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Amaka Raymonda Obiamalu

Department of Library and Information Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria,
ar.obiamalu@unizik.edu.ng

Anthonia Ukamaka Echedom Prof.

Department of Library and Information Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria,
au.nwabueze@unizik.edu.ng

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Assessment of University Libraries in Southeast Nigeria based on LRCN Standards and Guidelines: A focus on Buildings, Furniture and Equipment

Abstract

This study assessed the University Libraries in Southeast Nigeria based on Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria Standards: A focus on buildings, furniture and equipment. Descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The population of the study was 10 university libraries in Southeast Nigeria. Total census enumeration sample was used for the study. The sample size for the study consists of 10 university libraries which comprises of five federal and five states university libraries. The instrument for data collection was observation checklist adopted from LRCN standards. The instrument for data collection was validated by three experts. The data collected was analysed with percentage. The finding of the study revealed that the university library building provided for the university libraries in Southeast is not in line with recommended standards and guidelines by Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN). There are some of the major spaces that are required in the university library building such as kitchenette for the library staff to make their coffee; none of the university libraries visited has such provision. The study further revealed that the furniture and equipment in the university libraries were almost in line with LRCN Standards but just for some that is necessary but not found in the university libraries. During the collection of data by the researchers, it was observed that some of the university libraries do not have enough shelves to organise their acquired information materials and as such, some of the print materials were seen on the floor or packed in a carton where it was not being assessed by the library users. Based on the findings the following recommendations were made. That the university management and the university librarians' should have a meeting point and see how the library building can be renovated so as to create enough space required for furniture and fittings and other facilities in the library building. It was also recommended that there should be enough and adequate furniture in the library to enhance the performance of the library personnel through proper organization of the library resources. The LRCN personnel should be among the NUC verification team, when going for university facilities verification before academic take-off, through that means they will ensure that the university libraries is well equip with adequate spaces and facilities for human and material resources before taking off for the academic programme.

Keywords: University Library, university library building, Library furniture and equipment, LRCN and Assessment.

Introduction

Library is a social institution that is meant to collect, organize and disseminate information to its users. The type of library that is established depends on the categories of users the library is meant to serve. The universities are primarily established to help impact knowledge via teaching, learning, and research for advancement of knowledge and economic development. For this to be achieved, libraries are established in universities and are required to be stocked with standard facilities, physical structure such as the library building, furniture and equipment to aid the activities in the university libraries (Ajie, Soyemi & Omotunde, 2015).

University library is a library that is established in the university to aid university community members towards achieving their academic goals (Ukpanah & Usoro, 2015). Yusuf and Iwu (2010), opined that university library is an integral part of the institution, saddled with the responsibility of supporting the various fields of study by ensuring that the library meet up with the required standards in all its ramification in the institution. University libraries are seen as integral part of every university campus and faced with various challenges of meeting the missions and visions of the parent institution (Virkus & Metsar, 2004). Different universities have to decide on how their libraries will be managed from inception. For the fact that university libraries have various means of meeting the information needs of their users, it is also necessary to assess the standards of their operations to ascertain the worth and quality of services given to the users. In Nigeria, the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria, which is a regulatory body is saddled with the responsibilities of overseeing the activities and practices of all types of libraries, and has its standards and guidelines published in 2014 to regulate the university libraries in Nigeria and this publication is in conformity with the International bodies like International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), but with a slight modification to suite the local needs of the university libraries in Nigeria (LRCN, 2014).

Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN, 2014) is a regulatory body for Library and Information Science professionals that was enacted into law by degree 12 of 1995 and was signed into law by the then head of state in the person of General Sani Abacha. LRCN is a parastatals under the ministry of education and the body is charged with so many responsibilities that are geared towards ensuring best professional practices and standardization among and within library and information profession. In 2014, the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education published the minimum standards and guidelines for university libraries in Nigeria; these minimum standards contain among other things, the essential requirements that every university library in Nigeria should use as a

guide to erect physical library building, furniture and equipment inside the library (Librarians Registration Council of Nigeria, 2014). Hence there is need for university libraries to be assessed in line with LRCN standards.

