****ASSESSING ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES****

**ABSTRACT**

This study was carried out to examine **alternative funding of public libraries using** Rivers State Library, Port Harcourt as case study. Specifically, the study was aimed at investigating the need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries, investigate the different alternative funding sources of public libraries, investigate the challenges of alternative funding of public libraries, and proffer possible solutions to the identified challenges of alternative funding of public libraries. The study employed the survey descriptive research design. A total of 30 responses were validated from the survey. From the responses obtained and analysed, the findings revealed that the need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries is that it helps to enhances service delivery, Enables provision of necessary infrastructure, Enables provision of current books, Helps in maintenance of staffs and library, and enhances overall performance of the library services. Also, the different alternative funding sources of public libraries include; Fees for Services, Private Donations, Government Grants, and Corporate and Foundation Grants. Furthermore, the challenges of alternative funding of public libraries includes; librarian’s attitude, Inadequate philanthropic culture of Nigerians, Inadequate structures for effective and efficient accountability and transparency, Unco-operative attitude of those involved in the fund-raising process, Inadequate time to plan the due to head librarians tenure in office, and government attitude towards library development in Nigeria. The study therefore recommend public libraries, as a matter of necessity should seek other sources of funding to supplement the traditional sources which are hardly adequate to provide modern facilities that will make the libraries ICT compliant. This they can do by commercialising their services to include those provided by private individuals or organizations within their premises. Such services may include photocopying, printing of documents and card production. Moreso, there is also a need for more advocacy and publicity in the mass media on the crucial role of libraries in the operational efficiency of their states. Through such awareness programmes, profit-oriented corporate establishments and non-governmental voluntary organizations could be mobilized to provide financial assistance to Nigeria’s Libraries.

****CHAPTER ONE****

****INTRODUCTION****

****1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY****  
Library is a learning institution equipped with treasures of knowledge, maintained, organized and managed by trained personnel to educate the children, men and women continuously and assist in their self-improvement through an effective and prompt dissemination of information embodied in the resources. This is an instrument of self-education, a means of knowledge and factual information, a center of intellectual recreation and a beacon of enlightenment that provides accumulated preserved knowledge of civilization which consequently enriches one’s mental vision and dignifies his habit, behavior, character, taste, attitude, conduct and outlook on life. (Islam, 2004).

The public library is a social institution that is inextricably linked to the political and social reality of the communities in which it exists. This is an open-to-the-public library, as the name indicates.

"Those which serve the inhabitants of the community or region free of charge or for a modest price," according to UNESCO (1966). It is a public library intended to serve the entire public.  
"Public libraries that serve the public are sustained by government subvention, municipal rates or levies," according to Oduagwu (2002). He went on to say that a public library is sometimes referred to be a poor man's university. Its clientele is diverse, with little regard for ethnicity, position, or rank as to who would avoid using its services. It carries every imaginable thing that contributes to society's knowledge, education, research, information, and cultural requirements. In Nigeria today, each of the 36 state Win the country including Abuja has a public library board established under the public library act as United Kingdom (UK), but here in Nigeria, library board of states is established by edit or laws made by the states legislators.  
Oparaku et al (2005) defined a public library as “an institution that is set up by the government through enabling law, funded and mentioned expected to meet the educational, informational and recreational needs of its community”.  
Public library funding refers to making money available for the day to day running of the library. Funding deals with making money or funds available to public libraries. Finance is the life wire of any establishment including labor, capitals and entrepreneur and information the capital here refer to finance which can be used to procure other factors of production thereby making it more important than others. Fund is obviously the major element in every establishment. It is equally the working capital of an establishment. Public library funding generally means the various ways public libraries derive the expected funds for capital and recurrent expenses.  
According to New Lexicon Webster’s Encyclopedic Dictionary (1991) public libraries is “a library usually run by a municipality from which books may be borrowed freely”.  
According to Encyclopedia of librarianship (1958), a library is “concerned with all material. Values to the individual and the community and its duty not only to meet existing demands but also to encourage and facilitate wider demands from more people.

****1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM****  
In many public libraries, the budgetary allocation released as when due, and this in turn delays the implementation of the program of those libraries when funds has resulted in shortage relevant textbooks as currently being experienced by people and researchers who are in need of the material. There is inadequate funding of public libraries by the state government which provides about 80% of the funds required by the public libraries. Shortage of funds has resulted in shortage of materials. In adequate provision of funds has prevented the provision of current materials needs by the staff and client in public libraries. Also poor appreciation of the service of the library by those at the helm of affairs, low societal ratings of the libraries in public libraries in Nigeria pose problems to funding of public libraries.

****1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY****

Research objectives are just as useful as they are in most other aspects of life. “Research objectives provide the researcher a wonderful feeling of aim and direction,” according to Torty (2021). The study's overall purpose is to investigate **alternative funding of public libraries**.

The study, on the other hand, was focused on achieving these precise goals:

1. Investigate the need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries.
2. Investigate the different alternative funding sources of public libraries.
3. Investigate the challenges of alternative funding of public libraries.
4. Proffer possible solutions to the identified challenges of alternative funding of public libraries.

****1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS****

Research questions provide structure and direction to a study in scientific inquiry. As a result, according to Torty (2021), "research questions should truly constitute an enlargement of the research problem."

The following research questions were posed in accordance with the study's objectives and are analysed using mean and standard deviation:

1. What is the need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries?
2. What are the different alternative funding sources of public libraries?
3. What are the challenges of alternative funding of public libraries?
4. What are the possible solutions to the identified challenges of alternative funding of public libraries?

****1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY****  
This study will be of benefit to the government and policy makers in Rivers State and other states of the Federaion of Nigeria to come to the understanding the relevant of an alternative sources of funding for public libraries in the states. This study will also enable Librarians to abide by the rules of accountability and transparency in managing the different funds that will be coming to public libraries. This study will also help the government to identify the challenges of alternative sources of funding for public libraries and devise a measure to solving them. This study will further add to existing literature on this topic and serve as a reference material for futher research on this topic or related domain in the future.

****1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY****  
This study focuses on investigating the need for an alternative funding sources for public libraries. This study will also examine the different alternative funding sources for public libraries. Also, this study will look into the challenges of alternative funding for public libraries. Finally, this study will proffer possible solutions to the identified challenges of alternative funding for public libraries. This study shall be delimited to Rivers State Library, Nigeria. Hence, staff of Rivers State Library, Port Harcourt shall serve enrolled participants for this study.

