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

FUNDING OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: THE PRESENT TREND IN NIGERIA

Posigha Bassil Ebiwolate Ph.D
Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko,
Delta State, Nigeria P.M.B. 2007 Warri
Email: basilpublication@gmail.com

Abstract
Academic libraries in Nigeria are facing consistent dwindling budgetary allocation that has resulted to inadequate library collection and decayed library facilities. Thus, this theoretical paper was based on existing literatures and experience. The paper intensively discussed the funding of education and academic libraries, sources of funding academic libraries, fund raising and the role of librarians in fund raising and, the present trend of funding academic libraries in Nigeria. The paper also discussed the impact of poor funding and challenges of funding academic libraries in Nigeria. Based on the challenges some recommendations were made to improve funding in the academic libraries.

Keywords: Funding; Tertiary Institutions; Academic Libraries; Budgetary Allocation; Nigeria

Introduction
Funding is one of the highly discussed concepts in both private and public institutions. The concept may mean different thing to different authors in the society. According to Olurotimi (2015) funding is an act of providing resources, usually in form of money or other values such as effort or time for a project, a person, a business, or any other private or public institutions. In the above definition, it is not out of fact that funding of an institution might determine the functioning and achievement of the institution.

Academic library is a library that is established and funded by academic institution with the aim of providing information resources to support the teaching, learning and research objective of the institution. In every higher institution of learning, academic libraries play significance roles in the achievement of the aims and objectives of the institutions. The effectiveness of an academic libraries to an extend may determines the quality of graduates and as well the accreditation of courses of studies in the higher institutions. In Nigeria, the National University Commission (NUC), the agency of federal government saddled with the responsibility of accreditation of courses of studies in university placed high premium and emphases on the academic libraries in accrediting courses of studies in the universities.

Similarly, other bodies both national and international such as IFLA, NLA, NALISS, etc. also emphasized on the need for academic libraries to have a standard and benchmark to function effective in service delivering, relevant in academic system and as well as justified their funding. As a matter of fact, the quality of service and effectiveness of academic libraries may be determined by the level of funding. Thus, this makes the issue of funding very important, if the libraries must achieve their aims and objectives. As important as the issue of funding in this 21st century, experience

shows that proper attention has not been given to funding of universities because until date the main sources of funding in our universities in Nigeria are the parent institutions and TETFUND an agency of government. This simply implies that government is the only sole source of funding academic libraries in Nigeria.

Today, the need for funding in academic libraries is geometric increase as a result of the advent and application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in library's functions, the bid to serve wide audience and provision of quality services. Similarly, with the expanding needs and curiosity of users of academic libraries, it is obvious that government funding of academic libraries is grossly inadequate. Some authors (Olurotimi, 2015; Afebende, 2017 and Mamman and Nwokedi, 2019) in this instance opined that academic libraries need to source for alternative means of funding to survive the present persistent library budget cut. The fact is that, the consistence reduction in funding will post a great danger to education because it means that academic libraries will no longer afford to purchase information resources and as well subscribed to databases of interest. According to Afebende (2017) result is poor, unmaintained and declining infrastructure and facilities. Which equally post a threat to the existence of a quality and efficient library services in the education sector.

Academic Libraries Roles in Higher Institution

In general, libraries of all kind play education, informative, custodial, cultural and aesthetic roles in society. Today's academic libraries, one of the types of libraries are recognized as important institutions that provide opportunity for self-development, independent learning and as well facilitates distance education. This, the libraries do by simplifying the means of access to both print and e-resources, adopting of marketing strategies to reach out to information seekers and organizing of outreach programmes to support and accomplish their parent institutions stated visions and missions. The 21st academic libraries are not just providers of information resources, the libraries ensure that the target population identify their needed information, analyze the information and utilized the information. Also in academic institutions, it is the academic libraries that are responsible for the championing of information literacy programmes through users' education, the use of library, orientation programmes, etc. to properly locate and utilize information.

