ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR ACQUISITION INSPECIAL LIBRARIES IN PLATEAU STATE

# BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF MASTER’S DEGREE IN LIBRARY SCIENCE.**

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**OCTOBER, 2016**

## DECLARATION

I declare that this Dissertation is my work and has not been presented anywhere either partially or wholly for the purpose of award of higher degree. All sources of information and quotations used are acknowledged by means of references.

………………………. ……………………………

Name & Signature Date

## CERTIFICATION

This Dissertation titled ‗ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FORACQUISITION IN SPECIAL LIBRARIES

IN PLATEAU STATE‘ by Denfa, Selre Sarah meets the regulations governing the award of Master of Library Science Degree at Ahmadu Bello University Zaria and was approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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## DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my children.

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## ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess the various strategies applied by special libraries in Plateau State in increasing their collections through acquisition. Some known strategies for application in acquisition in special libraries include purchase, donation, endowments, bequests, resource sharing, exchange, and consortium. Mixed research method was adopted for the research. Closed ended questionnaire with multiple choice answers and open ended interview were the instruments that were used in gathering data for the study.Heads of technical unit of the libraries and heads of the libraries were administered the instruments. The data gathered was analyzed using tables and percentage scores and the major findings were that the special libraries house textbooks, journals, government documents, medical records, online resourcesand audio visual materials. The strategies they mostly apply to acquire the resources are purchase and donation which might not be enough to provide relevant and current resources for the users as even the purchase is hampered by insufficient fund and interference by some institution management. They indicated that they use ordering, registration for resources and arrangements as methods for achieving success in acquisition using the strategies. Although they have such strategies, they are not satisfied because they are unable to develop their resources to fully provide necessary information to their users. Some challenges identified included inadequate funding, high cost of resources and difficult requirements by donors. Having discovered that most of the libraries do not employ sufficient strategies for increasing their resources and satisfying their users the study concluded that the strategies do not actually help in acquisition of resources unless many of them are applied. Recommendations were proffered to help in broadening their options and they include encouraging them to employ co-operation, call on Alumni for partnership, have active databases and management giving free hand for librarians to handle development issues in the libraries.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATONS

CD-ROM Compact disc- Read Only Memory

DVD-ROM Digital Visual Disc- Read Only Memory

FCAHL Federal College of Animal Husbandry Library

FCFL Federal College of Forestry Library

FCMLSL Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science Library

ICT Information and Communication Technology

JUTHL Jos University Teaching Hospital Library

MOJL Ministry of Justice Library

NCMML National Commission for Museums and Monuments Library

NFIL National Film Institute Library

NIPSSL National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Library

PRTVCL Plateau Radio Television Corporation Library

PSCAL Plateau State College of Agriculture Library

PSCHTL Plateau State College of Health Technology Library

PSCNML Plateau State College of Nursing and Midwifery Library

PSSHL Plateau State Specialist Hospital Library

VRIL Veterinary research Institute Library

# CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

The SpecialLibrary has existed for ages with the emergence of specializations in different fields. With the several years of its existence, it still engages in its traditional role of providing information resources to its various special clienteles. It came into existence to fulfill a need for information in the special fields so it engages in selecting and acquiring varieties of publications in different forms to meet the needs of its users. The primary aim of the special library is to build a useful collection to serve users, and it presupposes selection from a vast number of possibilities. Thespecial library develops and maintains collection that supports and enhances the information needs of the patrons. That is the mandate given to it by the institution it belongs to.

Information resource development refers to the process of systematically building library collections to serve study, teaching, research, recreational, and other needs of library users. The process includes selection and de-selection of current and retrospective materials, the planning of strategies for continuing acquisition, and evaluation of collections to determine how well they serve user needs. Overall, it encompasses many library operations ranging from the selection of individual titles for purchase to the withdrawal of expendable materials (Fordham, 2010). Information resource development includes every activity that goes into acquiring materials which include selection, ordering, and payment. It is a chain of events that include planning, administration and control. It serves as a foundation upon which other library services are built

(Olaojo and Akewukereke, 2006). Resource development is a planned, continuous and cost effective acquisition of quality, relevant materials to meet the needs of users and the objectives of the library. It is not just the growth in volumes and titles but in the quality of acquired materials in enhancing effective information delivery. This is the only reason for development to be meaningful where resources are concerned. Ajidahun( 2004) stated that a library that cannot fulfill this yearning is a moribund and anemic information system because it has lost its vitality, honor and attraction.

Information resource development is a fundamental activity of the library and information profession. It involves identification, selection, acquisition and evaluation of the resources which can be print and non-print aimed at satisfying users‘ needs. Nnadozie (2006) sees information resource development as the activities that enhance the assemblage and provision of a variety of information materials to meet the needs of library users with operations like selection , acquisition, receiving, bibliographic checking, weeding and collection evaluation. Resources in the library are supposed to meet the standards of quality in content, expression, format, purpose and need. In assessing a library, the major benefit of a good collection is that it helps the library review the strength and weakness of its resources. This review will help in improving on the weaknesses while maintaining or increasing the strengths. It is a truism that any collection that is weak is not able to provide the needed information to clients. Based on the above, information resource development therefore helps in enhancing the assemblage and provision of a variety of information materials to meet the desperate needs of the users.

In assembling information resources for the special libraries, there is the need to know the profile of the parent organization and the users. This means knowing their objectives(knowing what the organization exists to achieve), area of specialization (specific field

of endeavor), users‘ educational attainment( level of their education as it will influence the level of information resources that should be acquired), interests (this takes care of their extracurricular interests), population (there is need to know this because of quantity of information resources to acquire)e.t.c. This is derived from the library‘s objectives. Ifidon(2006) also maintained that library objectives and philosophy must be taken into consideration in developing information resources as emphasis must be put on the areas of interests and concerns of users.

Strategy is a plan of action intended to achieve or accomplish a specific goal or purpose (The Concise Oxford Dictionary, 1999). It means the methods or ways to acquire information resources for the special library designed to be followed. This aims at increasing the holdings of a library.Building library resources can be done through donations, purchases, legal deposits, exchanges, bequests/endowments, photocopying. Awolabi and Akintola (2009) also corroborated this view by indicating that library has other methods of developing resources which also include resource sharing, consortia, open access e.t.c .A wide variety of electronic databases and other digital reference sources both general and subject specific, including full text resources are available on the web for users. (Ossai, 2010).According to Ogbonyomi(2009)the libraries for a long time have been engaged in acquisition of physical books andperiodicals that can be borrowed as opposed to the current situation where publishers of databases do not sell but license such resources for use and limitations are sometimes placed on the number of prints that can be produced. The information resources must be acquired for them to be accessed.

Selection is the process of deciding which material should be added to a library collection (Adesanya, 2015). In a special library selection decisions are made by librarians designated as selectors in the specific subject area of the organization. Staff members in that

field, students and users can also make recommendations on resources that can be included in the library. Selection is the heart of the resource development process since it aims at building the library‘s resources for the institution clientele. Skill, knowledge and the right tools are required to select appropriate resources that will meet the needs of the community.

Acquisition, according to Ukejianya (2007),is the process of obtaining books and other documents for the library by purchase, exchange or gift to meet the needs of the clientele in the most economical and expeditious manner. It aims at minimizing loss and saving costs for the library. Acquisition is a chain of activities including selection, ordering and receiving materials ordered. Exchange is a common practice in special libraries and it is done to complement the information needs of others in the same field who have indicated interest for the resource. Johnson (2011) opined that special libraries belonging to the network of their ‗family‘ make investments in their arrangements to enable patrons find resources that are otherwise out of reach. It is a give and take arrangement and everyone benefits. Sometimes special libraries have some resources in excess and would want to give some out to those that do not have. Once they have identified others with same field of subject area, they make such gift available to them at no costs.

Orders are placed for the supply of the selected resources after carefully choosing the supplier. According to the Business Dictionary (2012) orders are requests, verbal or written, for purchase sent out to suppliers under specific terms which is binding once it is accepted by both parties. There are many kinds of orders and the most advantageous is to be given consideration.

Weeding is an activity of resource development and is aimed at maintaining relevance as the libraries must provide specialized information that will satisfy the needs of the clients with

minimal time wastage. It is the process of removing books and other information resources that do not have usefulness to users from a library collection. Boon (2009) stated that print collection grows daily yet libraries drown in obsolete, unused and unwanted materials. To ensure survival they weed, but this too is hindered by dwindling material budgets, reluctance to let go some materials because of the inability to replace them. Such books lose their attraction to users and become useless. Crew (2011) advanced some reasons for weeding resources to include:

a .Misleading-When the information is inaccurate or out of date.

* + 1. Ugly- When the material is worn out, tattered, mildewed.
		2. Superseded- When title is replaced by a newer format or title.
		3. Trivial- If the information is not well written.
		4. Irrelevant- When no one uses it because it‘s not needed or useful.
		5. Elsewhere- That is when the information can be found elsewhere i.e. in another format or title.

Weeding enables the special libraries to fulfill their mandate of providing relevant, current information to patrons and is expected to be carried out every three to five years. .

A special library is that one established and maintained by an individual, corporation, association, government agency or any group for the collection, organization and dissemination of information primarily devoted to a special subject and offering specialized services to a specialized clientele (Johnson: 2011). A special library is one that is established to cater for the needs of a special group and dedicated to a field of endeavor. The resourcesfound in it are geared towards the needs of a special clientele with special characteristics and to fulfill the goals and

objectives of a unique organization. Special libraries often have more specific users than those in traditional educational or public settings and deal with more specialized kinds of information. They are established to support the mission of their sponsoring organizations and their resources and services are more targeted and specific to the needs of their users.

