

MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN NATIONAL  
LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

BY

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MARCH, 2016

## **DECLARATION PAGE**

I hereby declare that this work is the product of my own research effort; undertaken under the supervision of Prof. Ghaji Abubakar Badawi and has not been presented and will not be presented elsewhere for the award of a degree or certificate.

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**CERTIFICATION**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study was conducted to investigate the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. The study aimed at finding out if the National Library of Nigeria has collection development policy; the types of information resources available and how they are managed. Qualitative research methodology using narrative-based design was adopted. The study population included the National Library of Nigeria headquarters, Abuja and its twenty-three branches. Interview was the main instrument for data collection. Face-to-face interview was employed with the aid of semi-structured interview schedules. Data collected was analyzed using thematic analysis presented in coding system. The study found that the processes involved in making information resources available in the National Library were through purchase, gifts, donation, exchange and legal deposit. Even though the legal deposit is one of the means of making information resources available in the library, most publishers are not aware of it. Regarding the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria, there are various management procedures (policy, creation, acquisition, organisation, preservation, etc) employed by the National Library of Nigeria to manage its information resources. In spite of all these management procedures the library is still faced with the challenges of preservation and conservation of information resources such as inadequate facilities, information resources are deteriorating, the books and serials are becoming acidic and no efforts are being made to deacidify them. Non-book resources like microforms, tapes, photographic negatives and slides have gone bad and there are no disaster detection facilities as a measure towards disaster control. Recommendations such as, there is the need to solve the challenges in the management circle of information resources, for example in the area of preservation and conservation among others if effective management of information resources for use is to be achieved in National Library of Nigeria; the government should make provision of adequate funds, as that will enhance the provision of sufficient, adequate and current information resources in various formats, the provision of more effective internet services, adequate facilities and organize programmes on the management of information resources, the provision of constant power supply, etc, were made, which required the National Libraries of Nigeria to address the issues on management of information resources procedures. Suggestion was given for further research areas.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

The Library is a social institution established to collect, organize, preserve resources and disseminate them to people for whom it is established in a place conducive enough for the use of the resources. Aguolu and Aguolu, (2002) have rightly observed that libraries are social institutions, created to conserve knowledge; preserve the cultural heritage; provide information; and to serve as fountain of recreation; undergird and underpin education and research. In support of this opinion, Ajidahum (2004) declared that “the mission statement of any library is the provision of excellent information service to its users”

Libraries are broadly categorised into different types based on the target audience, and these are academic libraries, school libraries, special libraries, public libraries and national libraries. A National Library serves as a nation’s or a country’s repository of information. It is the apex library of a country. In his contribution, Whittaker (2010) opined that “National Libraries are larger libraries that attempt to stock all literature of their own country and some foreign resources as well. These vast resources are important for research purposes, because they keep older resources as part of their policy of preserving document of a nation; they are particularly valuable to scholars”.

The National Library of Nigeria was established by the National Library Act of 1964 which was abolished by decree No 29 of 1970. It is charged with the responsibility of providing library services to the public as it has been by National Libraries of the highest standing in the world, its intellectual storehouse and databank of its learning and remembering processes” as well as to hold a collection of information and knowledge media in all formats available (Ekoja and Gbaje, 2012). Decree No. 29 of 1970 confers on the National Library of Nigeria the responsibility to establish and maintain a branch of the National Library of Nigeria in each state. Section 4(1) of Decree No. 29 of 1970 confers on the National Library of Nigeria as the depository obligation of the nation. This implies that resources published in Nigeria such as periodicals, pamphlets, maps, newspapers, films recordings etc must be received in the National Library of Nigeria to make available for immediate use. The Legal deposit law therefore prescribes the number of copies of publications which within one month after the publication shall be delivered at the publishers expense to the National Library of Nigeria. Private publishers are to deposit three (3) copies each of their publications

for permanent preservation. Federal Government and its agencies are to deposit twenty five (25) copies of their publications and the State Government and its agencies are to deposit ten (10) copies of their publications.

There are currently seven (7) Departments of the National Library of Nigeria. The National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN) (2008) supplementary edition outlined the library and information services carried out by the National Library of Nigeria by its five (5) professional departments – Public Service Department (PSD), Collection Development and Processing Department (CDPD), National Bibliographic Control Department (NBCD), Research and Development Department (RDD) and the Virtual Library Services Department (VLSD) to include provision of reference and document delivery service, acquiring resources through subscription/purchase, promotion of research in the field of information, provision of bibliographic services to the nation and transforming knowledge into digital content for all levels of education in Nigeria. The other two (2) Departments are the Administration and Finance and Supplies.

Paramaguru (2009) stated that the major objectives for establishing the National Library of Nigeria is to collect, preserve, and conserve the nation's book production for posterity. Also, according to him other objectives are: the provision of necessary support for intellectual efforts in all activities directed, ensuring the availability of comprehensive and near complete a collection of information resources, ensuring of a free flow of knowledge between this nation and others, and thereby securing a place for the nation in the community of nations that depend on recorded knowledge and information for survival in a world of rapid advancement and occupation of idea.

However, the existence of National Library has significance to the community of users it serves. Daniel (2003) stresses the importance of National Library to humanity. He maintained that, while formal education is given more importance than the informal one, the fact remains that the education of an individual starts, in the real sense, after the formal education is over; that education is a self-long process; and, that the libraries are the proper agencies that can provide requisite reading resources for proper education. The contribution of Library and Information services to knowledge society is of utmost importance. According to Aina (2004) the National library of Nigeria serves the following functions:

1. Depository of all copyright publications within the country.

2. It serves as the centre for national bibliography, translation, lending and document delivery, referral, coordinating library co-operation and resource sharing.
3. Produces union catalogues and directories of libraries in the country.
4. Responsible for assigning the international standard book number (ISBN) and the international standard serial number (ISSN) to publishers and authors in the country.
5. Provides cataloguing-in-publication (CIP) data to authors and publishers.
6. Is expected to provide leadership role, advice government on library development and policy as well as support major researches and development programmes in librarianship in the country.

According to Okoli (2007), the National Library of Nigeria has collection of information resources acquired through the means of legal deposit. Also, he added that information resources found in the National Library of Nigeria such as books (Nigeriana collections); Foreign (monographs), reference resources such as encyclopedias, yearbooks, bibliographies, journals, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, bulletins or newsletters or audio visual formats such as audio and video recordings, visuals, microfilms, computers, audio cassettes and tapes are made available to enable the library to fulfil its mandates and objectives in meeting the information needs of the users in the society.

Management is a process or series of continuing and related activities. It involves and concentrates on reaching organizational goals and it reaches these goals by working with and through people and other organizational resources (Ifidon, 2008). Management of information resources in the library simply means the processes taken to make available information resources for use by the library users. Management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria involves the following procedures such as; policy, collection, organisation, preservation and conservation (maintenance), accessibility and use (Arienne, 2005). National Library of Nigeria is meant to serve the needs of the entire citizens of the country with information resources it holds. The library resources if not well organized could hinder effective utilization. Similarly Ifidon (2007) stated that, information resources are the wealth that the library possesses. They are referred to as intellectual holdings of the library so; information resources are the basis for the existence of the National Library of Nigeria. The information resources have a lot of potentials in them as indispensable library resources used in rendering library services to the users. They educate, inform and entertain as well as equip the users. This also gives users the springboard to contribute effectively to the society.

The National Library of Nigeria provides the following services: current awareness services through indexing and abstracting of the current topical issues for national development. The National Library of Nigeria also prepares subpoenas in connection with legal deposit resources in terms of litigation. Subpoena simply means legal order demanding evidences to be submitted in court (Kent, 2009). National Library of Nigeria also provides user education, that is educating the users on how to use library resources; National Library of Nigeria also renders Internet services or electronic services such as electronic –mail (e-mail) services. The provision of library services in National Library of Nigeria is determined by the users’ needs for information which in turn influences management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria (Mohammed, 2009).

However, Nweke (2005) stressed that one of the objectives of the National Library of Nigeria is to collect and make available for use information resources produced in this country or in other countries of the world about the country, Nigeria. In order to put the information resources in the best condition for use, they must be properly managed. This is lacking due to some internal or external factors that pose as a challenge to the entire management processes which were indicated in the theoretical framework to include: policy, creation, acquisition, organization, preservation accessibility and use.

Mohammed (2006) stated that the National Library of Nigeria has a lot of challenges in the field of management of information resources. This is due to the management problem of information resources encountered which includes inadequate facilities, information resources are deteriorating, the books and serials are becoming acidic and no efforts are being made to deacidify them. Non-book resources like microforms, tapes, photographic negatives and slides have gone bad and there are no disaster detection facilities as a measure towards disaster control. It is against this background therefore, that this study is considered desirable to investigate the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria. For this reason, qualitative research methodology would be employed, adapting The Life-cycle of Information Model to investigate the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

A National Library is a library specially established by the government of a country to serve as the preeminent repository of information for that country. In his contribution, Whittaker (2010) opined that “National Libraries are larger libraries that attempt to stock all literature of

their own country and some foreign resources as well. However, some of the major objectives of the National Library of Nigeria include; the provision of necessary support for intellectual efforts in all activities directed, to collect, preserve and conserve the nation's book production for posterity, etc. Also, some of its pertinent significance in research and national building include; promotion of research activities, promotion of education development, among others.

However, the focus of this study is management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria. Management is a process or series of continuing and related activities. It involves and concentrates on reaching organizational goals and it reaches these goals by working with and through people and other organizational resources (Ifidon, 2008). Management of information resources in the library simply means the process taken to make available information resources for use by the library users. Management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria involves the following procedures such as; policy, collection, organization, preservation and conservation (maintenance), and accessibility (Arienne, 2005). The National library of Nigeria is meant to serve the needs of the entire citizens of the country with the information resources it holds. Despite the importance of National Library of Nigeria in research and national development, evidences in literature pointed to poor management of information resources in National Library. Whittaker (2010) identified the following:

- a) Inadequate funds which had affected staffing, accommodation, expansion and the execution of such operations as creation, organization, preservation and conservation as well as library services.
- b) Poor training opportunities for resources managers.
- c) Lack of adequate infrastructure and modern information technology for library management, etc.

There is, therefore, a need for a study such as this, which focuses on identifying the information resources management problem of the National Library of Nigeria with a view of proposing some recommendations that may be valuable in assisting the National Library of Nigeria to manage its stocks of information resources properly and in accordance with the information needs of this and any other nation in the globe may want to use its information resources. It is on the foregoing that this research work was conceived in order to find out the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The study seeks to find out:

1. What types of information resources are available in the National Library of Nigeria?
2. What processes are involved in making information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria?
3. What type of policy guides the resources development process in National Library of Nigeria?
4. To what extent is the resources development policy abided by in the process of building collections for the Library under study?
5. How are the information resources of the National Library of Nigeria managed in terms of:
  - (a) Organization of the information resources
  - (b) Creating accessibility to the information resources
  - (c) General maintenance of the information resources
6. What are the factors militating against the management of the information resources in the National Library of Nigeria

### **1.4 Research Objectives**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the types of information resources available in National Library of Nigeria.
2. To find out the processes involved in making information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria.
3. To find out the type of policy that guides the resources development process in National Library of Nigeria.
4. To examine the extent to which the resources development policy is being abided by in the process of building collections for the library under study.
5. To determine how information resources of National Library of Nigeria are being managed in terms of:
  - (a) Organization of information resources

- (b) Creating accessibility to information resources
  - (c) General maintenance of information resources
6. To examine the factors militating against the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study will be that it reveals the strength and weakness in the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. It will also indicate the areas where proper adjustment may be made. The recommendations will serve as an eye opener to the staff of the National Library of Nigeria as they will reveal how information resources are managed effectively and efficiently in order to avoid the deterioration of information resources in their library. Deposition of information resources to the National Library of Nigeria is very important as it is stipulated that copies of every publication by authors, publishers and printers should be submitted to the National Library of Nigeria. The awareness of this will add to the existing body of knowledge.

Furthermore, the findings of the study are expected to be of benefit to the management and staff of the National Library of Nigeria, students, policy makers, authors, lawyers, civil servants, publishers, lecturers and students of Library and Information Science. It will also serve as a springboard to other researchers.

Finally the findings of this study will reveal the hindrances and remedies on the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria and may perhaps make the directors and heads of branches adopt procedures for effective management of information resources.

### **1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

The focus of this study was the National Library of Nigeria and its six (6) branches across the six (6) geo-political zones of Nigeria. The study examined the Management of Information Resources in National Library of Nigeria. The study respondents were the directors of the National Library of Nigeria Headquarters and the heads of branches in the National Library of Nigeria. Therefore, state libraries across the country were excluded from this study as well as other categories of staff in the National Library of Nigeria, for instance, administrative officers, accountants, and statisticians were excluded.

However, the limitation of the study was lack of staff co-operation, especially with regard to assistance in searching through the deteriorated information resources in some branch Libraries. The reason was that the deteriorated information resources were so dusty. Therefore, the staff were being persuaded and motivated to assist in the process for the purpose of this research work.

### **1.7 Operational Definition of Research Terms**

**Heads of Branch Libraries:** These are the National Library personnel heading the state branches in the country, Nigeria.

**Information Resources Management:** The process of efficiently and effectively identifying, acquiring, integrating and applying information resources to meet current and future information requirements.

**Information Resources:** Any organisation, facility, or individual willing and able to give authoritative responses to scientific or technical inquiries out of an existing store of knowledge or expertise.

**Legal Deposit:** Is the requirement, enforceable by law, to deposit with a specified institution a specific number of copies of publications produced within the limits of the jurisdiction and is applicable to all forms and media of publications.

**Library Board:** This is the supervisory body of the National Library issuing policies to the staff and management team.

**Library Directors:** These are the National Library personnel heading Departments in the National Library of Nigeria Headquarters, Abuja.

**Library Management:** Is the act of successfully running the operational affairs of the library by the librarian based on the people (library staff and library clientele); information (bibliographic and media resources); physical facilities (building, furniture and equipment); and finance.

**Library Resources:** Library resources are those information resources which are in two forms; printed and non-printed resources. In other words, library resources refer to the reading rooms, books, periodicals, pamphlets, reports, non-book resources, and other documents in print form or microfilm, audio-visual resources, etc.

**Library:** Library is a social institution established to collect, organize, preserve information resources and disseminate them to people for whom the library is established in a place conducive enough for the use of the information resources.

**Management:** Is an act or process of forecasting, planning, organising, controlling, commanding and coordinating. Also, management is a process by which organisations ensure that their objectives are achieved by the proper planning, organisation and controlling of their resources – human and materials.

**National Library:** These are the kinds of libraries which irrespective of their title are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a deposit library either by law or under some arrangement.

**Resources Management:** Is the process of employing management procedures such as policy, creation, acquisition, organisation, preservation and conservation, accessibility and use for the satisfaction information needs of the users.

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## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

The management of information resources in national libraries has attracted a lot of attention of writers, and commentators in form of literature such as journals, reports, theses, books and articles, etc. Such literature highlights major areas of concurrences, disagreements and even controversies. Therefore, the review is presented in logical sub-headings thus:

2.2 Historical development of the National Library of Nigeria.

2.3 Concept and significance of information resources management.

2.4 Types of information resources available and accessible in the National Library of Nigeria.

2.5 Procedures for managing the information resources in the National Library of Nigeria

2.6 Challenges associated with the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria

2.7 Theoretical / Conceptual Framework

2.8 Summary of the review / Uniqueness of the Study

#### **2.2 Historical Development of the National Library of Nigeria**

Most governments of the world maintain National Libraries to serve the needs of elected officials and the staff members. Usually these libraries are open to the general public as well. In addition, most governments maintain national libraries and museums which collect and maintain artifacts and historical records that include government documents of enduring values. The first instance of a library being referred to as national is that of France, the Bibliotheque Nationale. Ezema (2009) stated that the origin of legal deposit system dates back to 1537 when Francois 1 of France issued The “Ordinance de Montpellier”. This Royal Decree forbids the sale of any book without first having deposited a copy in the library of his castle. Many of the apex libraries of the world usually referred to as the national library of such a country did not originally assume that status. In fact, some still retained their original names.

In the United States, Canada, Australia and most other countries, authors are required to submit copies of their published work to the national libraries in order to receive copyright protection for that work. Most national libraries also create national bibliographies which list information about every publication in their countries (John, 2009). Some of the largest and prestigious National Libraries in the world include Library of Congress in Washington, D.C; the Bibliotheque Nationale de France in Paris; the British Libraries in the outskirts of London and the Russian State libraries in Moscow. By functioning as legal copyright depositories, national libraries collect and preserve their Country's cultural heritage.

From the perspective of a conceptual clarification of a National Library, the UNESCO's definition is worth noting. It states that: "Libraries which irrespective of their title are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a deposit library either by law or under other arrangements". Ayo (2005) stated that national library is that kind of library established to collect, document, disseminate and preserve both local and selected international knowledge regardless of the format in which the resources are packaged. In addition to that, the National Library of Nigeria is mandated to provide necessary support for intellectual efforts in all activities directed towards progress and development of library functions, technicalities and management.

National Library has been defined by many scholars as the national bibliographic agency and such Library aiming at building a world- class National Library information resources that will enable it to serve its citizens. According to Odhigba (2006) and Oshile (2006), the National Library of Nigeria is the country's national bibliographic agency responsible for national bibliographic control in the universal bibliographic control network aimed at achieving universal availability of publications. Okentunji (2006) opined that the National Library of Nigeria is that kind of library dedicated to building world-class national information resources thereby enabling its citizens to know their country and themselves through their published heritage and to providing an effective gateway to national and international sources of information. National libraries are regarded as the apex libraries in a country. Uwaifo (2010) acknowledged that national libraries are established and maintained by the national government of countries. They serve as the preeminent repository of information for that country. Unlike public libraries, these rarely allow citizens to borrow books. Often, they include numerous, rare, valuable or significant works. According to Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Library Statistics by United

Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO (2006), national libraries are:

Responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a legal 'deposit' library, either by law or under other arrangements. They will also normally perform some of the following functions: produce a national bibliography; hold and keep up to date a large and representative collection of foreign literature including books about the country; act as a national bibliographical centre; compile union catalogues; publish the retrospective national bibliography. Libraries which may be called 'national' but whose functions do not correspond to the above definition should not be placed in the National Libraries category. (p5).

This type of library exists in different parts of the world. In the United States of America (USA), it is called Library of Congress. This is regarded as the nation's oldest federal cultural institution (Matthew, 2009). Other countries like New Zealand, Britain, South Africa, etc also have their national libraries. They mostly serve the same purpose in these countries and all over the world. In Jamaica, the national library is concerned primarily with the collection and preservation, organization and provision of access to all publications relating to Jamaica. It does not lend, nor register people (Oke, 2008). They are therefore regarded as depository libraries for these countries. They are established by the act of parliament. In Nigeria, it is called National Library of Nigeria.

The National Library serves heterogeneous kinds of patrons unlike other types of libraries that serve more or less specialized clientele communities. National library, according to Edeka (2000), "is the library of libraries, a focal point for overall and information services in the country. A National library is usually the country's apex library. It is the library established by national government to perform certain specialized functions. National libraries are regarded as reference libraries because their stocks or collections are usually not meant for circulation outside the library. In the words of Oduagwu (2006) national library is described as "the central book museum of a country." It is responsible for collecting and conserving the whole of that country's book production for the benefit of future generations. As such the significance of the national library cannot be overemphasized because national libraries are well known libraries with enormous significance.

Matthew (2009) and Okeagu (2009) mentioned the significance of National Library to be providing access to information resources, working in partnership with stakeholders,

structuring knowledge, imparting skills, preserving heritage and inspiring trust which are all crucial for the knowledge economy. This is true because sustainable development implies the kind of development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Similarly, White (2000) while examining the importance of national library in national and individual development concluded that, the libraries exist to amass and organize the work done by best minds regardless of when and where significant contributions originate. The library aids high-grade manpower in keeping up to date and performing at the peak of efficiency. The Library supports the intellectual freedom. Free reading nurtures the genius of the nation. This is a very undeniable and infallible truth. Without the existence of libraries in national and individual development, the system is bound to fail and collapse. This can be so risky because the possibility of the system excelling and meeting up its goals will be absolutely zero.

In the same vein, the importance of national libraries cannot be overemphasized in the areas of research, educational development, etc, as asserted by Oke (2008) that, “The importance of National Library in the areas of research, assignments, upgrading one’s value, personal studies, gaining more knowledge, preparing for paper presentations, educational development and so on, is inevitable and indispensable”. This is as a result of the fact that the needed and useful information is found embedded in the pages of book resources and in the non-book resources of the library. Also, National Library is very essential for its recreational capability. Many library users go to the library to have leisure of some kind for themselves such like watching magnificent documentaries, discoveries, play some splendid games, reading interesting novels and periodicals (newspapers, magazines, etc).

Incidentally, the long list of National Library importance is inexhaustible. Many underdeveloped nations most especially African countries fail to develop not because they lack potentials for development and growth, but because of the fact that they have not recognized and welcomed the irrefutable vital roles library has to play in all facets of life. Reverse is the case in the developed nations because they have taken cognizance of information stored in the repository, the library for their development.

The quest for a national library in Nigeria dated back to the 1940s. It was not until 1964 that one was legally established in Lagos. Dr. Azikiwe’s perception of a national library in the 1950s and 1960s chimed in with that of his contemporary pan-Africanist, Dr. Kwame

Nkrumah of Ghana, who in 1961, on the opening of the George Padmore Research Library, declared:

A good national library is at once the repository of a nation's culture and wisdom and an intellectual stimulant. In this library, there shall be no national frontiers, for here shall be stored the cumulative experience, the collective wisdom and knowledge about the entire continent of Africa, and the assessment, revaluations and studies of observers from all over the world.