****1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY****  
Like in every human endeavour, the researchers encountered slight constraints while carrying out the study. Insufficient funds tend to impede the efficiency of the researcher in sourcing for the relevant materials, literature, or information and in the process of data collection (internet, questionnaire, and interview), which is why the researcher resorted to a moderate choice of sample size. More so, the researcher will simultaneously engage in this study with other academic work. As a result, the amount of time spent on research will be reduced.

****1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS****  
**Library:** A library is a collection of materials, books or media that are easily accessible for use and not just for display purposes. It is responsible for housing updated information in order to meet the user's needs on a daily basis.

****Fund**** - Money that has been served or has been made available for a particular purpose.  
**Alternative Fund:** another possibility or choice of getting money from other sources

**CHAPTER TWO**

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

**INTRODUCTION**

Our focus in this chapter is to critically examine relevant literature that would assist in explaining the research problem and furthermore recognize the efforts of scholars who had previously contributed immensely to similar research. The chapter intends to deepen the understanding of the study and close the perceived gaps.

Precisely, the chapter will be considered in two sub-headings:

**2.1 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

**Library**

Library is a learning institution equipped with treasures of knowledge, maintained, organized and managed by trained personnel to educate the children, men and women continuously and assist in their self-improvement through an effective and prompt dissemination of information embodied in the resources. This is an instrument of self-education, a means of knowledge and factual information, a center of intellectual recreation and a beacon of enlightenment that provides accumulated preserved knowledge of civilization which consequently enriches one’s mental vision and dignifies his habit, behavior, character, taste, attitude, conduct and outlook on life. (Islam, 2004). The international federation of library association (2001) observed that libraries are organizations established, supported and funded by the government either through local, regional or national government or through some other forms of community organization. IFLA further explained that library provides access through a range of resources and services and it is equally available to all members of the community regardless of race, nation, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic and employment status and educational attainment. According to Ochogwu (2010), library is defined as professionally organized collection of graphic and non-graphic materials for exploitation. It is generally seen as an institution responsible for the acquisition, organization and storage of recorded knowledge in various media for study, research and consultation. Contemporary libraries maintain collections that include not only printed materials such as manuscript, books, newspapers, magazines etc., but also art reproductions, films, sound and video recordings, maps, e-journals, e-box and other media. Libraries provide people with access to the information they need to work, play, learn and govern.

**Nature of Library Services**

Having explained the meaning of the library services, then it is pertinent to look at the nature of library service because this study had maintained that it was important to the success of the education system. This section examines the nature of library services as found in studies. To start with, the function of library services is meant to provide assistance to students and other users of the library on how to retrieve the information they are looking for (Idris, Oji & Abana, 2012). The operation of the library, by the nature, is enormous and service oriented (Arua & Chinaka, 2011). The library service in school is an essential service which enables the users to have constant access to the relevant materials; hence, there is a need for library personnel to rise up to the occasion in providing the service to students with a view to boost their learning in school (Gama, 2008). Meanwhile, Heath (2011) and Salman, Mostert and Mugwisi (2014) had discussed the need for the school librarian to play an active role in efficiency in the use of library materials. They opined that the role of the school librarian is very important in this aspect, he/she is the head of the library personnel services and must coordinate the activity of the library properly. In order to do this, then the school librarian has a crucial role to play in ensuring timely delivery of services to students and the entire staff in the school (Mathew, 2011). Equally important, the school librarian must be well versed, competent, intelligent, qualified and have dexterities to run the library. Since the librarian is the head of the library personnel in schools, he / she superintend the affairs of the library and report the activities of the library to the principal of the school (Harris, 2008). Furthermore, the work of the school librarian is not limited to provide the materials for students only as noted by scholars (Idris, Orji & Abana, 2012), but they should endeavor to guide them and other users on how to access the books and other materials (Lance, 2012). It also includes maintenance and keeping of reference sources (Lance, 2002). In addition, Ajegbomogun and Salaam (2011) highlights the duties of school librarian as follows:

• The collection as well as the acquisition of relevant materials in journals, newspapers, books, charts, records, pictures, microphone, illustrations, maps, periodicals, atlases, pamphlets, etc. Those materials must be provided in consonance with the needs and aspirations of the students.

• The organization of the materials, arrangement and maintenance for easy identification.

• Assembling of all lists of indexes that are related to the materials in the library for record purposes.

• Providing files for likely complaints to be received from students, teachers and other library users.

• Ensures the updating of its personnel to expose them to the modern way of library services.

• Ensures provision of manual guide for library users, which contain the various ways of using the library.

• Provision of guidance and signposting to show the direction of the library

• Sensitization of the students on how make use of the library Moreover, the duty of the library personnel has to do with skills and techniques in assisting the students to search for information in the library. In searching for materials, the students must adhere strictly to the rules and regulations guiding the library activities (Zabel et al., 2010). Stone and Ramsden (2013) report that the library is seen as a resource place. It is meant for finding information; it is also a convergent place for students to discuss educative issues among themselves. Still, International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) (2009) asserts that the followings are the prerequisites to the learning and culture, since the development of literacy is fundamental to school library services:

1. Enhancing and supporting school goals as defined in the school mission and curriculum.

2. Sustaining and developing in children the enjoyment and habit of learning and reading, and the use of libraries through their lives.

3. Offering a chance for experiences in building and using information for understanding, knowledge, enjoyment and imagination.

4. Supporting all students in practicing and learning skills for appraising and using information, regardless of, format or medium, form, with sensitivity to the mode of communication within the community.

5. Providing access to regional, national, local, and global resource opportunities that expose students to experiences, diverse ideas, and opinions.

6. Organizing activities that encourage social awareness, cultural and sensitivity.

7. Working with teachers, administration, students and parents to realize the mission of the school.

8. Proclaiming the concept that logical freedom and access to information are vital to effective participation and responsible citizenship in a democracy.

9. Promoting resources and reading services of the school library to the entire school community and beyond.

**Public Library Resources**

There are a variety of library resources that can be made available in the public library to enhance teaching and learning. According to Aina (2004), these resources include:

Fictional Materials: these are books that are read for pleasure. They also form part of the school library resources. They help to improve the reading skills of the students. These materials include novels, science fiction and the story books.

Graphics: this may be art prints, pictures, photographs maps and charts.

Reference Materials: these are materials in the school library that are not to be studied from cover to cover but are to be consulted in the library and not usually borrowed out. Some of books in this category include encyclopedia, dictionaries, atlases, gazetteers, yearbooks, directories, almanacs bibliography and indexes.