According to Garg and Gupta (2008) special libraries are devoted to fields of science and technology, agriculture, medicine, social sciences, economics and the likes. They are attached to research organizations, departments in universities, industrial organizations, professional societies and trade associations e.t.c. Many private businesses and public organizations, including hospitals, museums, research laboratories, law firms, and many government departments and agencies, maintain their own libraries for the use of their employees in doing specialized research related to their work. Special libraries may or may not be accessible to some identified part of the general public. Branches of large academic or research libraries dealing with particular subjects are also usually called "special libraries", they are generally associated with one or more academic departments. They function as change agents and leaders providing theinformationneeded to help their organizations achieve their goals. The special library is usually created for specific purpose of providing accurate and current information for a particular set of patrons and therefore should contain materials considered to be of quality and be able to access them in sometimes demanding circumstances. Inaccurate information in a special library may cause havoc for the supporting organization. In addition to identifying and acquiring external sources of information, they help to organize internal sources of information. In the views expressed by Ghosh and Wesley (2002) they provide vital information services by preparing abstracts, indexes of current periodicals, organizing bibliographies or analyzing background information and preparing reports on areas of particular interest.

Special libraries are unique because of the nature of their clientele, collection, services, and mandate etc. as opposed to other libraries around. Agreeing to this, Ghosh and Wesley(2006), Jeffs(2010) identified five unique features which differentiate special libraries from conventional ones as –

* Nature and type of resources and coverage of interdisciplinary topics and themes which reflect the interest of organization.
* Nature of users- their academic /professional background, information requirements.

Most of these are focused on particular topics or issues not broad generic subjects.

* Nature of information processing and management activities in the combination environment (partially computerized and partially manual operation).Subject classification and arrangement are theme based, issue based or project defined, customized according to research issues of organization. Keywords /descriptors form important component of document processing activity.
* Nature of queries, reflecting research requirements of special users. They are very unique and specific.
* Nature and types of services provided particularly in the electronic environment with fast progress of information technology. Reference service is always available, telephone and mail information requests are handled when possible.

Bender (1998) posited that with so much information available in so many different forms, companies need an information professional just to sort out what is good and what is bad. One could get lost on the Internet looking for reliable data. Easy access to information does not qualify that information. To this end, special librarians are able to provide users with honest,

valuable knowledge, because they understand their companies' business perspective and can track data through a variety of sources, both print and online, to find the knowledge that will affect their companies' strategic direction. Today's special librarian must possess knowledge of myriad information resources, specialized subject areas, and the technology used for acquiring, organizing, and disseminating information.

Special libraries are those libraries that do not fit comfortably into the other categories that are available e.g. Public, Academic, School and National etc. In Nigeria, there are many libraries which are included in this category and some of them overlap some categories. They may be open to the public but might not have resources that are general in nature. Omojorho and Nwalo (2009) in their studies on Academic and Special Libraries mentioned that Special Libraries provide information for the organizations that support them and they can be a government department, private society, hospital, research association and so on. Special libraries provide resources that are unique, for a specialized clientele (those in a specific profession). Their resources are usually restricted to a field of specialization. Libraries in this category in Plateau State include the Veterinary Research Institute Library Vom, Federal School of Soil Science Kuru, Ministry of Justice Library Jos, Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science Library Vom, Plateau State Colleges of Health Technology LibrariesZawan and Pankshin, Plateau State Colleges of Nursing and Midwifery Libraries Jos and Vom, Theological College of Northern Nigeria LibraryBukuru, Plateau State Specialist Hospital Library Jos, Jos University Teaching Hospital Library Jos to mention but a few. These Libraries house information resources for specific disciplines, have fewer clientele who are mostly staff and students of the organization, they are mandated to acquire information resources that will help

the organization in taking decisions, their operations are partially computerized and partially manual and have theme based classification and arrangements of resources.

### Statement of the Problem

Information resources are expected to increase periodically in order to put in place an enabling environment for research and decision making in fields of endeavor. The information resources so developed are expected to meet the information needs of the clientele. Special libraries are therefore tasked with providing information that is current, relevant and in formats that are convenient to the patrons so they can make informed decisions.

It is however saddening that after preliminary investigation conducted by the researcher in some special libraries in Plateau State, it was discovered that they have resources which are old, torn or outdated. The librarians complained of inability to acquire new resources or maintain active Internet connection because of lack of adequate funding. This has made acquisition of current information resources very difficult and only a few libraries could afford to buy books and journals.This is not in tandem with the norm in special libraries. This situation can deny access to needed resources for informed decision.Special libraries facing tight budgets and reduced staff need to find innovative ways to provide value added services in their libraries.They are expected to have adequate resources that are current, relevant,which can be made available through various strategies to provide needed information to serve their clientele in the face of such financial challenges. These include donation, sharing of resources, exchanges among similar libraries, photocopying, endowments, and bequests among others. Libraries are expected to apply these techniques to acquire or boost their holdings but expected growth is not seen in the special libraries in Plateau State. Are the strategies highlighted above utilized in the libraries in

acquisition and how well do they help in increasing the information resources of the libraries? This study intends to find out.

### Research Questions

The study sought to find answers to the following questions-

* + 1. What are the available information resources acquired in special libraries in Plateau State?
		2. What information resource development strategies are applied in acquisition by special libraries in Plateau State?
		3. How do special libraries in Plateau State apply information resource development strategies in acquiring resources?
		4. How satisfactory are the use of information resource development strategies for acquisition in special libraries in Plateau State?
		5. What are the challenges encountered in applying information resource development strategies for acquisition in special libraries in Plateau State?

### Objectives of the Study

For the purpose of this study, the following objectives will be considered.

1. To find out the available information resources acquired in special libraries in Plateau State.
2. To find out the information resource development strategies appliedfor acquisitionin special libraries in Plateau state.
3. To find out how the special libraries in Plateau State apply information resource development strategies for acquisition.
4. To find out if the information resource development strategies used for acquisition satisfy the special libraries in Plateau State.

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1. To know the challenges special libraries in Plateau State encounter in applying information resource development strategies for acquisition.

### Significance of the Study

The essence of establishing a library in any organization is to provide needed information that is relevant, current and with minimal delays to its clientele. The result of this study enables such libraries discover the reasons why their resources are not increasing as expected.It also helps the libraries to utilize the identified strategies to improve their holdings as efforts geared towards remedying the deficiencies will be employed.

Users will naturally consult sources that are available and useful to their needs but where the resources are non-existent, outdated, and time consuming; the appeal for using them is diminished. Users will be beneficiaries since the libraries, having known the reasons for their lack of growth will improve on the identified challenges. This will also improve patronage by users who will obtain satisfaction from using the resources.

The knowledge of the reasons for lack of increase in quantity and quality enables affected organizations to improve on their commitment in properly equipping the special libraries to better fulfill their mandate.The government benefits more from the study as it will be a yardstick for measuring its commitment to funding the libraries and also making informed decisions.

### Scope of the Study

The study was intended to cover only Technical Units of libraries designated as ―special‖in Plateau State as it is the unit responsible for collection development activities. Furthermore, only such special libraries belonging to the Federal and Plateau State governments and their agencies were studied. This is because most non-governmental organizations, industries, only have information centers as opposed to full functional libraries.

### Basic Assumption.

It is assumed that special libraries because of their nature, have resources that are current, relevant and in formats that provide the information needs of their special clients through the various strategies available and useful to them.

### Operational Definition of Terms

For the purpose of this study, the following terms are defined operationally.

**Acquisition-** It is to gain or possess library resources to serve the information needs of the special clientele in Plateau state.

**Information**-Data that has been analyzed and is meaningful for decision making in Plateau state special libraries.

**Resource Development**- It is the practice of building, through acquisition, the holdings of a special library on a periodic basis in Plateau State.

**Resources-**These are the informational materials found in the special libraries in Plateau State. They can be print or non-print.

**Resource Development Strategy**- This is the method that can be used to increase the information resources of special libraries in Plateau State e.g. purchase, donation, exchange.

**Special Libraries**- They are libraries that stock and provide resources and services to their patrons in Plateau State based on their various fields of specialization.

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## CHAPTER TWO

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### Introduction

This chapter presented review of literature relevant to information resource development. The review focused on the following headings.

* 1. The concept of information resources development in special libraries
	2. Types of information resources in special libraries
	3. Strategies of information resource development in special libraries
	4. Selection of information resources in special libraries
	5. Application of information resource development strategies in special libraries
	6. Factors affecting information resource developmentstrategies in special libraries
	7. Empirical studies reviewed

2.8Summary of the Review

### 2.2. The Concept of Information Resource Development in Special Libraries

Librariesgenerally areinstitutions established to procure, organize, disseminate and utilize humanity‘s information and communication productions. The ability of the library to meet the numerous information needs of the clienteledepends on the availability of book and non-book materials among other things.

Information Resource Development as one of the core functions of the special library‘s Technical Unit, is an activity that enhances the assemblage, and provision of a variety of informationresources to satisfy the needs of the clientele (Nnadozie 2006). According to

Ukejianya (2007)it means building or developing a library‘s book, non-book and periodical resources consisting of five processes viz: Community Analysis, Selection policies, Acquisition, Weeding, and Evaluation. There is the need for special libraries, like other libraries to be alive to their responsibility of building up current materials that will support teaching, learning, research and also for community service as this will be used by patrons to measure their activities.

