

Influence of Planning on Infrastructural Resources Provision in Nigerian University Libraries

Ezeala, Lily Oluebube Ph D.^{1*}, Gwang, J. M. Ph D.²

¹Dept. of Social Science Education, Faculty of Education, University of Jos, P.M.B 190 Bukuru, Jos, Nigeria

²Pioneer University Librarian, Plateau State University, Bokkos, Nigeria

*Corresponding Author:

Ezeala, Lily Oluebube

Email: lilyval0296@gmail.com

Abstract: The study investigates infrastructural resource provision in university libraries in Nigeria's North Central Zone with reference to managerial variable of planning as influence factor via an *Ex post facto* research. The Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the internal consistency of the items of the instrument. Data were collected by means of a questionnaire complemented by observation of infrastructural resources and interview of university librarians. From the 124 copies of questionnaire distributed 109 (76.76%) copies were returned. Data collected were analyzed by use of mean, standard deviation Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC). The method of testing the hypothesis was by means of Multiple Regression Analysis in which the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SSPS) was employed at 005 level of significance. The study found that infrastructural resources were provided to a large extent and planning was found to have a significant influence on the provision of infrastructural resources in the university libraries. The study consequently recommended that in order for Nigerian University Libraries to ensure even provision of adequate infrastructural early and effective planning should be implemented.

Keywords: Planning, Infrastructure, University Libraries, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Infrastructural resources constitute a major type of library resources, which operationally are the framework upon which library services are regulated and used. Infrastructural resources include library buildings and different types of library equipment which are critical to effective service delivery in a university library. The essence of library buildings lies in the fact that they provide different spaces required for different specific purposes pertinent to the functionality of the library, such as spaces for offices, work rooms, shelving, exhibition, lending, storage and toilets. Other type of infrastructural resources consists of different types of library furniture/equipment, such as library shelves for display and storage of books and journals, reading tables and chairs, and computer hardware for offices and library use.

According to [1] library facilities in the educational systems of developing countries were in a deplorable state, a situation which accounted for the poor quality of the universities' graduates as evident in the graduates' falling competencies. Research evidences from [2], [3], [4] [5], among many others, also attest to prevalent low infrastructural resource provision in libraries.

Reading spaces congested with students endlessly scrambling for seating facilities are among

common situations depicted in the libraries. Other observable inadequacies include delays in completion and maintenance of library building and shortage of library equipment pointed out by Raseroka (1999), Sharma (2009) and [6]. The circumstances are exacerbated by the fact that university library buildings are constructed without regard to standard (Ifidon, 1999). This implies that university libraries should enhance their infrastructural resources as one gateway to generating the desired services for library users. The libraries can achieve this through their management which, according to [7], is one critical factor influencing the provision of resources in university libraries. As defined by [8], management is the guidance, leadership and direction of a group's efforts towards organizational objectives. Management consists of certain elements by which it works. Such elements are called managerial variables, and include planning [9].

Planning is a process of goal setting, and involves the determination of the activities to be performed within a specified period and the funding implications of each. According to [10], planning is a systematic effort to organize the future performance of human beings, money or goods and services within some identified constraints of time span.

Infrastructural resources are extremely important to the provision of effective library services in universities. Yet, it is observed that their quality and quantity leave much to be desired; requisite buildings and equipment are few, old and in many cases non-existent. This negates the universities' mandate on teaching, learning and research, among others. The reason behind the inadequate infrastructural resource situation is often attributed to funding inadequacies. Apart from low funding that is affecting infrastructural resource provision in libraries, studies such as [11], and the researcher's library work experience suggest that planning is an important inhibiting element. Therefore the purpose of the study was to ascertain the extent of infrastructural resource provision in Nigerian universities libraries, and to determine the influence of planning on the provision of infrastructural resources in those libraries. This is because as pointed out by [12], proper planning of infrastructural resources enables libraries articulate robust activities that enhance effective library service delivery.

