

LIBRARY ENTREPRENEURSHIP A PANACEA TO LIBRARY UNDER FUNDING IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF MUHAMMADU LIBRARY FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC BAUCHI

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ABSTRACT

Funds for Nigerian academic libraries and information services are traditionally derived from their parent institution. These funds vary from a fixed percentage of an institutions overall budget to an ad-hoc arrangement. In whatever case, most academic libraries receive far less funding than the percentage that is usually earmarked for them. This trend has hampered the provision of modern library services in Nigeria, thereby frustrating growth and development. Though libraries as public enterprise, exist not to make money but to fulfill one of the purposes recognize by the federal laws. Libraries have become increasingly aware of the need to commercialize their services effectively in a period when funding has been reduced, demand has increased and new services are being introduced. Against this background, using the descriptive survey designed and judgmental sampling technique, this study sought to discuss steady exploitation of money yielding ventures available in libraries, that when judiciously utilized can support the fixed mega percentage earmarked to them by their parent institution. It also monitor and evaluate impact assessment and to develop a sustainability plan. The Head of Library and units and some selected library staff formed the population of the study. One hundred and twenty (120) copies of a designed questionnaire were distributed to the sampled population, out of which all were returned for a response rate of 100%. As such the sampled size is one hundred and twenty (20). Analysis of data was done using frequency counts and percentages. The study found out that, library users prefer their cards ceased than to pay the overdue fine.

Key words: Library, Entrepreneurship, Under Funding.

INTRODUCTION

The importance of funding in providing quality library services can't be over emphasized. It was on the basis of this that Ubogu and Okiy (2011), wrote that library funding is the glue that holds the building, collection and staff together and allows the library to attain its goals. Similarly Anafulu (1997), supported the fact by saying money can be considered the soul of the library, inadequate funds impede the effectiveness of any library. American Library Association (2006), note that libraries of all kinds need money. Ehigiator (1997), lend credence to the above statement by describing library as an organism that grows or shrink with time depending on how much money is infused in to them. Money is needed for building physical facilities, books, journals, electronic resources, personnel e.t.c of any type of library.

Njeru (2012), opined that all library activities are to some extent influence by the amount of funds available to master. He therefore advised that for library activities to be effective there must be financial back up, alternative sources of funds to enable them render good and quality services to their patron. World Libraries Archive Vol. 1 No. 1, (1990), observed that the necessary factors required for the declaration of library state of emergency are in place, this can be seen in the deplorable state of Nigerian libraries as a result of inadequate budgetary allocation from their parent institutions and this call for the libraries to look for other sources of generating income in order to boost their services.

This research work discusses steady exploitation of money yielding ventures devised by libraries in other to support the fixed mega percentage earmarked to them by their parent institution. It also monitor and evaluate impact assessment and to develop a sustainability plan.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Although library underfunding problem is not peculiar to Nigeria alone but it is much more severe and constraining. This is because Nigerian libraries depend almost totally on government public funding for their sustenance. Total reliance on public funding with no alternative source of funds has seriously hampered library development, hence the need for alternative sources of funds for libraries to continue and be effective in their provision of services. For this to happen, heads of libraries must be entrepreneuring and look beyond their purse. It was observed that libraries especially academic have continuous increase in their users due to increase in the intake of students yearly. The more users a library has the more funds is required in the provision of services. It was due to this the researchers decided to explore the money yielding ventures available at the Muhammadu Wabi Library so as to proffer ways of dealing with issue of underfunding in libraries

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study is aimed at exploring:

1. Money yielding ventures available at Muhammadu Wabi library that can support the fixed mega percentage earmarked to them by their parent institution, if judiciously used.
2. Monitor and evaluate impact assessment.
3. Develop a sustainability plan and policy for the programme.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions are a guide to the study.

1. What are the money yielding ventures available at Muhammadu Wabi Library.
2. What impact has this programme made towards ameliorating library underfunding?
3. How can this programme be sustained?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Libraries are information centers where information resources in all format are acquired, stored, organized by professional librarians and disseminated to the information seekers. Ubogu and Okiy (2011), described it as a part of a wider organization i.e an arm of Government, University, School, Research Institute or Business concern as the case may be. The parent body is therefore the proprietor that takes the full responsibility for its funding.

