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CATALOGUING AND CLASSIFICATION PRACTICES AND THE CHALLENGES OF CATALOGUERS IN DIGITAL AGE: THE CASE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN NORTHEAST ZONE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
This study determined the Cataloguing and Classification Practices and the Challenges of Cataloguers in Digital Age: The Case of Public Libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research method was found appropriate and adopted for the study and a target population of fifty-one (51) cataloguers of the library under study were used, hence the entire population was used because it was manageable. The data used was collected using a self-designed questionnaire. Out of the 51 questionnaires administered to the respondent, 49 (96.0%) copies were duly completed, returned, and found valid for the analysis. The results indicated that Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme was the scheme used, Anglo-American Cataloguing Rule ($AACR_2$) was the code in use, access points provided were author, title, subject, keywords, class/call number, series and only manual cataloguing and classification was the practice. Cataloguers in Public Libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria *were conversant with cataloguing and classification procedures except for all that has to do with new evolving trends or automated/electronic process like*

the R.D.A, MARC, as well as the use of national bibliography utility such as OCLC. The challenges faced by cataloguers among others were lack of cataloguers that are digitally savvy, lack of ICT and other infrastructural facilities, lack of adequate tools and technologies required for bibliographic control practices, lack of implementation of Resource Description and Access (RDA) The study recommended among others that the management of public libraries in North East Zone, Nigeria should provide ICT facilities that will foster effective automation of cataloguing and classification practices among cataloguers in the state.

Keywords: *Cataloguing, Classification, Digital Age, Public Library, Maiduguri.*

Introduction

The study explores Cataloguing and Classification Practices and the Challenges of Cataloguers in Digital Age: The Case of Public Libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria. The term cataloguing is prevalent, and it is when metadata are created to represent information sources. Such information sources can be books, sound recordings, digital video disks (DVDs), journals and other materials found in a library or group of libraries. The process of cataloguing requires that a standardized tool (cataloguing tools) be used to achieve the bibliographic description, authority control, subject analysis, and assignment of classification notation to generate a library catalogue. The well-generated library catalogue can then serve as an index of a collection of information sources found in libraries that enables the library users to discover which information sources are available and where they are in the library. Such a catalogue should provide information like the creators' names, titles, subject terms, standard number, publication area, physical description and notes that describe those information sources to facilitate easy information retrieval. This process is however confirmed by Bair, (2005) cited in Monyela (2019) that Cataloguing and classification practices are gateways to information resources, access, and utilization as they are means of organizing library resources to ensure that access and retrieval of such information resources are made easy.

Public library is commonly talked about as the 'people's university' and is reflected as foremost means of communal, civil, informative, and ethnic change in any given society because they provide extensive variety of readership than any other form of library. As a rule, they are usually recognized by law and supported with public fund either through the community, local, state, or national government agency. Public libraries are seen as vital to the individual as well as communities they serve in common. No doubt, public library has become a learning focal point where people can take part in learning activities, discuss, and

share knowledge and information (IFLA/UNESCO, 2001). However, this cannot be effective without effective cataloguing and classification since it is the obligation of the public library to provide access of information for the public within the quickest possible time regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic, employment status and educational attainment".