RESEARCH QUESTION/ HYPOTHESIS

The research work formulated one research question and one hypothesis in order to guide the data collection. The research question is: What is the extent of infrastructural resource provision in Nigerian university libraries? The hypothesis is: There is no significant influence of planning on provision of infrastructural resources in Nigerian University libraries.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study has, hopefully, established the influence of planning on the provision of infrastructural resources in Nigerian university libraries. Apart from enriching the empirical literature on the management of Nigerian University libraries, the study has strengthened the foundation upon which to sensitize university libraries about ensuring early and effective planning as pre- requisites for even and adequate provision of infrastructural resources.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is limited to fourteen universities made up of four federal, six state and four private-owned university libraries located in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. Two of the six federal universities were excluded from the research because they were newly established in 2011 and had neither recruited staff nor admitted students at the time of the study. The study's focus, in terms of content, is limited to the determination of the influence of planning on the provision of infrastructural resources. Therefore, elements of management such as organization and evaluation were excluded from the study.

METHODOLOGY

The research is an *Ex post facto* research designed to determine the influence of planning on the

provision of infrastructural resources in Nigerian university libraries. The population for this study is all the 124 librarians and chief library officers in the university libraries studied. The study used questionnaire, interview and observation for data collection. To analyze the data collected, Mean and Standard Deviation were used to answer the research question, while Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMCC) was used to establish the influence in the hypothesis.

Data Analysis

Out of the 124 copies of questionnaire distributed, 109 (76.76%) were returned duly completed. These were analyzed with regards to the research question and hypothesis raised in the study.

The Extent of Infrastructural Resource Provision in Nigerian Universities Libraries

To determine the extent of infrastructural resource provision in Nigerian university libraries, respondents were provided with eighteen various infrastructural resources and asked to grade them using the Likert five- point scale. Table 1 below shows the mean ratings of the respondents.

Mean ratings on extent of infrastructural resources

The table-1 shows that the overall provision of infrastructural resources in libraries in universities is to a large extent ($\bar{x}=2.61$). The specific infrastructural resources provided to a large extent are shelving spaces ($\bar{x}=3.03$), reading rooms ($\bar{x}=3.13$), and reading tables ($\bar{x}=3.09$) while ICT facilities such as laminating machine ($\bar{x}=1.78$) and scanners ($\bar{x}=1.98$) were provided to a small extent. In terms of provisions by type of university, the federal university libraries provide reading rooms ($\bar{x}=3.10$) and spaces for shelving ($\bar{x}=3.16$) to a large extent. In the private university libraries, infrastructural resources are provided to a large extent on the issues of computers ($\bar{x}=3.0$) and computer accessories ($\bar{x}=3.08$). However, from results of the observations made during personal visits to the respective institutions, infrastructural resources provided to a large extent were largely obsolete and lacking in quality. Discussions with the university librarians confirmed the challenges observed, pointing to pertinent variables that have exacerbated the situation; like increases in the number of universities, and user populations, arising from continuous growths in student enrollment and university staff statistics which never take cognizance of prevailing infrastructural resources status. Even in the private universities where populations are usually controlled to reflect available resources, the university libraries are not exonerated from the problems of infrastructural resource provisions. As private institutions, such universities are not funded by Government; they depend on limited internally generated revenue and donor support. This limits the scope, quantity and

maintenance of their facilities. Generally, there exist limited provisions for resource conservation facilities like binderies, and reprographic facilities such as photocopiers, which increase the user demands on the continuously overstretched library resources. All these revelations did not come as a surprise. Studies such as [13] and Sharma (2009) had shown that university libraries in poorly developed economies, including Nigeria, are perennially under serious pressure to provide resources not only to users but also for the purpose of enhancing their capacities and capabilities. This has partly resulted in inadequate infrastructural facilities and poor capacity building. The infrastructural resource provision in the universities would have been worse than indicated by the present research findings but as pointed out by [14], salvation came with intervention by the Education Trust Fund (ETF), now Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), through which public- owned tertiary institutions in Nigeria receive increasing funding annually for their prioritized projects, including ICT facilities, buildings and other library equipment. This trend is similar to the extent of

provision of the same items among the state university libraries, except that the state university libraries also provide reading tables and chairs ($\bar{x}=3.0$ & 3.17) to a large extent. The implication is that early and effective planning is required to ensure even and adequate provision of infrastructural resources in Nigerian university libraries.