The goal of information resource development is to acquire qualitative resources as quickly as possible and with the lowest unit costs available. This is because of the dwindling financial resources available to the library.Ifidon (2006), in his book stated that much of the financial resource coming to the libraries is from the yearly budgetary allocations given to them by the governments at state or federal levels which is grossly inadequate considering the diverse needs to be met.In some special libraries he studied, there are no budgets for Resource Development as less than 1% of the fund is set aside for it. This is pathetic.

### 2.3 Types of Information Resources in Special Libraries.

Special libraries provide information for a parent organization that supports the library. With the proliferation of special libraries in various sectors of the Nigerian economy, including the banking industry, business and communication the library must strive to provide resources in diverse forms for its patron‘s use. These are the resources that contain information for the use of the patrons. They are those resources consulted by users and are categorizedbyGarcia and Nelson (2007) into print and non-print.

Ifidon (2006) identified types of information resources to include books, periodicals, theses, manuscripts, government or organizational documents, microforms, audiovisual materials, machine-readable materials such as computerized databases, CD-ROM, floppy disc, etc. He

further identified some as special resources or materials to include archival resources, manuscripts, and regional collections.

Sridha, (1995) Brainin&Thorin (2001) explained information resources to be-

* Archival resources**:** these are uncoordinated and undistributed collections of records of governmental agencies, societies, churches, universities, business firms and other institutions. Such records include minutes of meetings, committee records, papers, correspondence and departmental records.
* Manuscripts**:** These are primary sources which are particularly valuable to researchers in art, biography, history, literature, philosophy and religion.
* Regional collections**:** The third group of special materials is related to materials about a well-defined geographical and cultural area within which the library is situated. They reflect the social, political, economic, scientific and spiritual interest of a region.
* Maps**:** The collection of maps is governed by the need for large scale and topical treatments not provided by atlases. Selections are made by the Maps and Geography Subject Specialists.
* Microform: Microforms are miniature reproductions of information stored on films.

They are acquired when the desired material is available only in those forms, or when it is significantly less expensive and sufficiently usable in those formats. Microform is also acquired for the preservation of certain titles when rebinding is not feasible. Large collections of source material are frequently acquired in microform. Microfiche is generally preferred over film, especially for serial titles or collections.

* Multimedia: These are programs, software, and hardware capable of using a wide variety of media such as film, video, and music as well as text and numbers. Audio materials including both music and spoken word recordings are collected and housed in Media Center. Recordings requested by faculty members in support of teaching and research, recognized classic recordings, and recordings to fill gaps in sets or series are given preference in acquisitions. Compact disc is the preferred format. Video materials which are expected to be of significant long-term value in support of teaching or research are collected, with an effort made not to duplicate. The DVD is the preferred format, with VHS as a secondary format choice. Machine readable materials are collected when the library can provide adequate facilities for their use. Machine readable materials which can be mounted on the library computers may all be collected, according to priorities established by subject resource development policies and availability of funds. Software may be collected by the library, but careful attention to licensing must made by both Collection Development and Information and Digital Technologies (IDT).
* Periodicals: These are publications that appear on periodic basis. They can be on daily, weekly, monthly, annual or bi-annual basis e.g. newspapers, journals, newsletters e.t.c. Periodicals are normally acquired only through subscription; individual issues or reprints of articles are rarely purchased. Among the factors that will be weighed in the selection of periodicals are: the substantial nature of articles in the periodical and their intellectual content; inclusion of the periodical in indexing and abstracting services; strength of demand combined with lack of ready availability elsewhere; and cost. There will be no attempt to collect periodicals specifically for recreational reading or for hobbyists. The

library will attempt to obtain back files of periodicals when the retrospective materials are essential for instruction and research.

Garcia and Nelson ( 2007) looked at information resources, as print (books and serials), non- printed (electronic media, e.g. CD- ROMs DVD-ROMs, electronic databases and journals) and audio visual materials (videocassettes, CDs, DVDs, audio cassettes, slides).According to them books are still the main staple in libraries and will be so for a long time as it provides the user a bound copy that can be carried around and read at convenience, Periodical/newspapers are published on continuity basic and require ongoing commitments, Government documents are those resources emanating from government or its agency, parastatal that convey information from authority e.g. Gazettes, white papers. etc., Electronic and Internet resources contain information that is stored digitally and disseminated electronically ensuring that the library has digital copies of the resources while Audio-visuals contain information that can be viewed or listened to e.g. sound recording, motion pictures, maps, globes, games etc. Information resources in special libraries as explained above are not different from those seen in other types of libraries. They are only different in the content they have. They are selected and preserved for a particular field of specialization, to best serve the clientele of that field. The special library will have different kinds that will benefit and provide needed information to its users.

### Strategies of Information Resource Development in Special Libraries

Bloomfield (1988) described what are considered the major issues in library resource development. These are; identifying with the mission of the parent institution, formulating appropriate library policies and measures for the implementation of collection policy statement, the division of the budget and the resulting problems, monitoring various resource development

strategies and resource sharing among sister institutions. This is based on thefact that libraries usually don‘t have sufficient funds. This necessitates effective management of available fund for the growth of library resources.

Libraries, according to Adeyomoye (2011) adopt various strategies for acquiring books to develop their collections. Basically, there are three ways by which books are acquired to develop special libraries. These are Direct Purchase from Vendors; Gift and Exchanges, and Donations.

### Direct Purchase

This practice requires that books are selected from publishers catalogues.Book selection is a collective responsibility of the faculties/colleges and the library. Hence, the librarian obtains catalogues from vendors and sends them to the faculties/colleges to enable the staff select relevant titles for their programmes. The catalogues are returned to the library for the librarian to collate the selected titles and vet them considering their currency. Once materials have been selected and verified against holdings of the library, the library aims to acquire those resources as quickly and economically as possible minimizing the amount of paper work, filing and following up needed. Ifidon (2006) said library resources can be purchased from the publisher, book shop and vendors. The determining factor for selection is timeliness and cost effectiveness. The vendor warehouses large volume of materials for immediate shipment to customers, have a philosophy of customer service and partnership and can deliver 75% of most orders within two weeks.

Publisher supply only materials published by them, they have consideration for their customers, maintain partnerships, publish and house quality resources.

Bookshops have location and can be visited anytime; they stock materials that are out of print or rare. They stock materials in anticipation of patronage.

The consideration by libraries before choosing a supplier according to Ifidon (2006) include-

1. Speed- the ability to supply purchased resources on time. Speed represents better service.

Once resources are delayed they become stale.

1. Size of discount: libraries do not always have enough funds to cater for their whole needs.

Stretching the funds will improve collection.

1. Service: how easy it is to deal with the supplier. Sometimes paper work can be cumbersome and mistakes are not easily corrected as more paper works will be involved.

Ifidon (2006) also explained the different methods of building up library resources. According to him, the commonest method of building or developing collection or resource is by purchase. He further divided this method into three distinct ways as follows:

* 1. Title-by-title: individual titles recommended by faculty members, librarians, administrators and students are acquired by purchase.
	2. Purchase of whole collections especially subject collections belonging to a person or entity.
	3. On-approval purchases. This is a complementary effective method of resource development where the participating library uses the Approval Profile File to indicate the kind of resources it wants. Such are automatically sent to the library on receipt by the supplier.

### Gift and Exchanges

In library exchange a library arranges with another library to give resources that it has in exchange for what it needs. It is a form of trade by barter and it involves exchange of excess materials, published resources by members of the institution. The libraries participating

inexchange compile the lists of the resources involved. It is a difficult arrangement because developed (new generation) institutions have most of what the developing (old generation) institution have and might not require any from them. The developing institution might not have any excess to share as they are struggling to develop. Gifts are a feature of special library‘s strategy for acquisition and they mostly come from professional bodies e.g.Pharmacists‘ Council, Society of Engineers, and NigerianLibrary Association. Research institutes also publish their findings and give them out to related institutions.

Exchanges in special libraries are usually between two or more related libraries that have same field of specialization to provide resources to e.g Collage of Forestry library and College of Soil Science Conservation library or College of Health Technology library and College of Nursing library. They can easily exchange needed resources. The exchange however, helps libraries to develop one another as excess and relevant materials are those that are involved. Adeyomoye (2011) defines gifts as library materials offered by a known person, corporation, or agency which the library may choose to accept or reject. According to him, Gifts could be solicited or unsolicited. Due to the huge sum of money required to build the library collection, it is not a task that can be achieved from the library budget alone. Thus, the librarian compliments his acquisitions by soliciting for gifts from both individual and corporate authors and publishers. Publications like, Annual Reports, Newsletters, Monographic Series, Technical Reports etc. are added to the library collection in this way. While explaining gifts as a method of developing resource and its peculiarities Cassell (2008) said that gifts can be unsolicited. The librarian reserve the right to accept, reject or dispose of unsolicited gifts in compliance with the mission of the library or availability of space. Gifts are accepted provided there is no restriction from the

giver as to readership or preservation conditions or any demand that contradict intellectual freedom.

In his opinion Pitcher (2009) agreed that libraries receive gifts of books and other materials from members of the community. While they are welcomed by libraries, accepting them can be a tricky business depending on who is giving them, the need of the library and the donors‘ wishes for the gift. The librarian should reserve the right to accept, reject, sell or otherwise dispose of such materials. Issues to consider in accepting gifts according to him are that those materials should be in good condition, in appropriate format as some might not be in original format and can be outdated technology, the age of resources as some are too old and donated to decongest homes, cost of processing those gift are sometimes higher than the worth. While agreeing with the above submissions [http://www.lib.az.us/cdt/selection.aspx,](http://www.lib.az.us/cdt/selection.aspx) suggested that sometimes it is better to ―just say no‖ to unsolicited, inappropriate and costly gifts.