The notion of a public library system in the Northern part of Nigeria started towards the end of 1940s with what was known as the Native Authority (N.A.) also the Reading Rooms. Earlier to this period however, collection of Islamic scriptures and manuscripts could be found with individual clerics scattered across the Region particularly in Sokoto, Borno and Kano which are regarded as centers of commerce and Islamic civilization as a result of their contact with the Arab world through the Trans-Saharan Trade Routes. These "libraries" lacked all that can be said of a public library in terms of policies, organization, personnel and services. The Northeastern State Library Service began in Maiduguri on 1st August 1968 with 5,765 books on display and others were locked up in boxes due to lack of space. Both the State Library collection and the Native Authority Reading Room collection of Arabic manuscripts was housed in one small room. (Aguolu 1984 cited in Saleh & Lasisi 2011). However, despite the significance of the library, it appears that there is inconsistency in the current practices of cataloguing in the public library. In addition, the catalogue records revealed that the electronic information system used for cataloguing information resources to accommodate the MARC standard seems not to exist at all. And when information resources are not properly organized (catalogued and classified) they cannot be accessed and that users will lose interest in utilizing the library. To have acumen into the cataloguing and classification practices in the public libraries under study, it then become fundamental to explore the Cataloguing and Classification Practices and the Challenges of Cataloguers in Digital Age in the case of Public Libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Cataloguing and classification practices are gateways to information resources, the means of organizing information resources is inevitable to ensure that users gain access to or retrieve such information resources at all times within shortest possible time. This is however a basic function of any library particularly public library's technical unit or department if they must meet up with users' needs at all times. However, the researcher's experience as a supervisor of

students on field experience and other personal visits to some librarians of the public libraries under study has helped in identifying inconsistency in the current practices of cataloguing in the public library. In addition, preliminary examination of the catalogue records revealed that the electronic information system used for cataloguing information resources to accommodate the MARC standard does not exist in most cases. Furthermore, there seemed to be low utilization of cataloguing standards because some records did not contain all the information as prescribed by the cataloguing standards. In addition, the librarians seemed to have little knowledge about cataloguing. Since the cataloguing system did not accommodate MARC fields, collaboration with other libraries in such areas as cooperative cataloguing and interlibrary loans was not effective because attributes such as statement of responsibility subfield and alternative author field, to name but a few, were not coded. The concern here is, could it be that there are no cataloguers or that they are not professional? Or could it be that there are no facilities to meet all cataloguing professional service delivery? This study is a follow-up of the previous studies with reference to the Cataloguing and Classification Practices and the Challenges of Cataloguers in Digital Age: The Case of Public Libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives guided the Study:

1. The status of cataloguing and classification practices in Public Libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria.
2. The skills possessed by cataloguers for cataloguing and classification in Public Libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria.
3. The challenges of cataloguers in the use of I.C.T for cataloguing and classification in Public Libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

Cataloguing and Classification Practices and Challenges of Cataloguers

The goal of any public library is not different from meeting the information needs of all their target users, that is, the community. It also entails making readily accessible all the information resources required to meet the needs of users. Whatever that it takes for information resources to be accessed within shortest possible time are geared towards helping the public to achieve their information needs. Cataloguing is simply the physical description of information resources by indicating its essential bibliographic minutiae such as author, title, sub-title, parallel title, edition, editor, publisher, and place of publication, date of

publication, series, subject and collation. However, classification entails the practice whose tenacity is to: stipulate the whereabouts of every bibliographic item on a library's shelves; and exhibition the subject affiliations among numerous bibliographic items in a library's collection''. This, consequently, demands that the effective access to any information resource is best measured in terms of how the information resources were catalogued and classified.

Ekere and Mole (2014) opined that cataloguing encompasses full bibliographic description of information resources acquired by the library, adhering to the established rules of the practices; determination of subject contents of the information resource; and generally, determination of the actual position of each new addition in the library's scheme of book arrangement. Classification on the other helps to put subjects into a systematic order or sequence which aids the arrangement of documents through-the use of a notation on the shelves (Reitz, 2004 & Pandey, 2015). Thus, through the help of classification, all documents on Chemistry for example can be placed together, followed by other branches of Chemistry and so on. Cataloguing and classification are therefore, means of organizing library resources to ensure that access and retrieval of such information resources are made easy for library users.