Microforms: is a generic term indicating any form of micro record whether film, paper or other materials included in this generic theme is microfilm, micro board and microfiche.

Vertical File Materials: these are odd bit pieces which do not readily fit into parts of the collection. These could be newspapers, annual reports, pictures, charts, post cards, photographic etc.

Audiovisual Materials: this refers to two types of materials combined. They are resources which do not depend solely upon reading to convey a meaning. They may present information through the sense off hearing as in audio resources or through the sense of sight as in visual resources or through a combination of senses. Among the audio resources are records, tapes and cassettes and radio broadcast. Visual resources include models, real objects, three dimensional displays, the chalkboard, bulletin board, adhesives, graphs, charts, cartoons, posters pictures diagrams. Apart from the non-projected materials, there are projected forms of transparencies, slides filmstrips and film. Audiovisual combination includes sound films and filmstrips, slide tape desks, television programmes, video tapes and dramatization. These library resources provide alternative sources to books.

Serial Publication: serial is a distinctive title issued in parts and research issue is published independently. It is usually expected to be published indefinitely. They are publications that come out as regular and/or irregular intervals. It could be weekly, monthly, quarterly, twice a year or annually. It can be a medium for reporting scholarly research as in journals or in news medium such as magazines and newspapers. It can be annuals or yearbooks. These resources contain current information in topical issues and general information which is very useful for teachers and students.

Textbooks: Ifidon (2006) posit that a textbook is a classical publication used in the study of a subject. It usually contains a systematic presentation of the principles and vocabulary of the affected subject. It may be written by one or more authors it can be a collection of writings by various authors dealing with a specific subject. As pointed out here the textbooks cover a variety of subjects taught in the schools such as geography, mathematics, English language, and economics among others. They are needed in the library as they cover the syllabus and curriculum of the various subjects. According to Ezinwa in Ajebomogun and Salaam (2010), the objectives of the school libraries is to acquire, process and make available to pupils and students, a wide range of books and audio-visual (A/V) materials to supplement and enrich the teaching - learning situation in schools.

**The roles of libraries**

The library is the central point of all academic activities in the university. The main objective of the library is to assist the institution in which it is established to achieve excellence in teaching, research and extension work. In support of this view, Abdulkadir (1996) and Ifidon (1997) stressed that the central focus of any educational institution (including the university), is its library because it is where students and staff resort for academic nourishment. Therefore, an up-to-date library contributes in no small measure to paving the way for academic excellence. Abdulkadir (1996) further stated that the university library should organize its collections, operations and services so as to provide for the reading and information needs of its users and facilitate prompt service delivery.

Jolley (1962) remarked that the function of the library is to play a distinctive and indispensable part in the central purpose of a university by encouraging the student or staff in his search for knowledge and understanding. In the same vein, Agu (2006) stated that libraries vary from one university, and state to another. However, he further reported that the characteristic functions of a library are both academic and administrative, and geared towards the achievement of the educational objectives set by the institution. Azino (2006) also stated that the role of the public library is to ensure that the parent state’s intellectual output is preserved and accessible for use. He further stressed that the university library should support the university to promote teaching, learning and research.

From the above explanations, it is clear that the library is supposed to serve the needs of undergraduates, post graduates, lecturers, and other members of the university community. For the undergraduates, the library is supposed to provide information, materials and services specifically designed to meet their needs. For the postgraduate students, teaching staff and research fellows, the library is supposed to provide information, resources and services of sufficient quality and diversity to support their research interests.

According to Okoronta (2001), any information that cannot be accessed is as good as not available. All over the world, pieces of information are generated every second in their millions and they are scattered all over the place. Unless conscious efforts are made to acquire this information and package them for easy retrieval, they may be lost to humanity for ever. The university library performs this function of organizing information and making it accessible. It also promotes the development of reading skills and encourages long term reading interest and habit. ACRL (2006) further explained that the university library should guide users to information that will provide members of an academic community with tools for thoughtful inquiry. It is because of the important roles played by libraries, that Dr. Elliot, the first president of Harvard university said that if he were to start a new university, he would first build a good library, then admit students and if there were any money left, he would employ some professors.

**Concept of Public Library**

A public library is a library that is accessible by the general public and is usually funded from public sources, such as taxes. It is operated by librarians and library paraprofessionals, who are also civil servants.

There are five fundamental characteristics shared by public libraries: they are generally supported by taxes (usually local, though any level of government can and may contribute); they are governed by a board to serve the public interest; they are open to all, and every community member can access the collection; they are entirely voluntary in that no one is ever forced to use the services provided; and they provide basic services without charge.

Public libraries exist in many countries across the world and are often considered an essential part of having an educated and literate population. Public libraries are distinct from research libraries, school libraries, and other special libraries in that their mandate is to serve the general public's information needs rather than the needs of a particular school, institution, or research population. Public libraries also provide free services such as preschool story times to encourage early literacy, quiet study and work areas for students and professionals, or book clubs to encourage appreciation of literature in adults. Public libraries typically allow users to borrow books and other materials, i.e., take off the premises temporarily; they also have non-circulating reference collections and provide computer and Internet access to patrons.

**Concept of funding**

No library can exist without funds, because it is funds that will be used to procure the library materials and pay the staff. Funding is the act of setting a permanent stock of money aside for a purpose. In this project funding connotes all the money available to the university library. It includes money from student library fee collection, monetary donations from individuals, and organizations or grants from the government. In realization of the above, Davies (1968) noted that the university library is the force and source of educational excellence. He further opined that time was past when the university library was relegated to the peripheral fringes of educational non-involvement. He then stated that the direct support of the university library is fundamental to the basic design and optimum implementation of an educational programme of excellence and this required knowledge building and knowledge expanding materials. Anafulu (1996) observed that finance was the bedrock of every organization, including the university libraries, while William (2000) explained finance as the essential process of providing fund for economic activities, and Robert (2003) stated that finance is the process of raising funds or capital for any kind of expenditure. In most cases the use of funding and financing is synonymous. Therefore, in this study, funding and financing will be used interchangeably.

From the preceding definitions of university library and funding, some important facts emerge. For instance, for university libraries to achieve the objectives for which they were established, it is very important that they should be adequately funded. This is because the procurement and processing of materials, hiring of personnel, purchase and maintenance of equipment all require substantial funding. Lack of fund makes it impossible to maintain any form of library operations and services, especially in the university library. Moreover where fund is not adequate, the efficiency of the services in the library is bound to be adversely affected. Therefore the need for adequate funding of university libraries cannot be overemphasized.