Presumably library services are provided to users without charge because they are public enterprise and their services benefit the community more than they benefit the individual user. The established education and research culture sphere in which libraries operate in Nigeria faces costs higher than revenues. Most libraries suffer from insufficient funding adequate to accomplish the work they need to do, because their income remains low while cost of information materials and that of infrastructure climbed.

Libraries have reputations for being conservative, slow to innovative/change and on the other hand to be open to outside influences. But entrepreneurship is one of such outside impulses that caused modern library and information institutions to start thinking of trying to apply. Glosiene (2002), wrote that diminishing financing for public sphere institutions, libraries among them, in combination with growing requirements for quality and relevant services, expansion of ICT in library and information services forced library to introduce fee based services to their users. This view was supported by Olaison (1992), who wrote that rapidly rising costs together with a political philosophy that favours' privatization has forced administrators, funders, library directors and policy makers to reexamine the policy of free public services.

External and internal demands to do more with being given the same amount or even less make libraries to think how they can go on and innovate without abandoning their traditional mission. Okiy (1997), said that in the face of dwindling library budgets, astronomical increase in the prices of books and

journals, low and unstable exchange rate of the naira against the US dollar, other sources of funds and library resources must be identified and harnessed to help libraries maintained high standards. Bremer (2003), opined that it has become increasingly necessary for libraries to seek for funds aside government grants to support activities that were once thought to be responsibility of tax payers. Authorities are requiring libraries to generate revenue to offset a proportion of their costs (Best, 2001).

Entrepreneurship/commercialization is on the rise worldwide because it is a significant determinant of successful enterprise performance which has been difficult to achieve over years. As noted by Akinsanya (2000), there is a growing consensus that Entrepreneurship/ commercialization can result in substantial efficiency renewed investment budgetary savings. Reid (1992), explain some of the merits of library commercialization such as the ability to better control demand by filtering unnecessary request and improve ability to cope with price upsurge by sharing cost with customers. There is acknowledgement among library users as to the grossly unsatisfactory current state of libraries, lending credence to the financial times. Corroborative conclusion is that all and sundry are now convinced that Entrepreneurship/ commercialization would improve the service. As such libraries have long incorporated a number of cost control mechanism such as fee based photocopying and more recently printing, scanning, e.t.c.

Adeyoyin (2006), said that indeed in any discourse on the adoption of technology, the development of book collections or the training of staff in the library, funding has always been mentioned as one of the greatest handicaps. The commercialization of library services is something that people have tendered to shy away from, but Adeyoyin further suggested commercialization as a panacea to libraries that are severally constrained in terms of resources.

Rosenberg (2011), observed that there is a movement away from total reliance on government funding towards additional sources of library income, therefore she argued that income generation is here to stay and that in the future the library will be ask to become more self-sufficient and not only be responsible for generating income but also be held accountable for it.

METHODOLOGY

The design chosen for the study was descriptive survey design. The Heads of Library and units and some selected library staff and users formed the population of the study. Judgmental sampling method was used. Data was collected by the use of structured questionnaire and interview. The data for the study were generated from the analysis of the questionnaire. Nominal data were generated from research questions and were analyzed using yes/no and frequency descriptive statistical tool.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of the findings are analyzed and presented below.

Table 1: Distribution (D) and Retrieval (R) of Questionnaire.

S/n	Questionnaire	Analysis		
		D	R	%
1	Systems section	2	2	1.6%
2	Binding section	4	4	3.3%
3	Audio Visual section	3	3	2.5%
4	Circulation unit	10	10	8.3%
5	Polytechnic Librarian	1	1	0.9%
6	Library users	100	100	83.4%
	Total	120	120	100%

NB R - Retrieval

D - Distribution

Table 1 shows that a total of 120 questionnaires were distributed and all retrieved from the respondents. This led to response rate of 100%.

Table 2: Registered library users

Category	Academic staff	Non academic staff	Students	Total
Number	200	55	955	1210
%	16.5%	4.6%	78.9%	100%

Source: library users register, federal polytechnic Bauchi

Table 2 above shows that the total number of registered library users is 1,210. Students account for 955 (78.9%) of the library users while academic staff 200 (16.5%) and non-academic staff 55 (4.6%)

Table 3: Library entrepreneurship services offered in Muhammadu Wabi Library, Federal Polytechnic Bauchi.