Similarly, experience shows that academic libraries are taking the advantages of Information and Communication Technology particularly Web technology to advance the provision of information services to potential researchers across the globe. Web technologies such as Web 4.0, Podcast, Bloggs, etc. are deployed by majority of academic libraries in provision of quality and timely information to researchers and other categories of information users. This has created interest in the society among researchers and teaming undergraduate and postgraduate students to visit the traditional and E-library's Websites regularly in search for current information. According to Olurotimi (2015) library is in the front burner because any serious researcher must be in constant touch with the library for its needs. This is why the National Universities Commission (NUC) embarks on routine visitation to universities to ascertain the library holdings and their relevance to the academic needs of researchers and by extension lecturers and students. However, the whole of the above enumerated academic library services can only be provided with adequate funding.

Funding of Education in Nigeria

Funding of education is a prerequisite for the success of the entire sectors of life. This is because education is the bedrock where every sector of life derived its strength. The funding of education is exclusive right of the various tiers of government. Thus, this responsibility or obligation need to be seriously accomplished without delay for the benefit of all other sectors.

In Nigeria, the federal government has consistently reduced the budgetary allocation to the education sector without any explanation. In the history of Nigeria budgetary allocation to education from 1999 to date, 2021 has recorded the least budgetary allocation of the tone of 742 billion (5.6 percent) of the total budgets of 11.7 trillion (Abubakar, 2021). For example, in 2016, 369.6 billion (9.3%), 2017, 550.5 billion (7.4%) in 2018, 605.5 billion (7.04), 2019 was 620.5 billion and in 2020, it was 671.076 billion (6.5) (Olufemi, 2020 and NANS, 2021) respectively was allocated to education.

Education in Nigeria is underfunded by the various tier of government for over a decade. Now the federal government's spending is below 10 percent of its overall budget (Ubogu & Veronica, 2018). This has equally affected all sections of education, particularly infrastructures, teaching and learning activities, underequipped academic libraries, etc. The tertiary institutions need adequate fund to put all the various sections in the institutions in place. Unfortunately, it is obvious that the government may not be able to provide the needed funds. This has called for proper investigation of funding of academic libraries and identify available sources of funds to development and position academic libraries to support and enhance quality education output.

Funding of Academic Libraries

Fund is one of the crucial aspects of a growing organism like the academic library. Fund is seriously required for the functioning and effectiveness of the library in other to meet it basic roles of supporting the research, learning and teaching objectives of the parent institution. Fund is life wire of the library and its parent institution; hence the institution cannot survive without proper funding.

Academic libraries are usually owned by private or public tertiary institutions, and by their nature they are not profit driven institutions. That makes academic libraries to solely depends on their parent institutions. University libraries receive direct allocations from the parent institutions and being one of the various units in the university, it has to compete with other units based on the available funds from the host university (Ugbogu & Okiy, 2011 cited in Olurotimi, 2015). To be truly successful and sustainable, a library must have some funding for information resources and other expenses. While donated information resources can be significant part of the library's collection, but the easiest way to get many of the information resources that are most relevant, important and interesting to the readers community is to buy them (Khatri, 2012). However, today it has become very difficult for academic libraries in Nigeria to buy relevant and important information resources for her community of users due to consistent rise in exchange rate and other taxes imposed of books and journals and other learning materials. To worsen the whole situation, both states and federal government of Nigeria have deliberately decided to reduce their annual budget on education, leaving managements of academic institutions in disarray. This pathetic situation has forced university librarians to source for alternative sources of funding, for example from fund raising, donor agencies and other charges from services to keep up the existence of their institutions' libraries.