**Need for funding of Public Libraries.**

Public libraries have been recognized as having an important role to play in higher education. They are responsible for providing information and other materials for the purpose of learning, teaching and research. Coplan and Castagua (1965) argued that of the several basic requirements for the operation of a successful library, adequate financing was of greatest importance, while Penna (1970) stated that the cost of library services should be regarded as a capital investment because the services are complementary to education itself. Agbanu (1987) also noted that the most important single ingredient for the success of all types of library is the level of funding. Libraries need the necessary finance to buy the stock, to erect or buy the building and to provide services to users. Although some of the peripheral services are charged for, such as photocopying, binding, lamination of documents among others, income from these are rather negligible compared with the maintenance costs of the university library. Thus, without adequate financial support, it will be impossible to develop a good library service.

Anafulu (1996) reported that finance is at the heart of any enterprise. No matter which way we look at it, the university library is a classic example of an enterprise as far as a university is concerned. Without fund, no worthwhile project can be expected to succeed. However, Anyaegbunam (1998) stated that all over the world, libraries by their nature are non-profit oriented institutions. They depend heavily on their governing bodies for financial support.

According to Simui and Kanyengo (2001), this role in providing the necessary environment for teaching, learning and research is being threatened by inadequate funding for the purchase of new books and subscription to journals and other information sources.

Ehikharmenor (1982) stated that funds can be allocated according to substantive areas such as the sciences and arts or geographical areas or historical periods. In the same vein, Aguolu (1983) opined that funds can be allocated for the purchase of books and non-book materials. To this effect, Edoka (1996) stated that the agreement between the federal government of Nigeria and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) in 1992 contained a clause that was designed to positively address the thorny problem of sourcing reasonable funds for university library services. The agreement stated that budgetary provision for library services should be under a special head and account for 10% of the total regular recurrent budget of the university.

It was further stipulated that 60% of the total allocation for library operations and services must be expended on books and journals, while 40% would be utilized for library personal emoluments and sundries. This enormous increase of funds was received with considerable excitement, but there is no evidence that this agreement is implemented. In line with the above, Jibril (1997) reported that the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) in 1993 recommended that 10% of the current allocations of any university in Nigeria should be reserved exclusively, for library expenditure instead of the previous 5% allocation. Out of this allocation, 60% is to be expended on books and Journals, while 40% is for salaries, goods and services. This current 10% allocation to libraries is still grossly inadequate. As it stands today, for libraries to be adequately equipped, there is need to find alternative means of financial support apart from the present hundred percent dependence on their governing bodies. Corroborating this idea, Downs (1970), stated that there is a need for libraries to find additional sources of financial assistance if quality and strength were to be maintained in higher education to prevent educational standards from sinking into mediocrity.

Anafulu (1996) opined that where finance is lacking, it is impossible to organize library services and where it is inadequate, the efficiency of the services is bound to be adversely affected. This is because the procurement and processing of materials, hiring of personnel and the purchase and maintenance of equipment all require substantial funding. Anyaegbunam 1998, observed that today there is dire need for more funds to be disbursed to university libraries. This will enable the libraries to procure materials that will equip the users to face the challenges of this millennium referred to as the “Knowledge Millennium”, that is the electronic information and publications in this digital world. There is also this need for university libraries to take up strategic initiatives and transform into a force that embraces new technologies. In line with this observation, Ojedokun (2003) stated that with the development of new technologies, the possibilities of innovative interlibrary cooperation projects emerge where libraries combine their efforts through various cooperative electronic networks to access electronic information sources more economically.

According to Arkorful (2007) the extensive use of computers, information and communication equipment has made great impact on libraries in other parts of the world. She noted that the use of information and communication technologies in libraries to provide access to and sharing of information within academic libraries in sub-Saharan Africa is quite recent.

Funds are needed to face these challenges. It will be very difficult to collect, organize and manage these electronic information and publications without adequate funds. So financial crisis is the biggest challenge before these university libraries for which universities in Nigeria are not excluded. Even training the existing staff of the libraries to make them capable of handling the digital publications and electronic information is another big challenge before the university libraries. So they are struggling to face and conquer all these challenges with little or no funds. Elaborating further on this Aguolu (1983) noted that the academic health, intellectual vitality and effectiveness of any university depend largely upon the state of health and excellence of its library which is its life blood. He further opined that actual and potential role of the library as an educational agency has not been fully recognized in Nigeria. It has not been properly and effectively integrated into the educational programmes being undertaken in various states of Nigeria because policy makers and responsible officials are ignorant about libraries.

Isnard (1968) argued that the library’s greatest enemy is ignorance; the ignorance of illiterates above all the ignorance of certain educated people who have not the least idea of what services a library can and should offer. Also the total ignorance of our policy-makers towards university libraries is a disease which seems to pervade almost all the institutions. This is perhaps why our policy makers do not seem to appreciate the importance of adequately funding university libraries.

The National Policy on Education in Nigeria (FME, 2004) recognizes university library as one of the most important educational services for which both the federal and state governments should provide funds. However, it is one thing to make a policy but another to implement it. Therefore, it is important to find out how the federal and state governments are providing funds for their universities’ libraries.

The university library is only one of numerous units in a university. By its central role in teaching, research and extension work, it is a major unit and a vital one at that. In recognition of this, the National Universities Commission (NUC) had demonstrated concern for the development of university libraries. A one time executive secretary of the NUC, Prof. Idris Abdulkadir, reasoned that the central focus of any educational institution is its library where students and staff resort for academic nourishment. Therefore an up-to-date library contributes in no small measure to academic excellence. The executive secretary showed a remarkable sensitivity to the needs of libraries from 1990 – 1992. He was able to translate the ASUU–FGN agreement on library funding into a workable policy. When libraries are well stocked and managed, then it can be said that all is reasonably well with the universities. Anafulu (1996) stated that the place to call if one lacked time but must make an assessment of a university is the library. He however noted that the priority Nigeria attached to the university libraries is very low, stressing that the government must show interest and fund university libraries adequately