Sung (2013) enunciated basic cataloguing and classification tools to include: Anglo- American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition (AACR2) and/or Resource Description & Access (RDA); MARC 21 Formats for Bibliographic Data; Web Dewey and/or printed Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC); Library of Congress Classification (LCC); Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH); Library of Congress Subject Cataloguing Manual (LCSCM); Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Bibliographic Formats and Standards, among others. Eze (2012) in a study revealed that cataloguing and classification practices have witnessed reasonable changes in the era of ICT and online cataloguing is a major change that ICT has brought to cataloguing. However, Eze (2012) further revealed poor status of automation and use of ICT for library routine and services; inadequate funding; inadequate number of cataloguing staff; inadequate ICT skills and training opportunity. In the same vein, Ocheje (2014) study revealed that conventional cataloguing is more practiced than online cataloguing, which is seen as a new development, and that librarians are highly skilled in the conventional cataloguing.

Thus, assessment of cataloguing and classification practices in the digital age is imperative as Calhoun in Cerbo (2011) noted that ''today, a large and growing number of students and scholars routinely bypass library catalogue in favour of other discovery tools, and that the library catalogue represents a

shrinking proportion of the universe of scholarly information". Consequently, Gorman in Cerbo (2011) study emphasized that the digital age has a great opportunity for cataloguers, with the library of the future having an integrated catalogue into all facets of its programs and practices. The digital age equally requires that the cataloguing community implement the new set of rules for cataloguing called Resource Description and Access (RDA), which is gradually replacing the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules 2nd ed., (AACR2); and which Cerbo (2011) averred is designed to improve flexibility in rules for dealing with the changing landscape of resources, their description and access.

The cataloguer in the digital age must be a multi-skilled professional, with cutting edge competencies to remain relevant and give an added value to cataloguing practices and services. Park and Camei (2009) and Alajmi and Ur-Rehman (2016) assert that, from ancient times, cataloguers and their skills have been the cornerstone of librarianship. The introduction of new cataloguing terms such as Resource Description Framework (RDF), the Resource Description and Access (RDA), the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) and the Functional Requirements for the Authority Data (FRAD) also raised anxiety of cataloguing. Adebayo (2013) carried out a study on the challenges associated with cataloguing electronic resources in selected university libraries in Southwest Nigeria and found the following challenges, among others: lack of ICT skills, insufficient number of professional cataloguers and lack of knowledge of computer language such as the MARC and Dublin core.

Research Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. The target population for the study was fifty-one (51) cataloguers of the Public Libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria, the entire population was used because the target population is not large, and it is conversely manageable for the researcher. Data was collected from the respondents through a self-designed questionnaire. Descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages was used in analyzing the data to answer the research questions, and results were presented in tables.

Results and Discussion

Response Rate

Out of the 50 copies of questionnaires administered to the respondent (Cataloguers), 49 (98%) copies were duly completed, returned, and found valid for the analysis. And to determine the status of Cataloguing and Classification in Digital Age: The Case of Public Libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria, the results

were presented in the tables below:

What is the status of cataloguing and classification practices in Public Libraries, Northeast Zone Nigeria?

Table 1: The status of cataloguing and classification practices in Public Libraries, Northeast Zone Nigeria.

S/No.	Items	N	AVAILABLE (%)	NOT AVAILABLE (%)
	SCHEME(S) USED			
1.	Library of Congress Classification			**49 (100%)**
2.	Dewey Decimal Classification		**49 (100%)**	
3.	Colon classification			**49 (100%)**
4.	Moy's classification			**49 (100%)**
	CODE(S) USED			
5.	Anglo American Cataloguing Rule ($AACR_2$)		**49 (100%)**	
6.	Anglo American Cataloguing Rule ($AACR_1$)			**49 (100%)**
7.	Machine Readable Catalogue (MARC)			**49 (100%)**
8.	Resources Description and access (R.D.A)			**49 (100%)**
	ACCESS POINTS PROVIDED			
9.	Author	**49**	**49 (100%)**	
10.	Title		**49 (100%)**	
11.	Subject		**49 (100%)**	
12.	Keywords		**49 (100%)**	
13.	Class/call number		**49 (100%)**	
14.	Series		**49 (100%)**	
15	Control number			**49 (100%)**
16.	Corporate body			**49 (100%)**
17.	Journal title			**49 (100%)**
18.	Conference headings			**49 (100%)**
19.	Through ISBN or ISSN			**49 (100%)**
	FORMAT			
20.	Manual		**49 (100%)**	
21.	Automated			**49 (100%)**
22.	Mixed (manual an Automated)			**49 (100%)**