Sources of Academic Libraries Funding

1. Parent Institution/Government: The main source of funding public academic libraries is the State or Federal government and the parent institutions. In the parent institution's budget, a specific amount is usually allocated to the university library. This amount varies from one institution to other. According to Ogundipe (2008) cited in Afedende (2017) on the recommendation of National Universities Commission (NUC), ten percent (10%) of each university's recurrent budget is to be allocated to the university library. Ironically, he laments that this recommendation is never complied with for two obvious reasons. Firstly, that it is difficult to predict what grants eventually come from government to universities through NUC and secondly whatever comes from the institutions' budget is dependent on, not what the libraries request, but on what is allocated to them after other competing demands for scarce resources in the institution. In practice, libraries tend to receive less than their budgetary provision due to irregular grants from government or arbitrary cuts or withholding of funds. Worse of all, is the consistence dwindling of the institutions, particularly the academic libraries' annual budgets. Making it difficult for academic libraries to meet their aims and objectives, and as well rendering the university librarians' handicap. However, the government and the parent institutions remain the most viable and reliable source of funding in Nigeria. There are agencies, such as Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund (PTF), World Bank Federal Universities Development Sector Adjustment Credit, etc. that were created by government to ensure consistent funding of universities vise-a-vise the academic libraries.
2. Donor agencies are other sources of funding academic libraries. These donor agencies are either National or International. They made grants available to academic libraries through the various universities. The donations sometimes come in form of cash, books and other libraries' equipment. However, this source of funding is not as viable and reliable when compared to government and parent institutions funding.
3. Internally generated revenue (IGR) is also an important source of income when well-planned and implemented in academic libraries. Internally generated revenue in the library refer to charges or levy impose on the users of the library to recover some operational costs. Internal generated revenue is in three categories. First, are the levies imbedded in the parent institution school fee such as library services charges and development fee. The second category of charges are charges imposed on defaulters such as overdue fines, loss books charges, registration charges, photocopying charges and other charges on materials used to provide services to students and other categories of users. The third category of levies are imposed in library consultancy services, bindery services, information services, etc. These categories of levies are usually target towards external users of the libraries. Usually, academic libraries are not profit driven organizations. The collection of levies is justified by the inability of government and parent institutions to properly fund academic libraries to meet their target objectives.
4. Today, due to consistent declining of academic libraries' budget, professional in librarianship profession are advocating for academic libraries management to look inward to strategically design more attractive services to draw the attention of donor and international agencies to raise fund to maintain the dilapidated infrastructures and facilities, acquire current print and non-books and journals,

provide Internet services, Information and Communication Technology and other facilities required for the smooth running of libraries.

The Present Trend of Funding Academic Libraries in Nigeria

The funding of academic libraries may determine the kind of services that are available in the libraries. According to the saying "To whom must is given, must is also expected from him". It is a fact that libraries cannot give out what the libraries do not possess. The content, quality and adequacy of library resources and services dependent on the funds they receive from their proprietary authorities (Afebende, 2017). This is one of the reasons why librarians and other friends of academic are relentless advocating to adequate funding of the libraries across the country. According to Afebende (2017) the concern for an effective and efficient management of academic libraries has in the past years been expressed in many countries, including Nigeria. Most of the issues raised border on inadequate funding, the effect of inflation on library finances, poor accountability, unsatisfactory investment decisions which fail to consider new developments in the approach to academic instruction, and/or take advantage of development in information technologies and apparent lack of concern for the plight of the libraries by government and university authorities which fail to allocate adequate funds to their libraries among others.

Academic libraries budgets are undergoing serious reduction in all higher institutions of learning due to the consistent declining of allocation the government as a result of one reason or the other. According to Ogundipe (2008) whatever comes from the institutions' budget is dependent on, not what the libraries request, but on what is allocated to them after other competing demands for scarce resources in the institution. In practice, libraries tend to receive less than their budgetary provision due to irregular grants from government or arbitrary cuts or withholding of funds.

Today, the situation has been made more complex by the government of the day by imposing different types of custom duties on importation of information resources and library infrastructures, high exchange rate and other unrealistic and counterproductive policies on importation.