Azikiwe understood the value of such a library as a depository of cultural heritage, and as a research centre where authentic studies on Africa could be conducted. Unfortunately, some Nigerian nationalists, like the colonial administrators, thought of a national library largely as a magnificent, monumental edifice, with the best architectural design, involving an enormous financial outlay. Azikiwe also perceived the National Library as a living agency of progress, intellectual enrichment, and public enlightenment, not as a repository of artifacts or archival documents of the past.

The 1953 UNESCO Seminar on the Development of the Public Libraries in Africa, held in Ibadan, not only encouraged Azikiwe to press for a national library for Nigeria, but also helped to crystallize the national library concept on Africa. Before the seminar was held in Nigeria, the Nigerian Council of Ministers – Nigeria's first representative government - had rejected the National Library concept, contending that all library matters should be relegated to the regional governments, and to local and private organizations. The council was unable to see that while the regional governments would cater for the public libraries, it was the responsibility of the central government to establish a National Library for the country.

To be fair to the council / government, it had purchased the Henry Carr Library in 1946, probably to serve as the nucleus for the National Library. Dr. Can, a renowned educationist and the earliest and best-known Nigerian book collector, was the first African Commissioner for the Lagos Colony, and Chief Inspector of Schools in the Southern Provinces of Nigeria. His collection, numbering 18,000 volumes, covering the humanities and social sciences, was the largest private library ever assembled by any West African. When Ibadan University College opened in 1948, its Principal, Kenneth Mellanby, persuaded the colonial government to deposit the collection, unused for two years and faced the grim physical deterioration, with the University College Library on loan and it has remained there ever since. An opportunity of establishing a National Library appeared then to have been lost.

The National Library concept originated in the early 1960s, when Dr. Azikiwe was the first indigenous Governor – General in 1960 and later, the first President of Nigeria, when it achieved republican status in 1963. He helped to ensure that a feasibility study was conducted on the National Library by Dr. Rogers, Director of the U.S National Library of Medicine, sponsored by the Ford Foundation of America in 1961. On the attainment of Nigerian independence in 1960, the perception of the National Library by the Council of Ministers, which rejected the participation of the central government in any library matter in 1952, had taken a nationalist turn. The Council, along with the Nigeria Branch of the West African Library Association, established in 1954, quickly accepted the Rogers Report, recommending the establishment of a National Library.

At the request of the Nigerian government, the Ford Foundation sent Professor Carl White, former Dean of the School of Library Science, Columbia University, to serve as Library Advisor to the Nigerian government on setting up the National Library of Nigeria. On his arrival in Nigeria in March 1962, Dr White was shocked to learn that there was no budgetary provision for the newly proposed library in the first post- independence National Development Plan, 1962-1968.

The immediate personal intervention of the Governor-General, Dr Azikiwe, and the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar saved the day. They asked Professor White to prepare a special report on his financial needs, and on the objectives, scope and structure of the library. His report, known as the “May 1962 Report,” was accepted by the government without delay. By the end of 1962, work on the National Library had begun in Lagos, with three American librarians and Professor White, as the Federal Government’s Library Adviser. The National Library Act drafted by the Adviser, was enacted in 1964. This set the library on a legal footing, and on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1964, the National Library was opened to the public by an Act of parliament in 1964, which was abolished by Decree No.29 of 1970. It is the Nation’s apex library charged with the responsibility of providing library services to the public, such as it is being provided by National Libraries of the highest standing in the world. It is a non-profit, but service oriented institution. Its operations are within the frame work of the Federal Public Service.

The National Library Handout (2009) maintained that at the instance of the Nigerian Division of West African Library Association (WALA), which later became the Nigerian Library Association in 1962, a Library Advisory Committee was established in the late 50s. This Committee had the assignment of working out plans for library services in the country, and

persuade the Government to agree to set up a National Library. On the attainment of independence, the Nigerian Government embraced the idea of a National Library as proposed by the Association. The Ford Foundation of America stepped into the matter and agreed not to finance but provide the necessary expertise for feasibility study and produce a report for that purpose. The expert who handled this exercise was Dr Frank B Roger, then Director of the National Library of Medicine, U.S.A. The survey recommended a National Library of Nigeria, thus backing up the recommendation of the Library Advisory Committee.

It was corroborated by Ojo-Igbinoba (2000) that Dr Rogers' report was fully accepted by the Federal Government and swift moves were made for its implementation. The Ford Foundation came forward once again to assist with necessary technical personnel for the groundwork of setting up the library. The person they appointed was a distinguished School Librarian, Dr. Carl M. White, who came to Nigeria in February, 1962 to support him. The Ford Foundation recruited a number of other technical personnel, all from America. The Federal Government on its own part did not fail to provide the support staff that was completely indigenous. And as soon as accommodation was obtained, the first Nigerian Librarians were recruited. Within two years, Dr. White had set up a basic collection for a growing library, laid down schedules of duties for foundation staff and succeeded, among other things, in getting the government to pass the first legislation which was enacted in September 1964, and cited as the National Library Act 1964. Thus the Ford Foundation had been a very great influence in the creation and establishment of the National Library of Nigeria. Indeed, this partnership between the Federal Government and the foundation spanned over a period of nine years from 1962-1971. Three advisers were sent by the Foundation to Nigeria during this period. They were: Dr. Carl White 1962-1964, Miss Priscilla Taylor (later Mrs. Harris), 1964-1966 and Mr. Phillip Rappaport 1966-1971.

The enactment of the National Library Act 1964, by the first Republic legislature gave the National Library of Nigeria its legal personality. It thus marked the crystallization of the idea to establish the institution. This Act was later examined by the first National Library Board which was constituted in 1966, and substantial amendment and modifications were proposed. The consequence was that the Act was repealed and substituted with the National Library Decree No. 29 of 1970. This is the law by which the institution is now governed, although there had been amendments in minor areas in 1976, 1979 and 1987.

The singular and primary objective for establishing the National Library of Nigeria is to collect, preserve, and conserve the nation's book production for posterity. All the functions and activities of the National Library are aimed at achieving this lofty objective.

Other objectives are:

1. The provision of necessary support for intellectual efforts in all activities directed.
2. Ensuring the availability of comprehensive and near complete a collection of resources as possible, of materials and knowledge in existence in the world and outside the nation's boundaries
3. Ensuring a free flow of knowledge between this nation and others, and thereby securing a place for the nation in the community of nations that depend on recorded knowledge and information for survival in a world of rapid advancement and occupation of idea.

The function of the National Library is to provide necessary support for intellectual efforts, in all activities directed towards programmes and development, ensuring the availability of a comprehensive collection of the resources, and guaranteeing full access to such treasury both within and outside the nation's boundaries and generating free flow of information between the nation and others, thereby ensuring Nigeria's participation in the community of nations that depend on information for survival in a world of rapid advancement and competition of ideas (Apotiade, 2002).

The National Library concept that was nurtured in the 1940s crystallized with the establishment of the National Library in the 1960s. The promulgation of the National Library Decree, 1970 set the Library in the right direction toward fulfilling its assigned responsibilities, conceived within the framework of these broadly formulated objectives stated above.

There are currently seven (7) Departments of the National Library of Nigeria. The National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN) (2008) supplementary edition outlined the library and information services carried out by the National Library of Nigeria by its five (5) professional departments – Public Services Department (PSD), Collection Development and Processing Department (CDPD), National Bibliographic Control Department (NBCD), Research and Development Department (RDD) and the Virtual Library Services Department (VLSD) to include provision of reference and document delivery services, acquiring resources through

subscription/purchase, promotion of research in the field of information, provision of bibliographic services to the nation and transforming knowledge into digital content for all levels of education in Nigeria. The other two (2) Departments are the Administration and Finance and Supplies.

The National Library of Nigeria assembles, maintains and extends a collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers, maps, musical scores, films and recordings and such other matter as the Board considers appropriate for a library of the highest standing. Decree No. 29 of 1970 confers on the National Library of Nigeria the responsibility to establish and maintain a branch of the National Library of Nigeria in each state. Section 4(1) of Decree No. 29 of 1970 confers on the National Library of Nigeria the depository obligation of the nation. This implies that all the resources published in Nigeria such as periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers; films recordings etc must be received in the National Library of Nigeria to make available for immediate use. The legal deposit law therefore prescribes the number of copies of publications which within one month after the publication shall be delivered at his own expense to the National Library. Private publishers are to deposit three (3) copies each of their publications for permanent preservation. Federal Government and its agencies are to deposit twenty-five (25) copies of their publications and the State Government and its agencies are to deposit (10) copies of publications.

Nwalo (2000) believed that the task of the National Library of Nigeria is to ensure that all that engaged in political, economical, scientific, educational, social or cultural activities receive the necessary information to enable them to render their fullest contribution to the whole community. The reservation role of the National Library of Nigeria is very important because it ensures that all achievement of today's society, by way of publications is made known to the future generation. For the National Library of Nigeria to effectively serve as the memory of the nation, the government usually enacts a law giving legal backing to its functions.

The National Library of Nigeria, as an agency to conserve the cultural heritage and to extend bibliographic and information resources to the whole nation, is to perform numerous vital functions. Ode and Omokaro (2007) revealed that the roles of the National Library of Nigeria, as an agency to conserve the cultural heritage of the nation are as follows:

1. Collecting and preserving the nation's literature for posterity
2. Collecting foreign literature for research and teaching

3. Maintaining a collection of manuscripts and rare books bearing on the nation's heritage
4. Indexing the nation's literature and publishing national bibliography
5. Keeping a national central catalogue
6. Providing advisory services to other libraries
7. Coordinating the acquisition policy and co-operation among libraries
8. Issuance of ISBN, ISSN and ISMN and Deposit law based on the National Library Decree of 1970 on deposit rights laws. Every publisher in any country must deposit three copies of their new publications with the National Library and obtain ISBN, ISSN and ISMN.

Apotiade (2002) affirms that as an organ for cultural promotion the National Library of Nigeria acquires and preserves for use a variety of resources on the local culture and traditional resources on religious, cultural, historical, local crafts, poetry and other literary works. In addition, the library records on tape and video, local dances, folktale, idioms, and so on which are kept for storage and use. The ultimate purpose is to promote the culture of the people, and preserve them for generations yet unborn.

According to Anthony (2002), the library is aided financially by the federal government of Nigeria. Originally, the Ford Foundation was involved with the project. The foundation brought in professionals, donated books and funded the library's expansion. The library over the years has built on its original mission. Today, it is a vital organ that acts as the intellectual memory of the nation. The library provides the intellectual ammunition to aid government officials in policy implementation. However, the general direction of policy instability due to the military incursion to power sometimes created an imbalance between the intellectual memory of prior policies and the intellectual foundation of a new government. The library also stays afloat intellectually by receiving copies of books published in the country by both the government and private authorities. It is today one of the largest depositories of knowledge in the country. It also collects books on contemporary or new ideas from international organizations. Its responsibilities also include the issuance of the ISBN and ISSN to publishing organisations, a process which is today cumbersome in the absence of appropriate enabling technology at the regional offices.

Chris (2001) stated that, the library has failed to effectively expand to the 36 state capitals of the federation as designated by the library decree of 1970. According to him there are only 23 state branches of national libraries of Nigeria and National Library of Nigeria headquarters in

operation, and they are located in: Abia, Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Edo, Enugu, F.C.T, Gombe, Imo, Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Lagos, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba and Abuja. In concert with the lack of facilities in the state capitals, a lack of adequate social amenities for the library staff in some state capitals is another obstacle to the library's development. There is also a lack of sufficient professional librarians; the library failed to effectively protect itself by training students in library science. The lack of adequate amenities provided by the library also does not help in recruitment. There are also insufficient storage devices for audio or visual collections.

However, the National Library of Nigeria holds in its stock quite a number of information resources and these library information resources need to be properly managed. Information resources management is very essential in order to meet up with the expectation of the National Library of Nigeria.

### **2.3 Concept and Significance of Information Resources Management**

Resources are the information items acquired, processed and made available in the libraries for the users. They enable the libraries to fulfil the goal of meeting the information needs of the users. It is the duty of the librarians to ensure that good and relevant information resources are selected and acquired for the library. Ifidon (2007) asserted that beautiful buildings, well trained staff and modern storage and retrieval systems cannot make a library without information resources. Aina (2007) asserted that information resources is information and related resources such as personnel, equipment and information technology. He further stated that, it involves library resources which include the calibre of staff and their information handling skills, adequate finance, resources and availability of equipment for information acquisition, processing, storage and dissemination.

A resource is something that can be used to help achieve an aim, especially a book, etc that is capable of providing information; such items must be capable of being stored and retrieved. Resources are necessary documents needed in the smooth running of any organisation or institution and many countries are making conscious efforts to provide improved facilities for the care of resources in form of resource centres, e.t.c. Harold (2000) gave an elaborate definition of information resources as, "All information resources setting out facts or events, irrespective of media, characteristics of origin, which is maintained by an institution or organisation in transactions of its normal business or pursuance of its obligations." Harold's

definition seems to be all encompassing, and the library as an organisation cannot but develop a culture of maintaining information resources in whatever form which will serve as reference tools in helping the library fulfil its obligation for effective management of library problems.

The information resources from which we secure and access any type of information are grouped into print and non-print resources. The print information resources are those resources with characters which are produced by mechanical or electronic means. They are texts or documents in hard copies which are acquired, processed and made available in the library to meet the information needs of the users. They include monographs, (books) both reference and non-reference resources, serial publications such as newspapers, magazines, journals, etc. The non-print information resources are records of human knowledge or ideas that are not in print format but in electronic formats which are referred to as e-resources that include the e-journals, e-books, e-serials, audio-visual, CDs, microfilms, microfiche, microforms, database, CD-ROMS, Internet and so on. They require the use of specialized or information and communication technology (ICT) equipment to access their intellectual content (Mohammed, 2009). In order to achieve the purpose for which information resources are meant, there is the need for proper management of information resources.

Information Resources Management (IRM) is one of the major factors that affect information management. For effective interaction between the information seekers and information resources, information resources management should be accorded paramount important place in the scheme of information transfer. McClure (2011) stated that “the overall purpose of information resources management is to determine how information resources can be harnessed more effectively and efficiently to meet the decision making and problem solving it of today’s professionals”. Also, Savic (2004) quoting White (1982) expressed the same view concerning Information Resources Management as: “The process of efficiently and effectively identifying, acquiring, integrating and applying information resources to meet current and future information requirements”.

However, information resources management also can be seen as the administrative system which concerns itself with the control of resources and information from their creation to their ultimate use. Resources management aims at accurate and complete documentation of the policies and transactions of an organisation, and at controlling and simplifying resources systems, and at the judicious preservation and use of resources. It can be regarded as an art of

application of systematic creation through collection, organization, preservation / conservation, accessibility and use. As explained by Unuigbe (2000), “resources management is the area that deals with full range of work from the creation of new library resources to the moment when it is made available for use. Therefore, resources management is the spinal cord of all organization without which management will be stifled in achieving the corporate objectives of the library. To Russell (2001) observed that “resources management is a potent instrument for cost control.” It controls the quantity and quality, and cost of resources and encompasses the procedures, systems, operations, space equipment and staff required to administer the resources.

The value of resources depends on the degree to which they are kept in order and taken care of through proper management. Jirgi (2007) stated that “when a man’s knowledge is not in order the more of it he has, the greater will be his confusion of thought.” Therefore, resources management cannot be achieved without properly organising the resources in orderly manner. Akinfemiwa (2003) stated that “mere quantity of resources without order would be as no resources at all.” Oke (2008) is of the same view with Akinfemiwa when he summed it up by stating that “putting information resources in properly manner will assist to achieve the purpose they are meant for.” Therefore, library resources need to be properly managed for efficient and effective use.

In addition, resources management could be regarded as the application of systematic analysis and scientific control to resources from their creation through organising, reservation and conservation, accessibility and final use. Popoola (2003) defined resources management as the discipline of information which arises internally within the library as a result of its activities. In the same vein, Pothas and Powell (2006) have posited that, proper resources management to a long way is enhancing effective administration of any organization. However, the availability of information resources for use by the users to satisfy their information needs, according to Popoola (2003), depends on the way resources have been physically and intellectually organized.

Nonetheless, despite the indispensable value of resources and gargantuan amount of money spent on its creation and maintenance, proper management of resources that will lead to economy and efficiency in their creation, organisation, etc, as well as use are seldom considered top priority in the National Library of Nigeria (Popoola, 2003). Adding on to this view, Akinfemiwa (2003) and Oke (2008) argued that, in spite of the invaluable role

information resources play in the administration of National Library of Nigeria; information resources librarians often exhibit misconceptions and indifference to the management of resources. By so doing, this often leads to significant waste of time, human efforts, resources, space and money that would surprise one if they were to realize its magnitude and implications. As such, it becomes imperative for National Library of Nigeria to embark on effective and efficient management of information resources.

#### **2.4 Types of Information Resources available and Accessible in National Library of Nigeria**

Information resources apply to all types of printed resources (books, serials, pamphlets, maps, etc.) to most audio-visual resources (discs, films, videos, multimedia kits, etc.), to broadcast resources and to electronic publications (diskettes, CD-ROMs, on-line resources, etc.

Agbaje (2002) described serials as sources of information (printed or electronic) that are produced at regular intervals. They include newspapers, minutes of meetings, newsletters, bulletins, government publications, magazines, journals, radio and television programmes, tapes, CDs, video tapes (printed or electronic) and other periodicals. These information resources occur in successive parts and are meant to be continued indefinitely. These range of resources form a bulk of resources of the National Library. They attract a lot of readership because they contain current information on national issues. In a survey carried out by Owen (2007), the findings show that information on Nigerian economic development, government and politics ranked high on the information needs of users of National Library of Nigeria on the use of resources. These resources are mainly serials publications. He identifies that newspapers and magazines constitute major information sources consulted by users. Similarly, Ajidahun (2006) in Owairu (2000) posited that most Nigerians today rely on libraries that offer free newspaper service to keep abreast of current information within and outside their immediate environment. The National Library of Nigeria is one of such libraries.

Another information carrier that forms a major constituent of the library resources is monograph. Monographs are resources that are treaties on one subject. Librarians consider a monograph to be a non-serial publication complete in one volume or a definite number of volumes. Thus, it differs from a serial publication such as magazines, journals or newspapers. It is normally intended to be a complete detailed exposition of a substantial subject at a level more advanced than that of a text book. A text book is a standard book which systematically

expresses the concept, principles, theories, methodologies, e.t.c of a particular field or subject. Consequently, Esharenana (2009) opined that textbooks are information resources which are mostly used by students and lecturers on curricula offerings of a university and other institution. They contain information on different aspects of subjects and are also used by different categories of people in different fields of life. However, a lot of these monographs are published by single authors who in turn deposit three copies to the National Library for preservation and use. A lot of students prefer these monographs in their research and study because they are written within Nigeria by Nigerians. Another type of information carrier in the National Library of Nigeria is the reference resources. These are information resources borne out of research to provide most current information and facts. Significantly, these information resources are mainly for consultations and not for general reading. They include dictionaries, both subject and general. They give meaning to the words' pronouncements, e.t.c. Encyclopaedia describes things or events in detail more than the dictionaries. They include both subject and general. Examples are Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, Encyclopaedia Britannica, e.t.c. They are useful for research purpose. Other types of reference resources include biographical sources, almanacs, handbooks, directories, bibliographies, geographical sources (e.g. Maps, atlases and gazetteers), etc.

According to Aina (2004), another important type of information resources are the government publications. Government publications are also part of the legal deposit collection in depository libraries by government ministries, parastatals, agencies and / or its authority. They can be in different formats like book, audiovisuals, atlases, reference sources and serial publications. He opined that government documents fall within three categories such as Legislation publications: These include bills, decrees constitutions, debates, parliamentary debates and all such as emanate from legislative body in Federal, State or Local government; Judicial publications: These are publications that originate from court processes examples include Law reports and Laws of the Federation; and Executive publication: These ones emanate from government ministries, agencies, presidency, and research institutes. They include gazetteers, directions, commission of enquiry, annual reports, press releases, technical reports, developmental plans etc.

Ezema and Okafor (2009) stated that government publications have an official, instructional, descriptive, or historical nature, and are issued by government departments. These documents or publications also attract a wide range of users including civil servants, researchers,

students, lawyers, government official, etc. The resource is more of archival in nature and is always used as reference point. The National Library of Nigeria is currently converting some of these documents into machine readable database that will reflect the nation's heritage.

Other constituents of the information resources are digital resources. These resources come in form of CD-ROM, and other electronic format. Esharenana (2009) asserted that there are numerous resources on the internet and World Wide Web with which users' information needs can be met. Resources such as e-journals, e-books, conference proceedings, preprint services, achieved scholarly articles e.t.c are increasingly being available on the net. The challenges before library and information science (LIS) Staff is to be aware of the numerous Web resources that are relevant to their users' needs, select, acquire, and integrate them into the services of the library.

The advocates of Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) believe that all types of resources should be available to all types of readers to be able to use them. Esharenana (2009) stated that in principle, all the types of information carriers that we have known till now can be transformed and made available in digital form. These resources are acquired in national libraries for permanent preservation, proper processing and dissemination to the public. The resources are mostly in indigenous and they emanate from authors and publishers within a geographical area (Edoka, 2000). Therefore, libraries and information centres acquire, organise and disseminate all available and relevant information resources in both print and non-print formats to enable their target clientele access and use the needed information to succeed in their respective endeavours. These Libraries and information services are carried out by the National Library personnel (staff) whose creativity and ingenuity is relevant for effective and efficient service delivery. The Librarians are veritable mediators between man and information resources that have been produced through generations. Majorly, the objective of the Librarians is to minimize the social use of these resources of human culture for the benefit of humanity. It is the basic responsibility of the Librarian to identify the needs of his users and to select, acquire and organise the information resources that would satisfy those needs (Aguolu, 2002).