Table 1 above shows the current status of cataloguing and classification practices of the library under study and it was revealed that Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme was the only scheme in use for cataloguing and classification, Anglo-American Cataloguing Rule ($AACR_2$) was the code in use for cataloguing and classification, access points provided were author, title, subject, keywords, class/call number, series and only manual cataloguing and classification was the practice in Public Libraries in North East Zone, Nigeria.

What are the skills possessed by cataloguers for cataloguing and classification in Public Libraries, Northeast Zone Nigeria?

Table 2: Skills possessed by cataloguers for cataloguing and classification in Public Libraries, Northeast Zone Nigeria.

S/No	Skills	N	S.A (%)	A (%)	T. A	D (%)	S.D (%)	T. D
1.	I find it easy to identify access points; main entry and added entry.		14 (28.6%)	35 (71.4%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
2.	I find it easy to identify cataloguing entries under Subject heading that is most specific and accurately represent content using LCSH.		7 (14.3%)	28 (57.1%)	**35 (71.4%)**	7 (14.3%)	7 (14.3%)	**14 (28.6%)**
3.	Identifying errors and anomalies on the catalogue is always easy for me and I can correct them as well.		14 (28.6%)	28 (57.1%)	**6 (85.7%)**	7 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	**7 (14.3%)**
4.	I comprehend the connection between AACR2, RDA and MARC in terms of their coding methods.		0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	**0 (0.0%)**	0 (0.0%)	49 (100%)	**49 (100%)**
5.	I am involved in training other library staff and users on how to effectively use catalogue in our library.		7 (14.3%)	35 (71.4%)	**42 (85.7%)**	7 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	**7 (14.3%)**
6.	I can smoothly implement new and evolving standards in cataloguing and classification.		0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	14 (28.6%)	35 (71.4%)	**49 (100%)**
7.	I am used to the criteria for determining when to add a new record to the bibliographic utility to avoid duplicate records.	49	14 (28.6%)	35 (71.4%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
8.	I can without difficulty input information in records appropriately.		14 (28.6%)	35 (71.4%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
9.	To me, class number misleading cannot mislead me.		28 (57.1%)	14 (28.6%)	**42 (85.7%)**	7 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (14.3%)
10.	I work hard, save time, and maintain record as well as eliminate backlog.		28 (57.1%)	21 (42.9%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
11.	I always make sure that cataloging rules and standards are used regularly to guarantee excellence.		28 (57.1%)	21 (42.9%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
12.	I have sound and steady mind -set about cataloguing procedures.		0 (0.0%)	49 (100%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
13.	I always find it convenient to sort out difficult areas and differences when it comes to interpretation of cataloging rules and standards.		0 (0.0%)	49 (100%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

14.	I am conversant with the documented local procedures, policies, and practices in my library regarding cataloging for the provision of uniformity throughout the collection and for future use.	21 (42.9%)	21 (42.9%)	**42 (85.7%)**	7 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	**7 (14.3%)**
15.	I can use national bibliographic utility such as OCLC, including authority file.	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	49 (100%)	**49 (100%)**
16.	Determining subject content has been complex for me particularly when a material has different subjects.	21 (42.9%)	28 (57.1%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

Key: - S.A = Strongly Agreed**, A =** Agreed**, T.A =** Total Agreement**, D =** Disagreed, **S.D =** Strongly Disagreed**, T.D =** Total Disagreement and **N =** Number of respondents.