### Donations

This is another vibrant way of building the library collections.Libraries receive donations of books and other materials from members of the community for the purpose of supporting the organization‘s teaching and research, or the materials may contain content considered either to be current or to have ongoing historic value. Publications of both Governmental and Non- governmental organizations are donated to interested libraries. Books received from donor agencies such as Nigerian Book Foundation (NBF), Book Aid International (BAI) etc. fall into this category.In Nigeria some prominent donors include Sir EmekaOffor Foundation, T. Y. Danjuma Foundation. These are engaged in buying and donating resources to libraries. Ifidon, (2006)agreed that libraries can be given resources by organizations or individuals.There is an

inherent cost incurred in accepting donations of library materials including cataloguing, processing and storage. These factors will be taken into account during the decision making process. Once accepted, donated materials become the property of the library.Donations to special libraries must be related to the field in which resources are provided or they will be irrelevant. Books related to medicine will be underutilized in an engineering related library.

### Bequests

This is the situation where a person wills his collection to a library to be collected after his death. A library is notified by an executor representing the deceased person. There are times when the bequests will be too expensive for the library to accept but negotiation can be entered into to change the terms. If it was, for example, money for purchase of a dying format like video cassettes, they can now agree on purchase of DVDs. Sometimes restrictions are put on such gifts concerning who can use them, the location for housing them or need for them to be separated from main collection. These restrictions are sometimes not to the benefits of the user communities. Ifidon (2006) agrees that bequests is another method of acquiring library resources. Libraries can inherit resources of people or older institutions.Example of bequests is that of the Late Sir Charles Orr, a former resident officer in former Northern Nigeria bequeathed his private library, a collection of works relating to Nigeria to the University of Ibadan library, Resources of the former Nigerian College of Arts and Science Zaria inherited by Ahmadu Bello University,Zaria.Often times people who belong in a profession bequeath resources after them to libraries that are in the same profession as they were. These collections are usually given to special libraries.

### Endowments

Endowment according to Yoon (2009) is an effective way for libraries to meet current needs and prepare for the future. Funds endowed are invested for both income and long term growth, a specific portion is spent and the rest is kept for future use. This endowment is always in honor of a person and what he believes in the library and instituted by prominent individuals who keep money aside for the library to sustain the collections and resources. Fola, (2006) agrees with Yoon and postulated that endowment provide a stable base of support. In Nigeria such endowments are rare and the special library has benefited little from it. In developed countries endowments have been instituted for people like Everett Helm, Bert Elwert and Lingle Craig among others. Nigerian friends of the library should emulate these people to help the special library to function very well. Naturally if funds are endowed it is for special researches and results of such are in fields aimed at specialization. It is therefore normal that the special library benefits from it so that professionals will have access too.

### Legal Deposits

This is a requirement for publishers in a country to deposit copies of their intellectual works to the national library. In Nigeria, some libraries e.g. A.B.U were designated as sole legal depository in the North while in 1970 the National Library was designated by its decree to receive from publishers three (3) copies of published works, 10 copies from state government publications and 25 copies of Federal government publications.. This is expected to help in bibliographic control, enable others know of the existence of such resources and ensure that they

are available. It is very unfortunate however that only very few publishers obey the law. The National Library does not have the ―will‖ to enforce the law and many publishers flout it. It is detrimental as bibliographic control is impossible and intellectual output is not measured. Government should give National Library the necessary backing to enable it prosecutes offenders.The legal deposit law specifically mentioned the national library but other libraries benefit from it. Faculty members and various professionals in institutions will be making their findings available to the majority of people by depositing copies in their immediate environments [libraries] hence the special libraries are ready recipients for them.

### Resource Sharing

The goal of the library is to ensure that it provides clienteles needs for consultation, study, learning and research but it has become a mirage as users now rely on more than single publication or format. No library can claim to be self-sufficient to satisfy everybody‘s need for obvious reasons, so the library should be ready to explore, through appropriate cooperative arrangements, resources of other institutions at all levels and also be ready to share with others. Resource sharing had existed in form of interlibrary loan, were institutions agree to share information resources in their holding. Nelson (2001) observed that the cumbersome nature of interlibrary loan has reduced with the coming of ICT which has made resources available online. This however means the resources are to be available for sharing, there should be willingness to share and the plan for sharing should be put in place. Administrative, legal, technical, space and the financial constraints are to be taken into consideration. This is very important and helpful because less developed special libraries will benefit from the arrangement. It strengthens collections and ensures that user will have access to resources not found in their libraries. The

problem with resource sharing is that some special libraries might not be interested in sharing as they might not have same needs. Special libraries need to share resources as it is not always possible to acquire all. They resources have to be in the library‘s area of specialty.

### Consortium

A Consortium is a group of libraries coming together to get access to online resources. Dwindling financial strength has forced libraries to form groups to enable them have access to material by sharing cost of the license or cost of the resource from the publishers online. This is achieved through coordinated acquisition where participating libraries agree to buy titles and share the costs involved. Consortium aims at controlling and reducing information cost, improving resource sharing, sharing licensing issues with each other and developing a network information environment. Lawal et al (2008) explains that to achieve these goals, the libraries make payments for common services that members utilize in delivering services in their respective libraries.Behler (2011) and Ossai (2010) highlighted that libraries can use such a strategy to gain access to online resources which otherwise would have been difficult because of high costs. At the purchase of the license, members of the consortium gain equal access to the published resources. The libraries also negotiate for discounts since the funds are not always available. Databases can be free or subscribed too and they can be very expensive. Special libraries in the same subject area can come together to pay for such licenses. This strategy will ensure that the cost of acquiring information resources does not weighthe special libraries down.

### Internal Generation

This means written works by members of an organization that are deposited in the library to increase the holdings and also benefit the community as they will contain results of researches conducted. Essien (2007) agrees that some organizations have it as a policy for staff members to deposit works they have written in their libraries. The Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research is an example of such organizations. This is the most productive sources of current resources for a special library as intellectual publications from the organization enriches it being in the same field with that of the organization.

### Selection of Library Resources in Special Libraries.

The library, according to Ajebojbomogun and Okorie(2010) requires finance to be able to run as expected. No matter the method of organization and qualification of staff it is fundamental to have sufficient income to operate, and maintain it to best standards, unfortunately it is not always so. There is competition between the library and any other unit in the organization. Funds are not always enough.The selector has to ensure that resources for purchases are critically selected so that no wastages are encountered. Some sources where information about resources are found are reviews -book reviews, periodicals, online sites, trade/professional journals e.t.c

In Behler‘s (2011) opinion online media resources are selected mainly by the librarians, library community, on line laboratory specialist, and manager of media services. Criteria for the selection include the extent to which it is relevant to the curriculum, reliability, accuracy, peer reviewed, reputableauthourship, consistently available, well organized, and regularly maintained. Others that can be considered for print resources are-purpose and scope, subject content,

comparism and duplication of other works, level and audience for materials, authority, timeliness, cost and format.

Wells (2014) in her own write up stated that librarians can know about library resources from any of these-Trade/ industry periodicals, Colleagues, Newsletters, Own patrons, Bibliographic sources and Journals. She mentioned that Librarians and faculty can select resources for the library and identified some criteria for selecting them to be content, appeals to needs of community, Permanent value of the resource, Accuracy, Currency, Objectivity, Artistic excellence, Price, Format of manufacture etc.

After selecting the required resources order is then placed for the supply of the items. Schur (2008) opined that the libraries send the requests including a description of the mix of title, service expectations, timetable for orders and payment and any value added services offered. It is good to buy all materials from one source which will enable the librarian to easily maintain a file to keep track of the order. The orders can be title by title, aggregated packages, Subject based, Patron driven/demand driven. While considering a vendor, Lamb (2004) said there is the need to ask these questions-

* Does the vendor meet the present and future needs of the library?
* Does the service or product fit within the context of the library acquisition program and collection development plan?

He further suggested that for successful acquisition, developing the knowledge of the supplier and choosing a jobber is necessary, next, process the request and monitor the expenditure; finally, maintain clear records of the purchases. In Lamb‘s view Vendors are companies that

purchase and stock virtual or physical materials for the library. They can also serve as intermediaries who connect the library‘s needs with the materials or products to meet the needs. Shatzkin (2009) highlighted that there are suppliers for information resources viz. publishers, bookshops, vendors e.t.c who can supply selected and ordered materials for the library.

When the resources are supplied, they are received by the librarian who verifies the supply using the list sent to the supplier. In receiving, Schur (2008) suggested that the invoice is checked against shipment, it is checked against record of order, if appropriate it is stamped , dated and signed by collection librarian then the invoice is sent to bursary for payment.

### 2.6 Application of Information Resource Development Strategies in Special Libraries

The Special Library, after choosing the development strategy to apply in acquiring its information resources, now adopts a process to achieve the goal of bringing the resources into the library. This process can be said to be the actualization of the strategy so applied. There are several of these processes as identified by Ifidon (2006) who mentioned some of them to be ordering, subscription, registration, solicitation.

1. Ordering- Where needed Titles requested are sent to publishers, Vendors, Bookshops to supply to the library. Payment is done after the requested materials are supplied, received, checked and payment voucher raised. The process is full of bureaucracy and time consuming.
2. Subscription- When serial publications are required, the Titles are compiled and sent to publishers who supply them on a continuous bases until the funds are exhausted or the agreement is terminated. Payments are usually done in bulk before or after the supplies are made.
3. Registration with Associations is also a process of acquiring resources as funds are used for such. Associations like Nigerian Library Association, Association of National Accountants of Nigeria, and Society of Engineers e.t.c. give their publications to their registered members only. Any library that registers with its parent organization‘s association will benefit from it. While writing in a similar vein, Odogwu (2006) and Essien (2007) suggested deposits, arrangement and direct purchase as processes of using information resource development

strategies too.