Adio (2006) carried out a study on the procedure, profit and problems of the National legal deposit obligation. It delved into the operation of the system for a period of ten (10) years (1991-2000) in Oyo and Kwara States of Nigeria. Using the exploratory survey, the researcher employed the observation check list, interview and records examination in the

collection of data. The general aim of the study was to x-ray the legal deposit obligations in Nigeria while the specific objectives included establishment, regulations, compliance and use. Data was collected from fifty (50) randomly selected publishers, visiting of publishing houses and bookshops to identify publications and also examining existing records including the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN). Also the legal deposits librarians at the National Library of Nigeria were interviewed. Data were organized and analyzed using the frequency distribution and percentages. Findings reveal among other things that legal deposit laws are not efficient in Nigeria, that resources deposited are mainly books with the neglect of other resources, publishers were nonchalant in fulfilling depository obligations, public awareness of this law was poor and that the depository agency was poorly funded. Recommendations included the importance of working out in detail the procedure to be followed for safe and easy effecting of deposits with a system of supervision and inspection; an amendment of the legal deposit obligation to include a tribunal of a high court judge, a publisher, a librarian and author and one other legal professional, and finally, those legal deposit law should be made uniform for all States.

Adio's work above concerned itself mainly with the availability of legal deposit resources in Oyo and Kwara States of Nigeria. This is one of the variables in the present study. The area of study is different as the researcher concentrated on the Headquarter of the National Library of Nigeria and some of its branches. Similarly, Owen (2007) conducted a study on the Nigerian resources at the National Library of Nigeria: "Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials: The Situation in the National Library of Nigeria." According to the researcher the term 'Nigerian resources' refers to all resources collected by the National Library of Nigeria under the legal deposit obligations. The general aim of the study was to determine the information needs of users of the Nigerian resources at the National Library of Nigeria, the problems militating against its use and the various sources of information the users consulted. The main instrument for data collection was a questionnaire of six sections of (50) respondents. Major finding included that the users sought more resources on socio-economic and political development of Nigeria, that the Nigerian resources mostly consulted included newspapers, magazines, library catalogues, textbooks, journals, gazetteers, etc; the problems identified included lack of photocopying services, borrowing privileges, obsolete stock, and lack of knowledge of existence of an information sources. Recommendations included setting up reprographic services, granting borrowing privileges at short term

duration to serious researchers and users, while legal deposit resources that were not submitted should be bought by the National Library management.

Owen's work is related to the present study in that it studied the use of Nigerian resources (legal deposit resources) in the National Library of Nigeria. It is however different in scope as it was only limited to Yaba, Lagos branch while the present study is on the National Library of Nigeria Headquarters and some branches, and includes availability of legal deposit resources.

In another related study, Chisita (2010) carried out a research on the functions of current local legislation in ensuring compliance with legal deposit requirements in the context of electronic age: case study of Zimbabwe. The researcher made use of qualitative research design using the survey technique to collect data from research respondents. The respondents included archivists and librarians at the National Archives of Zimbabwe and a sample of publishers from Harare. It involved the use of questionnaire and interviews and other secondary sources. Findings included that there was no National Bibliography of Zimbabwe and the Act did not address contemporary issues in information storage and retrieval. Recommendations included the need to educate stakeholders on the operations and benefits of legal deposit compliance using fines as a last resort and that the Printed Publications Act of Zimbabwe should be reviewed to include electronic resources.

Penzhorn (2007) also conducted a research on "The Implementation, Monitoring and Management of Effective Legal Deposit System for South Africa," which was an empirical study for the award of Ph.D (Information Science). The aim of the study was to carry out a comparative study of South African legislation on legal deposit vis-a-vis the United Kingdom, Australia and Malaysia. It carried out empirical investigation in two stages: First, a survey of opinions, attitudes, actions of publishers and legal deposit libraries to determine how they affected successful implementation of legal deposit in South Africa. The second phase was a feasibility study to determine the state of compliance with legal deposit in the country.

In his contribution, Whittaker (2000) opined that:

"National Libraries are large libraries that attempt to stock all literature of their own country and some foreign resources as well. They are therefore important for research purposes, having resources as part of their policy of preserving

document of a nation; they are particularly valuable of scholars”.

While highlighting the resources of the Reader Services of the National Library, Bankole (2003) mentioned that the resources are grouped into four main categories in terms of form and source of origin. The four groups are Nigerian resources, foreign monographs, foreign serials resources and non-book media resources, which are detailed in the foregoing.

The Nigerian resources comprised Federal, State and Local Government Publications i.e. gazetteers, reports on various government activities and functions, reports of commissions of inquiries, boundary disputes, texts of government legislation and decrees, reports on the work of different organs of government i.e. ministries, parastatals, corporations, etc. The Nigerian resources also contain intellectual output of Nigerian authors and publications about Nigeria by foreign nationals. The Nigerian monographs cover all fields of knowledge like medicine, the sciences, literature, and law, including reports on research work on various subjects on or about Nigeria.

On the other hand, monographs and documents are also acquired by the National Library through purchase, gifts and exchanges. The resources contain valuable and intellectual publications of foreign governments such as the United Kingdom, Canada, United Nations and the O.A.U countries. The notable among them are the British House of Lords on Nigeria and the intelligent reports of the colonial period, publications on the United Nations and its specialised organs such as F.A.O, UNESCO, I.L.O, and W.H.O, reports of the General Assembly and of the Security Council and other foreign government publications, publications on English speaking countries like England, U.S.A, etc.

Similarly, the National Library acquires foreign serial resources into its collection. The foreign serials in the resources are enormous, covering different titles, which are acquired through subscriptions and gifts. In the same vein, inter-library loan is another means of acquiring resources into the library especially those information resources that are not available in a particular library. According to Bankole (2003) Libraries all over the world participate in Interlibrary Loan (ILL) in a cooperative effort to provide articles, books, and other resources to researchers, students, and others.

In line with the above, the National Library also acquires non-book media resources, which includes different types of non- book resources such as microforms, microfilms, tapes, cassettes, discs photographs, maps, slides, pictures, e.t.c. The maps are mainly topographical

maps with only a few administrative roads and geological maps. The microfilm resources include microfilms of parliamentary reports and of newspapers i.e, London Times, New York Times, e.t.c. The photographs in the collections are mainly those of important national personalities dating back to the colonial period.

Interestingly, the National Libraries act as libraries of the last resort. Meaning that they are the places where scholars can go and see resources that are not available anywhere else. Unfortunately, based on this study, the researcher has discovered that there is no Library in the world, including the National Libraries of Nigeria that are able to stock all the information resources in order to meet the information needs of their users and that is why there is the need for inter-library lending in the library operations. This means that for the National Library of Nigeria to be effectively and efficiently managed the needed information resources there is the need to properly engage itself in interlibrary loan exercise. This will go a long way to assist the library in making the needed information resources available for use by the library users.

Also, there is the need for the Staff of the National Library of Nigeria to be aware of the numerous Web resources that are relevant to their users' needs. For example, Esharenana (2009) asserted that there are numerous resources on the Internet and World Wide Web with which users' information needs can be met. Resources such as e-journals, e-books, conference proceedings, preprint services, scholarly articles e.t.c are increasingly being made available in the net. Therefore, the challenge before library staff is to be aware of the numerous Web resources that are relevant to their users' needs and select, acquire as well as integrate them into the services of the library. In light of the above, Aguolu (2002) was on the same view when he said that "It is the basic responsibility of the Librarian to identify the needs of his users and to select, acquire and organise the information resources that would satisfy those needs.

For the National Library of Nigeria to be able to meet up the information needs of the users there is the need for awareness of the numerous Web resources that are relevant to their users' needs which have to be properly managed and made available for use by the library users.

## **2.5 Procedures for Managing the Information Resources in National Library of Nigeria**

Management is the process of reaching organizational goals by working with and through people and other organizational resources. According to Ifidon (2008), management has the following three (3) characteristics: (1) It is a process or series of continuing and related activities, (2) It involves and concentrates on reaching organizational goals, (3) It reaches these goals by working with and through people and other organizational resources. In other words, management of information resources in the library simply means the processes taken to make available information resources for use by the library users. Therefore, management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria involves procedures as policy on information resources, creation/generation of information resources, collection/acquisition of information resources, organisation of information resources, preservation and conservation (maintenance) of information resources, accessibility of information resources and use of information resources.

### **Legal Deposit on National Library Resources**

Legal Deposit Act is a tool used as one of the procedures in the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. Legal deposit is the requirement, enforceable by law, to deposit with a specified institution a specific number of copies of publications produced within the limits of the jurisdiction and is applicable to all forms and media of publications (Lunn, 2003). In addition to legal depositories, official publications depositories (OPDs) were introduced in order to foster freedom of access to information and expression and democracy more widely (Mayes, 2007). Therefore, legal deposit is a privilege given to some libraries to collect, preserve, organize and disseminate information on all published resources within a geographical area. This geographical area could be state, region or nation. Libraries so designated are regarded as depository libraries. This means that the depository libraries are normally backed up by law. In Nigeria, for instance, the National Library Decree No 29 of 1970 section four (4) subsection (1) states that:

The publisher of every book published in Nigeria shall within one month after the publication deliver at his own expense to the National Library three (3) copies of the book, two (2) of which shall be kept in the National Library for permanent preservation and one of which shall be sent by the director to the Ibadan University Library.

This shows that it is the National Library that has the national statutory right to collect these publications. Arua (2007) explained that the National Library of Nigeria collects and preserves every resource published within the country for posterity through legal deposit law. Buttressing this, Edoka (2000) posited that some libraries are authorized by law to receive, free of charge from publishers or printers, specified number of copies of new publications or editions within the country. So therefore, resources received under this arrangement are known as legal deposit publications or resources. Aina (2004) also asserted that publishers, authors and all government agencies, and other corporate bodies in the country are by law mandated to deposit some copies of their publications with the National Library of Nigeria. Ode and Omokaro (2007) in the same vein stated that the National Library of Nigeria is responsible for collection, preserving and promoting the written and cultural heritage for all Nigerians.

Adewunmi (2008) outlined the functions of the National Library of Nigeria as follows:

1. To establish and maintain a National Library of Nigeria that will provide the service that is usually provided by National Libraries of the highest standing.
2. To maintain it in such a way that it will serve as the “giant memory” of the nation, its intellectual treasury and its learning and remembering process.
3. The National Library through the Legal Deposit provision of Decree No. 29 of 1970 became the nation’s depository for the entire publishing output in the country. The library is to acquire, assemble and preserve for the use of citizens, the intellectual output of the nation in all spheres of human endeavours. It is also a depository library for the United Nations and OAU publications.
4. The National Library also functions in form of dissemination and exploitation of knowledge for the achievement of national goals. This process is enhanced by the establishment of state branches.
5. As the National Bibliographic Centre, its international information network function is achieved through legal deposit collection; on storage, preservation and dissemination. The National Library of Nigeria therefore discharges the nation’s duty in the scheme of Universal Availability of Publications (UAP). This includes the annual publication of the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN) both in the print and electronic formats.

Sometimes international organizations like African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and United Nations Organisation (UNO) designate selected academic libraries as depository for their publications (Ifidon, 2007). The Nnamdi Azikwe Library, University of Nigeria, Nsukka is a depository to United Nations Publications and other resources, Usmanu Danfodiyo University Library is a depository for UNESCO publications, etc.

In submitting the legal deposit copies, the publishers have a specified number of copies required of him at his own expense. The number of copies differ from one country to another. In Nigeria, for instance, the legal depository law specifies the number of copies to be deposited with the National Library by the publishers. Personal authors are required to submit three (3) copies; corporate authors and state governments submit ten (10) copies while the Federal government and her agencies submit twenty five (25) copies. These resources form the bulk of resources that are in different forms and types. Similarly in other countries, specified number of copies is also required by law to be sent by the publishers to the designated depository libraries and this is also in line with international standards. The International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) in section 7.3.4.1 of her framework stipulated that the national library of the country, or any other national institution playing a similar role, should be the depository.

In practice, the legal deposit is a form of collection development option in the depository library. The National Library for instance acquires a lot of resources through legal deposit. Ode and Omokaro (2007) posited that this decree gives the National Library of Nigeria an exclusive mandate to acquire its resources by legal deposit. According to Marcon in Ezema (2009), the primary purpose of legal deposit is to allow national libraries build a comprehensive collection of publications reflecting the nation's history and culture, without budget constraints. This free means of acquiring new resources makes the National Library rank high in size and growth of resources among other Libraries (Ezema, 2009).

The legal deposit law demands that published books be sent to the National Library. According to the National Library of Nigeria Decree No. 29 of 1970, Section 4 (7) of deposit obligation 'book' includes:

- (a) A literary work such as book, pamphlets, sheets of music, maps, charts, plans, table and compilations.
- (b) Dramatic work

- (c) Collective works such as encyclopaedias, dictionaries, yearbooks or similar works, newspapers, magazines and similar periodicals.
- (d) Any work written in distinct parts by different authors or in which a part of work of different authors is or are incorporated and every part or division of such work; and
- (e) All forms of documentary or oral records that are published. 'Publisher' in relation to a book, means any person authorizing or causing the book to be printed and distributed in Nigeria

Furthermore, the functions and powers of the National Library of Nigeria include assembling, maintaining and extending a collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets, newspapers, maps, musical scores, films and recordings and such other matter as the Board considers appropriate for a library of the highest standing.

From the above stipulations, the following resources can be outlined as constituents of the legal deposit resources in depository libraries: journals, newspapers, monographs, encyclopaedias and other reference books, documentaries, musicals, government documents, serials, newsletters and pamphlets. Others are maps, charts, plans, tables, compilations and other electronic publications. This is also in line with the IFLA guidelines chapter 5- Object of Legal Deposit, which states that in general, any type of library resources, so called to differentiate it from archival resources should be an object of legal deposit as long as it is made available to the general public and produced in multiple copies. Nevertheless, legal deposit applies to all types of printed resources (books, serials, pamphlets maps, etc) to most audio-visual resources (discs, films, videos, multimedia kits, etc.), to broadcast resources and to electronic publications (diskettes, CD-ROMs on-line resources), etc.

However, the copies submitted by authors and publishers as legal deposit form the bulk of resources in the depository libraries. The resources are of different types ranging from journals, monographs, textbooks, newspapers, magazines, government document publications, biographies etc. Similarly, other constituent of the legal deposit are digital resources and these resources come in the form of CD-ROM, and other electronic formats. Davison (2000) observed that the advocates of Universal Available of Publications (UAP) believes that all types of resources should be available to all types of readers wherever and wherever they require them and in whatever format is necessary for the reader to be able to use them. In his work *A policy framework for legal deposit in a networked age*, Rugaas

(2005) stated that in principle all the types of information carriers that we have known up till now can be transformed and made available in digital form.

Highlighting further, Agbaje (2002) described serials as sources of information (printed or electronic) that are produced at regular intervals. They include newspapers, minutes of meetings, newsletters, bulletins, government publications, magazines, radio and television programmes, tapes, CDs, video tapes, journals, (printed or electronic) and other periodicals. However, these resources occur in successive parts and are meant to be continued indefinitely and these range of resources form the bulk in the legal deposit resources of the National Library of Nigeria.

In identifying resources for deposit, Alibi (2002) indicated books and other print resources only. Others include home videos, films, cassettes, etc, which he lamented have been neglected by publishers. Owen (2007) also identified newspapers and magazines, textbooks, journals, gazettes, law, decree etc, as some types of Nigerian collection in the National Library. These are also the legal deposit resources which attract a lot of readership because they contain current information on national issues. In a survey carried out by Owen (2007), the findings identified that newspapers and magazines constituted major information source consulted by users. Similarly, Ezema (2009) indicated that electronic resources like CD-ROM, on-line texts, databases on the internet or local networks are part of legal deposit resources.

Another vital kind of legal deposit resources is government publications. Ezema and Okafor (2009) opined that government publications have an official, descriptive, or historical nature, and are issued by government departments. These documents or publications also attract a wide range of users including civil servants, researchers, students, lawyers, government officials etc. The resources are more of archival nature and are always used as reference point. The National Library of Nigeria is currently converting some of these documents into machine readable database that will reflect the nation's heritage.

Explaining further, Saka (2010) explained that government publications are those emanating from government ministries, parastatals, agencies and / or its authority. They can be in different format like book, audiovisuals, atlases, and reference sources, and serials publications. He opined that government documents fall within three categories namely:

- (a) Legislation publications: These include bills, decrees constitutions, debates, parliamentary debates and all such as emanate from legislative a body both in the federal, state or local government.
- (b) Judicial publications: These are publications that originate from court proceedings examples include law reports and laws of the federation.
- (c) Executive publications: These ones emanate from government ministries, agencies, presidency, and research institutes. They include gazettes, directions, commission of inquiry, annual reports, press releases, technical reports, development plans, etc.
- (d) He stated that government documents are acquired through legal deposit and is only the National Library of Nigeria that has the statutory obligation of acquiring government publications using this method.

Similarly, another information resource that forms a major constituent of legal deposit collection is monograph. According to *dictionary.com*: monographs are resources that are treatise on one subject. Librarians consider a monograph to be non serial publication complete in one volume or a finite number of volumes. Thus, it differs from a serial publication such as a magazine, journal or newspaper, (Wikipedia). It is normally intended to be a complete and detailed exposition of a substantial subject at a level more advanced than that of a textbook. A lot of these monographs are published by single authors who in turn deposit three copies to the National Library for preservation and use. A lot of students prefer these monographs in their research and study because they are written with Nigerian touch.

Explaining the constituents of the legal deposit resources, Ola and Osagie (2011) described that Publication Ordinance (legal deposit) resources include core subject textbooks, reference books, journals, magazines, newspapers, religious and cultural resources, children literature, institutional and government documents in various media. According to them also, it is observed that the legal deposit laws are not efficient in Nigeria and also resources deposited are mainly books with the neglect of other resources. Publishers are also nonchalant in fulfilling depository obligations whereby they are not depositing the copies of their publications in the National Library of Nigeria as the law demands. Although this could be as a result of lack of proper public awareness of this law and that the depository agency is poorly funded. The remedy to these senario could include the importance of working out in detail the procedure to be followed for safe and easy effecting of deposits with a system of supervision and inspection. There should be amendment of the legal deposit obligation to include a tribunal of a high court judge, a publisher, a librarian, author and one other legal

professional. Also, there is the need for uniformity in legal deposits laws for all States. Besides the policy of the National Library of Nigeria on information resources, creation/generation of information resources is yet another procedure that the National Library of Nigeria adopts in the management of information resources.

### **Creation of National Library Resources**

The activities of the National Library of Nigeria in the area of creation/generation of information resources have spanned over four decades and also, the National Library of Nigeria being the National Bibliographic Agency is responsible for the creation of the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN) (National Bibliography of Nigeria, 2005). This publication which is a collaborative effort of the Collection Development and Processing Department and the National Bibliographic Control Department (NBCD) lists the Nigerian publications deposited at the National Library of Nigeria which is published annually. A bibliographic list provides a list of information sources in a systematic manner to enable people to be aware of what information resource is available and where it can be located. To accomplish this, reference sources are compiled and these help to identify and locate the sources required.

Another means that National Library of Nigeria generates its information resources is through the means of legal deposit. According to Shuaibu (2006), Legal Deposit is the collection of the intellectual output of a nation in its entire ramification backed up by law. Legal Deposit is a statutory obligation, which requires any Organization, Commercial or Public, and any individual, producing any type of document in multiple copies, to deposit one or more copies with a recognized national institution (Lamikanra, 2003). However, it is therefore worth knowing that most countries rely on a legal instrument in order to ensure compliance.

According to Saka (2010) States that the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) Decree No. 29 of 1970 stipulates in Section 4 (1) that the publisher of every book published in Nigeria shall within one month after the publication deliver at his own expense to the National Library, three (3) copies of the book for permanent preservation and one of which shall be sent by the Director to the Ibadan University library.

The National Library of Nigeria through the Legal Deposit provision of No.29 of 1970 became the nation's depository for the entire publishing output in the country. The National Library is to generate, collect, organize, preserve, make available for access and use of

citizens, the intellectual output of the nation in all spheres of human endeavours. The decree specified number of copies of all published resources in the country that should be deposited. Isaa (2010) stated that these include twenty-five (25) copies of all federal government publications, ten (10) copies of state government and corporate organization in the country, three (3) copies of commercial publications. It is also a depository library for the United Nations and OAU publications.

The legal deposit is a form of creation or generation development in the depository library. The National Library for instance generates a lot of resources through legal deposit. Ode and Omokaro (2007) posited that this decree gave the National Library of Nigeria an exclusive mandate to generate its resources by legal deposit. According to Marcon in Ezema (2009) the primary purpose of legal deposit is to allow national libraries build a comprehensive collection of publications reflecting the nation's history and culture, without budget constraints. This free means of generating new resources makes the National Library ranked high in size and growth of collection among other Libraries (Ezema, 2009). In addition to the creation/generation of information resources as one of the management procedures in the management of resources in National Library of Nigeria, is collection/acquisition of information resources.

### **Collection of National Library Resources**

As a collecting centre of all books and literature in Nigeria, the National Library of Nigeria collects National literature, contemporary knowledge products, as well as cultural heritage in a holistic and systematic way. Meaning that, collecting information resources is the most important basic function of the library. Therefore, books are collected through submission by publishers, purchase, gifts, donation and exchange. According to Adeniran (2002), "Collection development is the procurement of library resources either by Purchase, gifts and exchange or Legal Deposit into the library." Collection development is a laid down principle stating what, who, how, and where resources can be collected for the library (Adeniran, 2002). The pride of the National Library of Nigeria's resources is the Nigerian collection. It comprises library resources published in Nigeria and overseas whose whole or larger part of the content is related to Nigeria.

The collection of Nigerian is done by the National Library of Nigeria under the legal deposit obligations (Lunn, 2003). However, legal deposit is the requirement, enforceable by law, to deposit with a specified institution a specific number of copies of publications produced

within the limits of the jurisdiction and is applicable to all forms and media of publications (Lunn, 2003; Jaeger, 2007; Banjo, 2012). As such this category of resources consists of Federal government documents which include gazettes, laws of the Federation, decrees, budget speeches, raw materials (Colonial documents), Ministries/Etra ministerial department publications, State government publications, monographs, newspapers, magazines, journals, non-book resources published by Nigerians abroad. They are usually organized and stored in close access rooms (i.e. readers do not have direct access to them except through the assistance of the library personnel). Over the years the collection has grown tremendously that it has become an important section of the National Library of Nigeria. It has also become an important reference source of information on the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria.