Fund Raising in Academic Libraries

Fund raising and development are activities new to the academic library scene, although as this entry illustrates, certain kinds of charitable giving have existed in universities and public institutions for many decades, if not centuries (Martins, 2018, p.9). Academic libraries are increasingly seeing the need to raise funds from external sources to support or meet their financial obligations. In spite of that, experience shows that in the 90s there was no reason for academic libraries in Nigeria to involved in fund raising activities because of adequate funding from government and parent institutions. In Nigeria, over-reliance on parent institutions, government and her agencies may have made most academic libraries administrators not have reason funding raising as part of their responsibility. Today, according to Filson, Kodua-Ntim and Afful-Athur (2021) the need to raise additional funds beyond subsidy and fines seem more acute. The present-day consistent budget cut in educational institutions in the country is pushing on academic libraries to look inward to generate fund if they must render effective services to their teaming users. Literatures shows that, librarians at this point have realized that the existence and relevance of academic libraries may not be sustain if they completely depend on the government and their parent institutions for funding. The federal government who is the proprietor of federal universities is still battling with budgetary allocation to ministries and parastatals

owing to instability in the world price of crude oil and oil theft (Olurotimi, 2015). This situation has a great toll on the funding of universities and in recent times, universities have been receiving budgetary allocation as and when due which has drastically affected academic libraries. This situation has great impact in the development of academic libraries hence it becomes imperative to source for alternative funding (Afebende, 2017).

Similarly, according to Mamman and Nwokedi (2019) investigation there is poor availability of information resources in the libraries due to inadequate funding, the sources of funding are mainly from the parent institutions of the libraries and grants from TET Fund. Therefore, he recommended amongst others that: academic libraries should explore alternatives to funding their services, libraries should apply for grants from reputable donors (foundations), academic institutions should organize appeal fund launchings to develop their library services, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) should amend TET Fund laws to enable mono-technics, research institutions and public libraries benefit from the fund, academic institutions should encourage their alumnus to donate in kind or cash towards developing the library services and fee-based services should be introduced in the libraries. Based on the recommendation of the above study this paper outlines the following alternative sources of funding for academic libraries:

1. ***Binding:*** Binding of final year undergraduate and post graduate thesis and dissertations. However, binding as source of funding required additional expenses. The binding unit needs binding equipment which are quite expensive. Not until you have these facilities there will not be functioning binding activities.
2. ***Indexing and abstracting:*** Indexing and abstracting if well organize and extend beyond the immediate users such as the students and researchers in the campus will attract a lot of researchers and information users who may pay expensively for the service.
3. ***Consultancy services:*** Up till now, experience shows that consultancy service as a means of funding is still under-utilized in our academic libraries. A majority of librarians do not see themselves as being able to perform consultancy service. However, that is not all, such librarians have the opportunity to be trained and function well as consultant not only in the library services but other areas information services.
4. ***Printing press:*** Academic libraries can champion the establishment and management of printing press in their various institutions. A well established and managed printing press will not only attract the university community but outside communities.
5. ***Library development fee:*** Usually most institutions include this fee into the school fee of the institution. It is unfortunate that some institutions do not remit such fees to the library management for proper utilization. However, such fund if proper manage will go a long way to foot some needs of the library. Such fee can be in the average of three thousand naira (N3,000.00) or more per a student.
6. ***Registration/fines:*** In some academic libraries' users (students, staff and researchers) registered at the beginning of every academic session while others registered once throughout the period of the academic programme. In the other hand, some fines are made to be paid by defaulters. Defaulting can be in form of keeping a book beyond the due date of return, not registering with library, damage of materials, etc. All these make a good source of funding. However, experience shows that most University librarians do not handle such fund

prudently. They end up sharing the fund with the circulation librarians and other staff in the section.

7. ***Grant/aids:*** International and national organizations usually give grants and aids to institutions. Academic libraries management can as well seek for such opportunity to fund their respective libraries.
8. ***Reference/fee-based services:*** Today, there are several fee-based services that academic libraries can provide with the aid of Information and Communication Technologies and as well as Web technology. Every sector or organization in the society needs information to have upper hedge over one another particularly in our competitive economy. With the aid of ICTs, reference services have gone beyond face-to-face interaction. Thus, librarians can maximize this opportunity of ICTs to provide reference services that are fee-based to distance users of information.