Table 2 exhibits the skills possessed by cataloguers for cataloguing and classification in the library under study. The skills were measured with sixteen (16) items and it was revealed that 49 (100%) of the respondents indicated that they find it easy to identify access points, main entry and added entry, 35 (71.4%) of the respondents agreed that they find it easy to identify cataloguing entries under subject heading that is most specific and accurately represent content using LCSH while only 14 (28.6%) disagreed to that. 42 (85.7%) of the respondents agreed that they can identify errors and anomalies on the catalogue and is always easy for them to correct them as well and only 7 (14.3) disagreed to that, 49 (100%) of the respondents indicated that they cannot comprehend the connection between AACR2, RDA and MARC in terms of their coding methods. 42 (85.7%) of the respondents agreed that they were involved in training other library staff and users on how to effectively use catalogue in our library while only 7 (14.3%) disagreed to that. 49 (100%) of the respondents agreed that they cannot smoothly implement new and evolving standards in cataloguing and classification. 49 (100%) of the respondents agreed that they were used to the criteria for

determining when to add a new record to the bibliographic utility to avoid duplicate records. 49 (100%) of the respondents agreed with the fact that they can without difficulty input information in records appropriately, 49 (85.7%) of the respondents agreed that to them class number cannot mislead them while only 7 (14.3%) disagreed to that. 49 (100%) of the respondents agreed that they work hard, save time, and maintain record as well as eliminate backlog. To guaranty excellence, 49 (100%) agreed that they always make sure that cataloging rules and standards are used regularly. 49 (100%) of the respondents agreed to the fact that

they have sound and steady mind-set about cataloguing procedures, 49 (100%) of the respondents also indicated that they find it convenient to sort out difficult areas and differences when it comes to interpretation of cataloging rules and standards. As regards documented local procedures, policies, and practices in the library regarding cataloging for the provision of uniformity throughout the collection and for future use, 42 (85.7%) of the respondents agreed that they were conversant with it and only 7 (14.3%) of the respondents disagreed to that. 49 (100%) of the respondents indicated that they cannot use national bibliographic utility such as OCLC, including authority file, and all the respondents. 49 (100%) agreed that determining subject content has been complex for them particularly when a material has different subjects.

The result revealed that cataloguers in Public Libraries, Northeast Zone Nigeria were conversant with cataloguing and classification procedures measured except for all that has to do with new evolving trends or automated/electronic process like the R.D.A, MARC, as well as the use of national bibliography utility such as OCLC.

What are the challenges of cataloguers in the use of I.C.T for cataloguing in Public Libraries, Northeast Zone Nigeria?

Table 3: Challenges of cataloguers in the use of I.C.T for cataloguing in Public Libraries, Northeast Zone Nigeria.

S/No.	Challenges	N	S.A (%)	A (%)	T. A	D (%)	S.D (%)	T. D
1.	Reading and comprehending materials for subject analysis has been boring and time consuming to me.		21 (42.9%)	14 (28.6%)	**35 (71.4%)**	14 (28.6%)	0 (0.0%)	**14 (28.6%)**
2.	I see Cataloguing and classification exercise as bulky.		28 (57.1%)	14 (28.6%)	**42 (85.7%)**	7 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	**7 (14.3%)**
3.	I do not have opportunities for training for constant professional development and improvement in my skills as cataloguer.		14 (28.6%)	21 (42.9%)	**35 (71.4%)**	7 (14.3%)	7 (14.3%)	**14 (28.6%)**
4.	The tools available for me to catalogue resources are outdated.		21 (42.9%)	14 (28.6%)	**35 (71.4%)**	14 (28.6%)	0 (0.0%)	**14 (28.6%)**
5.	It is difficult for me to have the knowledge about all disciplines	**49**	35 (71.4%)	14 (28.6%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
6.	Lack of cataloguers that are digitally savvy		7 (14.3%)	35 (71.4%)	**42 (85.7%)**	7 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	**7 (14.3%)**
7.	Lack of ICT and other infrastructural facilities		42 (85.7%)	7 (14.3%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
8.	Inability to provide adequate tools and technologies required for bibliographic control practices		7 (14.3%)	35 (71.4%)	**42 (85.7%)**	7 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	**7 (14.3%)**
9.	Inability to adequately incorporate ICT into cataloguing and classification practices		14 (28.6%)	21 (42.9%)	**35 (71.4%)**	14 (28.6%)	0 (0.0%)	**14 (28.6%)**
10.	Lack of automation of cataloguing and classification practices		21 (42.9%)	21 (42.9%)	**42 (85.7%)**	0 (0.0%)	7 (14.3%)	**7 (14.3%)**
11.	Lack of implementation of Resource Description and Access (RDA) for cataloguing		49 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	**49 (100%)**	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
12.	Not being an active partner of the programme for cooperative cataloguing		49 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	49 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
13.	Lack of bibliographic control of electronic resources		49 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	49 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
14.	Lack of adequate bandwidth		49 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	49 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
15.	Lack of Internet connectivity		28 (57.1%)	14 (28.6%)	**42 (85.7%)**	0 (0.0%)	7 (14.3%)	7 (14.3%)