The National Library of Nigeria Decree No. 29, 1970 charges the National Library with the responsibility of serving as the legal depository agency for the nation's publications. According to the Legal instrument, section 4 (1), "the publishers of every book published in Nigeria shall within one month after the publication deliver at his own expense to the National Library three copies of the book, two of which shall be kept in the National Library for permanent preservation and one of which shall be sent to the University of Ibadan; where any printed matter is published by or on behalf of any department of government of the federation or a State; it shall be the duty of the official in charge of the department to deliver forth with to the Director for the purposes of the National Library :

- a. Twenty-five copies of the publication if it is published by or on behalf of a department of government of the federation, or
- b. Ten copies of the publication if it is published by or on behalf of a department of government of a State, or such smaller numbers of copies as the Director may determine in a particular case.

Libraries worldwide collect varieties of publications to meet the diverse needs of their clientele. A library that cannot meet the information needs of its users is a moribund academic information system because it has lost its vitality, honour and attractions (Aguolu, 2002). Libraries, therefore strive hard to assuage the intellectual and informational thirst and curiosity of their users by collecting and processing various reading information resources for the use of their patrons in order to justify their continual existence and relevance.

A number of factors affect collection development in a library such as the institution, its clientele, purposes and objectives of the library, present collection, available finance, human, informational, inspirational, recreational, bibliographical, evaluative and other resources, possibilities of resources sharing, modes of information transaction, current demand and use of information by users, tradition, publishing patterns, alternative to purchases, etc (Ham, 2003; Makpodia, 2011; and Habila, 2004).

Another important management procedure next to the collection of library resources in the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria is seen to be the organisation of library resources.

### **Organization of National Library Resources**

Cook (2004) has attempted an explanation of the concept of organization of information resources in the national library. He pointed out that, it entails “putting resources into their proper final order” or to place them in an order relative to each other. In the olden days, library resources were subjected to a variety of organizations and re-organizations, for instance, many ancient scholars have used chronological order, subject matter, and geographical consideration for organization of library resources. From the above point of view of Cook, it is true because library resources need to be properly organised in order to promote or create room for easy accessibility of library resources.

Similarly, Okoli (2007) identified four main systems of classification namely: “alphabetical, chronological, numerical, and subject”. These systems have their inherent advantages and disadvantages. With time however, such artificial organizations were considered ineffective and inefficient, as such, as systematic and effective organization of library resources based on their nature and character was developed. Cook (2004) viewed organization as “putting library information resources into their proper order.”

However, the term resources *organization system* is intended to encompass all types of schemes for organizing and promoting resources management. Resources organization system includes classification schemes that organize resources at a general level (such as books on a shelf), subject headings that provide more detailed access, and authority files that control variant versions of key information (such as geographic names and personal names) (Ugah, 2008). They also include less-traditional schemes, such as semantic networks and

ontologies. Because resources organization systems are mechanisms for organizing resources, they are at the heart of every library, museum, and archive.

Resources organization systems are used to organize resources for the purpose of retrieval and to manage a collection (Kamanda, 2004). A ROS serves as a bridge between the user's information need and the resources in the collection. With it, the user should be able to identify an object of interest without prior knowledge of its existence. Whether through browsing or direct searching, whether through themes on a Web page or a site search engine, the ROS guides the user through a discovery process. In addition, ROS allows the organizers to answer questions regarding the scope of a collection and what is needed to round it out.

The National Library of Nigeria organises its resources based on Library of Congress Classification Scheme because of its wider space to accommodate more resources (Mazikana, 2009). “Libraries are of use, the easier users can find what they need from them, the more they will be encouraged to make use of the library” (Mohammed, 2009). For the convenience of library users, librarians devised techniques to speed up the retrieval of books and other library resources in their collections. Through the use of these techniques, librarians try to ensure that the library patrons can find information resources on any subject they wish, by any author they desire, by the title they wish. These practices were attempts to resolve a basic dilemma of finding information resources – whether it is a floppy disk, a book, a film, a map, or a phonographic records. In furtherance of this, it has been found most advantageous to organize information resources in some definite order, usually in groups of specialized sections, either by the subjects they cover (Physics, English Language, Art, etc) or their literature content (poem) or their physical format (color, size). Therefore, cataloguing is the process of describing a work and assigning it a call number. Cataloguing process includes determining the main entry, describing the work and assigning added entries, subject entries and a call number.

Bello (2006) described library catalogue as a “systematic list of information items in a particular library organized in a particular fashion, usually alphabetically”. Aina (2007) therefore sees a library catalogue as a register of all bibliographic items found in a library or group of libraries, such as network of libraries at several locations. However, from the definition above, a bibliographic item can be any information entity (e.g. books, computer files, graphics, realia, cartographic resources, etc) that is considered library resources (e.g a single document in history) or a group of library resources, or linked from the catalogue (e.g.

a webpage, a union cataloguing) as far as it is relevant to the catalogue and to the users of the library. So library catalogues are lists of what libraries have in their collections. Poor organization of library resources leads to the frustration of the library patrons. Proper organisation will assist greatly in facilitating access to deteriorated library information resources that are needed to be preserved and conserved. Meaning that it will make the processes go smoothly.

### **Preservation and conservation of National Library Resources**

Preservation and conservation is one of the most urgent issues to be tackled by libraries all over the world. The preservation and conservation issues are complicated by the diverse nature of library resources, both in composition and structure. Fortunately, librarians, manufacturers, conservators and publishers are becoming more cognisant of preservation and conservation issue and as such, they are gradually resolving them. The concept, preservation in this context is used to refer to all necessary strategies, measures and steps invested into prolonging the lives of library resources. As supported by Lamikanra (2003), preservation is the degree to which something has not been changed or damaged by age, weather, and so on.

On the other hand, (Alegbeleye, 2002) clearly states that there are few misconceptions on preservation and conservation. He explains that the terms preservation and conservation are used interchangeably. But strictly speaking experts in the field draw a distinction between the two words. Preservation includes all the managerial and financial considerations, including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies techniques and methods involved in preserving library and archival resources and information contained in them. Conservation on the other hand, refers to specific practices taken to slow deterioration and prolong the life of an object by directly intervening in its physical or chemical make-up. Examples of the latter are the repair of damaged binding or the de-acidification of paper (Habla, 2004).

From the above explanation, one would deduce that preservation of library resources refers to the activities associated with maintaining library resources for use, either in their original physical format or in some other format. This includes a number of procedures from control of the environment to conservation treatment. Conservation therefore, is the treatment of library resources to stabilize their physical structure in order to sustain their survival as long as possible in their original format. Alegbeleye (2002) argues that libraries are prone to

disasters that can be classified broadly as natural and manmade and they include fire, flooding, civil unrest, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, war lightening, and to some extent, rodents and pests attack. It is in this regard that the usefulness of preservation cannot be over emphasized in our Libraries today.

“The National Library of Nigeria collects, organizes and preserves information resources for easy retrieval. The whole idea of classification is to be able to retrieve relevant information with accuracy and minimum delay regardless of the nature of the resources. This information has been stored in print form over the ages, e.g cuneiform writing in Mesopotamia. The central mission of the National Library of Nigeria is to collect, organize, preserve and provide access to information resources. In fulfilling this mission, National Library preserves a valuable record of culture that can be passed down to succeeding generations. The National Library is essential link in this communication between the past, present, and future. Whether the cultural record is contained in books or in electronic formats, libraries ensure that resources are preserved and made available for later use. National Library of Nigeria proved people with access to the information they need to work, play, learn, and govern (Mohammed, 2009).”

Nwakaego (2009) sees preservation as fundamental role of any library. Preservation of information resources is the earliest responsibility of the National Library of Nigeria. National Libraries are the store houses of humanistic, scientific and technological resources. They preserve the resources of civilization and of mankind’s achievement and discoveries. While the culture of any society aims at enabling the society to survive, one of the basic functions of the National Library of Nigeria is to preserve the existing information resources by rationally and systematically accumulating all kinds of resources, published and unpublished, written or oral in resources form, which embodies the ideas and knowledge of the past. Each new idea, invention or achievement by mankind grows out of accumulated and conserved knowledge. According to him, the National Library of Nigeria conserves the national heritage by its exhaustive and encyclopaedic collection of all published resources.

The National Library of Nigeria has been empowered by law with the obligation to collect and preserve for posterity the published resources of the country’s cultural heritage, consequently, it should be entrusted with the preservation of Nigeria’s cultural heritage and make same available for the use of the present and future generations (Fasick, 2007). The resources of the National Library of Nigeria may not endure to serve those purposes,

informing their creation as well as their long-term value unless there is a preservation programme in place. According to Drijthout (2001), “without preservation access becomes impossible and collections will decay and disintegrate.”

Roper (2009) viewed preservation as a generic term for the totality of measures for maintaining the integrity of documents and the information contained in them. For Mackenzie (2006), the term refers to everything that contributes to the physical well being of the resources. Alegbeleye (2002) identified preservation pyramid in the National Library of Nigeria as that which contains three components of preventive conservation, passive conservation and restoration. The first two components involve all direct and indirect steps and provisions to prolong the life span of the resources while the last component “stands for all actions taken to prolong the life span of the object in its perceptible appearance in compliance with the rules of aesthetics and ethics, while maintaining its historical integrity.”

Of crucial importance to the preservation programme of the National Library of Nigeria is the existence of a preservation policy. Gosnell (2002) emphasized the importance of a preservation policy and stated that it has become a useful tool to National Library of Nigeria, which is dedicated to ensuring the survival of resources entrusted to its care. A preservation policy must take care of all activities relating to preservation of resources. Preservation activity is ubiquitous and can be found in such processes as selection, survey of the physical condition of resources, storage in appropriate containers, correct environmental conditions, correct handling by users, maintenance of buildings and equipment and reprography. The storage area, according to Schwirtlich (2002), “is the permanent home of resources and its quality and management has an enormous impact on their continued preservation.” Emphasizing the importance of good storage, Child (2001) asserted that it is “an essential prerequisite of any preservation programme as it stabilizes the condition of an item and allows measured long term remedial action.”

Most cultural heritage resources are organic in nature and as a result will ultimately deteriorate. According to Ham (2003), the rate at which cultural resources deteriorate are determined by two factors. These are the inherent and the external agents of deterioration. The inherent or internal agent is as a result of the modern book, which is made of high acidic paper especially those published since mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Early paper was made from clean linen, cotton, rag flax and strong fibres. This type of paper has low acid content; hence it was durable, strong and permanent.

The external agents include the environment in which the resources are stored; biological attack of fungi, insect, rodent and birds; mechanical wear and tear of books due to mishandling by library users, theft and mutilation of cultural resources by users. All source of light; natural light, ultraviolet rays from sunlight and incandescent periodically as they have a limited life span and may need to be replaced every few years (Mnjama, 2003). The National Library of Nigeria has recently started digitization of its resources. This is a welcoming development especially in this information technology.

Mohammed (2006) stated that the National Library of Nigeria has a lot of challenges in the field of preservation of library information resources. This is due to the preserving problems it is facing such as inadequate facilities, information resources are deteriorating, the books and serials are becoming acidic and no efforts are being made to deacidify them. Non-book resources like microforms, tapes, photographic negatives and slides have gone bad and there are no disaster detection facilities as a measure towards disaster control. Ode and Omokaro (2007) suggested that libraries should be concerned with the preservation and repairs of resources because they are responsible for the useful life of the resources under their custody. Preservation is the action taken to read, stop or prevent deterioration, especially by providing the proper storage areas and repair damages already done to an item. They went further to say that libraries should remember their goals:

1. They should extend the useful life of the library book. In this case, proper method of shelving will help. Staff should be trained to keep books standing straight up using book-stands. Proper shelving method gives maximum strength to all books. According to Franel and Wallen (2003), when books are shelved too loosely, they lean to one side or the other. This leaning loosens the binding. Oversized books require special treatment, they should be shelved in a special location like reference resources and this should be indicated on the spine label and the card catalogue as oversized.
2. To prevent the unnecessary book damage, the use of protective covers prevents books from water and dirt. The librarian should understand the local situation and decide on other ways to prevent damage to book. This sometimes may require written guidelines for the careful handling of the books by the patrons or users. Or a simple slogan like “books are like your darling, please treat them as such”. The guideline should be published and given to the users.
3. Watch out for the damaged books early enough and make minor repairs.

However, preservation and conservation therefore have to do with all the steps taken in the collection, organization and distribution of information resources to prevent and stop deterioration of information resources. According to the researcher, in spite of this useful means of preventing information resources from deteriorating the National Library of Nigeria is not taking this measure into effective use but rather allowing the information resources to get damaged or deteriorated in one way or the other.

There is the need for the National Library of Nigeria to tackle a lot of challenges in the field of preservation and conservation of information resources. Such challenges as inadequate facilities, acidic content in books and serials, etc. Taking care of this will assist in effective and efficient management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria. Properly preserved and conserved information resources pave way for easy access to the information resources in the library.

### **Facilitating Access to National Library Resources**

The accessibility of National Library holdings is the inherent feature which distinguishes the present image of the National Library. At the symposium on National Libraries in 1958, in Vienna, the unanimous opinion was expressed that the modern National Library cannot be considered as carrying out its functions completely if it does not provide the proper level of library service and guide and easy access to its resources.

Access is defined as a means of approach, entering or coming in contact with something. Abioye (2002) maintains that access refers to the terms and conditions of availability of library information resources. There is danger in not allowing people to have access to proper education facilities and the choice to seek for information depends on its perceived accessibility. Most national libraries are accessible (opening hours) to the users from 8.00am to 4.00pm, from Mondays to Fridays, from 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays. They remained close on Sundays and Public Holidays, which period for the holidays must be announced to the public.

Accessibility of information resources is an important recurring theme in the literature. Readers tend to use information resources that require the least effort to access. Similarly, Opara (2008) who studied the relationship between accessibility and library use and noted that the problem of the users is not the question of wanting to use the library, but whether or not the library can provide for their needs, and whether there is access to what is provided.

Azzopardi and Vinay (2008) defined Information Retrieval as the science of locating, from a large document collection, those documents that fulfil a specified information need. Information retrieval is the area that deals with storage, organization, management and retrieval of information. Similarly, Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) have rightly observed that libraries are social institutions, created to conserve knowledge; preserve the cultural heritage; provide information; and to serve as fountain of recreation; undergird and underpin education and research. In support of this opinion, Ajidahun (2006) declared that, the mission statement of any library is the provision of excellent information services to its users.

Consequently, Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) noted that availability of information resources do not necessarily imply its accessibility, because the resources may be available but access to it is prevented for one reason or the other. Similarly, Aina (2004) wrote on access to scientific and technological information in journal articles in Nigeria and revealed that journal articles were not indexed or abstracted, making them inaccessible. Consequently, Kent (2009) identified natural artificial barriers to free access to information. The library's poor reputation was attributed to lack of accessibility of information resources. Consequently, Iyoro (2004) examines the impact of serial publications and discovered that serials were found to play a significant role in the acquisition of resources. In a similar study, Oyediran-Tidings (2004) asserted that low use of the library by students was attributed to expressed accessibility problem. However, Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) revealed that efforts are being made worldwide to promote access to information in all formats in the national libraries.

Okiki (2011) states that books are cultural products and often bear the essence of the culture in which they originate and were published. He further stated that books record a people's experience and artifacts. For instance, the Nigerian Yearbook, published and printed by Times Press (Nigeria) Apapa contains all that one needs to know about Nigeria. *Things fall apart*, a novel written by Chinua Achebe bears the culture of a particular group of people, the *Igbos*, in Eastern Nigeria. For communities to realize their development choices, enhancement of their capacity to deliver and cope with the societal changes, information accessibility is a critical necessity (Ezomo, 2000). Through providing access to, and acting as repositories of indigenous knowledge, libraries can strengthen local communities by helping them develop their local solutions for their development challenge.

In his contribution, Abioye (2002), quoting Hinchey and Mc Chansaland (2000), maintains that 'access' refers to the terms and conditions of availability of information resources.

Nweke (2005) emphasized that there is danger in not allowing people to have access to proper education facilities. Accessibility of library information resources is an important recurring theme in the literature. Kaulthan (2001) argues that the choice to seek information depends on its perceived accessibility.

Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) observed that resources may be available in the library and even identified bibliographically as relevant to one's subject of interest, but the user may not be able to lay hands on them. One may identify citations in indexes, but may not have access to the information resources containing the relevant articles. The more accessible library information resources are the more likely they are to be used. Researchers such as Saka (2010), Amen (2007), and Roper (2009) had earlier validated through empirical studies the observations that readers tend to use library resources that require the least effort to access. The user may encounter five possible types of inaccessibility. They are conceptual, linguistic, critical, bibliographic and physical inaccessibility.

For the libraries to assist in the promotion of access to library information resources, they must help to identify, locate and deliver information or document sought by the researcher (Aguolu and Aguolu, 2002). The identification and location of information pertinent to the user's inquiry depends upon the availability of effective bibliographic apparatus in general and in specialized fields. To facilitate identification and location of information resources in the libraries, the library is expected to provide effective access tools as catalogues, bibliographies guides, indexes and abstracts. According to Olorunsola (2008), nothing frustrates a researcher or library user more than trying to retrieve an article, which seems right on target, only to find that the library does not own the journal.

Direct physical accessibility to Publication Ordinance (PO) is another means of accessing information resources, but allowing users to gain physical access to the collection in order to search for information resources may waste users' time but encourages shelf-browsing in the library, which has been defined by Olugbuo (2009) as the process of searching for information resources of relevance to one's subject of interest, often without precise subject terms under which to search. In the words of Line (2009), "browsing has been compared with looking for a needle in a hay stack and finding the farmer's daughter". Users tend to find more valuable resources through browsing. In open access system, browsing is almost universally practiced and is much appreciated by users. It exposes researchers or library users

to current library resources and this is very important as it enables users to keep abreast of new development on and beyond the fingers of their own discipline.

In spite of the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria, the accessibility to these information resources is often seen to be difficult. This therefore, means that the National Library of Nigeria needs to come up with more effective and efficient management of information resources for easy accessibility of the information resources. By so doing the library will assist in the promotion of access to information resources. The identification and location of information resources pertinent to the user's inquiry depends upon the availability of effective bibliographic apparatus in general and specialized fields. Therefore, to facilitate identification and location of information resources in the libraries, the library is expected to provide effective access tools as catalogues, bibliographic guides, indexes and abstracts. Without access to information resources, there can be no use, collection, or management of resources.

### **Use of National Library Resources**

Libraries are organized so that users can find the particular item or piece of information they are looking for from the collection for their use. It is in the library that users learn the concept of searching for particular information items and using them. Abubakar (2008) identified use as an activity which measures the worth of an item to a library or information system. Use is the only criteria which could be employed to determine the reason for retaining a document within the collections of a library. The use of a library can be obtained from the demand of the items. Therefore, if the users have no demand for the information resources of a library, it means that the library does not have what they want, in this case, the library records low patronage. Use of information resources and services are usually determined by the users' statistics which reveals the information resources and services consulted. The National Library of Nigeria has readers' statistics of all subject areas of which the books and other resources removed from the shelves and consulted are recorded according to subject areas. This determines the actual use of library resources put in place by the library. This is why libraries must strive hard to assuage the intellectual and information thirst and curiosity of their users by acquiring and processing various reading resources for the use of their patrons in order to justify their continual existence.

In providing the information services to the users, it is imperative for the librarians to know the information needs and seeking behaviours of the users, their skills and satisfaction levels

in using information resources. Consequently, Oke (2008) asserted that information is a key resource that can bring change and improvement in the society. User's services in libraries are based on the premise that effective library services must begin with a clear understanding of the actual needs of the users. The use of information resources depends on choice or preference of the users. Fasick (2007) has described the way in which a user gradually moves from choosing books haphazardly from the shelves or book trucks to learning that books on particular subjects are grouped on the shelves, and eventually discovering that the catalogue is a guide to finding books as resources to use. Librarians have been long aware of the difficulties which users have in learning to use the library retrieval systems such as the catalogues, indexes and abstracts, indeed, many adult users never learn to use them efficiently.

It is as a result of the lack of knowledge on how to use the Library resources that has made the National Library of Nigeria to introduce the concept of Users Education, which is given to users by the professionals on how to use the Library resources to get information they want from the library. Marteleto (2009) revealed that eventhough lecturers recognize the potential value of the library, they do not use them or encourage their use to students because of poor service, resources and facilities. Olum (2011) saw inadequate reading space as a major issue affecting the use of library information resources at the National Library of Nigeria, while Ajileye (2005) also pointed out that lack of use of catalogues and problems of locating information resources on the shelves by the users affect to a great extent the use of library resources

The researcher agrees with the views expressed by the above researchers that ineffective use of library resources has negative implication on the value of education of the library users. In fact the value of a degree granted by universities is a reflection of the library resources that are provided to the staff and students by the universities. In support of the above assertions, Banjo (2012) is equally of the view that the fundamental requirement for an effective reading environment is the availability of appropriate books and other reading resources.

He further stressed that without books there can be no readers since readers patronize libraries because there is something available for them to read. Books in the right number at the right price and of the right variety constitute a pre-condition in any effort to bring books and readers together and such books must be perceived by the users as meeting their needs. In our libraries in Nigeria, the library users have been observed to be frequently requesting for

current resources for use like the case in the National Library of Nigeria. In her contribution, Igbeka (2002) on the information needs and the use of information resources by library users' states that, "All categories (Ministries, Private and Research Institutions) also seek for information from personal collections at home, telephone conversation with colleagues, radio/television and from newspapers". Igbeka (2002) advanced different information resources that are responsible for variation in the information needs and use of information resources by the users of the library when she said that, "Information is normally sought when there are problems to be solved. The problems usually depend on the task to be performed... the goal and objectives and the problems to be solved would be different. Their ways and methods of seeking information would therefore be different".