The Impact of Poor Funding

Fund is the life wire of every institution of which the academic library is not in exception. Just like the saying "cabbage in cabbage out". It is what you put in any sector that will determine what you get from the sector. So, what is allocated to the library that determine the quality of services render in the library. In the country at present, every sector including education is experiencing consistence dwindling budget allocation.

This unpalatable situation is negatively affecting the academic libraries in public institutions. As a matter of fact, the consequence of such inadequate or poor funding as a result of reduced allocation cannot be overemphasized. The implication of reduced funding is that libraries can no longer afford to purchase basic books, journals and other resources to build standard collections. It further makes them unable to acquire and adopt new information technologies, nor hire and train appropriate personnel needed to deliver requisite services. The result is poor, unmaintained and declining infrastructure and facilities (Afebende, 2017). Poor funding will no doubt smell doom and incurred devastation to the existence of the entire education system.

Academic libraries as living organism need adequate funding like any other institutions to survive. The library as the university's central organ, is supposed to be properly supported financially. Adequate funding should be considered a basic necessity for the effective development of academic libraries. In this respect, it must be recognized that funds are needed for the development of the library building, collection development, staff training, and provision of library infrastructure (Anaehobi&Agim, 2019). There is poor availability of information resources in the libraries, due to inadequate funding (Mamman & Nwokedi, 2019). Perhaps, it is on this note that librarians are advocating for alternative sources of income such as Internal Generated Revenue (IGR) to keep the libraries relevant to the university communities.

Challenges of Funding Academic Libraries in Nigeria

The increase demand for adequate funding of academic institutions vise-a-vise academic libraries has been in our print and electronic dailies for some decades. Individuals, institutions-based associations and civil societies have been drawing the attention of government times without numbers for the need for adequate funding of public institutions and their libraries. However, this has not yielded any positive

reaction in addressing poor funding in our public institutions. Several factors may have attributed to this unpalatable scenario in Nigeria. These factors include:

1. Inadequate budgetary allocation to education: Nigeria government over the years have not shown any form of improvement in budgetary allocation to the education sector. The UNESCO directive or recommendation of 26% of a country's total budget to be dedicated to education have been faulted. Inoyo (2014) decried the poor level of funding education in Nigeria. According to Anero (2018) the failure of government to execute the international directives accounts for the recruitment of untrained teachers, poor enrollment and completion rates, lack of portable water in schools and poor state of both infrastructural and instructional facilities. This has drastically affected the academic libraries which depend on the 10% annual budgetary allocation from their parent institutions.
2. Lack of political will to fund education in the country: To a large extend the government do not have the political will to implement what is in the blue papers. For example, experience shows that the defined policy on funding of 10% of the recurrent annual budget of their parent institutions and other policies on funding are never implemented.
3. Bureaucracy in governance: The large groups of government's offices, agencies and other group of individuals involved in administration of public funds have many complicated rules in funding institutions. In some cases, the appropriated amount never gets to the designated institutions
4. Lack of Non-governmental organization involvement in funding education: Experience shows that in the developed countries, several NGOs involved in funding education and other sectors but the reverse is the case in Nigeria. It is only the Multi-National Oil companies that we have as the saving grace, particularly in the area of infrastructures.
5. Attitude of universities' management towards academic libraries: Today, many universities' management are making it very difficult for most academic libraries by diverting allocated library fund to other areas and as well allowing their personal interest into play at the detriment of academic libraries. This issue recently draws the attention of TETfund, leading to the released of special circular "circular on the abuse of access procedure in the library development intervention (LDI) of the fund" on the 16th July, 2021. Most university librarians have little or no authority to determine what and what to procure with such fund.

Conclusion

Academic libraries are the engine room of any higher institution of learning. Thus, the libraries deserve adequate funding. It is very unfortunate that the desire funds have not been made available to the academic libraries in Nigeria. Therefore, it has resulted to inadequate or poor library collection and delipidated infrastructures and facilities in the Nigeria's public academic libraries. Instead of improve annual budgetary allocation to education, the allocation consistently declined. This has forced many academic libraries administrators to look inward to source for alternative sources of funding to address critical areas of need.