1. Deposits- There are laws of the nation regarding publishing that mandates publishers to deposit copies of their works to the national library. In some institutions, agencies, organizations and research institutes, copies of all publications generated within are deposited in the libraries. Governments also give out copies of policies passed to various agencies and their libraries.
2. Arrangement- Libraries can come together and arrange to buy information resources to reduce costs of processing or obtain more discount from publishers or gain access to rare resources which can then be photocopied for co-operating members.
3. Direct Purchases- According to them, Publishers, book jobbers, vendors, bookshop etc can exploit the library when orders are placed or when asked to deliver the resources so libraries can go to the bookshops and buy directly. This will cut down cost of handling, waste of time before supply, reduce mistakes in making and placing orders etc. Purchasing directly means the libraries already have cash at hand to pay immediately for the resources.

**2.7Factors Affecting Information Resource DevelopmentStrategies in Special Libraries**Resource development in special libraries is often affected by some factors.Osburn and Atkinson (1991),identifying factors that affect resource development of special libraries in particular, itemized the following:

1. Number of employees to be served, including full-time company employees, consultants and outside users, and where these individuals work.
2. Service levels required by the various groups: The special library must decide how current and how comprehensive the collection must be to satisfy the research needs of its clients; there needs to be a determination of the collecting level required in any particular subject (i.e. exhaustive, research, working, or browsing).
3. Degree of need for current, time-sensitive information.
4. Acceptable turnaround time for patrons' requests
5. Charging back to departments/clients for services rendered.
6. Emphasis on journals for current information needs.
7. Supplementing the collection with on-line information resources.
8. Participation in multi-type library networks, such as interlibrary loan.
9. Physical working space.
10. Need for end users to access information when library staff is not present.

Looking at those factors that influence resource development, Sridhar (2014) and Rasmuson (2015) explains that there are some peculiar circumstances which determine purchase of information products and services by libraries. He explained them to be:

* 1. Background of Document Acquisition Transaction: Here neither the seller nor the buyer is fully aware of the value of the resources being transacted since the buyer is not the consumer of the product. Secondly, the product specification is sometimes inadequate and often misleading too. Occasional wrong announcements of new books lead to acquisition of duplicate copies. In other words, libraries buy a product based on a title or a short abstract or at the most based on a review. In case of journals, libraries pay for products even before they come into existence. Since most of the products are proprietary in nature, the publishers dictate price and terms to their own advantage.
	2. Document Selection Problem:The multifaceted problem of resource selection in special libraries starts with problems of ascertaining user requirements, lack of clearly defined boundaries of core and peripheral areas of interest, lack of clear policy of resource development, lack of priorities in resource development, heterogeneous nature of user- requirement and literature scatter, if any, and multimedia nature of special libraries and the resultant problem of enlisting large number of sources of reading materials for regular scanning. In a practical situation, assessing a book against standard criteria like book production standards, date of publication, publisher, author, etc. is given less importance than relevance of books to the needs of users.
	3. Need for Subject Background**:** Due to lack of sufficient subject background on the part of library staff, adequate staff participation in resource selection and development takes place quite rarely.
	4. Lack of User Participation: Developing relevant resources in anticipation of demand depends heavily on active participation of users in terms of timely, adequate and useful suggestions for documents. But direct and overt participation of users in resource development is often limited to handful of users of special libraries. Lack of user (or subject experts) participation in selection of documents becomes a serious problem where librarian and library staff lack sufficient knowledge.
	5. Lack of information about cheaper editions**:** Another serious problem is the lack of correct and timely information about availability of latest editions of low price. This problem together with differentiated pricing policies and deliberate manipulation of some vendors in avoiding supply of cheaper editions lead to inefficient purchases.

In a similar vein, Ajao and Ugwu(2011) noted that, the fundamental problem in relation to the acquisition of scientific literature in Nigeria was the lack of information concerning resources . In this regard, the professional librarians in special libraries in Plateau State have the responsibility of planning and monitoring the growth of the collections and to provide resources that support the mission of their parent institutions.

Evans &Saponaro (2005),Ifidon (2006) see such factors from a different point of view. They asserted that the first problem that confronts librarians in resource development is inadequacy of financial support adding that the situation with the public and special libraries is even more precarious.They also claimed that the second resource development problem is the low book publishing output in developing countries. Lastly, they argued that in the third world countries, poor bibliographic control is making it difficult for resource developers to know the resources available.

### 2.8. Empirical Studies Reviewed

This is a review of some studies that have been carried out in relation to collection development strategies applied in special libraries for acquisitions. Sharma and Kumar (2010) in their study discovered that the special libraries have several information resources in the various formats and use their budgetary allocation for the purchase of books and journals. Although they are satisfied with their allocations, they still wished more funds are provided to help improve some of their activities e.g. acquisition of computer infrastructure. They do not belong to any library network so they don‘t benefit from any resource sharing activities.

Ezeala and Yusuff (2011) in their evaluation of special library resources and services highlighted that the users were not satisfied with the resources as they are obsolete as indicated by 54% of the respondents. The users (72%) also indicated that the electronic resources were very inadequate. Based on these findings, the researchers came to the conclusion that the special libraries studied are ineffective in their service provision which resulted from gross under- funding by their parent institutions. They suggested that the special libraries need to form networks for co-operating with one another to be able to meet the needs of their users.

Ayre (2006) in a report found out that material delivery, resource sharing and consortium are important for getting useful information into the hands of users but they are often neglected. The special library can move away from being the traditional stand-alone institution to one as an integral part of a larger entity. A lot of networks have been created between cooperating libraries that allow users to see another library‘s holdings with the aid of information and communication technology.

### 2.9.Summary of the Review

The various literatures reviewed above have shown that the special libraries should have information resources that include print –books, maps, newspapers, magazines, journals. non- print-Audio and video cassettes, Compact Discs, microforms, globes, electronic and online-web pages, databases, networks . They acquire their information resources through direct purchases, donations and gifts, endowments, bequests, resource sharing, consortium, edict . The factors that can affect such acquisition of resources have been identified to include finances, knowledge of the importance of the resource, knowledge of the process of acquisition, lack of participation in selection process by specialists, lack of knowledge by the librarians in the field of clients. Donor agencies both governmental and non-governmental, local and international have tried through their activities to bridge the gap by donating resources to the various libraries and training staff at little or no costs. This however is the ideal situation that is expected in every library but the reality is far from what is seen.

Unfortunately, all the literature reviewed centered on what strategies are used to develop the resources of the library but none discussed or assessedwhether the strategies suggested are applied and whether they satisfy the special libraries in acquiring resources for the libraries. This study aimed to bridge this gap.

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## CHAPTER THREE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### Introduction

This chapter described the research method used in the study. The chapter is organized under the following sub- headings: Research method adopted population, sampling procedure and sample size, the instruments used, validation of the instruments, reliability of the instruments, the method used to collect data and how the collected data was analyzed.

### Research method adopted

The research method used in the study was the mixed method . According to Bryman (2008) this method combines qualitative and quantitative strategies in research. Both researches have weaknesses and this mixed method helps in overcoming them and strengthening the data collected for the study. Ingham-Broomfield(2016) stated that Mixed method of research is a methodology for conducting research that involves collecting, analyzing, and integrating (or mixing) quantitative and qualitative research (and data) in a single study. The purpose of this form of research is that both qualitative and quantitative research, in combination, provides a better understanding of a research problem or issue than either research approach alone.The researcher considered this method appropriate since questionnaire (quantitative) and interview (qualitative for backup of questionnaire) were used to collect data for the study.

### Population of the Study

All the Heads of the Special libraries in Plateau State constituted the population of the study as indicated in Table 3.1

### Table 3.1 List of Special Libraries in Plateau State

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Special Libraries in Plateau State** | **S/N** | **Special Libraries in Plateau State** | **S/N** | **Special Libraries in Plateau State** |
| **1** | National Film Institute Library Jos | **11** | Plateau State College of Health Technology Library Pankshin | **21** | St Augustine Major Seminary Library Jos |
| **2** | College of Animal husbandry Library Vom | **12** | Plateau Radio Television Library Jos | **22** | ECWA Theological Seminary Library Jos |
| **3** | Federal College of Forestry Library Jos | **13** | Plateau State College of Agriculture Library Garkawa | **23** | Nigerian College of Accountancy Library Jos |
| **4** | National Commission for Museums and Monuments Library Jos | **14** | Plateau State College of Nursing and Midwifery Library Vom | **24** | Bingham University Teaching Hospital Library Jos |
| **5** | National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Library Kuru | **15** | Plateau State Specialist Hospital Library, Jos | **25** | Theological College of Northern Nigeria Library Bukuru, Jos |
| **6** | Veterinary Research Institute Library, Vom | **16** | Ministry of Justice Library, Jos | **26** | COCIN Theological College Library Gindiri |
| **7** | Federal College of Medical Laboratory Sciences Library, Vom. | **17** | Plateau State College of Nursing and Midwifery Library, Jos | **27** | St John Vienney Minor Seminary Library BarkinLadi |
| **8** | Jos University Teaching Hospital Library, Jos | **18** | Plateau State College of Health Technology Library, Zawan | **28** | School of Biblical Sturdies LibraryRikkos, Jos |
| **9** | Fanlah School of Health Technology Library, Jos | **19** | College of Medical Laboratory Science Library, Jos | **29** | United School of Science and Technology Library, Jos |
| **10** | Federal School of Soil Science and Conservation Library, Kuru | **20** | Lawna Theological Seminary Library, Jos |  |  |

**SOURCES**: LRCN information booklet 2011 & Office of the Librarians 2016

### Sampling and Sampling Procedure

All the 8 Heads of Libraries and 16 Technical Unit Heads (24) from 16 Government funded Special Libraries in Plateau State were used as sample for this study. This was due to the fact that the population of the study was not too large; thereby allowing the researcher to provide treatment to each of the respondent. A sample is a representative number for the whole population in the study. It is used to determine the characteristics and traits of the population (Olayiwola, 2007). The size should not be too large or too small as that will not give an appropriate (reliable) representation.Table 3.2 shows the Libraries according to the funding authority which is the plateau state Government or the Federal Government.