Key: - S.A = Strongly Agreed, **A =** Agreed, **T.A =** Total Agreement, **D =** Disagreed, **S.D =** Strongly Disagreed, **T.D =** Total Disagreement and **N =** Number of respondents.

Table 3 exhibits the challenges of cataloguers in the use of I.C.T for cataloguing and classification in the library under study. It was revealed that 35 (71.4%) of the respondents indicated that reading and comprehending materials for subject analysis has been boring and time consuming which is seen as a challenge to them while only 14 (28.6%) disagreed to that, as for 42 (85.7) of the respondents, they consider cataloguing and classification exercise as a bulky task which is a big challenge to them while 7 (14.3%) disagreed to that statement. 35 (71.4%) of the respondents agreed that they do not have opportunities for training for constant professional development and improvement in their skills as cataloguer while only 14 (28.6%) disagreed to that. 35 (71.4%) of the respondents agreed that the tools available for them to catalogue and classify resources were outdated and only 14 (28.6%) disagreed to that, 49 (100%) of the respondents indicated that it has become difficult for them to have the knowledge about all disciplines. 42 (85.7%) of the respondents agreed that lack of cataloguers that are digitally savvy was their challenge while only 7 (14.3%) disagreed to that statement. 42 (85.7%) of the respondents agreed that their challenges lie in the inability of the library to provide adequate tools and technologies required for bibliographic control practices while 7 (14.3%) disagreed to that. 49 (100%) of the respondents agreed that their challenge is that the library has failed to adequately incorporate ICT into cataloguing and classification practices. As regards automation, 42 (85.7%) of the respondents agreed that lack of automation of cataloguing and classification practices is the challenge facing them while only 7 (14.3%) disagreed to that. 49 (100%) of the respondents agreed with the fact that lack of implementation of Resource Description and Access (RDA) for cataloguing was also a challenge facing them. 49 (100%) agreed that not being an active partner of the programme for cooperative cataloguing has also been a challenge they faced. 49 (100%) of the respondents had also agreed to the fact that lack of bibliographic control of electronic resources is also a challenge before them, while 20 49 (100%) of the respondents also indicated that lack of adequate bandwidth was a challenge they are facing and 42 (85.7%) of the respondents agreed that lack of internet connectivity was a challenge they face in the cataloguing and classification practices while 7 (14.3%) disagreed to that

statement.

The result revealed that the challenges faced by cataloguers in Public Libraries, North East Zone Nigeria were that subject analysis has been boring and time consuming, Cataloguing and classification exercise was seen as bulky, lack of opportunities for training for constant professional development, outdated cataloguing tools, difficulties in having knowledge of all discipline, lack of cataloguers that are digitally savvy. Others are lack of ICT and other infrastructural facilities, lack of adequate tools and technologies required for bibliographic control, lack of adequate incorporation of ICT into cataloguing and classification practices, lack of automation of cataloguing and classification practices, lack of implementation of Resource Description and Access (RDA), not being an active partner of programme for cooperative cataloguing, lack of adequate bandwidth and lack of Internet connectivity.