Way Forward

The following are some way forwards to decelerate the negative impact of poor funding of academic libraries Nigeria:

1. As in TETfund where special library development intervention is made available, the universities should as well make available some sustainable special intervention annually for the development of the libraries. Such fund should be judiciously managed by the Library Collection Development Committee under the direct supervision of the Vice-Chancellor of the institution.
2. In the present-day Nigeria, it is obvious that budgetary allocation to education may not improve as it consistently reduced annually, therefore academic library management should look inward and design feasible and sustainable internal generated revenue (IGR) template to raise fund to address critical needs of the libraries.
3. Academic libraries management should look beyond institutions-based IGR. They should solicit from donor agencies, friends of the library, NGO, multi-nationals, etc. for assistance to enable them development their libraries. In such instance, grants can be source for within and outside the country.
4. Academic library and as well the top university management should ensure that whatever fund made available for the academic library should be directed to address the needs of library.

References

Abubakar, S. (2021). Nigeria's 2021 education budget worse in a decade. *Vanguard*, 7th.

Afebende, G. B. (2017)/ Assessment of institutional initiative in generating alternative funds to sustain library services in academic libraries in Nigeria: The Cross River State experience. *American Journal of Educational Research*, 5(9), 952-958. Available online at http://pubs.sciepub.com/education/5/9/4.

Anaeobi, E. S. &Agim, E. C. (2019). TETFund intervention and development of university libraries in SouthEast, Nigeria. *Library and Information Perspectives and Research*, 1, 50 – 58. Available online at credencepressltd.com.

Anero, N. (2018). Execution of declarations agreed at treaties and conventions as a pragmatic approach to the repositioning of childhood education in Nigeria. *European Journal of Research and Reflection in Educational Sciences* 6(1), 76 – 85. Progressive Academic Publishing, UK Page 76 www.idpublications.org.

Filson, C. K., Kodua-Itim, K. & Afful-Arthur, P. (2021). Funds generation from the internal activities of an academic library based on the resources-based review (RBV) theory. Library philosophy and practice (e-Journal). https://digitalcommons.unil.edu/libpilprac/4955

Inoyo, U. (2014). Challenges and opportunities for university graduates in a season of economic and moral decay" 19th/20th Convocation Lecture of University of Uyo, Nigeria.

Khatri, R. (2012). *Library administration*. New Delhi: A.P.H. publishing corporation.

Khalid, M., Abdul, H. & Syed J. H. (2005). Library fundraising in Pakistan. *Library Management*, 26(8/9), 429-438.

Mamman, E. S. & Nwokedi, V. C. (2019). Funding of academic libraries in Nigeria: A case study of Plateau State. *Inter. J. Acad. Lib. Info. Sci.* 7(8), 219-227.

Martin, S. K. (2018). Library fund raising and development. *Encyclopedia and Information Science* (4th edition), pp. 9.

Ogundipe, O. O. (2008). *The librarianship of developing countries: The librarianship of diminished resources*. Lagos: Ikofa Press Ltd.

Olufemi, A. (2020). Buhari's 2021 budget share for education since 2011 is the Nigeria lowest in 10 years: The troubled sector receives a meagre 5.6 percent of the total budget, much below the recommended benchmark. *Premium Times*, October 24th. Retrieved 31st November, from premiumtimes.com/news/headlines.

Olurotimi, S. O. (2015). Alternative funding of academic libraries in Nigeria: Case studies of Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife and Wusto Library, Wesley University of Science and Technology, Ondo. *Global Advanced Research Journal of Educational Research and Review*, 4(2), 20 - 28. Available online http://garj.org/garjerr/index.htm.

Ubogu, R. V. & Veronica, M. O. (2018). Financing education in Nigeria: Implication and options for national development. *Word Journal of Education Research*, 5(3), 227 – 239. http;//www.dx.doi.org/1022158/wjer.v5n3p227.