Assessment is the means of judging a particular organization, unit or the library building, furniture and equipment that is used to decorate the library in order to rate the quality, worth, importance and the value of the library building, furniture and equipment (Bird, McBride & Cramer, 2014). University library assessment is meant to assess and evaluate the resources in the library, both human and material resources and to know the value the library is adding to the parent institution in achieving its goals and objectives (Sharon and Lili, 2016). For the library building, furniture and equipment to be assessed, there must be standards to be used, hence LRCN standards is being used to assess the university library building as well as the furniture and equipment in university libraries in Southeast Nigeria.

Library building is a building that is designed and made suitable for housing library staff, clientele and resources Maidabino (2010). The University Librarian, library Consultant and the library Architect should be the people taking decision on where the library building should be located, they should think of a central location that will be convenient for all the users to access (Association of College and Research Libraries 2016). The library building should be in a noiseless environment, linked up with good road network within the vicinity providing enough aesthetic values in the areas of landscaping and serene environment (Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria, 2014; and Bureau of India Standard, 2012). The library should be furnished with the appropriate gadget for the comfort of library users and this could be achieved with the nature of furniture and equipment that are put in the library.

Library furniture and equipment are those gadgets that are used to furnish the library. Adequate furniture and equipment should be provided; it could be locally made but meet up with the international standards, both for print information resources and the computer laboratories (LRCN, 2014). There should be comfortable chair, tables, a room furnished with couch where users can relax, read newspapers and take coffee; there should also be a room for collaboration and discussions with colleagues Jaskowiak, Garman, Frazier & Spires, (2019). Library furniture and equipment is those gadgets in the library that will help to ensure efficiency and productivities within and among library personnel (Eguavoen, 2012).

It is a fact that library can be online but we also need the four walls of the library building. Therefore, it is very vital that library buildings and furniture in the university should be befitting to depict the purpose of setting up the university library. It seems that the university library buildings are not accorded the aesthetic and acoustics conditions that they should have and the furniture and equipment are also seem not to be adequate as stipulated in the standards. How then will the

library help to support the aim and mission of the parent institution by attracting users to the library if the building and equipment are agents of discouragement?

Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to assess university library's buildings, furniture and equipment based on LRCN standards. Specifically, the study assessed the:

1. Available accommodations in University libraries in Southeast Nigeria based on LRCN standards.
2. Furniture and equipment available in university libraries in Southeast Nigeria based on LRCN standards.

Research Questions

1. What are the available accommodations in University libraries in Southeast Nigeria based on LRCN standard?
2. What are the available furniture and equipment provided in University libraries in Southeast Nigeria based on LRCN standards?

Literature Review

The university libraries plays a pivotal role in ensuring that parent institution's aims and objectives are met by providing library services to the university community (Virkus & Metsar, 2004). Abubakar (2011) opined that a university library is an integral part of the parent institution that is established to aid the academic activities in the institution and states that there will be no university that will be approved without a library. Reitz (2004) defined university library as a library system established, administered, and funded by a university to meet the information, research, and curriculum needs of its students, faculty, staff members of the university community. From the definition given by Reitz, it can be said that a university library is a library that is situated in the university to serve the information needs of the parent institution. Some large universities have separate library for the undergraduate and for the post-graduate students just to support very well the teaching, learning and research carried out in the universities.

Momodu (2011) defined university library as the heart of the university using the human and material resources at its disposal to support teaching, learning and research objectives of the institution. Oyegunle (2013) posited that university libraries are information centres established in support of the mission of their parent institutions to generate knowledge, equip people with knowledge in order to serve the society and advance the well-being of mankind. Oloajo and Oyeboade

(2016) are of the opinion that university library is a library that is attached to the university, serving the teaching and research needs of her users. These libraries are meant to serve two complementary purposes: to support the school's curriculum, and to support the research of the academic staff and students. Matarazzo and Pearlstein (2015) defined a university library as a library where information literacy training is to be given to students and other members of the university community, which help them to source and locate needed information.

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) (2010) stated that university libraries are libraries that work together with other members of their institutional communities to participate in, support, and achieve the educational mission of their institutions by teaching the core competencies of information literacy, the abilities involved in identifying an information needs, accessing needed information, evaluating, managing, and applying information, and understanding the legal, social, and ethical aspects of information use. The systematic delivery of instructional programs and services should be planned in concert with overall strategic university library planning. Such planning may also involve strategizing with other campus units to deliver collaboratively designed programme. The Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (2014) opined that university library is a library that is established simultaneously with the university and it is meant to help in the academic goals, visions and mission of the parent institution.