S/n	Entrepreneurship services	Yes	No
1	Printing	✓	✗
2	Bindery Services	✓	✗
3	Overdue charges	✓	✗
4	Loss of borrowers card	✓	✗
5	Photocopy Services	✓	✗
6	Book mutilation	✗	✓
7	Internet/Service and browsing	✓	✗
8	User Registration	✗	✓
9	Equipment Use	✓	✗
10	Document Delivery	✗	✓
11	Document Scanning	✓	✗
12	Literature Search	✗	✓
13	Abstracting and Indexing	✗	✓
14	Lamination	✗	✓
15	Translation	✗	✓
16	Video Coverage	✓	✗
Total		9	7

The table above shows sixteen (16) different fee based services that can be offered by libraries. Nine (9) of the above mentioned services are offered by Muhammadu Wabi Library, Federal Polytechnic Bauchi. These include Printing, Binding, overdue charges, loss of borrowers card, photocopying, internet services, Equipment use Scanning and video Coverage.

Table 4: showing willingness of library users to fee based services

S/n	Variables	Frequency	%
1	Yes	100	100%
2	No	----	---
Total		100	100%

Table 4 above shows the willingness of library users to fee based services. The response shows that 100% of the users are in support. The implication of this is that the users are eager to pay for any service, provided their information needs can be met.

Table 5: Inventory of available Facilities/Resources and manpower in System Units of the Muhammadu Wabi library, Bauchi

s/n	Facilities	Number of items
1	Computers (desk top)	25
2	Photocopy machine	2
3	Printer	2
4	Scanner	1
5	Generating set/ Inverter	1
6	Staff	2

Table 5 above shows that the system unit of the polytechnic library has almost all the facilities required to operate a full scale fee-based service. The unit is well furnished with state of the art facilities and experienced professional staff.

Table 6: showing fee based services at system unit of the Polytechnic library, Bauchi

S/n	Fee-based services	Yes	No
1	Printing	✓	✗

2	Lamination	✘	✓
3	Spiral binding	✘	✓
4	Photocopy	✓	✘
5	Scanning	✓	✘
6	Internet service	✓	✘

The above table 6 shows the fee-based services that are provided in the system unit of Muhammadu Wabi Library. These facilities are utilized to generate income for the library.

Table 7: Cost of printing, photocopying, Scanning and Internet browsing and amount generated in a month.

Variables	Printing	Photocopy	Scanning	Internet browsing	Total amount generated
Charges/Cost	=N=20	=N=5	=N=100	=N=150 /hr	
Approximate amount generated in a month	=N=14,600	=N=26,190	=N=500	=N=28,000	=N=69,290

Table 7 above shows the amount charged to the library users on different services rendered to them. As shown on the table the cost of printing per page is =N= 20, photocopying is =N=5, scanning is =N= 100, while internet browsing per hour is =N=150. The approximate amount of money generated per month from all the services provided, within the first month of its operation in the systems unit is =N= 69,290. The amount generated will increase if the café becomes popular to the general populace.

Table 8: Fee-based services rendered at Audio Visual (AV) unit of the polytechnic library Bauchi

S/n	Services	Frequency	%
1	video coverage	3	50%
2	Equipment use	3	50%
	Total	6	100%

Table 8 above shows the fee-based services provided at AV unit of the library. These services are provided to the polytechnic community both within and outside the polytechnic.

Table 9: The money generated from fee-based services in AV unit

s/n	Services	Charges per service	Approximate amount generated per month
1	Video coverage	=N=7500	=N=15000
2	Equipment use	=N=3000	=N=9000
Total			=N=24000

Table 9 above shows the approximate amount generated in Audio Visual unit of the library per month. =N=7500 is charge for video coverage per day, while =N= 3000 is charge for equipment use. Therefore approximately =N= 24,000 is generated in a month.

