitisation seminar on compliance with LDLs.

Null Hypothesis 2

Ho_1: There is no significant difference in the mean responses of National Library staff, authors and publishers on the influence of sensitization workshop on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State.

Table 4: **Summary of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the Influence of Sensitization Workshop on Compliance with Legal Deposit Law among Publishers in Rivers State.**

N = 243

Source of Variance	Type III Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Corrected Model	15.065[a]	2	7.532	24.513	.000
Intercept	487.531	1	487.531	1586.577	.000
Sensitization Workshop	15.065	2	7.532	24.513	.000
Error	45.478	148	.307		
Total	938.000	151			
Corrected Total	60.543	150			

a. R Squared = .249 (Adjusted R Squared = .239)

The result of the analysis in Table 4 shows that the calculated F-ratio value as 24.534 with a degree of freedom of 2 and 242 and p. value as .028. The result indicates that the p. value is less than .05 ($p < .05$). This implies that the result is significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant difference in the mean responses of National Library staff, authors and publishers on the influence of sensitization workshop on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State is rejected.

Discussion of Findings

Sensitization Seminar and Compliance with Legal Deposit Law among Publishers

It was found out based on the research questions and hypotheses tested that the sensitization seminar has much influence on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State. The result indicates that there is a significant influence in the mean responses of National Library staff, authors and publishers on the influence of sensitization seminar on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State. This is because sensitization seminar plays a vital role in information dissemination among publishers. This finding supports the finding of Illinois (2015) that sensitization seminar provides a platform for publishers, authors and National Library to share their findings of research and present it in public while receiving regular feedback from the attendees through discussion. As a result, it increases participants' knowledge of other's research findings and creates an intellectual atmosphere in the work or study place and thus ensures keeping

participants up-to-date with the current issues in the field of legal deposit law. The finding further supports the finding of Iqba, Outab and Soroya (2015) that the compliance of larger publishers is better as compared to medium and smaller publishers. This was achieved through effective sensitization seminar organised regularly by National Library.

Sensitization Workshop and Compliance with Legal Deposit Law among Publishers

The sensitization workshop has much influence on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State. The result indicates that there is a significant influence in the mean responses of National Library staff, authors and publishers on the influence of sensitization workshop on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State. This is because sensitization workshop provides a way to create an intensive educational experience in a short amount of time, when the time for a more comprehensive effort may not be available. Participants may be working, they may be too far apart to gather together regularly, or may simply be unwilling to commit large amounts of time. A workshop can introduce a new concept, spurring participants to investigate it further on their own, or can demonstrate and encourage the practice of actual methods. This finding supports the finding of Akidi and Omekwu (2019). The findings revealed effectiveness of the NLN in enhancing compliance of publishers and authors to legal deposit obligations through sensitization workshop. The finding further revealed high level of effectiveness as out of 9 items studied, five were rated highly effective.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study the researcher concluded that: There is a significant difference in the mean responses of National Library staff, authors and publishers on the influence of sensitization seminar on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers, there is a significant difference in the mean responses of National Library staff, authors and publishers on the influence of sensitization workshop on compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State, Legal deposit is critical for access to and preservation of Nigeria's documentary heritage for perpetuity. Libraries and publishers must collaborate with a common goal – "to ensure the worldwide success of legal deposit of content, irrespective of format or technology. In a world where information increasingly has no borders, it is an important principle both that deposit libraries should be able to make legal deposit copies accessible in the same manner as they do with other collections, and that publishers should not be subjected to unreasonable demands and can meet legal deposit requirements without undue complexity and burden. Legal deposit is extremely important for Nigeria. It plays a key role in education, research and providing access to knowledge for socio-economic transformation. It is fundamental to freedom of information, access to information, preservation of Nigeria's cultural heritage and to the perpetuation of an informed citizenry

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made:

1. The Federal Government through National Library should organize sensitization seminar regularly to adequately sensitize publishers on the reason to compliance with legal deposit.
2. Sensitization conference should be one of the ways of creating awareness.

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Research journal of humanities, legal studies & international development vol. 3, no.1 july, 2019

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