From the researcher's point of view a university library is a library that is attached to the university to help the institution to achieve its academic goals, vision and mission. The university library is also a place where information literacies are taught to help the users to become lifelong learners.

University library buildings

Library building as recommended by LRCN minimum standards and guidelines (2014) is that building for university library should be a building within the university premises that is purposely built to house the library resources both human and materials. University library building should be centrally located and connected with good road network; it should be friendly to the physically challenged. There should be space for personnel offices, reading rooms should be provided in the library to accommodate at least 20% of the library users, stacks area for collections should be at least 10.75square metres, ICT laboratories should be adequate and conducive as to accommodate other multimedia facilities, there should be a common room for library personnel, toilet facilities for library users should be provided, space for snacks and coffee room should be provided for library users, cooling systems should be put in place for the users and the materials, there should be provisions for cross ventilation, sufficient lighting and relative humidity. The library building shall also provide spaces for

the display of new arrivals. The library building should also provide staff kitchenettes and lounges where personnel can prepare their coffee and where users can wait to be attended to. The library should also provide a space for preservation and conservation, such as bindery unit in the library (LRCN, 2014).

In line with LRCN, Schlip & Moorman (2018) stated that Suitable university library building is a building that is set aside, to house its resources both human and materials. It is vital that the university library building be located as centrally as possible for ease and convenience of access by all users in the community (Nitecki, 2009). It is also required that the university library building be located in acoustic environment devoid of noise and other distractive activities.

The university library building should be made accessible through good network of roads, with the environment offering sufficient aesthetic values in terms of good landscaping, clean environment (Head 2016; LRCN, 2014). For the past two decades, university library buildings have been dramatically reinventing their physical spaces, its appearance, arrangement, structure, equipment, and atmosphere (Head, 2016). Just as all library materials and services have evolved into new forms and techniques, so have library buildings changed to reflect and encourage these new responses to the needs of the university communities. Not only are there more buildings, they are immensely more complex, varied, and sophisticated (McCarthy, 2010). The university library buildings of today and tomorrow must provide versatile spaces that support a wide range of users' learning and research activities while accommodating rapid advances in information technology (IT).

As expectations for library resources and physical facilities have changed, stakeholders have been called upon to transform university library buildings into innovative ways. Sullivan (2010) argued that learning is a remarkably social process, it occurs not as a response to teaching, but rather as a result of a social framework that fosters learning. Libraries provide informal learning spaces where social learning is encouraged. Oblinger (2006) opined that Learning is the central activity of universities and as such the university library building should be made adequate for the learning to take place.

From the researcher's point of view, university library building is a building that is set aside to accommodate library resources both human and materials. The library building should be made accessible through good road network; spaces that will accommodate librarian's offices, reading space and should also provide means of easy accessibility by the physically challenged users, comfortable rooms for the users' comforts.

Furniture and Equipment in the University libraries

Furniture and equipment as recommended by LRCN standards and guidelines (2014) stated that university library furniture and equipment are those wooden or metal gadgets that are used to furnish the library. It could be locally made but meet up with the international standard, both for print and none print information resources as well as the computer laboratories. LRCN recommends that there should be book shelves for stacking of library print resources, journal display racks in the serial section, which will be used for storing serials publications in the library.

In line with LRCN Standards, Bureau of India Standards (2012) Stated that there should be a circulation desk which is the first point of call of the library user and the first meeting point between the users and the librarians and also where charging and discharging takes place should be properly fixed with a good furniture and fittings. Reading tables and carrels that must be made comfortable for the library users and adequate to enhance the users' relaxation and comfort while using the library, reading chairs should be high and comfortable for the library users Malman (2001). Catalogues cabinets that should be placed at the entrance of the circulation section where catalogue cards are arranged properly to aid users in retrieving the needed information in the library as fast as possible Singh (n.d). Trolleys that aids carrying of catalogued books from the cataloguing unit of the library to the various reading rooms for proper shelving and storage. Pick up vans or Trucks are also required in the library for ease of transportation of library resources, from headquarters to various branches Maiddabino (2010).