**Alternative sources of funds for Public Libraries**

**1. Fees for Services**

Most public libraries charge fees for selected services, such as photocopying, placing reserves, or checking out bestsellers, DVDs, and other high-demand items. Other than photocopying charges and fees for materials loans, the most common types of fees are charges for food sales or for commercial items (such as tote bags, books, cards, etc.) sold on library premises (Dempsey, 2004). Craft (1998) has suggested that rather than fundraising, the greatest amounts of money that public libraries can raise is by charging advanced information and community services, in particular ‘‘library management in schools and other institutions, or services that cater to community needs such as passports or educational support’’ (p. 145). However, only a small fraction of public libraries currently engage in these kinds of profit-making services. While many libraries have set up in-house cafes, coffee bars, or other inhouse food and drink outlets since the late 1990s, foods sales typically generate minimal profits, generally earning less than .25% of a library’s operating budget (Craft, 1998, p. 141). As a result, most libraries offer food sales more to attract users to the library and for user convenience than to generate revenue. After food and drink sales, used bookstores operated by public libraries are the most popular type of commercial venture in public libraries. Unlike food sales, library-owned used bookstores usually generate significant profits, particularly if they are staffed by volunteers. In-house bookstores generate an average of $30,000 per year (Craft, 1998, p. 141). While few users or librarians would object to fees for photocopying or for food, many people do object to fees for other library services, particularly for information services viewed as standard library fare. Common objections include the argument that fees unfairly disadvantage poorer users (e.g. Goldberg, 2004). As Mitch Freedman, ex-president of ALA and a long-time opponent of fees for services, has stated, ‘‘As soon as you put fees between the user and the services, in principle, people are denied those services’’ (Freedman, as quoted in Kniffel, 1997, p. 3). On the other side of the argument, proponents of fees for services say that if there is a choice between charging a fee for a service and not offering it at all, the public is better served if the service is offered for a fee. Coffman has been an equally vocal proponent of fees for services. He has argued that: Wherever we can, we’re going to try to provide [services] for free. But if we can’t provide them for free, then it’s our duty to our patrons to provide them the best information possible at the best price possible. We think it’s much better to be able to provide the information and provide the service [for a fee] than it is not to provide it. (Coffman, as quoted in Kniffel, 1997, p. 4) Another common argument against library fees holds that since public libraries are supported by taxes, the library community has already paid for their services. Library fees therefore amount to double charging (Shoham, 1998). This objection is related to the first objection, as both are based on principles of fairness, and both are tied to the idea of undue financial burden on library users, particularly the poor. Instead of viewing the fees for services debate solely as a fairness issue, Johannsen (2004) has suggested that the use of fee-based services in public libraries signifies a shift in the general focus of public library services ‘‘from an external focus on society to an internal focus on the library itself.’’ That is, an emphasis on the provision of free services indicates an overriding concern for equality of services and for protecting the public from additional tax burdens. Conversely, charging for library services indicates that providing the most advanced services possible is more important than protecting the interests of library users. Johannsen has also suggested that ‘‘A similar shift from the user as a citizen with rights to the user as a customer with individual preferences and needs can be observed’’ (p. 309) when public library fees are implemented.

**2. Private Donations**

For most public libraries, donations from individuals comprise a greater percentage of funding than do any other alternative source. Discussing lessons learned from fundraising for a new library building, the Princeton (NJ) Public Library director and project architect cautioned others to, ‘‘Look to individuals, not corporations, to contribute most of the money’’ (Burger and Garrison, 2006, p. 64) for large capital campaigns.

Private donations as a source of public library support are not a new phenomenon.

**3. Government Grants**

Government can give grants to public libraries to enable them keep the system running.

**4. Corporate and Foundation Grants**

The literature also included numerous descriptions of programs funded by corporate and foundation sources. While not as significant as donations from individuals, corporate grants and donations are still an important source of alternative funding for public libraries, and it appears that corporate support for public libraries is increasing across the country. Unlike many individual donors, corporate donors typically expect to receive something in return for their contributions. Often this ‘‘return’’ comes in the form of putting donors’ names on publicity materials for funded programs. Corporate funding thus has the combined effect of providing additional funds for libraries while serving as corporate public relations material. For example, the Target Foundation makes grants from local Target stores to community organizations, in order to ‘‘support programs that promote a love of reading and encourage children, from birth through age nine, to read together with their families’’ (http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page. jsp?contentId ¼ PRD03-001818). These awards have included many grants to public libraries to support small-scale projects such as story times and other literacy programs. For one such grant, in 2006 the Friends of the Lincoln Township (Michigan) Public Library received a $3000 Target Grant to sponsor the library’s Every Child Ready to Read @ your library program. The funds were used to purchase materials from the Public Library Association (PLA) and from ALAs Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) (http://www.lincolnpublic.lib.mi.us/about\_friends.htm). Target’s competitor Wal-Mart has also entered the library funding business by making large donations to public libraries in its home state of Arkansas. In 2004, Wal-Mart donated $1 million to the public library in Bentonville and $300,000 to the Rogers and Fayetteville public libraries (Oatman, 2005). On a still larger scale, the non-profit Gates Foundation has put huge amounts of private foundation funding into public library support, both in the United States and around the world. The Gates Foundation (known originally as the Gates Library Foundation) first started providing public library funding in 1997 with an initial $200 million commitment to purchase computer hardware and Internet connectivity for public libraries in impoverished communities (Hoerner, 2004, p. 2). The original program focused on libraries in communities with at least 10% of the residents living below the official poverty level. For each library selected, four project components were provided: (1) computer hardware and software for between one and six computers; (2) Internet connectivity, including initial installation and setup costs; (3) technology training for library staff, with visiting trainers provided by the Gates Foundation; and (4) technical support, mainly through telephone support and a dedicated web site (Hoerner, 2004, pp. 3–4). While some librarians and library researchers lauded the Gates Foundation’s efforts, others worried that the one-time donations would soon leave libraries with outdated computer hardware. Indeed, the original program left libraries to face the question of program sustainability on their own. Still others have suggested that the donations of funds dedicated to computer technology served to advance the interests of Microsoft, the corporate source of Gates Foundation funding, and that low-income libraries would have been better served with unspecified donations that they could have used to support their most pressing financial needs, whether or not those needs included technology purchases (Sanford Berman, as quoted in Goldberg, 1998). As Stevenson (2007) argued, ‘‘in as much as Microsoft products continue to be at the center of Gates’ philanthropy to bridge the digital divide, it is the commercial software industry that benefits most, not the intended recipients of the program, the digitally divided’’ (n.p.). Many critics of the Gates Foundation program have suggested that if philanthropy were the only true motivator, the project would focus more on enabling library users to take advantage of free/open source software, instead of supplying products that create an need for the use of proprietary commercial software and software updates. Emphasizing free/open source software would also decrease libraries’ dependency on private funding for the sustainability of their computer resources. Stevenson (2007) has further argued that ‘‘Given the emphasis on Microsoft products within Gates’ library philanthropy, the value of the program for growing Microsoft’s market share cannot be ignored—this particularly in light of the increasing popularity of open source software worldwide’’ (n.p.). Regardless of these objections, the project’s initial reach was widespread, serving more than 1000 libraries. After the first round of donations was completed, the Gates Foundation formed the US Libraries Initiative (http:// www.gatesfoundation.org/UnitedStates/USLibraryProgram/default.htm) to continue the work of the original program. Possibly in response to some of the initial criticisms, the Initiative now aims to support and update Internet technologies in domestic libraries, as opposed to making one-time technology donations and expecting libraries to achieve sustainability on their own. Ongoing programs include matching grants for replacing and adding new public library computers, and a new, 5-year program for helping libraries in low-income communities update computer hardware. This second phase of the US Libraries Initiative, called ‘‘Keeping Communities Connected: The Net Step’’ will spend an initial $30 million to replace aging computer hardware in libraries in 18 states, and then spend still more in the remaining states over the 5-year period (Oder, 2007a).