Discussion of Findings

1. Analysis of findings revealed that that Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme was the scheme used, Anglo-American Cataloguing Rule ($AACR_2$) was the code in use, access points provided were author, title, subject, keywords, class/call number, series and only manual cataloguing and classification was the practice in Public Libraries, Northeast Zone Nigeria. It is obvious that the Library Board lack a coordinated library development policy that can foster quick adoption of the new evolving trends in cataloguing and classification. This is in line with Eze (2012) in a study which revealed that there was poor status of automation and use of ICT for library routine and services which was caused by inadequate funding; inadequate number of cataloguing staff; inadequate ICT skills and training opportunity, this is however necessary because cataloguing and classification of information resources in the digital age is fundamentally required to enhance effective bibliographic control and bring about universal access to information resources.
2. The result on skills possessed by cataloguers for cataloguing revealed that cataloguers in Public Libraries, Northeast Nigeria,

were conversant with cataloguing and classification procedures except for all that has to do with new evolving trends or automated/electronic process like the R.D.A, MARC, as well as the use of national bibliography utility such as OCLC. It is quite evident in the fact that the cataloguers expressed inability to understand all cataloguing processes that involved electronic, or ICT based practices, this is however showed that they were not trained or equipped for new evolving trends in the practice of cataloguing and classification. This is however in corroboration with Ocheje (2014) whose study revealed that conventional cataloguing is more practiced than online cataloguing and that librarians are highly skilled in the conventional cataloguing.

3. The challenges faced by cataloguers in Public Libraries, North East Nigeria were that subject analysis has been boring and time consuming to them, Cataloguing and classification exercise as bulky, lack of opportunities for training for constant professional development, outdated cataloguing tools, difficulties in having knowledge of all discipline, lack of cataloguers that are digitally savvy, lack of ICT and other infrastructural facilities, lack of adequate tools and technologies required for bibliographic control practices, lack of adequate incorporation of ICT into cataloguing and classification practices, lack of automation of cataloguing and classification practices, lack of implementation of Resource Description and Access (RDA) for cataloguing, not being an active partner of the programme for cooperative cataloguing, lack of adequate bandwidth and lack of Internet connectivity. It is obvious therefore that the public library board is lagging in provision of such training and facilities needed for the cataloguers to effectively discharge their responsibilities in accordance with the technological trends. This is in corroboration with the study of Adebayo (2013) who carried out a study on the challenges associated with cataloguing electronic resources in selected university libraries in Southwest Nigeria and found the following challenges, among

others: lack of ICT skills, insufficient number of professional cataloguers and lack of knowledge of computer language such as the MARC and Dublin core.

Conclusion

Public Libraries in Northeast Nigeria have pass through different facet of growth. It is evident that what continue all this while is the failure of the library to sufficiently make readily available all the technological facilities and services needed by cataloguers to satisfactorily perform their duties with their counterpart around the globe. It is the strong conviction of the researcher that the State should key into the federal government's new development policy that was tagged as 'Vision 2020'. By doing that, the concept of 're-branding Nigeria' and no doubt the need to foster our promising democracy by imbibing democratic standards, can only thrive when we have a well-equipped library with functional automated cataloguing and classification process, which will in turn help to foster effective information retrieval among users that can educated, inform, and enlighten our people in the Northeast Zone Nigeria.

Recommendations

The study thus recommended the following: -

1. The management of the public libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria should provide ICT facilities that will foster effective automation of cataloguing and classification practices among cataloguers in the state.
2. The management of public libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria should make provision of funds and programmes to train the cataloguers for the global base practices in cataloguing and classification.
3. The management of public libraries in Northeast Zone, Nigeria should provide modern facilities like internet connectivity, resource description and access (RDA), adequate bandwidth, workshop, and training for the cataloguer on ICT related areas for effective cataloguing and classification practices.

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