### Table 3.2 List of Government Funded Special Libraries in Plateau State used for the study

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/ N** | **Federal Government funded Libraries** | **NHL** | **NHTU** | **S/ N** | **Plateau State Government Funded Libraries** | **NHL** | **NHTU** |
| 1 | National Film Institute Library Jos | 1 | 1 | 1 | Plateau State College of Health Technology Library Pankshin |  | 1 |
| 2 | College of Animal husbandry Library Vom |  | 1 | 2 | Plateau Radio Television Library Jos |  | 1 |
| 3 | Federal College of Forestry Library Jos | 1 | 1 | 3 | Plateau State College of Agriculture Library Garkawa | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | National Commission for Museums and Monuments Library Jos | 1 | 1 | 4 | Plateau State College of Nursing and Midwifery Library Vom |  | 1 |
| 5 | Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Library Kuru | 1 | 1 | 5 | Plateau State Specialist Hospital Library, Jos |  | 1 |
| 6 | Veterinary Research Institute Library, Vom | 1 | 1 | 6 | Ministry of Justice Library, Jos |  | 1 |
| 7 | Federal College of Medical Laboratory Sciences Library, Vom. | 1 | 1 | 7 | Plateau State College of Nursing and Midwifery Library, Jos |  | 1 |
| 8 | Jos University Teaching Hospital Library, Jos |  | 1 | 8 | Plateau State College of Health Technology Library, Zawan | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | **6** | **8** | **Total** | **2** | **8** |

**SOURCES**: LRCN information booklet 2011 & Office of the Librarians 2016

**Key**: 1) NHL – Number Head of Libraries. 2) NHTU— Number Head of Technical Units.

### Instruments for data collection

The research instruments used for this study were questionnaire and oral interview.

### Questionnaire

A questionnaire consists of series of statements which the respondents are expected to agree or disagree with. Olayiwola(2007) indicated that they are used to solicit or collect data about feelings, attitudes, experiences, expectations and other feedback from respondents. The questionnaire was divided into sections aimed at gathering biographical and study based information. It was closed ended carrying multiple choice answers for respondents to choose from. Kothari (2004) agrees that this method is simple to administer and inexpensive to analyze. Section ‗A‘ sought to gather data that is personal to the respondents, Section ‗ B‘ was to know what information resources are available in the special libraries, Section ‗ C ‘ sought to know the strategies that are used in developing information resources in special libraries, and Section‘ D‘ was concerned with how the strategies were used. While Section ‗ E ‗ was aimed at finding out how satisfied they are in using the resource development strategies,Section ‗ F ‗ found out the challengesthey face while developing their information resources using the identified strategies.

### Oral Interview

Oral interview is where the interviewee responds to questions asked by the interviewer face to face. According to Saliu (2004) interview allows conversation to flow easily between the interviewer and the respondent to give reliable and valid information. The interview was through open form questions where the respondents expressed their feelings and ideas freely about strategies of collection development and policies guiding it. The Heads of Libraries were interviewed as a means of verifying the answers given by the Heads of Units. Some libraries do

not have designated heads but have staff thatare responsible for the activities of the libraries. Such were categorized as heads of technical units who filled the questionnaire.

### 3.7 Validation of the Instruments

Validation according to Kothari (2004) is the extent to which a measuring instrument provides adequate coverage of the topic under study and can be determined by using a panel of persons who judge how well the measuring instrument meets the standard. The instruments for data collection were validated by supervisors of this study, Lecturers of the Department of Library and Information Science and other experts in the field of Library Science through various corrections and guidance all geared towards improving the quality of the instruments.

### 3.8. Reliability of the Instruments

A Pilot study was conducted in A.B.U. Teaching Hospital Library and College of Agriculture Library Lafia to test the proposed instruments. Reliability is concerned with securing consistent results with repeated measurements of the same person with the same instrument (Araoye, 2003). The respondents were administered the copies of the questionnaire and discussion was carried out with the heads of the libraries. The completed copies of the questionnaire were carefully examined to find out if any changes or additions were required or any difficulties noticed. The approach used for the pilot study was test- retest. The questionnaire was administered twice at six weeks interval using the same respondents. The result was calculated using Pearson product- moment correlation coefficient which gave the degree of reliability at 0.80. It shows that the instrument can be relied on to collect data for the study.

### 3.9 Procedure for Data collection.

The researcher visited the libraries personally to administer the copies of the questionnaireand collected some immediately and also conducted the interviews. Two research assistants were used to retrieve copies of the questionnaire that could not be collected on the first two visits. The Research Assistants are librarians but they were given three day training on what is required while collecting the questionnaire. Four weeks were used to collect the data.

### 3.10 Procedure for Data Analysis.

The data collected was analyzed in tabular forms using percentage scores. This was to facilitate the comparison of the data collected from the sampled libraries so as to highlight any differences in the strategies employed in information resource development. In this study only Table 4.5 was analyzed using percentage scores.Olayiwola (2007) suggested Tables, figures and graphs as statistical designs that can also be used in analyzing data.

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## DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

### Introduction

This chapter presented the analysis of the data generated from the questionnaire filled by the respondents and the open ended interviews of the Heads of the Libraries.

### Table 4.1: Response Rate

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/ N** | **Federal Government funded Libraries** | **NH TU** | **NH L** | **S/ N** | **Plateau State Government Funded Libraries** | **NH TU** | **NH L** |
| 1 | National Film Institute Library Jos (NFIL) | 1 | 1 | 1 | Plateau State College of Health Technology LibraryPankshin(PSCHTL) | 1 |  |
| 2 | College of Animal husbandry Library Vom (CAHL) | 1 |  | 2 | Plateau Radio Television Library Jos(PRTVL) | 1 |  |
| 3 | Federal College of Forestry Library Jos (FCFL) | 1 | 1 | 3 | Plateau State College of Agriculture Library Garkawa(PSCAL) | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | National Commission for Museums and Monuments Library Jos (NCMML) | 1 | 0 | 4 | Plateau State College of Nursing and Midwifery Library Vom (PCNML) | 1 |  |
| 5 | Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Library Kuru (NIPSSL) | 1 | 1 | 5 | Plateau State Specialist Hospital Library, Jos(PSSHL) | 1 |  |
| 6 | Veterinary Research Institute Library, Vom(VRIL) | 1 | 1 | 6 | Ministry of Justice Library, Jos(MJL) | 1 |  |
| 7 | Federal College of Medical Laboratory Sciences Library, Vom.(FCMLSL) | 1 | 1 | 7 | Plateau State College of Nursing and Midwifery Library, Jos(PSCNML) | 1 |  |
| 8 | Jos University Teaching Hospital Library, Jos (JUTH) | 1 |  | 8 | Plateau State College of Health Technology Library, Zawan(PSCHTL) | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | **8** | **5** | **Total** | **8** | **1** |
| **Questionnaire administered -24** | **Questionnaire retrieved -22** |  |

**Source: Office of the Librarians, 2016**

The distribution of the sample size according to the field survey shows that 16 of the technical Heads responded while six Heads of Libraries were interviewed out of the eight identified. The high response rate is as a result of the population being small and the good rapport established with the staff.

### 4.2. Information Resources Available in Special Libraries in Plateau State

The question which elicited this response sought to find out the types of information resources that are housed by the different special libraries in Plateau State.Mostert (2007) identified books, newspapers, journals, databases as some resources that can be found in special libraries in Africa. The result gathered from the study is presented in the Table 4.2.

### Table 4.2: Information Resources available in Special Libraries in Plateau State

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Special Libraries in Plateau State | Information Resources Available in Special Libraries inPlateau State. |
| txtbk | Jonls | Nwspp | Online | Mp/Atl | Ref. Mts | Gov Dc | Others |
| FCAHL VOM | x | x | X | x | x | x | x | o |
| FCFL JOS | x | x | X | x | x | x | x | o |
| PSCHTL PANKSHIN | x | x | X | x | o | x | o | o |
| NFIL JOS | x | x | X | x | x | x | x | o |
| PRTVCL JOS | o | x | O | o | o | o | o | x A.V. mats. |
| NCMML JOS | x | x | X | o | x | x | x | o |
| PSCA GARKAWA | x | x | X | o | o | x | x | o |
| NIPSSL KURU | x | x | X | x | x | x | x | xlec. notes |
| PSCNML VOM | x | x | X | o | x | x | x | x |
| VRIL VOM | x | x | X | x | x | x | x | x A.V mats. |
| PSSHL JOS | o | o | O | x | o | o | o | x med. Rcds. |
| FCMLSL VOM | x | x | X | o | x | x | x | x projects |
| MOJL JOS | x | x | X | o | o | x | x | o |
| JUTHL JOS | x | x | X | x | o | x | o | o |
| PCNML JOS | x | x | X | o | x | x | x | o |
| PSCHTL ZAWAN | x | x | X | x | x | x | x | x projects |

**Source: Field Survey, 2016**

Key: x =available as ticked,o= not available,txtbk=text book, jonls=journals, Nwspp=Newspapers, Mp/Atl= Maps/Atlsses, Ref. mas= Reference Materials, Gov.Dc= Government Documents, A.V.mats= Audio Visual Materials, Lec.notes= Lecture Notes, med. Rcds= Medical Records and projects= Students Projects.