The Influence of Planning on the Provision of Infrastructural Resources in Nigerian University Libraries

To determine the influence of planning on the provision of infrastructural resources in the university libraries, respondents were provided with twelve items representing various aspects of planning practiced in the libraries and asked to grade them based on a Likert five-point scale. The results were used to calculate mean and standard deviation (Table 2) and the influence of planning on the provision of infrastructural resources (Table 3).

Table 1: Mean ratings of respondents on extent of infrastructural resources provided in the library

		Federal University Library(N= 4)		State University Library(N=6)		Private University Library(N=4)		Overall (N=14)		Decision
		\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	
1	Spaces for shelving	3.16	.788	2.83	1.160	3.08	1.115	3.03	.986	LE
2	Reading rooms	3.20	.826	3.10	.944	2.92	1.038	3.13	.893	LE
3	Spaces for storage	2.62	.871	2.88	.927	2.69	1.109	2.72	.922	LE
4	Space for exhibition	2.15	1.008	2.05	1.024	2.62	1.121	2.17	1.032	SE
5	Toilets	3.00	2.742	2.85	.989	2.85	1.068	2.93	2.062	LE
6	Office spaces	2.69	.836	2.90	.944	3.00	1.080	2.81	.908	SE
7	Reading tables	3.09	.646	3.17	.863	2.85	1.068	3.09	.788	SE
8	Reading chairs	3.02	.933	3.00	.949	2.85	1.068	2.99	.948	SE
9	Office furniture	2.96	.793	2.66	.938	2.92	.954	2.84	.873	LE
10	Computer systems	2.67	.944	2.54	.951	3.00	1.000	2.66	.955	LE
11	Computer accessories	2.33	1.001	2.41	.894	3.08	1.038	2.45	.986	SE
12	Other ICT equipment	2.35	1.004	2.44	.867	2.69	1.109	2.42	.965	SE
13	Library shelves	2.84	.739	2.93	1.034	2.54	1.050	2.83	.898	LE
14	Photocopying machines	2.27	1.079	2.34	1.039	2.46	1.050	2.32	1.053	SE
15	Lamination machines	1.62	.892	1.78	.909	2.46	1.330	1.78	.985	SE
16	Scanners	1.73	.891	1.98	.935	2.69	1.251	1.94	.993	SE
17	Standby generator	2.18	.964	2.68	.986	2.77	.832	2.44	.985	SE
18	Bindery equipment	2.31	.791	2.34	.911	2.69	.947	2.37	.857	SE

NOTE: VLE- Very Large Extent; LE- Large Extent; SE- Small Extent, VSE- Very Small Extent, SD-Standard Deviation, D- Decision. See APPENDIX VIII for Decision Mod

Table 2: Mean ratings on influence of planning on provision of infrastructural resources

Type of Library	Factor	Mean	SD	Decision
Federal	Planning practiced in the library	2.5	.511	LE
	Infrastructural resources	2.6	.465	LE
State	Planning practiced in the library	2.4	.801	SE
	Infrastructural resources	2.6	.548	LE
Private	Planning practiced in the library	2.8	.506	LE
	Infrastructural resources	2.8	.670	LE

NOTE: VLE- Very Large Extent; LE- Large Extent; SE- Small Extent, VSE- Very Small Extent, \bar{x} – mean, SD-Standard Deviation, D- Decision. See APPENDIX VIII for Decision Mode

Table 2 shows the mean ratings of respondents on influence of planning on the provision of infrastructural resources in the libraries. Accordingly, infrastructural resource planning is done to a large

extent among the federal, state and private university libraries (\bar{x} =2.6; \bar{x} =2.6, and \bar{x} =2.8 respectively).