Igbeka (2002) further mentioned that "information needs depend on workers tasks. Such tasks impose information requirements that must be met if they are to be completed". Igbeka (2002) mentioned two principal factors that could affect the information needs and the use of information resources by the library users as "The personality of the individual and availability of the information sources." While Gravey (2003) was of the view that Scientists make use of Internet to browse their information needs.

However, Tanimu (2000) observed that "Certain objective characteristics of the sources themselves can be used to explain the use and non-use of the information resources, namely: the subject content of the source, the structural linguistic format in which the information is presented as some information sources may be used more often than others because of the brevity with which they provide accurate information. This could thus be the case with the different choice of information resources by the users.

The following factors enumerated by Daramola (2000) to a large extent influence the information needs and the use of the information resources by the users.

1. Timeliness: The information must be produced and presented at the period that is at when it is most needed. Failure to achieve the characteristic, could render the information obsolete or of less value.
2. Accuracy: The information must be accurately provided if it must meet the need of the users.
3. Appropriate Channel: Information must be communicated using the right channel, considering the nature of the information, the speed required and the needs of the users.

4. Presentation: Information must be presented in a way that makes it easily understood by the users. Poorly computed reports and badly designed information materials reduce the quality of information, which could mislead the users.

Each type of library has its aims and objectives. This determines the type of information resources the library should acquire. Ikpaahindi (2010) posited that the type of the information resources acquired also suggest the users of the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) is meant to serve. The users of information resources cut across different people in the country. They include students, applicants, politicians, civil servants and other professionals, traders and business people, legal practitioners, artisans and other non-professionals and so on. They need information in different disciplines which include Science and Technology; Social Sciences and Humanity. Lawyers make use of information resources (newspapers) as the certified true copy for conflict resolution among authors in the court of law. Students also find the information resources such as text books, journals, newspapers, reference information resources etc, useful in their educational pursuit (Ezema, 2009). Civil servants are also great users of the information resources particularly the government publications. The official gazettes are used for certification and authentication in government offices. They serve as credentials for leave of absence, first and second appointments, date of promotion, transfer of service, etc. These resources are of great use in the government offices.

Users seek information on job placements and current happenings contained in newspapers. Ajidahun (2006) cited Owairu (2010) stated that despite the importance of newspapers, the prices are beyond most individual's purchasing power. Hence most Nigerians rely on libraries that offer free services to keep abreast of current information. The National Library of Nigeria is such a library that is responsible to serve this great purpose. The content of the resources to be acquired in the National Library of Nigeria has to be considered in terms of its education, information, entertainment, cultural and recreational value. This is the most important aspect of using the information resources knowing the usefulness of the resources to the users. A user cannot come to the library that does not have the information resources that he/she knows cannot serve his/her purpose.

Similarly, Aguolu (2002) asserted that most of the users come to the National Library of Nigeria to read serial resources to be able to get information on their information needs such as job vacancies, business advertisement, politics, sport events, education, information,

entertainment, agriculture, health related information and current information. Other users consult Internet facilities for the same related information stated above.

Good management of information resources is only a means to an end, the ultimate goal of which is their proper and effective utilization by the user community. Use of information resources depends on the access to the available information resources through library retrieval systems and the help of finding aids. As such lack of proper user education, etc can be a problem in proper use of information resources. Librarians have been long aware of the difficulties which users have in learning to use the library retrieval systems such as the catalogues, indexes and abstracts, indeed, many adult users never learn to use them efficiently. In this case, for effective and efficient management of information resources for proper use, the National Library of Nigeria needs to embark on proper training on user education. In the course of management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria, there are quite a number of challenges associated with management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria.

## **2.6 Challenges Associated with the Management of Information Resources in National Library of Nigeria**

Management of Information Resources especially in National Libraries of Nigeria is being faced with a number of challenges for example. Popoola (2003) identified the following:

- d) Inadequate funds which had affected staffing, accommodation, expansion and the execution of such operations as creation, organization, preservation and conservation as well as library services.
- e) Poor training opportunities for resources managers.
- f) Lack of adequate infrastructure and modern information technology for library information.

The relevance of information resources management in the National Libraries has been greatly under-rated in developing countries, the study area generally and Nigeria in particular. Braman (2009) pointed out that lack of funding is the major factor affecting resources management which resulted in government being unable to offer as much funding as it needed to establish or maintain resources and information management practices or support personnel, old and failing infrastructure including information and communication technologies (ICT).

However, Adjei (2004) highlighted the following as the resources management problems faced in Ghana.

- a) Lack of policies and procedures at both national and institutional levels.
- b) Insufficient resources including resources storage facilities and manpower.
- c) The lack of standardized procedures among health management program.

Similarly, Akussa (2009) also emphasized that the problems of resources management in Ghana can be traced back to the lack of a comprehensive policy aimed at an integrated holistic approach to the management of the whole life cycle of resources. He further added that coupled with the lack of comprehensive retention schedules and the absence of national resources centre and machinery, resulting in the clogging of very expensive registry space with dormant resources. Also, Abioye (2007) noted that a major problem in Nigerian National Library and for the majority of African National Libraries is infrastructure. Evborokhai (2004) stated antiquated or difficult organising systems, absence of valuable resources management tools, rapid turnover of registry staff in many departments and lack of training for registry staff as the major problems militating against information resources management in Nigeria.

In his contribution, Ngwanyi (2002) highlighted that the challenges encountered in Nigeria National Library include: funding, storage, maintenance, skilled manpower, access to information, delay in retrieval, power supply, equipment, security, weeding of resources, low moral of staff, training and re-training, use of ICT, creation of resources, and government policies. Another problem associated with resources management is lack of or absence of retention and deposition schedule (Greene, 2000; Ugwunze, 2007). Alegbeyele (2000) stated that lack of centralized control of library resources contributes to lack of knowledge of information resources management and vital information resources program.

To support the above view, based on the observation the unorganized nature of information resources in National Libraries has been greatly influenced by the near lack of awareness and nonchalant attitude of National Libraries to information resources management training. In their study on resources management practices in National Library in Nigeria, Abioye (2007) Okoro (2005) and Habila (2004) reported that “there were no forms of information resources management training programme received by the staff at the studied Library.” They further stated that most of the staff found it difficult to understand the concept of information resources management. In a similar study carried out by Popoola (2003), he submitted that

“.....group of officers are not information resources managers and neither do they have in-house training in information resources management practice.” The importance of trained personnel in information resources management cannot be over emphasized. Information resources management cannot have prospects of success unless the services of trained personnel are employed (Alegbeyele, 2000).

In addition, Enwere (2002) identified the problems in the resources keeping system in National Libraries as identified by UNESCO expert sent to the country in 1989. Some of the problems identified are:

- a) Non-existence of standards for library information resources keeping activities.
- b) Adolescent and mediocre calibre of personnel available to undertake level of the registry.
- c) Lack of concern at more senior levels of departments for the basic problems of resources keeping.

The concept of personalization is yet another major problem of resources keeping in National Libraries (Esse, 2000) by which government officials in strategic ministries, departments and offices sit on and administer government resources as their personal property. He also emphasized bureaucratic apathy and ignorance as regards the care of resources as basic problems.

The following problems of management of information resources in National Libraries are identified thus:

- a) Sabotage from library officials by way of mutilation or burning of important resources to cover some fraudulent acts by the perpetrators of such acts.
- b) Lack of library resources schedules in National Libraries, which guide the entire information resources management in any National libraries.
- c) Atmospheric conditions. The atmosphere in the libraries is usually either too hot, cold or too windy to the extent that it becomes a threat to the library resources similarly, (Gama, 2004).

On the other hand, the magnitude of preservation challenge has become increasingly apparent. This situation has been partly caused by many years of neglect and partly by the environmental conditions most often beyond the control of the Librarian. Despite the digitization project of library resources in the National Library of Nigeria, the bulk of library

resources are still in bound volumes. Dalton (2000) stated that the following are some of the problems:

- a) Lack of sufficient air-conditioning: Air-conditioning is highly recommended for rare book collections. Air-conditioners help in stabilizing the temperature and humidity condition in Libraries. They also help to filter out particulates and chemical pollutants. A visit to the National Library of Nigeria newspaper room in Abuja shows that there are insufficient air- conditioners in the room. Air- conditioning is very important in the preservation of newspapers in particular and books in general. Lack of sufficient air-conditioning in the newspaper room will result in the fast deterioration of the newspapers.
- b) Lack of constant electricity supply: Electricity must be available in the library resources room for 24 hours a day to facilitate the use of the air-conditioners, or even ceiling fans. This is not possible because of the epileptic power supply in Nigeria. The incessant power failure is not conducive for the preservation of information resources.

Similarly, lack of funds and modern equipment for managing library resources is yet another big problem in the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. Mayes (2007) stated that, The National Library of Nigeria lacks funds to preserve its information resources with modern preservation methods. Latest information technologies for conserving information such as microform, magnetic tapes/ disc and optical disks are better ways of preservation than binding. Also, Mayes (2007) giving reasons for binding journals, says its main purpose is to conserve an item for the future, to protect it against current heavy usage or to ornament or decorate it. He did not hesitate to point out the difficulty in binding periodicals; that bound volumes are difficult to maintain on the shelves. Information preserved in microform e.g. microfilming has a life span of 500 years as against preservation through binding. Moreover, the library lacks equipment like hydro-thermographs which can also be used for preservation purpose.

In the same vein, lack of trained professionals in the field of managing information resources is seen as one of the challenges associated with the management and use of information resources in the National Library. Most Librarians in the National Library of Nigeria are not conversant with the management technologies. This is the reason why Muya (2005) advocated for the need to expose librarians to conservation practices during their training. If librarians are trained as preservation experts, their work or job becomes easier, because they

will know the ethic of. This is the job. In addition, Adams (2008) maintains that the greatest enemy of information resources is the librarian who neglects his collections in the quest for ever more efficient management systems very true, because in most cases librarians handle information resources very carelessly and do not care about what happens to them.

In his contribution, Puccio (2011) writes on information resources particularly on periodicals in libraries, pointing out that they (periodicals) comprise a significant portion of the collections of most Libraries and obligate a large percentage of the budget of those libraries. Each type of periodical is important to at least one group, relating to their area of specialization, work or leisure activities. The implications of Puccio's views are that serials consume much of the acquisition budgets in most libraries.

Over the past decades, most libraries in Nigeria have been experiencing much difficulty in providing resources to the users on account of the alarming rate of inflation of the prices of books and journals as well as depreciation value of the Nigerian currency. However, Ugwu (2007) explained further in his study that the problems of transmission, storage and display of information have been combined with the problem of getting to users quickly. Although online searching and electronic bibliographic databases are now available in almost every field which confirms that as information expands, the ability of the user to process it remains fixed (Scott, 2007).

The information flow in developing countries affects management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. Similarly, Dike (2008) opined that information resources in the National Library of Nigeria are not being well managed because either they have not been acquired or are waiting in the processing unit of the library. The users may encounter problems due to lack of knowledge in the use of the library. Similarly, Zondi (2002) discovered that the majority of users showed a very low level of competence in the use of a library and displayed poor information seeking patterns.

Consequently, more than half of the users experience problems in locating library information resources. This is because the majority of them either located information resources through browsing the shelves or sought assistance from library staff, but they did not make full use of the card catalogue. This was discovered by the researcher during the preliminary study in the National Library of Nigeria. Despite the fact that the card catalogue was the most essential library tool in accessing library collections, it was the most avoided and least consulted by users.

Considering the rapid changes in information provision in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with computerized access, digitized information formats, and the plethora of information resources on the Internet, access and retrieval capabilities, users who are traditionally accustomed to manual information library systems, find it difficult to use the information and communication technology (ICT) (Zondi, 2002). In the same vein, Kent (2009) noted that most users even with computers find only a fraction of the resources available to them.

Furthermore, Aguolu (2002) posited that the failure to seek information one needs when it is available may be attributed to some factors which include: lack of appreciation of the value of information due to poor education and illiteracy; ignorance of the potential possibilities of the existing information services; absence of suitable library and information services; the inability of the library users on the other hand to obtain what he wants or needs; non availability of appropriate guides to the existing information in the libraries; failure to approach librarians on his problem for whatever reason; non availability of suitable staff to assist the user in locating the needed information or record; limitation to access to the appropriate documents due to administrative or physical barriers imposed on their use; the library may lack adequate hardware to access the information resources in non-profit media and in electronic forms.

Similarly, Dike (2008) further opined that when the information resources are available, they are not accessible to the users due to poor indexing and cataloguing. Furthermore, Mohammed (2006) asserted that inadequate training of librarians and particularly inadequate financial support from the Federal Government, which Miachi (2000) also affirmed, is a reflection of financial problems faced by the National library themselves resulting into lack of performance of core objectives and work stoppage are the additional problems.

Despite the importance of information resources management in the National Library of Nigeria, there are a lot of challenges and constraints of resources management. Ajewole (2001) stated that, the problem of information resources management is not with resources and information *per se* but with those having interface and interactions with these two vital resources. The problems of information resources management can be summarized into inadequate knowledge of the life-cycles of information resources; inertia in implementing a form of system and information. He identified these problems in every phase of life-cycle of information resources. Therefore, the understanding of information life-cycle is indispensable for effective information resources management. The life-cycle of information resources

mirrors the opinion that all information resources regardless of format, pass through certain stages and therefore there is a need for special skill and techniques for their handling and effective control at every stage of life.

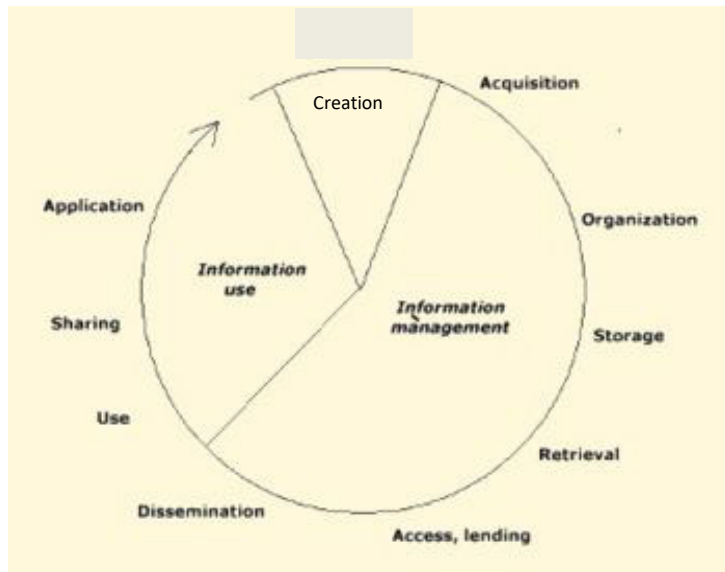
The challenges analyzed above are very crucial to the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. This is because whatever affects the information resources affects the library itself, since the library is one of the mandatory facilities that the nation should have. However, information resources in the National Library of Nigeria need to be properly managed in order to meet up with the information needs of the user community. This will go a long way in ensuring that the goals and objectives of the National Library of Nigeria are being achieved.

## **2.7 Theoretical / Conceptual Framework**

There are several theories and models on the management of information resources, one of which is by Wilson (2003). It is the Life-cycle of Information model, which will be adapted with little modification to this study

### **The Life-Cycle of Information**

The life-cycle of information is an appropriate model of information processes with which to begin a consideration of information resources management. Such life-cycles are well-known in various fields from information systems development to resources management.



**Figure 1**

**: *The Life-Cycle of Information Model by Thomas D. Wilson (2003)***

Figure 1, representing the life-cycle of information, suggests that there are three distinct areas in the life-cycle: the creation of information, management of information and information use (Kirk, 2005).

**Information Creation:**

The term information is used with different meanings by different groups and in different contexts (Langefors, 2003) and there is no well-defined definition of the terms ‘data’ and ‘information’ (Checkland and Howell, 2008). A common and short definition is that information is interpreted data (Bratteteig and Verne, 2000). Hence, data are signs used to represent information (Langefors, 2003), or signs which carry with them the possibility to compose and/or transfer back the text, photo, music etc. from which it is derived. This results in the creation of information. Information will be created, collected, stored and shared in accordance with prevailing standards determined by statute, sector agreement (Memoranda of Understanding) and similar agreements with other public agencies, or those published by central agencies.

Information creation is the process of turning data into information. The *creation* of information, where it depends upon the actions of the individual is clearly outside the scope of any organizational unit charged with the management of information (Choo, 2002).

However, where the creator makes use of software and networks, such as in the composition of this study, where the only resources used have been information resources and where various software systems, such as a word-processor and a Web browser have been employed, then the management of these systems in the National Library will be necessary. This is defined, however, as ‘information systems management’, rather than information management. Similarly, where the information is generated automatically, or semi-automatically through monitoring various processes, those processes may be carried out by information and communication technologies that *can* be managed and, indeed, must be managed (Verne, 2000). Information creation is found to be much more related and relevant to the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria as one of the management procedures employed in the management of information resources in the library. This is because information resources have to be created / generated through the means of publishing, legal deposit policy, donations, etc.

### **Information Management:**

Information Management means the organization of and control over the planning, structure and organisation, controlling, processing and maintaining information. It is closely related to and overlapping with the practice of data management, evaluating and reporting of information activities in order to meet client objectives and to enable corporate functions in the delivery of information (Huotari and Wilson, 2001). In short, information management entails organizing, retrieving, acquiring, securing information. Information management ranges from information gathering through processing, usage, storage and share, retrieval and disposal.

According to Bruce, Jones and Dumais (2004), in today’s knowledge economy, organizations that can’t properly utilize their information assets risk serious failure. Information management is an emerging field that is concerned with:

- The infrastructure used to collect, manage, preserve, store and deliver information
- The guiding principles that allow information to be available to the right people at the right time
- The view that all information, both digital and physical, is an asset that requires proper management
- The organizational and social contexts in which information exists

The purpose of information management is to:

- design, develop, manage, and use information with insight and innovation
- support decision making and create value for individuals, organizations, libraries communities, and societies

Information management (IM) is the collection and management of information from one or more sources and the distribution of that information to one or more audiences. This sometimes involves those who have a stake in, or a right to that information. Management means the organization of and control over the structure, processing and delivery of information.

Choo (2002) has produced a variant of the life-cycle based on the idea of an 'information value chain', proposing a range of activities:

- identifying information needs;
- assessing the relationship of sources to needs and acquiring those resources;
- organization and storage of the information;
- design and development of information products;
- distribution of information, either formally or informally; and
- information use

Kirk (2005) has suggested that alternative definitions of information management can be related to Braman's (2009) definitions of information as being a resource, a commodity, the perception of pattern, or a 'constitutive force' (i.e., having the power to affect other phenomena).

Becoming more specific still, Macevičiūtė and Wilson (2005) show through an analysis of papers in six key information management journals, that the field is rather diffuse, some of which contained only one or two papers, the largest groups being concerned with information systems development aspects of information management, information systems modelling, health information management, user services development, and medical patients' databases. Information management is important and relevant to the study of management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria because information resources need to be properly managed by making use of policy, collection procedures, proper organization

(classification scheme, cataloguing, etc), preservation and conservation (maintenance), accessibility in order to meet up with the information needs of the users by using of the information resources.

### **Information Use:**

As noted in the life-cycle diagram, *information use* covers all of those activities that occur once information has been received by the user. It may be used by the individuals to add to or confirm their own knowledge, it may be shared with others in a team or across the organization, it may be applied to the solution of a current problem, and it may be used in the creation of new ideas and subsequent new information outputs.

Very little of this can be under the control of an information management or information systems department in an organization, since they involve issues of general management, team-building, reward systems in the organization and other human resources and human relations issues. Choo (2002) views information use as “a dynamic, interactive social process of inquiry that may result in the making of meaning or the making of decisions.” The first type of use is intrinsic to the user, involved with human understanding and integration with the user’s knowledge base. This is a process of interpretation that may evolve into a process of inquiry and debate that ultimately results in knowledge creation. This type of information use has no visible indicators except in the depth and breadth of one’s personal knowledge base. The second form of information use concerns decision-making. While Choo (2002) discusses this form in the context of organizational decision-making, some aspects are equally applicable to individual decision making. Interestingly, his approach is also at a conceptual high-level matching of potential uses with stages of the decision-making process: identification, development, and selection.

Information use is the factor that drives all other information behaviours, since it represents the ultimate purpose for which information is needed and sought. Without consideration of information use, consideration of activities such as information seeking or information retrieval is incomplete. It is the use of the information that informs and drives the information seeking. It is not surprising that one of the common questions to arise during a reference interview is to ask how the information will be used, or for what purpose it is sought. In the same way that the answer can inform the subsequent reference interaction, understanding information use can also inform how an information system is designed and implemented.

How then, is an understanding of information use to be achieved? Discussions of use in isolation from need do not lend themselves to a comprehensive understanding of the process. Was the information that was needed and sought actually used to meet a goal or even possible to solve that goal? To make those connections we used a technique developed in business and industrial engineering which has examined many types of work processes (Bruce, 2004).

There is a long history of research into information behaviour and its constituent elements of information need, information seeking and information use. However, the three elements have been studied at varying degrees of detail. Information needs and information seeking (and the narrower concept of information search) have been well modelled and studied (e.g., Burger, 2000; Erborolchai, 2009; Kuhlthau, 2001; Makpodia, 2011; Wilson, 2009). In contrast, information use has received less attention, and remains a poorly defined concept (Connor, 2000; Uche, 2004; Wilson, 2009). It is often linked to the concept of information need, in that information is needed so that it can be used. When discussed, use is often addressed at an abstract level, with reference to the broad, general goal that the use of information will help to achieve. Early studies of information needs and uses (e.g., Mwangi, 2002; Orr, 2009) focussed on information systems, at the time consisting primarily of paper-based library collections of books and journals. In these studies, information use referred to the information packages (e.g., books, journals, indexes, etc.). The concept of information use is therefore historically associated with the resource itself, rather than the information contained within. The emergence of self-serve searching and the web has changed the way we now view the object of use from those physical items to the information chunks.