Table 4.2 displayed the various information resources that are available in the special libraries. However, not all the special libraries under this research have all the types of materials displayed in the Table. During the study, 14 respondents indicated that they have Journal and reference materials in their libraries, 14 have textbooks and newspapers, 12 respondents have government documents, 10 respondents have maps/atlas collections, and 9 respondents have online resources. Some of the respondents indicated they have other resources apart from the above mentioned. They have student‘s project booklets, audiovisuals, lecture notes and medical records of patients. They are poised to deliver services in different formats to their clientele. The heads of the libraries in interviews held corroborated the responses of their technical heads. They identified textbooks, journals, newspapers as their major types of resources. Two of them mentioned on- line databases, Internet connections, and audio visual resources just as the Heads of Units did. They revealed that they do not have enough quantity of the said resources. Henchman (2008) also agreed with the findings from the special libraries and opined that they acquire these categories of resources to enable them serve their users satisfactorily.From the responses gathered, the major types of information resources found in special libraries in Plateau State are Journals, textbooks, newspapers, government documents. The result is as seen probably because installation and maintenance of Information and Communication facilities are not easy or cheap. Many special libraries concern themselves more with print sources e.g journals and textbooks to provide information to their users.

### 4.3. Strategies for Acquiring Information Resources for Special Libraries in Plateau State.

Strategy is the method that special libraries employ to increase their holdings. The library can no longer wait for Government sponsorship to provide resources to their users. This is because Government is facing myriads of challenges from different sections of the country. Webster (2002) agrees that indeed special libraries face challenges that are trying to cripple their activities

unless concerted efforts are made towards providing ways out. There are several methods of increasing resources and this question discovered those that the libraries use as presented in the table 4.3.

### Table 4.3 Strategies for Acquiring Information Resources in Special Libraries in Plateau State.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Special Libraries in Plateau State. | Strategies of AcquiringInformation Resources |
| purchase | donation | endowment | Inter lib loan | Exchange | bequest | Resource- Sharing | licensing | deposits |
| FCAHL VOM | x | x | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| FCFL JOS | x | x | X | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| PSCHTL PNK | x | x | X | x | x | x | x | - | x |
| NFIL JOS | x | x | - | x | - | x | - | - | - |
| PRTVCL JOS | x | - | X | x | x | - | - | - | - |
| NCMML JOS | x | x | - | - | - | - | - | - | x |
| PSCA GKW | x | x | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| NIPSSL KURU | x | x | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| PSCNML VOM | x | x | X | - | - | x | - | - | - |
| VRIL VOM | x | x | - | x | - | - | x | - | - |
| PSSHL JOS | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | x | - |
| FCMLSL VOM | x | x | - | x | - | - | - | - | x |
| MOJL JOS | x | x | - | x | - | - | x | - | - |
| JUTHL JOS | - | x | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| PCNML JOS | x | x | - | - | - | - | x | - | - |
| PSCHTL ZAWAN | x | x | - | - | - | - | - | x | x |

**Source: Field Survey, 2016**

**Key:** x =method used - = method not used

From Table 4.3 thevarious strategies special libraries in Plateau State adopt for acquiring information resources are displayed. Most of them use more than a single method. Some 14 each indicated that they acquire information resources through purchase and by donation, 6 indicated inter-library loan, 4 each indicated they acquire resources through endowment, resource sharing and deposit. While 3libraries indicated acquisition through bequest 2 of them each get their resources through the exchange of resources and licensing respectively.When the discussion came to the strategies they employ in building their resources the researcher learnt from the Heads of Libraries that they mostly purchase them or are given through donation. Sometimes they get resources through interlibrary loan. Few of them are lucky to have endowments and bequests by individuals for their library growth. A small number also engage in resource sharing, exchanges but do not have any group for purchase of licenses for online resources. It is unfortunate that the Special Libraries in Plateau State only apply two resource development strategies out of the numerous ones identified. The application of purchase and donation identified in the study is probably due to the special libraries‘ dependence on funding from the State and Federal governments and the goodwill of individuals and non-governmental agencies. Other reasons might be lack of co-operation among themselves. This does not allow for growth as these strategies are fraught with challenges e.g. lack of funds, high cost of resources, lack of donors, donation of non- relevant resources e.t.c. Combination of these strategies helps in overcoming the challenges. It is also wise to co-operate and share information.

### 4.4 Application of Information Resource Development Strategies for Acquiring Resources inSpecial Libraries in Plateau State.

The special libraries employ several activities to ensure that they maximally utilize their strategies for acquiring information resources for their libraries. These activities are the processes for getting the strategies to produce the desired results. In the view of Ameen (2010) libraries employ the services of vendors in acquiring resources. Table 4.4 shows the activities the special libraries engage in to achieve acquisition.

### Table 4.4 Application of Information Resource Development Strategies for Acquisition of information resources in Special Libraries in Plateau State.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Use of Information Resource Development Strategies for Acquisitionof information resources in special libraries in Plateau state |  |
| Ordering | Solicitation | subscription | Law | Arrangement | Registration | Others |  |
| FCAHL VOM | x | o | X | o | o | x | o |
| FCFL JOS | x | o | X | o | o | x | o |
| PSCHTL Pnk | x | x | X | x | x | x | o |
| NFIL JOS | x | o | X | o | x | x | o |
| PRTVCL JOS | x | o | O | o | x | o | o |
| NCMML Jos | x | o | O | x | o | o | o |
| PSCA Gkw | x | o | O | o | o | o | o |
| NIPSSL kuru | x | o | O | o | o | x | o |
| PSCNM VOM | x | x | O | o | o | o | o |
| VRILVOM | x | o | O | o | x | x | o |
| PSSHL Jos | o | o | O | o | o | x | o |
| FCMLSL Vom | x | o | O | x | x | o | o |
| MOJL JOS | x | o | O | o | x | o | o |
| JUTHL JOS | o | o | O | o | o | x | o |
| PCNML Jos | x | o | O | o | o | o | o |
| PSCHTL Z | x | x | X | x | o | x | o |

**Source: Field Survey, 2016 key:** x-yes o- no

The activities identified in Table 4.4 are some of those that special libraries in Plateau State utilize to ensure that they benefit from the various strategies for acquiring information resources and they are ticked as they applied to them. 14 libraries indicated they place orders for their information resources, 9 of them register for their information resources, 6 make different kinds of arrangements, while 5 subscribe for the resources they have. 4 special libraries in plateau State get their information resources through decrees and rules in existence in the country and institution and 3 of the libraries solicit for information resources. This is in tandem with the views of their Heads in the libraries. In their separate answers they explained that they engage the services of vendors who supply whatever resources they need to buy e.g. books and serials. They also register to have online databases and subscribe for bandwidths for internet services. Some of them benefit from policies and rules that mandate publications in their organizations to be deposited in their libraries while a few of them make arrangement with donor agencies and individuals who are willing to improve their resources. The major method utilized remained acquisition through placing orders for supply of requested resources. Murray (2013)also hinted that acquisition is a major strategy in special libraries and can be achieved through ordering resources. They do not solicit for materials or co-operate to borrow any. The special libraries are restricted in their options for applying the strategies for acquisitions since they only rely on purchase and donation even though they do not solicit for such donations. It might be the goodwill that people have towards the special libraries that is responsible.

### 4.5Satisfaction with the Information Resource Development Strategies for acquisition in Special Libraries in Plateau State.

Satisfaction is the fulfillment derived from any exercise and it is necessary for libraries to know if the strategies they employ fulfill the need for developing their information resources for their user‘s patronage. In the face of challenges in the economy and the consequent inability of libraries to acquire needed resources they might need to re-strategize to fulfill their mandate. In the opinion of Ekeneet.all (2016), funding authorities would want to know that the money they have spent is justified so there is need to show evidence. The libraries visited gave their impressions concerning the use of the strategies in acquiring resources. Satisfaction can also be for the staff who are able to satisfy the needs of their users. The number of users will definitely increase because of the availability of the relevant and current resources.