**5. Miscellaneous fees.** Miscellaneous fees include fines for overdue materials and charges to replace missing books or borrower cards. In some academic institutions, all such funds are paid to the Bursary as they are collected. In others, they are retained by the library for use as petty cash. The amount of money realized from these sources is usually insignificant.

**6. Consulting.** Any alert information specialist notices a need for information consultants. Freelance information brokers are increasingly filling this need. Seminars and workshops are organized on information management and related topics for bankers and businessmen. These usually take place in first class hotels and attract healthy fees. In virtually all cases, the seminar or workshop focuses on using computers for information processing and dissemination. Libraries possess the resources and environment that are most suitable for such ventures.

**2.2 EMPIRICAL REVIEW**

Funding seems to be the greatest area of crisis in library administration in many countries including Nigeria. Simui and Kanyengo (2001) examined the funding situation of the University of Zambia (UNZA) library and Copperbelt University (CBU), and the impact that level of funding has had on the provision of library and information services to the libraries. The sample included University administrators, lecturers, and librarians. For data collection interviews, questionnaire and literature survey were used. The study revealed that government funds 90% of both universities’ budget and specifies the budgetary process followed by the institutions. It was further revealed that in addition to the government grants, universities get funds from tuition fees, internally generated income and support from cooperating partners. The study revealed also that the funding trend declined from 2.5% in 1980 to 0% in 1993. The study concluded that lack of funding affected acquisition of current information sources, provision of intended library and information services, user confidence in libraries, infrastructure and seating capacity including the quality of learning, teaching and research.

Butz (1999) examined the services offered by the University of Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania (UDSM) library for the university community, and the academic information needs for their teaching, research and consultancy activities. His respondents were University of Dar-es-salaam (USDM) academics from the humanities and science faculties, post- graduates and academic librarians, as well as university administrators. For comparative reasons, four other universities’ libraries in the region were visited. The methods used for data collection were documentary review, questionnaires, interviews and observations. The study revealed that the CD-ROM sectors rely heavily on donated money for funding. From the findings, it was concluded that poor funding affected the academic support function of the library.

Sulemani (2000) investigated the impact of CD-ROM technology in meeting the needs of health professionals in the University of Ghana Medical School Library. He used a randomized sample size of 230, made up of faculty staff, residents/medical officers, students and other health personnel. Questionnaires were used as research instrument and a response rate of 80.8% was achieved. The study showed that inadequate funding affected the acquisition of equipment, maintenance and subscription to data bases.

Nanteza (2000) carried out an investigation on the management of library and information services in Ugandan secondary schools. The study sought to find out how effectively secondary school libraries in Masaka District were financed, and how the schools procured and utilized their materials. The descriptive cross sectional survey method was used for the study. A sample of 96 teachers and 395 students from 19 schools was selected using the simple random sampling technique. 16 head teachers and 14 library attendants were also selected through the purposive sampling technique. The overall sample comprised 521 respondents. The instrument used were self- administered questionnaire, interview guide and observation check list. The research findings indicated that school fees were the major source of financing school libraries. The government contribution was very minimal or lacking completely in some schools. The study concluded that the procurement of library books and materials were inefficient.

Mambo (1998) investigated the development of a computer library network among institutions of higher learning in the University of Natal. Here, both secondary and primary sources were received and analysed. The instruments used for data collection were questionnaires and structured interview. From the findings, it could be concluded that there was a general deterioration of library budgets in both real and monetary terms. This affected acquisition of books, journals and development of infrastructures.

Bilali (2000) examined library and information science standards in practice in academic libraries using Makerere University library for a case study. He used the stratified random sampling technique to select a sample of 52 staff of the library and 200 students of the University for the study. His method of data collection included documentary review, personal observation and questionnaire. Among his findings were that the degree of application of standards was related to the management and utilization of the library’s facilities, resources and services; and that inadequate funding was one of the constraints in the formulation, development and implementation of standards. Following from the findings, it was concluded that inadequate funding affected the effective operation of library services.

Adzobu (2001) investigated the capacity of the Ghana Geological survey Department (GGSD) in the areas of geo-information provision, promotion and dissemination country-wide. The study was conducted through the collection and analysis of data from documentary sources and questionnaires administered to the information workers and geo-scientists of the departments. The study revealed that the GGSD had the professional staff capacity and regional infrastructure to provide, promote and disseminate geo-information nation-wide. The department was however not adequately funded. This resulted in very low provision of current geo-information to clientele and poor promotion of geo-information and inadequate use of dissemination methods that involved funding.

Bani, (1998) carried out a study on the “Income generating potential of University libraries in Ghana: a case study of University of Science and Technology (UST) Library, Kumasi”. The principal sources of information for the study were the finance officers and librarians of UST who were interviewed. Questionnaires were also served on both users and the potential users of the UST library. The findings showed that the University librarians were making serious efforts to generate supplementary funds.

**CHAPTER THREE**

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**3.1 INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, we described the research procedure for this study. A research methodology is a research process adopted or employed to systematically and scientifically present the results of a study to the research audience viz. a vis, the study beneficiaries.

**3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN**

Research designs are perceived to be an overall strategy adopted by the researcher whereby different components of the study are integrated in a logical manner to effectively address a research problem. In this study, the researcher employed the survey research design. This is due to the nature of the study whereby the opinion and views of people are sampled. According to Singleton & Straits, (2009), Survey research can use quantitative research strategies (e.g., using questionnaires with numerically rated items), qualitative research strategies (e.g., using open-ended questions), or both strategies (i.e., mixed methods). As it is often used to describe and explore human behaviour, surveys are therefore frequently used in social and psychological research.