Table 3: Influence of planning on provision of infrastructural resources

Variables		Planning	Infrastructural resources
Planning	Pearson Correlation	1	.413**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	109	109
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000
	N	109	109
Infrastructural resources	Pearson Correlation	.413**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	109	109

Table 3 above presents the influence of planning on provision of infrastructural resources on the university libraries studied as tested. The statistics was tested at 0.05 level of significance. An observation of the table indicates that planning was significant at $P < 0.05$. Therefore, planning was found to have a significant influence on the provision of infrastructural resources. Private university libraries rank highest among the libraries studied on the planning variable, due to the fact that they pay special attention to issues affecting their planning and this culture permeates to the university's departments, including the libraries. Private universities realize the significance of effective planning to their very survival given the fact that, unlike their federal and state counterparts, they are not funded by government. Private universities and their libraries depend largely upon charity from local and international sources, and tuition fees. Proper planning, according to the private university librarians, is crucial in helping to perfect their fundraising strategies. All the private university libraries have received large consignments of ICT resources including computer systems, among other things, free from various, mostly international sources. For instance, many friends of the University of Mkar, including politicians, Tiv resident in the United States and influential members of the NKST church contributed buildings, computers and various types of equipment to the university. The above findings concur with [15] result that planning has significant relationship with postgraduate theses availability in universities in South-South Zone of Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

This study showed that provision of infrastructural resources in three types of university libraries studied was relatively adequate. This could be attributable to the fact that planning was found to have a significant influence on provision of infrastructural resources. These findings suggest that university librarians should strategically manage their libraries for better results in the interest of better service delivery in their libraries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Within the context of the findings and implications of this study, it is recommended that Nigerian university libraries first consider planning before embarking on infrastructural resource provision. This is to ensure that physical resources, especially essential ones, are provided evenly and adequately. It is also recommended that stakeholders in library and information service provision, NLA, LRCN, CULNU and IFLA should sponsor further research efforts on library planning, and organize various management training programmes for university librarians and other staff performing management functions, to equip them with improved planning strategies for effective provision and maintenance of the library infrastructural resources.

REFERENCES

- Ogunsola, L. A. and Okusaga, T.O. (2008). Establishing Virtual Libraries in African Universities: Problems and Prospects *Ozean Journ of Soc Sc* 1(1): 43-52.
- Ifidon, S. E. (1999). *Essentials of African University Library Management*. 2nd ed. Lagos: National Library Press, Pp. 153- 184
- Raserola, H. K. (1999). The Role of university libraries in African universities Association of African universities. AAU Occasional paper no. 3. Accra North- Ghana: Association of African Universities p. 10- 19
- Agboola, A. T. (2000). Five Decades of Nigerian University Libraries: A Review *Libri* 50:280- 289
- Sharma, R. N. (2009). Technology in academic libraries in developing nations: key notes *ICAL 2009- Technology Policy and Innovation*: 229- 236
- Gwang, J. M. (2013). *Influence of Managerial Variables on the Provision of Library Resources in Universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria*. Nsukka: Department of Library and Information Science, UNN, PhD Thesis, 136p.
- Griffins, R. W. (1999). *Management*, 5thed. New Delhi, ATTBS Publishers,

8. Drucker, P. F. (2001). *The Essentials of Drucker*. New York: Harper business, pp.11-12
9. Connor, P. E. (1978). *Dimensions in Modern Management*. Dallas: Houghton Mifflin, p. 8
10. Hartzell, D. (2006). *Dictionary of Management*. New Delhi: Academic Publishers,
11. Ngalla, R. M. (2007). *Management Problems of University Libraries in Cameroon*. Nsukka: Department of Library and Information Science, UNN, 144p.
12. Hemphill, B. F. (1987). Alternatives to the Construction of a New Library *Library Trends* (Fall): 339- 409
13. Ochogwu, M. G. (2007). The internalities and externalities of library and information delivery services in Nigeria by the year 2015. *Nigerian Libraries* 40: 15- 26
14. Agunbiade, S. O. (2006). Quality Assurance and the Role of Education Trust Fund (ETF) Intervention in Nigerian University Library System: A Paper Presented at the National Workshop on Quality Assurance in the Management of the Nigerian University Library Held at NUC, Abuja, 4th May 2006, pp.1-7
15. Etuk, M. E. (2008). The Relationships Existing between Planning, Organizing, Staffing, Coordination and Physical Facilities and Availability of Postgraduate Theses in Universities in the South- South Zone of Nigeria *Journal of Education Media & Lib Science* 45 (4): 433- 441
16. National Universities Commission (Dec 2014). www.nuc.edu.ng.org
17. National Universities Commission (June 2012). *Monday Bulletin: A Publication of the Office of the Executive Secretary* 7(25):24- 28.