### Table 4.5Satisfaction with the Information Resource Development Strategies forAcquisition of Information Resources in Special Libraries in Plateau State.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Special Libraries in Plateau State | Satisfaction with Information Resource Development Strategies |
| **Purchase** | **Donation** | **Endowment** | **Inter- Library Loan** | **Exchange** | **Bequest** | **Resource Sharing** | **Licensing** | **Deposit** |
| FCAHL VOM | **-** | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| FCF L JOS | **X** | **-** | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| PSCHTL PKN | **-** | **-** | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** |
| NFIL JOS | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| PRTVCL JOS | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| NCMML JOS | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| PSCAL GKW | **-** | **x** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| NIPSSL KURU | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** | **-** |
| PSCNML VOM | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| VRIL VOM | **X** | **-** | **-** | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** | **-** |
| PSSHL JOS | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** | **-** |
| FCMLSL VOM | **-** | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| MOJL JOS | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| JUTHL JOS | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| PCNML JOS | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** | **-** | **-** |
| PSCHTL ZWN | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |

Source: Field Survey, 2016 key: x= satisfied - = not satisfied

The data in Table 4.5 shows that 8(53%) of the 15 speciallibraries are not satisfied withPurchase used in acquiring information resources while5 (33.3%) are and 2(13.3%) highly satisfied.Of the 14libraries which indicated donation as a means of acquisition, 8 (57%) are not satisfied, 5(35.7%) are satisfied while 1( 7.1%) is highly satisfied. All the 4 libraries engaging endowment, constituting 100%, are not satisfied with it as a strategy of acquisition. From the 6 libraries each in inter-library loan and licensing 4 (66.6%) are satisfied with the strategy while 2 (33.3%) each are not.Only 1 (50%) of the 2 Libraries indicated being satisfied while applying exchange and another 1(50%) not satisfied with it. Of the 4 special libraries using resource sharing as strategy, 2(50%) are satisfied and 2 (50%) are not. It is also seen that 3 special libraries engage in bequest but 2 (66.6%)are not satisfied while 1 (33.3%) is. Out of the 4 libraries which have materials deposited in them, 3 representing 75% are not satisfied while 1, 25% is satisfied.Every service can be evaluated for purposes of review, changes, improvement and growth.The overwhelming dissatisfaction, as can be noticed, is not unconnected with the lack of sufficient funds to make purchases of resources a regular practice and also handle the issues surrounding donations. Sometimes difficult conditions are attached to the resources thereby forcing some of the special libraries to spend money for logistics or reject them. Most of the Heads of Libraries stated that they are not satisfied with the strategies as the expected benefits have not been realized. They are not able to utilize most of the strategies to their own benefits but are mostly restricted to the traditional purchase. Some of them indicated using more than a method which has helped and only few are satisfied using the combined strategies they employed as only a strategy cannot help them. For some of them that have online resources, the funds to renew subscriptions are sometimes difficult to get.

### 4.6. Challenges in applying Information Resource Development Strategies in Acquisition of Information Resources in Plateau State.

Challenges abound everywhere and libraries, even special libraries, are not immune to them. Such challenges that the special libraries face range from lack of Government dedication to the cause of the libraries, actions of the environment on the resources, lack of knowledge by the staff of the libraries to lack of adequate funding and lack of co-operation. Webster (2002) agrees with the identified challenges and added that they face increasing pressure on the scholarly communication system not only because of the sky-rocketing prices for traditional information formats but also there are so many new and different formats for information that must secure library investments.Challenges can also be encountered while employing a strategy in acquiring informationresources for the speciallibrary. Table 4.6 presents the various challenges as encountered by the libraries visited in the application of the strategies.

### Table 4.6.Challenges in the application of Information Resource Development Strategies in Acquisition of Library Resources in Plateau State.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Special Libraries in Plateau State** | **Challenges in applyingInformation Resource Development Strategies in Acquisition in of Information Resources in Special libraries in Plateau State.** |
| Inadequate funding | Delay in supply | Outdated Resources | Lack of cooperation | Difficult Requirements | High cost of resources |
| FCAHL VOM | **x** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| FCFL JOS | **x** | **-** | **-** | **X** | **x** | **X** |
| PSCHTL PKN | **x** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** |
| NFIL JOS | **x** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| PRTVCL JOS | **-** | **-** | **x** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| NCMML JOS | **x** | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| PSCA GKW | **x** | **X** | **X** | **-** | **X** | **X** |
| NIPSSL KURU | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** |
| PSCNML VOM | **X** | **X** | **x** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| VRIL VOM | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| PSSHL JOS | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| FCMLSL VOM | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** |
| MOJL JOS | **X** | **-** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| JUTHL JOS | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| PCNML JOS | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** | **X** |
| PSCHTL ZWN | **X** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **X** |

**Source**: Field Survey, 2016 **key**: x= experienced - = not experienced

Table 4.6 shows the various challenges thelibraries face in using the development strategies for acquisition of library resources as gathered from the field survey. They were to indicate as many challenges as are applicable to them.Some 14 indicated inadequate funding when they have to purchase resources, process donations or inter library loans,while 9 revealed the resources are expensive, 5 indicateddifficult requirements experienced in donation, endowment, or inter library loans,while 4 respondents expressed their challenge to be outdated resources for purchase or donation. Some 3 eachstated they lack cooperation among related libraries affecting interlibrary loan, resource sharing and exchange and there is delay in supply ofthe resources when they are ordered or are to be deposited. This could be as a result of lack of awareness of the advantages derivable from the strategies when more than one is adopted and of co-operating with one another.Funds are always not sufficient and sometimes the special libraries have to make do with the little.These identified challenges were also recognized by Okiy (2010) in her studies. She posited that the authorities responsible for funding such libraries pay no attention to that function and the libraries are not able to provide the needed service.Challenges confronting the special libraries as they use the strategies of information resource development highlighted by the Heads of Librariesincluded poor funding, High cost of resources, difficult requirements by donors who give conditions on management of the resources and lack of cooperation for the growth of the libraries.Some of them added that purchase of the resources has become a challenge as financial resources are not forthcoming especially with the introduction of Treasury Single Account (TSA) system by the Plateau State Government. Most times they are able to purchase only few copies. They also complained of interference by Chief Executives who influence the acquisition of resources resulting in purchasing materials that are irrelevant, substandard, outdated or very exorbitant.

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## CHAPTER FIVE

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### Introduction

This chapter presented the summaries of the study and findings which provided the basis for recommendation that were proffered. It is comprised of the findings from the questionnaire administered on the Heads of Technical Units and the interview conducted for the Heads of the various Special Libraries which were identified.

### Summary of the Study.

The purpose of this study was to find out the Information Resource Development strategies that special libraries apply to increase the strength of their information resources in Plateau State. The Special Library is one that exists to provide resources to fulfill the information needs in a particular (single) field of endeavor. They are found in Hospitals, Departments in Universities, Government Ministries, Research Institutes, e.t.c and are involved in research, training and formulation of policies for Nigeria. These special libraries were 16 which form the population for the study. The subjects for the study were Heads of Technical Units and Heads of the Libraries. Mixed method research strategy was employed. Five research questions were formulated to help in assessing the strategies. All the sixteen government funded special libraries were used as sample for the study. The instruments used to collect data were closed ended multiple choice answer questionnaire for technical Heads and open form question interview for the Heads of libraries. The copies of the questionnaire and interview were administered by the researcher, while research assistants were used to administer and collect those that were

not administered and collected on first visit. The data collected was analyzed using tables and percentage scores.

### Summary of the Major Findings

The summary of the findings from the questionnaire and interview conducted and analyzed through tables are presented below.

* + 1. The resources found to be available in the special libraries included textbooks, journals, reference materials, newspapers, Government documents and online resources.
		2. The strategies frequently applied by the libraries to increase their holdings are purchase and donations whileothers not utilized include inter-library loan, resource sharing,legal deposit, consortium, bequest and exchange,though the Heads of libraries also complained of interference by management concerning the purchase as they are left in the dark when the acquisitions are made.
		3. Most of the libraries place orders fortheir resources most of the times although they rarely register for databases and Associations e.g. Ebscohost,Hinari, N.L.A who can make their resources available to them at little or no cost.
		4. The information resource development strategies applied do not satisfy the acquisition needs because the libraries have not been able to achieve needed growth of their resources and have neglected co-operation for resource sharing, inter-library loan and consortium which would have added resources.
		5. Challenges confronting the special libraries in Plateau State in the task of acquiring information resources through thestrategies include lack of adequate funding and inflationary

cost of the materials which affects the purchase of the resources as acquisition through purchase and donation are the major strategies of developing the resources of the libraries.

### 5.4. Conclusion

It can be seen from the result of the study that special libraries in Plateau State stock all kinds of information resources which are mostly either purchased or donated. Other strategies e.g. inter-library loan, exchange, resource sharing, forming consortium e.t.c., are not explored. It is important to have additional resources through these strategies. The two strategies mostly employed are trailed by dissatisfaction. In the face of dwindling economy the special libraries cannot afford to neglect these useful strategies which will help in increasing the information resources for their libraries. That way they can provide relevant resources for users.

### 5.5 Recommendation

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are provided:

1. The special libraries should have online databases that are active and supervised by trained staff. Some of these databases are free and peer reviewed.
2. The special libraries should embark on sensitization of the public on the need for donations, endowments and bequests to have a stable source of funds and resources for the libraries.
3. The Federal and Plateau State governments should ensure that deliberate efforts are made to provide funds for the libraries to enable them to provide needed resources to give necessary information for decision making.
4. Management of the various organizations and institutions served by the special libraries should not interfere in the process of acquiring resources but should leave that task for the Librarians who are specialists.
5. Special libraries in Plateau State should come together to share costs of resources through co-operations, help by exchanging useful resources and loan to each other for they cannot stand on their own and achieve much but by coming together they would overcome their challenges.

### 5.6 Suggestions for Further Studies

This study assessed the various strategies used in the libraries to acquire information resources aimed at satisfying the clientele. There are several aspects of the topic that have not been covered viz:

1. Assessing the human resources to know if they are capable of satisfying the needs of the users.
2. Assessing Acquisition Policies of the Libraries to know if they fulfill their roles in managing the acquisition of resources.

These aspects can be researched into. This will further help the special libraries to live up to their responsibilities of providing useful, current, relevant resources by staff that is trained and motivated to perform their duties.

### Contribution to Knowledge

This study is a contribution to the following in various aspects as they strive to provideneeded information to their users.

* + 1. The Staff at the Technical Units of the special libraries have realized the need for cooperation to acquire resources for their clientele. Funding agencies do not always have sufficient funds for all their needs.
		2. Managements of the special libraries now understand that the libraries need to be freely managed by professionals. This will ensure that current and relevant resources are acquired always.
		3. The Federal and Plateau State governments now know that the limited funds they allocate to the special libraries do not grow their resources quickly. They might need to increase funding or encourage the formation of consortiums.

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