University libraries furniture and equipment are wooden or metal object designed to fit in the space that it is meant to equip, such as the university libraries and is considered a form of decorative art (Head, 2016). The university library furniture and equipment are the interior decorative objects that are put in the library to make the library look attractive and for organization of materials in the university libraries, be it print or none print materials (Reitz, 2004). Maidabino (2010) is of the view that library is the only place that can combine the new trend with the traditional library resources, thereby aiding the universities mission and goals of impacting knowledge to the community and for that to be achieved, there must be adequate and befitting furniture and fittings in the university libraries to enhance their collection acquisitions and organizations.

The researchers are of the view that library furniture and equipment are the movable objects, designed and decorated to serve various needs and brought into the library to assist in organizing the library better while carrying out their duties in meeting the goals and objectives of the library and an aesthetic mission of the library. The furniture and equipment in the library should be comfortable enough to give the users a conducive and a relaxed atmosphere for their research and studies.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was used for this study. Descriptive survey design is the study that aims at collecting data and describing it in a systematic way, featuring the characteristics, and fact about the study population Nworgu (2015). The descriptive survey was considered appropriate for this study because data was collected with the use of observation checklist. The population of the study was 10 university libraries in Southeast Nigeria which comprise of five States and five federal universities and there are: Alex Ekwueme University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State (FUNAI), Federal University of Technology, Owerri Imo State (FUTO), Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Abia State (MOU), Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka Anambra State (NAU), University of Nigeria, Nsukka Enugu State (UNN), Abia State University, Uturu (ABSU), Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Anambra State (COOU), Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Enugu State (EBSU), University of Science and Technology, Enugu (ESUT) and Imo State University, Owerri (IMSU). These libraries were personally visited by the researchers to observe what was available in each library. The sample and sampling techniques used for the study was total enumeration census. The sample size for this study consists of 10 university libraries in Southeast and comprised of five federal and five States universities. The study was carried out in Southeast Nigeria. South East Nigeria consists of five states namely; Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo. Southeast Nigeria is located on the East of the River Niger and has boundaries with South-South and North Central Zones of Nigeria and the inhabitants of the area are predominantly the Igbo ethnic group and are involved in various occupations such as civil service, farming, and trading. The people of Southeast are very hardworking and industrious in their different occupation. The choice of Southeast for this study was informed by the people's high regards for quality education which is evident by the establishment of several universities and university libraries and their heavy investment in their children's education at various levels. Face validity was carried out for the instrument used for data collection and it was done by three experts. The instrument for data collection was observation checklist adopted from LRCN Standards. The researchers personally went to various university libraries under study for data collection in order to personally observe what is actually available in the library with the help of the checklist adopted from LRCN standards based on what should be in university libraries. Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) is the regulatory body that is given the mandate in collaboration with Ministry of Education in Nigeria to oversee the affairs of university libraries and to ensure that the university libraries are properly equipped to discharge her functions to their parent institutions. The data collected was analysed with percentage.

Discussion and Presentation of Data

Research Question 1: what are the available space for accommodation provided for university libraries in Southeast based on LRCN standards and guidelines.

Table 1: Observed available spaces for accommodation in the university libraries in Southeast Nigeria and LRCN standards and guidelines

S/N	ITEMS	NAU	UNN	FUNAI	FUTO	MOU	EBSU	IMSU	ABSU	COOU	ESUT
1	Sufficient space for staff offices	✓	✓	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓
2	Sufficient accommodation for at least 20% of users population	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	—	—	—	✓
3	Adequate accommodation for collections	✓	✓	—	—	—	✓	—	—	—	✓
4	Available accommodation for ICT & other multimedia facilities	✓	✓	—	✓	—	—	—	✓	—	✓
5	Conducive space for study and research	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	—	✓	—	✓
6	Adequate space for staff common room	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	—	—	—	✓
7	Adequate space for toilet facilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	—	—	—	✓
8	Adequate room space for snacks and coffee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	Adequate cooling system	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	✓	✓	—	✓
10	Adequate cross ventilation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	—	✓
11	Sufficient lighting in the library	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓
12	Suitable relative humidity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	space for ICT lab.that accommodate at least 5% of user population	✓	✓	—	✓	—	✓	—	✓	—	✓
14	Library building centrally located	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Library building located at a quiet place devoid of noise and other distractive	—	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓

	activities										
16	Library building accessible via good road network	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓
17	Staff lounges & kitchenettes for staff coffee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	Library building friendly to physically challenged	—	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	Library building meeting acoustic requirement by being noise free	—	✓	—	✓	—	—	—	✓	—	✓
20	Study space occupying between 2.5 and 4 square metres	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
21	Each sack area for books shall be at least 10.75 square metres	✓	✓	—	—	✓	✓	—	—	—	✓