APPENDIX I

INFLUENCE OF PLANNING ON PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURAL RESOURCES IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A: Demographic Data (Please write down the answer).

Name of library-----
 Appointment (Rank)-----
 Highest academic certificate-----

Section B: Provision of Library Resources

Please indicate by a tick () the extent to which the infrastructural resources listed are provided in your library.

NOTE: VLE- Very Large Extent; LE- Large Extent; SE- Small Extent, VSE- Very Small Extent.

S/N	Provision of Library Resources	VLE	LE	SE	VSE
B	<i>To what extent are the following types of infrastructural resources provided in your library?</i>	VLE	LE	SE	VSE
1	Spaces for shelving				
2	Reading rooms				
3	Spaces for storage				
4	Office spaces				
5	Space for exhibition				
6	Toilets				
7	Reading tables				
8	Reading chairs				
9	Office furniture				
10	Computer systems				
11	Computer accessories				
12	Other ICT equipment e.g.				
13	Library shelves				
14	Photocopying machines				
15	Laminating machines				
16	Scanners				
17	Standby generators				
18	Bindery equipment				

Section C: Managerial Variable (Planning) Practiced

Please indicate by a tick () the status of the following aspects of planning practiced for the provision of infrastructural resources in your library.

S/N	Status of Managerial Variables Practiced	VLE	LE	SE	VSE
A	To what extent is each of the following aspects of planning practiced in your library?	VLE	LE	SE	VSE
1	The library has a direction in which it wants to execute its activities				
2	The library has a projection of its means of achieving what it aspires to be in future				
3	The library has a plan to examine its environment to identify its inherent strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats				
4	Preparation of a collection development policy				
5	Developing a building programme which is like a road map that guides the architect as to its requirements				
6	Preparing a budget for personnel cost				
7	Library has a budget for buildings and equipment				
8	Developing a plan for generating internal revenue				
9	Developing a plan for attracting donor funds				
10	A policy is available on staff recruitment				
11	A policy is available on staff training and development				
12	Articulating conditions of service for its staff				

APPENDIX II

POPULATION OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, LIBRARIANS AND CHIEF/ AST CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICERS

Serial No.	University Libraries	No. of Librarians	No. of University Librarians	No. of C LO	TOTAL
1	University of Jos	12	1	2	15
2	University of Agriculture, Makurdi	8	1	1	10
3	Fed. University of Technology Minna	19	1	2	22
4	University of Ilorin, Ilorin	13	1	1	15
5	Federal University, Lafia, Nasarawa State	0	0	0	0
6	Federal University, Lokoja, Kogi State	0	0	0	0
7	Benue State University Makurdi	6	1	0	7
8	Kogi State University, Anyiba	9	1	0	10
9	Kwara State University, Ilorin	5	1	1	2
10	Ibrahim Babangida University Lapai	11	1	1	14
11	Nasarawa State University, Keffi	3	1	0	4
12	Plateau State University Bokkos	2	1	0	3
13	Bingham University, Karu, Nasarawa State	5	1	0	6
14	University of Mkar, Mkar, Benue State	3	1	0	4
15	Al- Hikma Univ., Ilorin, Kwara State	1	0	1	2
16	Salem University, Lokoja, Kogi State	1	0	1	2
	TOTAL	98	12	10	124

Sources: 1. National Universities Commission [16] (June 2012). *Monday bulletin: a publication of the office of the Executive Secretary*. [17]. *Motivational factors as correlates of librarians' job satisfaction in Government-owned university libraries in Nigeria*. Nsukka: Department of Library and Information Science, UNN, Unpublished PhD Thesis [18]

Personal visits and Phone calls