**3.3 POPULATION OF THE STUDY**

According to Udoyen (2019), a study population is a group of elements or individuals as the case may be, who share similar characteristics. These similar features can include location, gender, age, sex or specific interest. The emphasis on study population is that it constitute of individuals or elements that are homogeneous in description.

This study was carried out to examine **alternative funding of public libraries**. Staffs of Rivers State Library, Port Harcourt form the population of the study.

**3.4 SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION**

A study sample is simply a systematic selected part of a population that infers its result on the population. In essence, it is that part of a whole that represents the whole and its members share characteristics in like similitude (Udoyen, 2019). In this study, the researcher adopted the convenient sampling method to determine the sample size.

**3.5 SAMPLE SIZE SELECTION TECHNIQUE AND PROCEDURE**

According to Nwana (2005), sampling techniques are procedures adopted to systematically select the chosen sample in a specified away under controls. This research work adopted the convenience sampling technique in selecting the respondents from the total population.

In this study, the researcher adopted the convenient sampling method to determine the sample size. Out of all the entire population of staff of Rivers State Library, Port Harcourt, the researcher conveniently selected 36 out of the overall population as the sample size for this study. According to Torty (2021), a sample of convenience is the terminology used to describe a sample in which elements have been selected from the target population on the basis of their accessibility or convenience to the researcher.

**3.6 RESEARCH INSTRUMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

The research instrument used in this study is the questionnaire. A survey containing series of questions were administered to the enrolled participants. The questionnaire was divided into two sections, the first section enquired about the responses demographic or personal data while the second sections were in line with the study objectives, aimed at providing answers to the research questions. Participants were required to respond by placing a tick at the appropriate column. The questionnaire was personally administered by the researcher.

**3.7 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION**

Two methods of data collection which are primary source and secondary source were used to collect data. The primary sources was the use of questionnaires, while the secondary sources include textbooks, internet, journals, published and unpublished articles and government publications.

**3.8 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

The responses were analysed using the mean and standard deviation, which provided answers to the research questions.

In analyzing data collected, mean score was used to achieve this. The four points rating scale will be given values as follows:

SA = Strongly Agree 4

A = Agree 3

D = Disagree 2

SD = Strongly Disagree 1

**Decision Rule:**

To ascertain the decision rule; this formular was used

|  |
| --- |
| 4+3+2+1 =10  **= 2.5**  4 4 |

Any score that was 2.5 and above was accepted, while any score that was below 2.5 was rejected. Therefore, 2.5 was the cut-off mean score for decision taken.

**3.9 VALIDITY OF THE STUDY**

Validity referred here is the degree or extent to which an instrument actually measures what is intended to measure. An instrument is valid to the extent that is tailored to achieve the research objectives. The researcher constructed the questionnaire for the study and submitted to the project supervisor who used his intellectual knowledge to critically, analytically and logically examine the instruments relevance of the contents and statements and then made the instrument valid for the study.

**3.10 RELIABILITY OF THE STUDY**

The reliability of the research instrument was determined. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. A co-efficient value of 0.68 indicated that the research instrument was relatively reliable. According to (Taber, 2017) the range of a reasonable reliability is between 0.67 and 0.87.

**3.11 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION**

he study was approved by the Project Committee of the Department. Informed consent was obtained from all study participants before they were enrolled in the study. Permission was sought from the relevant authorities to carry out the study. Date to visit the place of study for questionnaire distribution was put in place in advance.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

**INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the analysis of data derived through the questionnaire and key informant interview administered on the respondents in the study area. The analysis and interpretation were derived from the findings of the study. The data analysis depicts the simple frequency and percentage of the respondents as well as interpretation of the information gathered. A total of thirty-six (36) questionnaires were administered to respondents of which only thirty (30) were returned and validated. This was due to irregular, incomplete and inappropriate responses to some questionnaire. For this study a total of 30 was validated for the analysis.

**4.1 DATA PRESENTATION**

**Table 4.2: Demographic profile of the respondents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Demographic information** | **Frequency** | **percent** |
| **Gender**  Male |  |  |
| 17 | 56.7% |
| Female | 13 | 43.3% |
| **Age** |  |  |
| 20-25 | 9 | 30% |
| 25-30 | 8 | 26.7% |
| 31-35 | 6 | 20% |
| 36+ | 7 | 23.3% |
| **Marital Status** |  |  |
| Single | 19 | 63.3% |
| Married | 11 | 36.7% |
| Separated | 0 | 0% |
| Widowed | 0 | 0% |
| **Education Level** |  |  |
| WAEC | 0 | 0% |
| BS.c | 25 | 83.3% |
| MS.c | 5 | 16.7% |
| MBA | 0 | 0% |

**Source: Field Survey, 2021**

**4.2 DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS**

**Research question 1**

**What is the need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries?**

Table 1: Mean Responses on the need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **ITEM STATEMENT** | **SA**  **4** | **A 3** | **D 2** | **SD 1** | **X** | **S.D** | **DECISION** |
| 1 | Helps to enhances service delivery | 15 | 10 | 5 | - | 4 | 2.57 | Accepted |
| 2 | Enables provision of necessary infrastructure | 20 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3.4 | 2.55 | Accepted |
| 3 | Enables provision of current books | 17 | 10 | 3 | - | 3.9 | 2.74 | Accepted |
| 4 | Helps in maintenance of staffs and library | 15 | 15 | - | - | 3.4 | 2.56 | Accepted |
| 5 | Enhances overall performance of the library services | 18 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3.2 | 2.47 | Accepted |

**Source: Field Survey, 2021**

In table above, item1 with mean response of 4 accepted that it helps to enhances service delivery is a need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries. Item 2 with mean score of 3.4 also accepted that it enables provision of necessary infrastructure is a need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries. Item 3 with mean score of 3.9 accepted that it enables provision of current books is a need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries. Item 4 with the mean score of 3.4 also accepted that it helps in maintenance of staffs and library is a need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries. Item 5 with the mean score of 3.2 accepted that it enhances overall performance of the library services is a need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries. Item 1,2,3,4 and 5 have mean scores above 2.50. This indicates that respondents accepted in all the items are need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries.