✓ Available; — Not Available

The result presented in table 1 shows that only four out of the 10 university libraries under study met LRCN requirement for staff offices, six university libraries met accommodation for 20% of user population, 4 university libraries have space for collections, five university libraries have spaces for ICT and other multimedia facilities, six university libraries have conducive space for study and research, five university libraries have space for staff common room, six university libraries have adequate toilet facilities, seven university libraries have cooling systems, eight university libraries have cross ventilation, nine university libraries have sufficient lightning, 10 university libraries have relative humidity, six university libraries have ICT space for 5% of user population, 10 university libraries have their library buildings centrally located, seven university libraries are located at a quiet place, eight university libraries have good road networks, none of the university libraries visited have staff lounges and kitchenettes for staff coffee, one out of the ten university libraries are friendly to the physically challenged, three university libraries met the acoustic requirement, six university libraries met the 2.5 and 4 square metres study space and five university libraries met 10.75 square metres of stack area.

Research Question 2: What are the available furniture and equipment provided in the university libraries in Southeast Nigeria?

Table 2: Observed available furniture and equipment in university libraries in Southeast Nigeria and LRCN standards and guidelines

S/N	ITEMS	NAU	UNN	FUNAI	FUTO	MOU	EBSU	IMSU	ABSU	COOU	ESUT
1	Shelves	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
2	Journal display racks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
3	Circulation desk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓
4	Reading table and carrels	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Reading chairs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Cataloguing cabinets	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓
7	Cabinets	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	✓	✓
8	Kardex	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	—	—	✓	—
9	Kicks-Steps	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	—	—	—	—
10	Trolleys	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	✓	✓
11	Pick-Up Van/Trucks	—	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	Periodical Racks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	OPAC Translator	—	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—

✓ : Available; — : Not Available

Table 2 shows that out of the 13 furniture and equipment required for university libraries as stipulated by LRCN standards and guidelines, only eight university libraries have reasonable number of shelves in their university libraries, nine university libraries have journal display racks, nine university libraries have circulation desk, 10 university libraries have reading tables and carrels, 10 university libraries have reading chairs, eight university libraries have cataloguing cabinets, eight university libraries have suitable cabinets, six university libraries have kardex, two university libraries have kicks-steps,

seven university libraries have trolleys, only one university library has pick up van/trucks, one university library has periodical racks and two university libraries have OPAC translators.

Discussion of Results

Accommodations provided for university libraries in Southeast Nigeria in line with LRCN standards and guidelines.

The study revealed that some of the university libraries have the required spaces and facilities under accommodations provided for the university libraries building in Southeast Nigeria and some do not have as stipulated in LRCN standards and guidelines. LRCN standards and guidelines for accommodations in the university libraries in Nigeria listed 21 items of various spaces and facilities that should be provided in the university libraries. However, table one show that some university libraries under study have some of the required 21 items as stipulated by LRCN standards and guidelines, but majority don't have. This implies that there is no uniformity in the provision of library spaces and facilities in the university libraries building, as it was seen that some university libraries have certain items and will not be found in some of the libraries. Hence the finding of this study did not align with LRCN standards and guidelines. It could also mean that the library building architects when designing the university library building did not work with the university librarians' in designing the library space and facilities. Furthermore, it could also mean that the architect is not aware of LRCN standards and guidelines when the university library building was being designed. The finding of this study is in agreement with the study carried out by Awolabi, Okoro and Babalola (2020) who affirmed that in the aspect of required various spaces and facilities for university libraries building some were met and some needs improvement. The study is in agreement with the present study because awolabi, Okoro and babalola used LRCN standards and guidelines to assess the university library building space and facilities in Nigeria. All the university libraries visited, none have all the required accommodation as regards to various spaces and facilities that a university library accommodation should have as stipulated in LRCN standards and guidelines (LRCN, 2014). The result of this study, however, differs from the findings of Alison (2016) who found that the university library buildings have enough space for reading and further expansion. The finding of the present study may, however, differ from that of Alison because Alison carried out the study without using LRCN standards. The result of this study, however, differs from that of Khan, Bhatti and Ismail (2004) who reported that the university libraries building have adequate space for computer facilities. The finding of the present study may differ from the study of Khan, Bhatti and Ismail because their study was carried out in Pakistan while the present study were carried out in Nigeria.