Information use is relevant to the present study – “management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria” because the aim of acquiring information resources is to make them available and accessible for use in order to satisfy the information needs of the users.

### **Strenghts and Weaknesses of the Model**

#### **Strenghts**

1. The life-cycle of information naturally is very flexible and can play out in diverse environments, changing procedures from environment to another

within seconds (Braman, 2009), diverting from an original path through an unexpected depict of information.

2. With life-cycle of information, people adapt to the procedure that addresses their particular need of the moment.

### **Weakness**

1. The weakness of this model is seen to be the absence of one vital variable or component that is “policy” which is part of the variables in the present study (management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria).

### **Conceptual Framework**

The purpose of this study is to investigate how information resources can be effectively managed for use in the National Library of Nigeria. It is worthy to note that, for the National Library of Nigeria to manage effectively information resources for use, there is the need to determine the procedures to follow. It is in this direction that the life-cycle of information model was found to be very relevant for the study. Depicting from the life-cycle of information model, it is glaring that it is divided into three components having twelve dimensions directly and indirectly applicable to the study. Hence, most of the components were used to measure and investigate the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria with the introduction of policies which was not in the model. For the purpose of this study, the researcher conceptualized the following dimensions of the life-cycle of information model which include: policy, creation/generation, collection/acquisition, organisation, preservation and conservation, accessibility and use. These were given as the major variables guiding the conduct of the study as depicted graphically in Figure 2. In developing a conceptual model for the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria, the information life-cycle is an appropriate model for information resources processes. It is assumed that information is created at one point or the other either within or outside an organisation for instance, daily transactions, information resources in libraries, etc. These created information resources or library resources must pass through some management procedures which include: policy, creation/generation, collection/acquisition, organisation, preservation and conservation, accessibility and use. These procedures when duly followed by laid down policies will lead to effective management of information resources

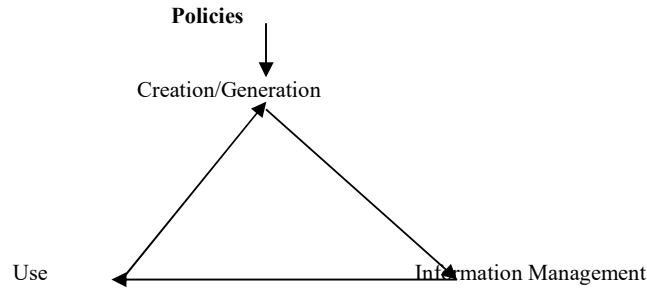


Figure 2: *The proposed model for management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria*

Depicting from the above conceptual framework is the direction of the variables and how they guide the conduct of the study. It is assumed that there exist relationships among the variables, i.e policies, creation / generation, information management and use where an increase in one is expected to lead to an increase in the other.

### 1. Policies:

Anthony (2002) defined policy as “a deliberate system of principles to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. A policy is a statement of intent, and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. Policies are generally adopted by the Board of or senior governance body within the National Library whereas procedures or protocols would be developed and adopted by senior executive officers. Policies can assist in both *subjective* and *objective* decision making. Policies to assist in subjective decision making would usually assist senior management with decisions that must consider the relative merits of a number of factors before making decisions and as a result are often hard to objectively test e.g. policy on information resources (Vigo, 2013). In contrast policies to assist in objective decision making are usually operational in nature and can be objectively tested e.g. password policy”.

The term may apply to government, private sector, organizations, National Library and groups, as well as individuals. Presidential executive orders, corporate privacy policies, and parliamentary rules of order are all examples of policy. Policy differs from rules or law. While law can compel or prohibit behaviours (e.g. a law requiring the payment of taxes on income), policy merely guides actions toward those that are most likely to achieve a desired outcome. Policy or policy study may also refer to the process of making important National Library’s decisions, including the identification of different alternatives such as on information resources, programmes or spending priorities, and choosing among them on the basis of the impact they will have.

The importance of policies should not be underestimated because they form the very factors such as creation/generation, collection/acquisition, organisation, preservation and conservation, accessibility and use of information resources that influence management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. The existence of policy on information resources leads to the creation/generation of information resources in National Library of Nigeria.

**2. Creation/Generation:** Creation in this study is defined as the means through which the National Library of Nigeria generates its information resources. This could be by means of publication of National Bibliography of Nigeria. The National Library of Nigeria also generates its information resources through the means of legal deposit. According to Shuaibu (2006), Legal Deposit is the collection of the intellectual output of a nation in its entire ramification backed up by law. Legal Deposit is a statutory obligation, which requires any organization, commercial or public, and any individual, producing any type of document in multiple copies, to deposit one or more copies with a recognized national institution (Lamikanra, 2003).

**3. Information Management:** Information Management means the organization of and control over the planning, structure and organisation, controlling, processing, evaluating and reporting of information activities in order to meet client objectives and to enable corporate functions in the delivery of information (Huotari and Wilson, 2001). In short, information management entails organizing, retrieving, acquiring, securing and maintaining information. Management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria entails acquisition, organisation, preservation for easy access and use of information resources.

- i. **Acquisition:** This is the means of acquiring or obtaining information resources into the National Library of Nigeria. This could be done by means of legal deposit, purchasing, donations / gifts, inter-library lending, etc. The National Library of Nigeria has a task of acquiring information resources to satisfy the information needs of the users.
- ii. The concept of organization of information resources in the national library entails “putting information resources into their proper final order” or to place them in order relative to each other. Information resources need to be properly organised in order to promote or create room for easy accessibility of library resources. The information resources need to be organized properly by making

use of classification scheme, means of cataloguing, filing systems, abstracting, indexing, etc.

- iii. Preservation: The concept, preservation in this context is used to refer to all necessary strategies, measures and steps invested into prolonging the lives of library information resources. As supported by Opula (2003), preservation is used to denote all those activities and measures intended at conserving library resources for posterity. The National Library of Nigeria needs to preserve and conserve its information resources by binding the torn resources, dusting the resources, deacidify the acid content in the information resources, provision of air-conditioners for the information resources, etc.

#### **4. Information use:**

Choo (2002) views information use as “a dynamic, interactive social process of inquiry that may result in the making of meaning or the making of decisions.” Information use in this study entails accessibility and use of information resources.

- i. Accessibility: In this study accessibility simply means the process of getting reach to information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. This could be done by going through library catalogue, shelves, library staff, user education, etc.
- ii. Use: Is the activity which measures the worth of an item to a library or information system.

In its absolute perspective, the research model suggests that there is a great need for the National Library of Nigeria to employ management procedures in the process of management of information resources. This will assist the National Library of Nigeria to achieve the objectives it was established for. Also, the application of these management procedures will help solve the information needs of the users.

Consequently, the researcher proposes a conceptual framework in which these factors identified from the literature could be considered in line with the theoretical assumption of the life cycle of information. These factors if considered holistically will provide effective and efficient management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. Hence,

the proposed framework served as a guide to the researcher in carrying out the study which explored the applicability of the life cycle of information model in the National Library of Nigeria.

## **2.8 Summary of the Review and Uniqueness of the Study**

Based on the literature reviewed for this study, it could be observed that volumes of the literature on the National Library's information resources are quite encouraging. Various authors in the field of library and information sciences had made a lot of contributions in the area of National Library information resources. The review tends to consider issues on the brief historical development of National Library of Nigeria and its mission and objectives as discussed by some researchers such as: Nwalo (2000), Apotiade (2002), Ode (2007), etc.

Some parts of the review dealt with resources management in the National Library of Nigeria which attracted the view of authors like: Oke (2008), Akinfemiwa (2003), McClure (2011), etc. On issues concerning the procedures for managing the information resources in the National Library of Nigeria, writers such as Arua (2007), Edoka (2000), Omokaro (2007), etc stressed on the effective management for use the information resources in National Library of Nigeria.

Challenges associated with the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria had also been discussed by scholars such as Ugwu (2007), Mohammed (2008), Madu (2008), etc. They viewed the challenges of National Library of Nigeria management of information resources as inadequate funding, inadequate infrastructure and lack of constant power supply, among others.

The uniqueness of this study is to achieve a deeper understanding of the management procedures on information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. Despite all the advantages attached to good management of information resources, the review has revealed that there is dearth of empirical knowledge on the management of information resources in the National Library and that to the knowledge of the researcher no study on the topic had been carried out. This prompted the need for a study such as this, and makes the study unique. It is also the first time a research is conducted on the branches of National Library of Nigeria across the six (6) geo-political zones of the country and on both the Directors and the heads of branches. Generally, to the best of the researcher's knowledge on the subject matter there are few studies that proposed a valid theoretical framework of life-cycle of information aimed

at exploring the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. Uniquely, this study was able to fill such gap by proposing a theoretical framework of life-cycle of information on how the National Library of Nigeria's information resources could be effectively managed for use.

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## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter deals with the methodology used in carrying out this study. It comprises the following sub-headings: Methodology, Research design, Population of the study, Sample techniques and Sampling size of National Libraries of Nigeria, Instrument for Data collection, Trustworthiness and Transferability, Administration of research instrument and Data analysis techniques.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

According to Sambo (2005), methodology is a way of choosing a process or design, lying behind the choice and use of a particular research method and linking the choice and use of methods to the desired outcome. He added that, research methodology is an approach that guides a researcher in choosing the appropriate methods and shapes the use of methods chosen. Methodology is the perspective or approach in which the researcher wants to follow to address his or her research problems or questions (Powell, 2006). He further said that, methodology refers to more than a simple set of methods; rather it refers to the rationale and the philosophical assumptions that underlie a particular study. In view of the above, the researcher employed qualitative research methodology. Sulaiman (2012) opined that, qualitative research paradigm is based on the philosophy that reality is subjective because individuals and societies create their own reality, that is in line with the paradigm of post positivist school of thought. Qualitative research methodology according to Olayiwola (2007) means “collect non-numeric data in order to gain insights into the phenomenon of interest it aims at gaining a deep understanding of a specific organization or event, rather than surface description of a large sample of population”.

Okoye (2005) stated that qualitative research method is a process of inquiry that has the goal of understanding a social or human problem from multiple perspectives. He also added that qualitative research is conducted in a natural setting and involves a process of building a complex and holistic picture of the phenomenon of interest. It is also a type of educational research in which the researcher relies on the views of participants, asks broad, general questions, collects data (usually through interview) consisting largely of words (or text) from participants, describes and analyzes these words for themes and conducts inquiry in a subjective, biased manner (Powell, 2006).

A qualitative research method was used for this study because the study is all about understanding management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria of a predetermined group of people on a particular phenomenon of interest. And since in qualitative research meaning is situated in a particular perspective or context, such method is found appropriate for this particular study. And also qualitative research was considered fit for this study because is an area of research where little or non had been written on in the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria and therefore, needs a detailed and rich information that will contribute to the in-depth understanding of the context of the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria.

### **3.3 Research Design**

In order to be able to gather data relevant to this study, narrative research design was used. Narrative design according to Chisita (2010) “is the process for conducting research within the context of qualitative mode of inquiry which involves focusing and studying one or two individuals, gathering data through the collection of their stories, reporting individual experiences and chronologically ordering the meaning of those experiences”. Edoka (2000) as cited Ezema (2009) gave three methods of collecting information. He further stressed that an educational research can use one or a combination of the three; these are observation, interview and questionnaire. However, narrative research design involves the use of interview for collecting data from the participants, as it assisted the researcher to find out the procedures for management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria. Narrative research design provides an important source of basic scientific knowledge and can be useful when a researcher wants to collect data on phenomena that cannot be directly observed (such as opinions on management of information resources). Using narrative research design, the researcher was able to collect data on the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria. It enabled the researcher to collect, gather and analyse opinions and views on the subject matter from a sampled number of participants which was used to draw appropriate conclusion.

Chisita (2010) defined qualitative research technique as a type of educational research in which a researcher relies on the views of participants whereby data collection depends largely on words or texts. A qualitative research tends to address research problems requiring detailed understanding of a central phenomenon.

### **3.4 Population of the Study**

According to Tinuonye (2010), population is defined as “all members of a defined category

of element such as people, events, or objects. Saka (2010) also defined population as a group of individual persons, objects, or items from which sample are taken for measurement. Besides, population is the larger group to which all the people of interest belong. Therefore, the population of this study comprised the National Library of Nigeria headquarters and its branches. They are National Library of Nigeria headquarters (1) and its twenty-three (23) branches. These included: The National Library of Nigeria, Abuja (headquarters) and the branches located in Abia, Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Edo, Enugu, Federal Capital Territory, Gombe, Imo, Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Lagos, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto and Taraba States. The subjects of the study were the five (5) Professional Directors of the National Library who represented the National Library of Nigeria headquarter and the six (6) Heads of Branch libraries based on the six (6) geo-political zones who represented the National Library of Nigeria Branches respectively under study.

**Table 3.1: Population of the study**

S/N	Name of Library	Number of participants	Branches	Location
1	National Library		Branch	Abia
2	National Library	5	Headquarter	Abuja
3	National Library	1	Branch	Adamawa State
4	National Library		Branch	Bauchi State
5	National Library	1	Branch	Benue State
6	National Library	1	Branch	Cross River State
7	National Library		Branch	Edo State
8	National Library		Branch	Enugu State
9	National Library		Branch	F.C.T
10	National Library		Branch	Gombe State
11	National Library	1	Branch	Imo State
12	National Library		Branch	Kaduna State
13	National Library	1	Branch	Kano State
14	National Library		Branch	Kwara State
15	National Library	1	Branch	Lagos State
16	National Library		Branch	Niger State
17	National Library		Branch	Ogun State
18	National Library		Branch	Ondo State
19	National Library		Branch	Osun State
20	National Library		Branch	Oyo State
21	National Library		Branch	Plateau State
22	National Library		Branch	Rivers State
23	National Library		Branch	Sokoto State
24	National Library		Branch	Taraba State

**SOURCE: National Library of Nigeria, Abuja. 2015**

### **Subjects for the Study**

For the collection of data relevant for this study, the researcher selected:

- a. **The Professional Directors of the National Library:** The choice of these subjects was basically on the reasons that they were the primary focus for the study and they were responsible for providing relevant information about the National Library of Nigeria because they were responsible for such information.

- b. **The Heads of Branches of the National Library:** The selection of this subject was based on the fact that, they were responsible and accountable for providing and managing the information resources to meet the information needs of the patrons and they were directly involved with all the activities of each department of the library. In addition, the selection of these subjects was to assist the researcher with all the vital information on management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria; this is because they were responsible and accountable for providing relevant information on management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria. They were also accountable for promoting the image of the library as well as other activities that have to do with managing of library within the library.

### **3.5 Findings of Preliminary Study**

In order to find out the state of information resources in the National Libraries of Nigeria, a preliminary study was carried out at the National Library of Nigeria Headquarters, Abuja and at six (6) Branches based on the six (6) Geopolitical Zones. A preliminary interview was conducted with the Professional Directors of National Library of Nigeria and the Heads of Branches of National Library of Nigeria who were in charge of library matters. Ezema (2009) stressed that the aim of a preliminary study is to obtain information in order to assess the feasibility of the major study. The specific objectives of the study were to find out:

1. the types of information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria
2. the processes involved in making available information resources of the National Library of Nigeria
3. how the information resources of National Library of the Nigeria were being managed in terms of:
  - (a) organization of the information resources
  - (b) creating accesibilty to the information resources
  - (c) general maintenance of the information resources
4. the factors militating against the management of the information resources
5. the number of branches of the National Library of Nigeria.

### **3.6 Result of Preliminary Finding**

Findings of the preliminary study revealed that there were different types of information resources both (printed and non-printed information resources) available in National Library of Nigeria; the processes involved in making information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria are through legal deposit, gifts, donations, purchase,prscription,etc; in

terms of information resources management, the National Library of Nigeria organised its information resources by making use of Library of Congress Classification Scheme, creating accessibility to the information resources through library catalogue, etc; and general maintenance of the information resources were by providing air-conditioners, dusting the information resources, binding the torn information resources, etc.; factors militating against the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria included insufficient funds, etc, and it was also revealed that there were twenty-three (23) branches of National Library of Nigeria in the country.

### **3.7 Sample Technique and Sample Size**

Sampling is the process of selecting a number of participants for a study in such a way that they represent the larger group from which they were selected (Ola, 2011). For the purpose of this study therefore, purposive sampling technique was used in selecting the National Library of Nigeria headquarters, Abuja (1) and its (6) Branches located in Adamawa state, Benue state, Cross River state, Imo state, Kano state and Lagos state, based on the six (6) Geopolitical Zones, reason being that the researcher was able to lay hands on relevant information about them. In support of choosing the purposive sampling technique, Ode (2007) acknowledged that:

With purposive sampling technique, the sample is 'handpicked' for the research. The term is applied to that situation where the researcher already knows something about the specific people or events and deliberately selects particular ones because they are seen as instances that are likely to produce the most valuable data. In effect, they are selected with a specific purpose in mind and that purpose reflects the particular quality of the people or events chosen and their relevance to the topic of investigation.

The reason of choosing purposive sampling was to enable the researcher to gather relevant information for this study. Therefore, the (5) Professional Directors of the National Library of Nigeria (headquarter), Abuja and the (6) Heads of Branch were used as the sample size to collect data on management of information resources in National Libraries of Nigeria under study, this was because they were the ones that could supply relevant information about management of information resources in the National Libraries of Nigeria.

### 3.8 Instrument for Data Collection

Choosing and developing the research instrument depends on what the research problem is, and what research questions need to be addressed in the research. For this study, interview was used to elicit information from the research participants which are the professional directors of the National Library of Nigeria and the heads of branches of the National Library of Nigeria. The interview is an oral questionnaire: it is a face-to-face, in-person posed of questions to each member of a sample. But instead of writing the response, the interviewee gives the required information verbally in a face-to-face relationship (Ifidon, 2007). Interviewing is one of the most common and powerful ways in which the 'how's' and 'what's' of people and their lives can be studied (Owairu, 2010). It also manifests specific characteristics that make it an extremely versatile protocol of gathering data in research.

A number of elements make face-to-face interviewing a suitable method for specific research needs (Penzhon, 2007).

- The data is collected personally by an interviewer, which gives more control over the response situation;
- Response bias is usually low as the rate of cooperation is basically equal for all types of respondents;
- Rapport is better and the quality of responses is generally regarded as very good because the respondents get to see the person they are talking to and the study can be explained in person;
- High response rates are likely; one of the reasons may be that advance contact can be made which to an extent 'legitimizes' the interview;
- It is a flexible method, visual presentations are possible, and both interviewer and interviewees have the opportunity to consult records;
- Questions can be more complex as interviewer and respondents are in the same location and face-to-face methods, allowing for a more relaxed atmosphere and tempo of questioning, are better for open-ended questions.

The main disadvantages of using the method of face-to-face interviewing are the expense involved, usually because of travelling costs, and the amount of time needed to collect data. It takes more time to interview few subjects than it takes to mail questionnaires to large potential respondents. In addition, respondents often feel hesitant to report personal types of

behaviour, do not have time to formulate their answers, and may, under circumstances, be likely to provide answers that they regard as desired by the interview (Ola, 2011).

Taking into cognizant the positive attributes as well as the disadvantages and the problem that can be encountered, a semi-structured face-to-face interview with professional directors of the National Library of Nigeria, Abuja and the heads of branches of the National Library of Nigeria was regarded as the most feasible choice in collecting data from the two groups of participants for this study, in which fairly complex information were collected. Another reason for the use of interview to collect data for the study was that, it permitted the researcher to seek clarification of issues that may not have been cleared and thus, provided insight into the various essential aspects of the research problem.

The interview being a semi-structured face-to-face interview allowed for element of both structured and unstructured interviewing and this made the participants freely express themselves. The interview was flexible as it enabled the researcher to adjust questions to encompass new perspectives. Each question was mapped out to one or more of key objectives of the research study which formed the main research questions. Time spent on each participant was thirty minutes.

### **3.8.1 Trustworthiness and Transferability**

In explaining validity of research instrument, Nworgu (2006) stated that content validation is one among the commonly used method for determining the validity of a data collection instrument in research. And that it does indicate the ability of the instrument to measure what it is supposed to measure. Similarly, Olugbuo (2009) mentioned that content validity is the extent to which the questions in the instrument and the scores from these questions are representatives of all possible questions that a researcher could ask about the content or skills. While reliability has to do with how consistent the result obtained with the instrument are. On the other hand, will the instrument give exact or similar result when it is used by different researchers under the same assumptions or conditions (Nwokedi, 2008)?

The language of validity and reliability in research was originally developed for use in quantitative research that is largely based on the assumption of objectivity (Olusanya, 2005). These concepts are thus often not suitable for qualitative research. Qualitative research firstly does not strive for broad generalisation of results (i.e reliability of results), but take the view that findings relate to the individual context of a specific research situation. Similarly, the

validity and objectivity of data is not a core issue, as qualitative research often aims at understanding how research participants subjectively experience their world. Reliability and validity in qualitative research are therefore not necessarily bound by specific tools or methods, but pertain to the data or the conclusion reached by using the tools and methods in a particular context for that particular purpose (Wagner, 2008).

Despite the given presumptions, reliability and validity are still issues of much discussion within the qualitative research domain, with various alternative criteria for evaluating the quality of research and the results obtained having been proposed (Lancaster and Sandore, 2007). However, the underlying principle of validity and reliability in qualitative research is to be able to address basic essential issues, by assessing procedures and results in an appropriate manner suited to individual research project, as each qualitative study is special in its own way (Kent, 2009).