**Research Question 2: What are the different alternative funding sources of public libraries?**

Table 2: Mean responses on the different alternative funding sources of public libraries.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **ITEM STATEMENT** | **SA**  **4** | **A**  **3** | **D**  **2** | **SD**  **1** | **X** | **S.D** | **DECISION** |
| 6 | Fees for Services | 15 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 3.7 | 2.63 | Accepted |
| 7 | Private Donations | 30 | - | - | - | 4.0 | 2.82 | Accepted |
| 8 | Government Grants | 20 | 5 | 5 | - | 3.8 | 2.76 | Accepted |
| 9 | Corporate and Foundation Grants | 19 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3.2 | 2.50 | Accepted |

**Source: Field Survey, 2021**

In table above, item 6 with mean response of 3.7 accepted that fees for services will be an alternative funding source of public libraries. Item 7 with mean response of 4 accepted that private donations will be an alternative funding source of public libraries. Item 8 with mean response of 3.8 also accepted that government grants will be an alternative funding source of public libraries. Item 9 with mean response of 3.2 accepted that corporate and foundation grants will be an alternative funding source of public librarie. Item 6, 7, 8, and 9 all have mean scores above 2.50. This indicates that respondents agreed on item 6 to 9 are alternative funding source of public librarie.

**Research Question 3**

**What are the challenges of alternative funding of public libraries?**

Table 3: Mean Responses on the challenges of alternative funding of public libraries.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **ITEM STATEMENT** | **SA**  **4** | **A**  **3** | **D**  **2** | **SD**  **1** | **X** | **S.D** | **REMARK** |
| 10 | Librarian’s attitude | 15 | 10 | 5 | - | 3.4 | 2.59 | Accepted |
| 11 | Inadequate philanthropic culture of Nigerians | 12 | 10 | 6 | 02 | 3.1 | 2.42 | Accepted |
| 12 | Inadequate structures for effective and efficient accountability and transparency | 10 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 3.8 | 2.62 | Accepted |
| 13 | Unco-operative attitude of those involved in the fund-raising process | 20 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3.3 | 2.49 | Accepted |
| 14 | Inadequate time to plan the due to head librarians tenure in office | 20 | 10 | - | - | 3.6 | 2.66 | Accepted |

**Source: Field Survey, 2021**

In table above, item 10 with mean score of 3.4 accepted the statement that librarian’s attitude is a challenge to alternative funding of public libraries. Item 11 with mean score of 3.1 also accepted that inadequate philanthropic culture of Nigerians is a challenge to alternative funding of public libraries. Item 12 with mean response of 3.8 accepted that inadequate structures for effective and efficient accountability and transparency is a challenge to alternative funding of public libraries. Item 13 with mean response of 3.3 accepted that sufficient number of computer teachers should be trained for the programmunco-operative attitude of those involved in the fund-raising process is a challenge to alternative funding of public libraries. Item 14 with mean score of 3.6 accepted that inadequate time to plan the due to head librarians tenure in office is a challenge to alternative funding of public libraries. Item 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 all have mean scores above 2.50. This indicates that respondents accepted in item 10 to 14 that they are challenges of alternative funding of public libraries.

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

**5.1 SUMMARY**

In this study, our focus was to examine **alternative funding of public libraries using** Rivers State Library, Port Harcourt as case study**.** The study specifically was aimed at investigating the need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries, investigate the different alternative funding sources of public libraries, investigate the challenges of alternative funding of public libraries, and proffer possible solutions to the identified challenges of alternative funding of public libraries.

The study adopted the survey research design and conveniently enrolled participants in the study. A total of 30 responses were received and validated from the enrolled participants where all respondent are drawn from the staff of Rivers State Library, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

**5.2 CONCLUSION**

Based on the finding of this study, the following conclusions were made:

* The need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries is that it helps to enhances service delivery, Enables provision of necessary infrastructure, Enables provision of current books, Helps in maintenance of staffs and library, and enhances overall performance of the library services
* The different alternative funding sources of public libraries include; Fees for Services, Private Donations, Government Grants, and Corporate and Foundation Grants
* The challenges of alternative funding of public libraries includes; librarian’s attitude, Inadequate philanthropic culture of Nigerians, Inadequate structures for effective and efficient accountability and transparency, Unco-operative attitude of those involved in the fund-raising process, Inadequate time to plan the due to head librarians tenure in office, and government attitude towards library development in Nigeria.

**5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

In the light of the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are hereby proposed:

* Public libraries, as a matter of necessity should seek other sources of funding to supplement the traditional sources which are hardly adequate to provide modern facilities that will make the libraries ICT compliant. This they can do by commercialising their services to include those provided by private individuals or organizations within their premises. Such services may include photocopying, printing of documents and card production.
* Public libraries should seek ways of establishing partnerships with individuals and the private sector in the establishment of modern facilities that the budgets cannot carry.
* There is also a need for more advocacy and publicity in the mass media on the crucial role of libraries in the operational efficiency of their states. Through such awareness programmes, profit-oriented corporate establishments and non-governmental voluntary organizations could be mobilized to provide financial assistance to Nigeria’s Libraries.

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**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**PLEASE TICK [√] YOUR MOST PREFERRED CHOICE AND AVOID TICKING TWICE ON A QUESTION**

**SECTION A**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Demographic information** | **Please tick** |
| **Gender**  Male |  |
|  |
| Female |  |
| **Age** |  |
| 20-25 |  |
| 25-30 |  |
| 31-35 |  |
| 36+ |  |
| **Marital Status** |  |
| Single |  |
| Married |  |
| Separated |  |
| Widowed |  |
| **Education Level** |  |
| WAEC |  |
| BS.c |  |
| MS.c |  |
| MBA |  |

**SECTION B**

***Note: Strong Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD)***

**Research question 1**

**What is the need for an alternative funding sources of public libraries?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **ITEM STATEMENT** | **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** |
| 1 | Helps to enhances service delivery |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Enables provision of necessary infrastructure |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Enables provision of current books |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Helps in maintenance of staffs and library |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | Enhances overall performance of the library services |  |  |  |  |

**Research Question 2: What are the different alternative funding sources of public libraries?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **ITEM STATEMENT** | **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** |
| 6 | Fees for Services |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | Private Donations |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | Government Grants |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Corporate and Foundation Grants |  |  |  |  |

**Research Question 3**

**What are the challenges of alternative funding of public libraries?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **ITEM STATEMENT** | **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** |
| 10 | Librarian’s attitude |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Inadequate philanthropic culture of Nigerians |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | Inadequate structures for effective and efficient accountability and transparency |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | Unco-operative attitude of those involved in the fund-raising process |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | Inadequate time to plan the due to head librarians tenure in office |  |  |  |  |