The finding further revealed that university libraries building in Southeast Nigeria are centrally located and aligned with the standards and guidelines by LRCN (2014). LRCN standards and guidelines stated that the university library building should be centrally located. This implies that the university library management, the university management and the library architects are aware of the need of the university library building being centrally located. The centrality of the university libraries building is to make it easy for every member of the university community to access the university library building with ease. The finding of the study is in agreement with the study carried out by Alison (2016); Ijiekhuamhen, Aghojara and Omosekejimi (2015) and Khan, Bhatti, Khan and Ismail (2004) who found that university libraries building are centrally located. This is because the university management and the university librarians' are well informed about the need for the university community to access the university library building without wasting time. The findings of this research also contradicts the findings of Alison 2016, Ijiekhuamhen, Aghojara and Omosekejimi (2015) and Khan, Bhatti, Khan and Ismail (2004) who reported that library buildings are located in a noise free environment, library building having enough space for reading and for further expansion. The study may differ from their study because the study was not based on LRCN standards and guidelines for the assessment of the university libraries. The location of the study could also make the studies to differ.

Furniture and equipment provided in university libraries in Southeast Nigeria in line with LRCN standards.

The study revealed that most of the university libraries have the required furniture and equipment in Southeast Nigeria and almost in line with the LRCN recommended standards and guidelines. LRCN standards listed 13 items as furniture and equipment facilities that should be in the university libraries in Nigeria. However, table two shows that most of the university libraries under study have the items listed in LRCN standards while some few and vital items were not found in some university libraries. This implies that, the furniture and equipment that are supposed to be provided in the university libraries were in the libraries only for some of the items under furniture and equipment. The result of this study, however, differs from the findings of Eguavoen (2012) who found that furniture and equipment in university libraries in Ibadan were grossly inadequate for processing and delivery of library and information services. The findings of the present study, however, differ from that of Eguavoen because the researcher studied only university libraries within Ibadan while the present study was carried out in ten university libraries in Southeast Nigeria. The difference in the findings may also have been as a result of number of information materials acquired in the university libraries. The university libraries in

Southeast may have been aware of the needs of furniture and equipment in the university libraries and were able to provide a reasonable number of furniture and equipment for effective service delivery.

The finding further revealed that Kardex, kicks-steps, pick-up vans/trucks and OPAC translators are not found in almost all the university libraries under study. This means that the personnel in the university libraries in Southeast may experience some challenges in providing services for the university community due to lack of these furniture and equipment in the university libraries. In all the university libraries under study, only one library has pick-up van and that is University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN), one will wonder what other university libraries use in transporting library materials to their branch libraries. Kicks-steps is another essential furniture and equipment in the university library used for shelving library materials, it was found only in two libraries, does it now mean that these library don't have high shelves that kicks-step will be required to be used? Or does it mean that all the library staff are tall for the shelving of library materials that the kicks-steps are not needed? This will hinder effective job performance by the library personnel.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that the university libraries in Southeast Nigeria do not align strictly to the recommendations stated in LRCN standards in setting up university libraries building, furniture and equipment. This may have resulted in the university libraries not having the required facilities both for human and material resources as regards library buildings and furniture in the university libraries in Southeast Nigeria.

Implications

1. The study also revealed that some of the university libraries have the required spaces and facilities under accommodations provided for the university libraries building in Southeast Nigeria and some do not have as stipulated in LRCN standards. This implies that although there are some spaces and facilities provided in some of the university libraries, the collective library building accommodations requirement were not aligned as regards to the LRCN standards.
2. The study revealed that most of the university libraries have the required furniture and equipment in Southeast Nigeria and almost in line with the LRCN recommended standards. This implies that there are furniture and equipment in the university libraries for effective service delivery; expect for few items that was missing in the university libraries visited.

Recommendation

1. Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) personnel should be drafted into the National Universities Commission (NUC) verification team, for verification of university facilities before academic exercise will take off.
2. The university management should think towards renovation of the university library building to meet up with LRCN recommended standards for university library building, thereby paving ways for inclusion of all the necessary spaces and facilities to align with LRCN standards.
3. The furniture and equipment in the university libraries should be assessed by the university librarian' to know the areas of needs and provide them to align with LRCN standards and guidelines.

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