Following the nature of this study, which aimed at getting information on the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria, the validity of the research was ensured through the trustworthiness and understanding of the findings. The trustworthiness of the study and understanding of findings was established, through some criteria which include;

**Credibility** – these criteria correspond broadly to the criteria of internal validity and objectivity in qualitative research (Ugah, 2008). They refer to the degree to which the researcher demonstrates the degree to which the results can be confirmed or corroborated by others. This plausibility or truth value of research findings is seen as the most vital criterion for the assessment of qualitative research (Scott, 2007). For this study, credibility was enhanced by investigating the topic of interest from the point of view of the participants (Witkin, 2004). The researcher took into account all the complexities in the study and addressed problems that were not easily explained. Therefore, individual views of the participants were transcribed word-by-word and in the process of analyzing the data these ideas and responses were not judged, therefore, nothing was left out.

**Transferability** – this relates to the qualitative criterion of external validity, which implies the degree to which research results can be generalized to other participants, situations, times and places (Ricks and Gow, 2008). The criterion of transferability attempts to determine whether the researcher has provided sufficient information about the context and assumptions underlying the research to allow others assess the potential transferability of the finding to other similar settings. Transferability, therefore, is majorly concerned with the applicability

of the findings in qualitative research to other contexts and settings (Norlin, 2000). For this study, transferability of the research results were ensured as professional directors and heads of branches of the National Library of Nigeria were chosen as participants based on the assumption that they are the major actors in the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria headquarters, Abuja and its branches, therefore, with definitive views on the topic under investigation. With this transferability of the findings was assured.

### **3.8.2 Administration of Research Instrument**

To obtain accurate data for the study, the researcher conducted face-to-face interviews with the two groups of participants; professional directors of National Library of Nigeria and the heads of branches of the National Library of Nigeria respectively. Owen (2007) highlighted that personal interviewing is the most usual method of collecting data in social research. And also it is a method that has a distinct advantage of enabling the researcher to establish rapport with potential participants and therefore gain their cooperation; thus, such interviews yield the highest response rates (Opula, 2003). Also, face-to-face interview allows the researcher to clarify ambiguous answers and, when appropriate, seek follow-up information (Roper, 2009).

The researcher visited the National Libraries of Nigeria personally to conduct the interview with the participants. Duration of 30 minutes was used to interview each participant. Also, the researcher was attentive by preventing any form of distractions, the reason being that it would enable the researcher to avoid errors and misinterpretation of data collected.

### **3.9 Data Analysis Techniques**

Data analysis refers to processing of data to extract useful information and reveal significant findings; it also involves categorizing the collected data and ordering them for manipulation and summarizing. The purpose of data analysis in qualitative research is to organize the information so as to present a narrative that explains the meanings, feelings, opinions and so forth that underlie the behaviour of the participants in the study (Bruce and Dumais, 2004). There is no right or wrong approach to data analysis in qualitative research (Dike, 2008). For that, in line with the objectives of the study and for proper analysis of data, a general guideline as found in the literature regarding coding system was followed to analyze the data collected.

Thematic analysis was used in analysing the data collected because it focuses on examining themes within data in an attempt to give meaning to what is being expressed by the narrator. The researcher found thematic analysis deemed highly suitable for analyzing the results of the findings in relation to the statement made by Shyllon (2005) that it is a method of identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns (themes) within data. Coding system was used to organize the responses into categories that identified and brought corresponding themes. The transcribed interviews were read word by word, and themes and categories were marked as they appeared, and after a code was provided when the themes would be grouped together.

The researcher identified codes that were needed for an accurate reflection of the content of the entire data set. The use of thematic analysis provides a more detailed and nuanced account of one particular theme or group of themes within the data. Similarly, thematic analysis was found appropriate for the study because it is desirable when the particular methodology chosen for enhancing the clarity of results and finding, as well as the ease of communication. The researcher used a coding system to code the responses of the research participants which are the five (5) professional directors of the National Library of Nigeria headquarters, Abuja and the six (6) heads of branches of the National Library of Nigeria based on six (6) geo-political zones.

### 3.10 References

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## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents and discusses the data collected for the study using thematic analysis in form of coding system where a semi-structured interview was used as the instrument for data collection. The researcher conducted the interview with the five (5) professional directors of the departments of the National Library of Nigeria headquarter and the six (6) heads of branches based on the six (6) geo-political zones in the country. The data collected is discussed and presented based on the variables of the study. The presentation is based on background information of participants, types of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria, processes involved in making information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria, collection development policy in the National Library of Nigeria, collection development policy abided by the National Library of Nigeria for information resources availability, management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria and challenges affecting management of information resources. The themes that emerged are used to report the findings for the study. The emerged themes include:

Theme 1: Types of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria

Theme 2: Processes involved in making information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria

Theme 3: Collection development policy in the National Library of Nigeria

Theme 4: Collection development policy abided by the National Library of Nigeria for information resources availability

Theme 5: Management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria

Theme 6: Challenges affecting management of information resources

#### 4.1 Background Information of the Participants

Table 4.1: Professional Directors

Name of the Departments	Code	Gender	Educational Qualification	Working Experience	Date and Time of Interview
Public Service Department (PSD)	A1	Female	BLIS	15 Years	9/02/2015 10:00-10:30am
Collection Development and Processing Department (CDPD)	A2	Male	MLIS	32 Years	10/02/2015 10:30-11:30am
National Bibliographic Control Department (NBCD)	A3	Female	MLIS	30 Years	11/02/2015 10:00-10:30am
Research and Development Department (RDD)	A4	Female	BLIS	25 Years	12/02/2015 11:00-11:30pm
Virtual Library Services Department (VLSD)	A5	Male	MLIS	11 Years	13/02/2015 9:00-9:30am

**Source:** Research Interview, 2015

#### Key:

A 1= Director of Public Service Department (PSD)

A 2= Director of Collection Development and Processing Department (CDPD)

A3= Director of National Bibliographic Control Department (NBCD)

A4= Director of Research and Development Department (RDD)

A5 = Director of Virtual Library Services Department (VLSD)

The data presented on Table 4.1 show the summary of the background information of the first set of participants, having five (5) participants interviewed. The data in the table reveal the departments of the professional directors under study, code given to each individual professional director under study, gender, educational qualification, their years of working experience as well as the date and time the researcher conducted the interview with these set

of participants (Professional Directors). Based on the data collected it has been revealed that only participant A5 had the least years of working experience in the National Library of Nigeria, but all other participants had over ten years of experience in the field of librarianship. It has also been revealed that only two professional directors were males with MLIS while three professional directors were females with two of them having BLIS and one having MLIS. The data also reveal the date and time the researcher conducted the interview with this set of participants (Professional Directors) from 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 to 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

Table 4.2: Heads of Branches

<b>State Branches (Based on 6 Geo-political Zones)</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Educational Qualification</b>	<b>Working Experience</b>	<b>Date and Time of Interview</b>
National Library Makurdi, Benue	B1	Female	BLIS	3 years	16/02/2015 10:00-10:30am
National Library Yola, Adamawa	B2	Male	BLIS	2years	19/02/2015 11:30-12:00pm
National Library Kofa Nassarawa, Kano	B3	Male	MLIS	4years	23/02/2015 10:30-11:00am
National Library Owerri, Imo	B4	Male	MLIS	5years	27/02/2015 11:30-12:00pm
National Library Otop-Abasi Street, Cross River	B5	Male	MLIS	3years	02/03/2015 12:30-1:00pm
National Library, Yaba, Lagos	B6	Male	BLIS	5years	06/03/2015 2:30-3:00pm

**Source:** Research Interview, 2015

**Key:**

B1= Head of Branch, Benue

B2= Head of Branch, Adamawa

B3= Head of Branch, Kano

B4= Head of Branch, Imo

B5= Head of Branch, Cross River

B6= Head of Branch, Lagos

The data presented on Table 4.2 show the summary of background information of the second set of participants. The data reveal the state branches of the National Library of Nigeria in the six (6) geo-political zones of the country under study, the code given to each head of branch. It has also been revealed that only one head of branch was a female with a BLIS while the remaining five heads of branches were male with two having BLIS in Library Science and three having MLIS. Therefore, all the respondents had attained BLIS professional qualifications in the Librarianship. Based on the data collected it has been revealed that only participant B2 had less years of working experience in the field of librarianship while majority of the participants had over two years working experience in the field of librarianship. The data also reveal the date and time the researcher conducted the interview with this set of participants (Heads of Branch) from the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 2015 to 6<sup>th</sup> of March, 2015.

### **Presentation and Analysis of the Data Collected from the Professional Directors of the Departments of National Library of Nigeria Headquarters, Abuja and the Heads of Branches of State Branches Based on the Six (6) Geo-political Zones**

#### **4.2 Types of Information Resources in the National Library of Nigeria**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants on the types of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria

**Responses:** Data collected regarding the types of information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria, indicated that different types of information resources were available in the National Library of Nigeria studied by the researcher. Information Resources such as reference sources, government publications, British Parliamentary papers, United Nations documents, Publications of African Governments, books, newspapers on microfilm, non-book resources such as audio tapes, television etc as contained in the interview texts of A1, A3 and A5. In addition, A2 identified serials as sources of information (printed or electronic) that are produced at regular basis are also available in the National Library of

Nigeria. They included newspapers, minutes of meetings, newsletters, bulletins, magazines, journals. Also, microforms, microfilms, tapes, cassettes, disc photographs, maps, slides, pictures were identified.

According to A4 information resources available in the National Library included: Nigerian resources comprising Federal, State and Local Government Publications i.e. gazettes, reports on various government activities and functions, government documents in both printed and non-printed formats, reports of commissions of inquiries, boundary disputes, texts of government legislation and decrees, reports on the work of different organs of government i.e. ministries, parastatals, corporations and so on. These resources contained intellectual output of Nigerian authors and publications about Nigeria by foreign nationals. The monographs covered all fields of knowledge like medicine, the sciences, literature, and law, including reports on research work on various subjects on or about Nigeria. In addition, all the participants included both books and audio-visual information resources as the types of information resources that were available in the National Library of Nigeria. Similarly, participants also highlighted that there were several types of information resources maintained by the National Library of Nigeria.

The findings show that A1, A3 and A5 indicated that there were different types of information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria such as reference sources, government publications, British Parliamentary papers, United Nations documents, Publications of African Governments, books, newspapers on microfilm, non-book resources such as computers, audio tapes, television etc. In addition, A2 identified serials as parts of information resources both in printed or electronic formats that are produced at regular basis were also available in the National Library of Nigeria. They included newspapers, minutes of meetings, newsletters, bulletins, magazines, journals. Also, microforms, microfilms, tapes, cassettes, disc photographs, maps, slides, pictures were identified. While A4 identified Nigerian resources comprised Federal, State and Local Government Publications i.e. gazettes, reports on various government activities and functions, government documents in both printed and non-printed formats, reports of commissions of inquiries, boundary disputes, texts of government legislation and decrees, reports on the work of different organs of government i.e. ministries, parastatals, corporations and so on. These resources contain intellectual output of Nigerian authors and publications about Nigeria by foreign nationals. The monographs covered all fields of knowledge like medicine, the sciences, literature, and law, including reports on research work on various subjects on or about Nigeria.

From the analysis, it could be identified that the types of information resources available in National Library of Nigeria were of various types and formats as highlighted by Aina (2004) who identified that the types of information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria included books, audiovisuals, atlases, reference sources, serial publications, bills, decrees constitutions, debates, parliamentary debates, Judicial publications, Law reports and Laws of the Federation and Executive publications, gazetteers, directions, reports of commissions of enquiry, annual reports, press releases, technical reports, developmental plans etc.

### **4.3 Processes Involved in Making Information Resources Available in the National Library of Nigeria**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants of the processes that were involved in availability of information resources in National Library of Nigeria.

**Responses:** A1 revealed that these processes were through submissions by publishers of the copies of their publications, purchases, gifts or donations and exchanges. A2 was of the opinion that these processes were through purchases, gifts or donations, exchanges, or legal deposit into the library. A3 also showed that this is done through the means of publishers, purchases, gifts or donations and exchanges. A4 and A5 were also in agreement with the rest of the participants but notified that not all the publishers especially, brought to the library the number of their publications specified by the Legal Deposit Act even though they might be aware of this directive.

The findings show that the processes involved in making information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria were through the following: publishers, purchases, gifts or donations, and exchanges. The findings also show that another means in making information resources available in National Library of Nigeria was through legal deposit law.

From the analysis, it can be seen that purchases, gifts or donations, exchanges and legal deposit were means through which information resources were being made available in the National Library of Nigeria, although, most publishers were not aware of the legal deposit law.

#### **4.4 Collection Development Policy in the National Library of Nigeria**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants if there was collection development policy in National Library of Nigeria.

**Responses:** A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5 revealed that the National Library of Nigeria had collection development policy by responding “Yes” to the question. On the other hand, A4 stated that the collection development policy is that policy that the National Library of Nigeria uses as a means of collecting information resources into the library whereby the policy states that the Federal Government and its agencies should deposit twenty-five (25) copies of its publications, State Government and its agencies should deposit ten (10) copies of its publications and private publishers should deposit three (3) copies of their publications. Similarly, A5 was of the same view with A4 when he said that legal deposit is a right given to the National Library of Nigeria to collect, preserve, organize and disseminate information on all published resources within a geographical area. However, the legal deposit was still under review in the National Assembly. Also, a lot of authors possibly were not aware of the legal deposit.

The findings show that all the participants were in agreement that the National Library of Nigeria under study had collection development policy. However, the findings also show that this policy was one of the means through which the library used in getting information resources into the library. Also, the findings show that the legal deposit was still under review in the National Assembly. Also, a lot of authors possibly were not aware of the policy.

From the responses of the respondents interviewed above, it could be seen that National Library of Nigeria under study had collection development policy. Also the legal deposit was still under review in the National Assembly and that a lot of authors possibly were not aware of the policy. Therefore, the result obtained for this particular question was in line with the view of Lunn (2003) that there was a policy in the National Library of Nigeria for management of information resources.

#### **4.5 Collection Development Policy Abided by the National Library of Nigeria for Information Resources Availability**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants of the extent to which the collection development policy was being abided by in making information resources available in National Library of Nigeria.

**Responses:** A1 stated that it was to high extent, because this was the major means through which information resources were being made available in the National Library of Nigeria. Although, these information resources were mainly books with the neglect of other resources which might be as a result of nonchalant attitude of the publishers, for instance, in spite of the awareness created. A2 also stated that the extent was very high, because it was the most effective way of getting information resources into the library. Though there were other means like gifts or donations exchanges, and by purchases through publishers' catalogue. A3 was also of the opinion that the extent was high in the sense that it assisted the library in making the information resources available quickly and simply. A4 stressed that the extent might be high or low as a result of the lack of proper public awareness of this policy and that the depository agency was poorly funded. Therefore, this made it difficult for one to really say that it was to a high extent but nevertheless, it had been through this means that the bulk information resources had come into the library and A5 also was in the same view with A4 only he added that there was the need for proper public awareness and working out in detail the procedure to be followed for safe and easy effecting of deposits with a system of supervision and inspection.

The findings show that participants A1, A2 and A3 were in support that the extent to which the collection development policy was being abided by in making information resources available in National Library of Nigeria was very high, while A4 and A5 were looking at it to be either high or low based on some challenges such as nonchalant attitude of the publishers, lack of proper public awareness of this policy and poor funding of the agency.

From the responses of the respondents interviewed above, it can be seen that the extent to which the collection development policy was being abided by in making information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria was very high, which is in line with the view of Ode and Omokaro (2007). Though, in a few cases, it was seen to be either high or low based on some factors that needed to be attended to, therefore, there was the need for proper public awareness of this policy and adequate funding of the agency for effective management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria.

#### **4.6 Management of Information Resources in the National Library of Nigeria**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants of the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria.

**Responses:** A1 revealed that the management of information resources entailed the organisation of information resources for example, by making use of Library of Congress Classification Scheme because it has wide space to accommodate large volumes of information resources. In addition, he said that with the help of organizing information resources, general maintenance (i.e preservation and conservation) would be made easy and this would pave way for easy access and then use of the information resources that brings satisfaction to the users for their information needs while A2 reported that the management of information resources began with the policy on information resources, collection of information resources, organisation of information resources. Also, he reported that this runs down through preservation and conservation, accessibility up to the use of information resources. A3 was of the same opinion, A4 and A1 confirmed the same and A5, all these procedures assisting them in managing information resources. However, all the participants disclosed that the management of information resources in terms of preservation and conservation was ineffective in the National Library of Nigeria due to the preservation problems it was facing such as inadequate facilities, information resources were deteriorating, the books and serials were becoming acidic and no efforts were being made to deacidify them. Non-book resources like microforms, tapes, photographic negatives and slides had gone bad and there were no disaster detection facilities as a measure towards disaster control.

The findings disclose the various management procedures in National Library of Nigeria provided by the five participants interviewed. The findings reveal that these procedures included policy, creation, collection, organisation, preservation and conservation (maintenance), accessibility and use. Also, in spite of this management procedures the library was still faced with preservation and conservation challenges.

From the analysis, it can be identified that there were various management procedures employed by the National Library of Nigeria to manage their information resources. Although, the library was still faced with the preservation and conservation challenges as stated by Mohammed (2006) that the National Library of Nigeria has a lot of challenges in the field of preservation of library information resources. This is due to the preservation problems it is facing such as inadequate facilities, information resources are deteriorating, the books and serials were becoming acidic and no efforts were being made to deacidify them. Non-book resources like microforms, tapes, photographic negatives and slides had gone bad and there were no disaster detection facilities as a measure towards disaster control.

Therefore, this indicates that there is the need to solve this challenge if effective management of information resources for use is to be achieved in National Library of Nigeria.

#### **4.7 Challenges Affecting Management of Information Resources**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants the major challenges affecting management and use of information resources

**Responses:** A1 reported that the major challenge was that of inadequate fund. Also, the facilities were not adequate, poor electricity supply, inadequate audio-visual information resources and poor training opportunities for resources managers. A2 revealed that the challenges were inadequate fund to acquire more current information resources, more facilities and more qualified personnel. There was also the problem of training and retraining staff on management of information resources; the problem of Internet services; lack of strong support from the government and lack of constant power supply. On one hand, A3 stated that their challenges were: lack of fund, the problem of accommodation, as the reading space was usually too small to occupy a large number of user community; most of the information resources were outdated, lack of incentives on the staff, for example, lack of training of the staff and facilities were inadequate. On the other hand, A4 was of the opinion that lack of support from the government, lack of fund, lack of training of staff, inadequate facilities, insufficient audio-visuals and internet services and problem of power supply were all the major challenges, while A5 confirmed that its challenges included: inadequate fund, lack of trained and qualified staff, lack of Internet facilities, lack of audio-visual information resources and lack of constant power supply.

The findings show the various challenges associated with management of information resources by the five (5) participants interviewed. The responses indicated that the major challenges being faced in managing of information resources effectively included: inadequate fund, lack of audio-visual information resources, poor staffing, inadequate accommodation, inadequate facilities, poor electricity supply, lack of current information resources and lack of strong government support.

From the analysis it can be seen that the challenges of management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria included: inadequate fund, lack of audio-visual information resources, problem of staffing, inadequate accommodation, inadequate facilities, poor electricity supply, lack of current information resources and lack of strong government

support, and this is in line with the view of Popoola (2003). Therefore, there is the need for the National Library of Nigeria to be properly and sufficiently funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria so as to meet up with its established objectives.

#### **4.8 The Strategies to Overcome the Challenges**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants on the strategies to overcome such challenges.

**Responses:** A1 revealed that the strategies were that if the government could assist them through the provision of adequate fund, to provide adequate and current information resources, provide Internet services, provide adequate facilities and organize programmes on the management of information resources. The provision of constant power supply was also one of the major solutions to our problems as it could make the preservation and conservation of information resources easy, said A1. Similarly, A2 was of the opinion that the major solutions were to get adequate financial assistance from the government that would enable the purchase of more information resources that were current and more ICT facilities, train staff and provide more electricity supply so that the management of information resources would be more effective. On one hand, A3 disclosed that in order to overcome all these challenges, there was the need for improvement from the government to support the National Library of Nigeria in terms of finance, so as to enable them to provide all that was required to manage information resources effectively.

On the other hand, A4 also stated that all these problems could be overcome if there was strong support from the Federal Government and that if the government could provide enough fund, then most of the problems would be solved, while A5 also stated that more fund should be provided by the government; the staff should be trained on the field of management of information resources effectively, more resources and Internet facilities should be provided; more spacing in the library should be created and constant power supply needed to be provided to enhance the management of information resources.

In agreement with the responses, Olurayi (2010) pointed out some challenges associated with the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria included inadequate fund, storage, maintenance, skilled manpower, access to information, delay in retrieval, power supply, equipment, security, low moral of staff, training and re-training, use of ICT, creation of resources, and government policies. The researcher also indicated that if

all the solutions proffered in the findings were provided, they would solve most of the problems identified in this study.

#### **4.9 Types of Information Resources in National Library of Nigeria**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants of the types of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria

**Responses:** B1 and B2 reported that the types of information resources in National Library of Nigeria were books, newspapers, maps, journals, official documents, audio-visual information resources, charts, T.V., picture books, reference resources, encyclopaedias, computers, government publications, microfilm, tapes, etc. B3 confirmed that the types of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria were books, newspapers, maps, journals, official documents, audio-visual information resources, charts, T.V., picture books, reference resources, encyclopaedias, computers, government publications, microfilm, tapes while B4 and B5 revealed that books, reference information sources, tapes, microfilms, government publications, computers, encyclopaedias, T.V., charts, newspapers, journals, Nigerianna collection, minutes of meetings, newsletters, bulletins, magazines were the information resources in the National Library of Nigeria and B6 disclosed that the types of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria are gazettes, slides and reference books. Accordingly, all the Heads of Branches with the exception of B4 and B5 revealed that the audio-visual resources were not being utilized due to lack of constant power supply while B4 and B5 did not even have any audio-visual resources. However, all the Heads of Branches reported that most of the information resources were outdated and the audio-visual resources available were not being utilized due to lack of constant power supply to make use of them.