Table 10: Overdue charges yet to be paid by library users of Muhammadu wabi library, federal polytechnic Bauchi.

s/n	Variables	Number of defaulters	Period	Amount accumulated
1	Staff	111	2010-2013	=N=216,219
2	HND students	91	✓	=N=9,020
3	ND students	195	✓	=N=52,824
4	Total	397	----	=N=278,063

Source: circulation unit overdue record

Ten naira (=N=10) is been charged for overdue of books borrowed by library users per day. There are many defaulters as shown in table 10 above. The library users prefer their library cards to be ceased than to pay the dues against them, as a result Two Hundred and seventy eight thousand naira, sixty three naira (=N= 278,063) has been accumulated as overdue charges. Loss of borrowers card attract hundred naira (=N= 100) per card. This case occurs from time to time. It has been observed is that money can be generated in this section but no staff has been assigned to do the job. There are many staff in this section

and users pay the overdue charges to whoever they meet on duty. No record is kept pertaining the money generated and no body to enforce the policy.

Table 11: Amount charged for binding and printing services

S/n	Services	Amount charged		Approximate amount generated in a session
1	Binding	project	Book	=N=200,000
		=N=250	=N=200	
2	Printing	Negotiable best on number of copies to be printed		=N=80,000
Total amount generated in a session				=N=280,000

The table above shows that =N= 250 is charged for binding of one copy of project while that of a book is =N=200. The cost of printing is not fix but best determine by the total number of copies to be printed for a client and by implication this aspect can bring in a good amount of money to the library. The practice is that the staffs in this section have private printing shops outside the school where they take this work. Approximately the sum of =N=200,000 and =N=80,000 is generated per session from binding and printing services respectively. The money generated here is not remitted to either bursary or polytechnic librarian.

Table 12: Total amount generated from the sections in the library that charges money on the services they offer and

S/n	Sections	Approximate amount generated	Period generated	Remitted to		
				Bursary	library	Money retain by selve
1	Systems	=N=69,290	1 month	No	Yes	No
2	Audio Visual	=N=24,000	1 month	Yes	No	No
3	Readers	=N=278,000	4 years	No	N0	Yes

4	Binding	=N=280,000	Per session	No	No	Yes
Total		=N=651,353				

Table 12 shows the amount generated in four sections where money is charged for services offered. Approximately =N=69,290 and =N=24,000 has been generated in systems and Audio-visual sections respectively in a month. While =N=278,063 and =N=280,000 has been generated in readers and binding sections in four years and a session respectively. The table further shows that some sections remit their money to the library, others to the bursary while others keep it to themselves.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the paper notes that, with careful planning, through library entrepreneurship money can be generated for effective information provision in Nigerian libraries. This fact is attested by proponents of library entrepreneurs as presented in the literature review. All and sundry are now convinced that library entrepreneurship is a panacea to library under funding.

From the foregoing analysis, it has been noticed that Muhammadu Wabi Library entrepreneurial services has help a lot in generating internal revenue for the library. The money generated has been used partly to solve some immediate needs of the library. e.g the money generated has been used to buy materials for producing users borrowers card, fixing faulty facilities in the library .e.t.c

Though the money generated cannot shoulder major library problems like the purchase of books and other information resources, but it can help a lot in reducing overdependence on the polytechnic and the government. It is believe that when the staff in charge of overdue fees and other fee-services are faithful in remitting the overdue money to the appropriate quarters, it will be of immense help to the library.

Also there is no any stated policy and frame work guiding the generation and remittance of the money generated to the appropriate quarters. This should not be the case if truly Nigerian libraries want to get over their funding problems in order to provide effective services to their prospective clients.

RECOMMENDATION

- Libraries should embark upon entrepreneurship activities because it is the most potent economic force the world has ever experienced.
- Fundamental skill of building business plan is required.
- The libraries should make sure that they improve their services if they are charging money for it. Since entrepreneur is not just about getting or making money, it is about finding ways to do more of the things you want to do than you could if you just relied on your own internal resources.
- There should be a stated policy and frame work on the services provided for fee, how the money will be generated and to whom the money would be remitted to.
- Government and parent institutions should allow libraries to managed funds generated from fee-based services.
- For entrepreneurship to succeed in the library, entrepreneurship education is needed for all library staff. Also there should be training and retraining of staff on library entrepreneurship.

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