The findings show the different types of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria as revealed by the six (6) respondents interviewed. The findings reveal that there were books, reference information resources, tapes, microfilm, government publications, computers, encyclopaedias, T.V., charts, newspapers, journals, Nigerianna collection, minutes of meetings, newsletters, bulletins, magazines. Looking at the above, it is evident that different types of information resources were provided by all the branches of the National Library of Nigeria based in the six (6) geopolitical zones. This signifies that various information resources are provided in different formats.

From the analysis, it could be identified that the types of information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria were of various types and formats as highlighted by Esharenana (2009) who identified that the types of information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria included books, reference information resources, tapes, microfilms, government publications, computers, encyclopaedias, T.V., charts, newspapers, journals, Nigerianna collection, minutes of meetings, newsletters, bulletins, magazines. It is however, noticed that most of the information resources were obsolete and audio-visual resources available were not being utilized due to lack of constant power supply.

#### **4.10 Processes Involved in Making Information Resources Available in the National Library of Nigeria**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants of the processes involved in the availability of information resources in National Library of Nigeria.

**Responses:** B1, B2 and B3 revealed that these processes were through submission by publishers their publications, purchases, gifts or donations and exchanges. B4 stated that these processes were through purchases, gifts or donations, and exchanges, or legal deposit into the library. B5 also confirmed that this was done through the means of publishers, purchases, gifts or donations and exchanges. B6 was also in agreement with the rest of the participants but indicated that not all the publishers especially, brought to the library the number of their publications as specified by the legal deposit Act even though they might be aware of this directive.

The findings show that the processes involved in making information resources available in National Library of Nigeria were through the following: purchases, gifts or donations and exchanges. The findings also show that another means in making information resources available in National Library of Nigeria was through legal deposit law.

From the analysis, it can be seen that purchases, gifts or donations, exchanges and legal deposit were those means through which information resources were being made available in National Library of Nigeria, although, most publishers were not aware of the legal deposit law.

#### **4.11 Collection Development Policy in the National Library of Nigeria**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants if there was collection development policy in National Library of Nigeria.

**Responses:** B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 and B6 revealed that the National Library of Nigeria had collection development policy by responding “Yes” to the question. On the other hand, B4 stated that the collection development policy is that policy that National Library of Nigeria uses as a means of collecting information resources into the library whereby the policy states that the Federal Government and its agencies should deposit twenty-five (25) copies of its publications, State Government and its agencies should deposit ten (10) copies of its publications and private publishers should deposit three (3) copies of their publications. In the same vein, B5 and B6 were of the same view with B4 when they said that legal deposit is a right given to the National Libraries of Nigeria to collect, preserve, organize and disseminate information on all published resources within a geographical area.

The findings show that all the participants were in agreement that the National Library of Nigeria under study has collection development policy. However, the findings also show that this policy is one of the means through which the library uses in getting information resources into the library.

From the responses of the respondents interviewed above, it can be seen that the National Library of Nigeria under study has collection development policy. Therefore, the result obtained for this particular question goes in line with the view of Arua (2007) that there is a policy in the National Library of Nigeria for management of information resources.

#### **4.12 Collection Development Policy Abided by National Library of Nigeria for Information Resources Availability**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants of the extent to which the collection development policy is being abided by in making information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria.

**Responses:** The responses of B1 and B2 with regards to this particular question were that the extent is high, reason being that information resources were mainly gotten into the National Library of Nigeria through this means. In addition, they reported that based on their knowledge the library had largely abided by this way of making information resources

available in the library. B3 also revealed that the extent was very high, due to the fact that it was the most effective way of getting information resources into the library. Though there were other means like gifts or donations, exchange, and by purchases. B4 was also of the opinion that the extent was high in the sense that it assisted the library in making information resources available quickly and simply; B5 stated that the extent might be high or low as a result of the lack of proper public awareness of this policy and that the depository agency was poorly funded. Therefore, this made it difficult for one to really say that it was at a high extent but nevertheless, it had been through this means that a lot of information resources have come into the library and B6 also was of the same view with B4.

The findings show that the participants B1, B2 and B3 were in support that the extent to which the collection development policy was being abided by in making information resources available in National Library of Nigeria was very high, while B4 and B5 were looking at it to be either high or low based on some challenges such as nonchalant attitude of the publishers, lack of proper public awareness of this policy and poor funding of the agency.

From the responses of the respondents interviewed above, it can be seen that the extent to which the collection development policy was being abided by in making information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria was high, which is in line with the view of Ode and Omokaro (2007). Even though, in some cases, it was seen to be either high or low based on some factors that needed to be attended to, therefore, there is the need for proper public awareness of this policy and adequate funding of the agency for effective management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria.

#### **4.13 Management of Information Resources in the National Library of Nigeria**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants about the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria.

**Responses:** B1 and B2 revealed that the information resources were organized and classified using the Library of Congress Classification Scheme. In addition, they were neatly shelved by library assistants on the shelves. Shelf readings were done on daily basis. Also, minor mendings were carried out on some information resources that were torn while occasionally those that needed full binding were sent for binding depending on the availability of fund. The participants also revealed that information resources were openly shelved without any restriction to community of users except that users were not allowed access with their own

personal textbooks. They were allowed to make photocopies of needed resources. The library did not lend information resources because it is not a lending library. It is only meant for reference and research purposes. Users must be up to 16 years to be able to access the information resources of the library. B3 reported that the management of information resources begins with the policy on information resources such as legal deposit policy, collection of information resources and organisation of information resources. Also, he reported that this ran down through preservation and conservation, accessibility up to the use of information resources. B4 was of the same opinion with B1 and B2. B5 and B6 confirmed the same. Nevertheless, the participants disclosed that the management of information resources in terms of preservation and conservation was ineffective in the National Library of Nigeria due to the preserving problems it was facing such as inadequate facilities, information resources were deteriorating, the books and serials were becoming acidic and no efforts were being made to deacidify them due to inadequate funding.

The findings disclosed the various management procedures in the National Library of Nigeria provided by the six participants interviewed. The findings revealed that these procedures included policy, creation, collection, organisation, preservation and conservation (maintenance), accessibility and use. Also, in spite of these management strategies the library was still faced with preservation and conservation challenges and inadequate funding for effective management.

From the analysis, it could be seen that there were various management procedures employed by the National Library of Nigeria to manage their information resources. Although, the library was still faced with the preservation and conservation, and funding challenges as stated by Mohammed (2006) that the National Library of Nigeria has a lot of challenges in the field of preservation of library resources and inadequate funding. This is due to the preserving problems it was facing such as inadequate facilities, information resources were deteriorating, the books and serials were becoming acidic and no efforts were being made to deacidify them. Therefore, this indicates that there was the need to solve this challenge if effective management of information resources for use is to be achieved in the National Library of Nigeria.

#### **4.14 Challenges Affecting Management of Information Resources**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants of the major challenges affecting management and use of information resources

**Responses:** B1 and B2 reported that the major challenge was that of inadequate fund, because new editions of information resources were not available which were needed to be purchased. Also, the facilities were not adequate, poor electricity supply, inadequate audio-visual information resources and poor training opportunities for resources managers. B3 revealed that the challenges were inadequate fund to acquire more current information resources, more facilities and more qualified personnel. There was also the problem of training and retraining of staff on management of information resources; the problem of Internet services; lack of strong support from the government and lack of constant power supply. On one hand, B4 stated that their challenges were: lack of fund, the problem of accommodation, as the reading space was usually very small to occupy a large number of user community; most of the information resources were outdated, lack of incentives for the staff, for example, lack of training of the staff. On the other hand, B5 was of the opinion that lack of support from the government, lack of fund, lack of training of staff, inadequate facilities, insufficient audio-visuals and Internet services and problem of power supply were all their major challenges, while B6 confirmed that its challenges included: inadequate fund, lack of trained and qualified staff, lack of internet facilities, lack of audio-visual information resources and lack of constant power supply.

The findings show the various challenges associated with management of information resources by the six (6) participants interviewed. The responses indicated that the major challenges being faced in managing of information resources effectively included: inadequate fund, lack of audio-visual information resources, poor staffing, inadequate accommodation, inadequate facilities, poor electricity supply, lack of current information resources and lack of strong government support.

From the analysis it can be seen that the challenges of management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria included: inadequate fund, lack of audio-visual information resources, poor staffing, inadequate accommodation, inadequate facilities, poor electricity supply, lack of current information resources and lack of strong government support. This finding is in line with the view of Popoola (2003).

#### **4.15 The Strategies to Overcome Challenges**

**Question:** The researcher asked the participants on the strategies to be used to overcome challenges.

**Respondents:** All the participants (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, and B6) were of the view that if the Federal Government should provide sufficient funds, every other problem would be solved because without enough funds managing information resources would be difficult and ineffective.

#### **4.16 Discussion of the Findings and the Implications from the Research Findings**

The findings of the study are considered in the light of the research problem and the literature reviewed. As the purpose of this study was to investigate the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria, the order of the discussion largely reflects the order in which the questions were asked.

1. From the findings on the background information, it had shown most of the directors interviewed had more than ten years experience in the profession. This reveals that a number of directors had been in the profession for some time now. Given this,, most of these directors, should have been in good position to respond to the various questions posed, because, by implication should have, for long, engaged with activities of the management of information resources. On the part of the heads of branches interviewed, it was also observed that some of them were Degree holders while others had Masters Degree in librarianship. Therefore, the heads of branches should use professionalism in providing procedures to effectively enhance the management of information resources.
2. The findings on the information resources available showed that the format of the information resources available consisted of both printed and non-printed information resources such as books, audio-visuals, atlases, reference sources, serial publications, bills, decree constitution, debates, parliamentary debates, judicial publications, law reports and Laws of the Federation and executive publications, gazetteers, directories, commissions of enquiry, annual reports, press releases, technical reports, developmental plans, etc. The findings also showed that audio-visual resources available were not being utilized properly due to lack of constant power supply. By implication, if this is not being addressed, there could be a problem as lot of users might lose interest and confidence in the library.
3. The researcher also found out that all the directors and the heads of branches were of the same view that the processes involved in making information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria were through purchases, gifts or donations,

exchanges, and legal deposit. The findings of the study also disclosed that in terms of the legal deposit as one of the means of making information resources available in the library, most publishers were not aware of the legal deposit law. Therefore, by implication, if most publishers are not aware of the legal deposit law there could be a problem in carrying out the legal deposit obligation, and the National Library of Nigeria will miss a lot of information resources that would have come into the library through this process.

4. From the findings on the collection development policy in the National Library of Nigeria, it was disclosed by the five professional directors studied that the Library had collection development policy which it used as one of the means of getting information resources into the library. Based on the responses from the six heads of branches on the collection development policy in the National Library of Nigeria, it was also recorded that the Library had collection development policy which it used as one of the means of getting information resources into the library. Collection development policy is considered critical by Lunn (2003), who points out that there is a policy in the National Library of Nigeria for management of information resources and also that a lot of authors are not aware of the policy. By implication, if awareness is not pervasive across all those concerned on the collection development policy the library would not be receiving as much as possible the current information resources.
5. The findings on the collection development policy abided by National Library of Nigeria for information resources availability showed that, based on some of the participants the extent was very high, which is in line with the view of Ode and Omokaro (2007). The findings also showed that in few cases it was seen to be either high or low as a result of some factors that needed to be addressed. However, there was no proper awareness and adequate funding for the agency, which, by implication, could hinder effective management of information resources in the library.
6. Regarding the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria, the findings showed that there were various management procedures employed by the National Library of Nigeria to manage their information resources. The findings also showed that in spite of all these management procedures the library was still faced with the challenges of preservation and conservation as stated by Mohammed (2006) that the National Library of Nigeria has a lot of challenges in the field of preservation of information resources such as inadequate facilities, information resources are deteriorating, the books and serials are becoming acidic and

no efforts are being made to deacidify them. Non-book resources like microforms, tapes, photographic negatives and slides have gone bad and there are no disaster detection facilities as a measure towards disaster control. By implication, if care is not taken in the long run there could be a problem of all the information resources being affected.

7. The findings of the study also unveiled a number of challenges associated with the management of information resources by all the participants studied, including inadequate fund, lack of audio-visual information resources, problem of staffing, inadequate accommodation, inadequate facilities, poor electricity supply, lack of current information resources and lack of strong government support, among others. By implication, only if these challenges are overcome would the National Library of Nigeria have effective management of information resources. Thus, they would continue to face these problems.
8. The findings of the study also included the proffered solutions by the participants of the study towards the identified problems. Some of the proffered solutions includes: provision of adequate funds by the Federal Government, provision of adequate facilities, organising programmes on management of information resources and so on. This implies that if all these measures would be taken then the identified problems would be solved.

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## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

In this chapter, a brief summary of the study is given. The main conclusions drawn from the study were also highlighted, and then followed by recommendations for addressing the problems identified in the study on management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria. Finally, suggestions for further research in related areas are made.

#### **5.2 Summary of the Study**

Chapter one dealt with the background to the study, research problem, research questions and research objectives, which were outlined and discussed. This chapter also highlighted the significance of the study, scope and limitations of the study and definition of research terms used.

Chapter Two, the literature review, examined the historical development of the National Library of Nigeria, concept and significance of information resources management, types of information resources available and accessible in National Library of Nigeria, procedures for managing information resources in National Library, challenges associated with the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria, theoretical/conceptual framework for the study and a summary of the review and the uniqueness of the study.

In chapter three, the research methodology adopted for the study was qualitative research design. The population of the study was also discussed which constituted the National Library of Nigeria headquarters and its twenty-three (23) branches under study. Also, a purposive sampling technique was used to draw the sampling size of the National Library of Nigeria headquarters, Abuja and its (6) branches based on the six (6) geopolitical zones, which formed the sampling size for the study. In doing this a semi-structured interview was developed as an instrument for data collection with both elements of structured and unstructured interviewing. A face-to-face interview was conducted with the eleven (11) participants identified as the subjects for the study. Therefore, the validity of the research was ensured through the trustworthiness and transferability of the instrument, using member checking. Finally, the data analysis was briefly discussed using thematic analysis technique.

In chapter four, the findings of the study were presented largely in coding system form, and subsequently discussed in light of the relevant literature.

While, Chapter five consists of a summary, conclusion, recommendations and further areas of research.

### **5.3 Summary of the Findings**

The findings revealed that information resources were provided in various formats, which included: books, audiovisuals, atlases, reference sources, serial publications, bills, decrees constitutions, debates, parliamentary debates etc.

The processes involved in making information resources available in the National Library were through purchases, gifts or donations, exchanges, and legal deposit. Even though the legal deposit is one of the means of making information resources available in the library, most publishers were not aware of it.

The findings revealed that both professional directors and heads of branches accepted that there was collection development policy in National Library of Nigeria. Also, that the legal deposit law was still under the review in the National Assembly, and that a lot of authors are not aware of the legal deposit law.

The extent to which the collection development policy was abided by the National Library of Nigeria was high because this is the major means through which the library obtained a lot of information resources into the library. Sometimes it was low as a result of some factors that needed to be addressed such as no proper awareness and inadequate funding for the agency.

Regarding the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria, there were various management procedures employed by the National Library of Nigeria to manage their information resources. In spite of all these management procedures the library was still faced with the challenges of preservation and conservation of information resources such as inadequate facilities, information resources were deteriorating, the books and serials were becoming acidic and no efforts were being made to deacidify them. Non-book resources like microforms, tapes, photographic negatives and slides had gone bad and there were no disaster detection facilities as a measure towards disaster control.

However, the major challenges of management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria ranged from inadequate fund, lack of audio-visual information resources, problem

of staffing, inadequate accommodation, inadequate facilities, poor electricity supply, lack of current information resources and lack of strong government support, among others.

Possible suggestions on how to overcome challenges and to ensure more effective management included provision of sufficient funds by the Federal Government, provision of adequate audio-visual information resources, and provision of constant power supply, among others.

#### **5.4 Conclusion**

The study is on the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria. It was carried out in order to find out how the National Library of Nigeria effectively managed their information resources. The National Library of Nigeria plays a major role of being the depository library of all copyright publications within the country. They are designed to meet information, cultural, education, research and entertainment needs of their citizens and this can only be done through the provision of adequate and quality information resources with effective management of these resources in order to meet their needs.

The types of information resources available in the National Library of Nigeria include books, audiovisuals, atlases, reference sources, serial publications, bills, decree constitution, debates, parliamentary debates, Judicial publications, Law reports and Laws of the Federation and Executive publications, gazetteers, directories, commissions of enquiry, annual reports, press releases, technical reports, developmental plans, among others.

On the other hand, it can be seen that purchases, gifts or donations, exchanges and legal deposit are those means through which information resources are being made available in the National Library of Nigeria. Although, most publishers were not aware of the legal deposit law, therefore, this indicates that there is the need for National Library of Nigeria to sensitize and enlighten the general public on the legal deposit Act and its function so that those concerned can take note and become aware, if really there is the need to sustain the system.

However, from the findings, it is obvious that there was collection development policy on information resources identified in the National Library of Nigeria. Also, the legal deposit law is still under review in the National Assembly, and that a lot of authors possibly are not aware of the policy.

Moreover, it could be identified that there are various management procedures employed by the National Library of Nigeria to manage their information resources. Although, the library is still faced with the preservation and conservation challenges such as inadequate facilities, information resources are deteriorating, the books and serials are becoming acidic and no efforts are being made to deacidify them. Non-book resources like microforms, tapes, photographic negatives and slides have gone bad and there are no disaster detection facilities as a measure towards disaster control.

On the other hand, the challenges of management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria include: inadequate fund, lack of audio-visual information resources, poor staff training, inadequate accommodation, inadequate facilities, poor electricity supply, lack of current information resources and lack of strong government support, among others. The major solution to all the challenges is adequate funding from the Federal Government.

### **5.5 Recommendations**

The following recommendations are proffered based on the findings of the study:

1. The National Library of Nigeria needs not only books as its information resources, but also other current adequate information resources like the modern ICT facilities, for example, computers, as well as more audio-visual resources. There is also the need for information resources sharing among libraries so as to solve the problem of acquisition, as this would equally foster cooperation and unity among different libraries.
2. The National Library of Nigeria should strive to ensure that legal deposit law which is still under review in the National Assembly is being attended to as quickly as possible and also awareness of it should be created to the people.
3. There is the need for proper public awareness of this policy and adequate funding of the agency for effective management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria.
4. The National Library of Nigeria should sensitize and enlighten the general public on the legal deposit as one of the means of making information resources available in the library and its function so that those concerned can take note and become aware, if really there is the need to sustain the system.

5. There is the need to solve the challenges in the management circle of information resources, for example in the area of preservation and conservation among others if effective management of information resources for use is to be achieved in the National Library of Nigeria.
6. User education programme should be introduced and maintained where librarians can teach the users on how to make good use of the library resources such as catalogues, indexes, abstracts, etc.
7. The government should make provision of adequate funds, as that will enhance the provision of sufficient, adequate and current information resources in various formats, the provision of more effective Internet services, adequate facilities and to organize programmes on the management of information resources, the provision of constant power supply, etc.
8. The solutions proffered in the findings should be used to solve most of the problems identified in the study. Some of the proffered solutions includes: provision of adequate funds by the Federal Government, provision of adequate facilities, organising programmes on management of information resources and so on.

## **5.6 Contributions of the Study**

The research work on the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria has contributed immensely both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the study has contributed immensely, as it would stimulate the effective management of information resources through its recommendations, which will, in turn, play a major role in the literacy, cultural, research and educational development in the country. It will also assist and serve as a guide to other researchers who may be interested in conducting researches on management of information resources in other types of libraries.

Practically, the result of this study will encourage and help the library management to improve and understand the impact of collection development policy towards the effective management of information resources. It will also serve as a reference for any attempt to restructure or improve upon the procedures for managing information resources effectively and efficiently to meet up with the purpose which the National Library of Nigeria was established.

## **5.7 Recommendations for Further Research on this Area**

The current study about the management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria can provide a basis for future research in the field. Therefore, areas recommended for further research include;

- Importance of management of information resources in the National Library of Nigeria
- Problems and constraints surrounding information resources management activities in National Library of Nigeria.
- The need for a comparative study on information resources management activities in the National Library of Nigeria and other countries by looking at their systems, general trends, future prospects and possibilities with a view to inform the practice of information resources management in the National Library of Nigeria.
- The implementation, monitoring and management of effective legal deposit system for management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria.

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## **APPENDIX I**

**Table 4: CODING OF PARTICIPANTS (PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORS)**

S/NO	PARTICIPANTS	CODED FOR
1	Public Service Department (PSD)	A1
2	Collection Development and Processing Department (CDPD)	A2
3	National Bibliographic Control Department (NBCD)	A3
4	Research and Development Department (RDD)	A4
5	Virtual Library Services Department (VLSD)	A5

## APPENDIX II

**Table 5:** CODING OF PARTICIPANTS (HEADS OF BRANCHES)

S/NO	PARTICIPANTS	CODED FOR
1	National Library Benue	B1
2	National Library Adamawa	B2
3	National Library Kano	B3
4	National Library Imo	B4
5	National Library Cross River	B5
6	National Library Lagos	B6

**APPENDIX III**

**INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA**

**Section A: Background Information**

Status .....

Educational qualification .....

Years of working experience .....

**Section B: MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA**

1. Please can you tell me what types of information resources are available in National Library of Nigeria?
2. What processes are involved in making available the information resources of National Library of Nigeria?
3. Please can you tell me if the National Library of Nigeria has collection development policy?
4. Please can you tell me the extent is the collection development policy abided by in making information resources available in National Library of Nigeria
5. Please can you tell me how are the information resources of the National Library of Nigeria managed in terms of:
  - (a) Organization of the information resources
  - (b) Creating accessibility to the information resources
  - (c) General maintenance of the information resources
6. Please can you tell me the factors militating against the management of information resources in National Library of Nigeria?