



# **LIBRARY RESEARCH JOURNAL**

**Volume 7, September, 2022**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Availability and Utilization of Information Resources for Igbo Studies in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Library, Igbariam Campus <b>Victoria Obianuju Ezejiofor, Eliezer Chukwuyere Agim &amp; Angela Ifeoma Ndanwu --</b>	<b>- 1</b>
Acquisition of Information Resources in University Libraries in South-East: Prospects and Challenges <b>Roseline Nkechi Obiozor-Ekeze - - - - - - - - - -</b>	<b>- 8</b>

# ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN SOUTH-EAST: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

**Roseline Nkechi Obiozor-Ekeze PhD**

Department of Library and Information Science,  
Faculty of Education, NnamdiAzikiwe University, Awka.  
E-mail: acovirtue@gmail.com

## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the prospects and challenges to the acquisition of information resources in university libraries in South East Nigeria. Two research questions guided the study. A descriptive survey research design was adopted. The population of this study comprised all the 157 catalogue librarians in the cataloguing section in the 10 public university libraries in the South-East Nigeria. No sampling was done as the population was of manageable size. The two sets of questionnaires titled 'Prospects of the Acquisition of Library Resources in University Libraries Questionnaire (PALRULQ)' and Challenges to the Acquisition of Library Resources in University Libraries Questionnaire (CALRULQ)' were used for data collection. The questionnaires were structured on four-point rating scale. Data collected were analysed using mean score rating. Item with 2.5 mean rating and above was regarded as positive. The findings of the study revealed that increase in the variety of books for use by library patrons; increase in the currency of information resources; availability of information resources for teaching by lecturers; availability of information resources for learning by students, availability of information resources for research as well as the provision of opportunity to weed out less vital information resources were the prospects of acquisition of library resources. Furthermore, the findings revealed that inadequate funding; lack of required materials locally; over protection of government's documents; poor resource allocation; poor resource utilization; lack of clearly defined acquisition policy; out-sourcing; change in publication date and adherence to due process were challenges militating against acquisition practices. Based on the findings, it was recommended that acquisition librarians should ensure that only resources that meet the needs and preference of its patrons are purchased and that such acquisitions should be guided by a well-articulated collection development policy.

**KEYWORDS:** *Acquisition, Information Resources, Librarians, University Libraries, Acquisition Policy, Southeast Nigerian.*

## Introduction

Acquisition of information resources in the university library is crucial to the academic programme of the university. This is because both the students and lecturers consult these information resources for both teaching learning and research. Ogbuyi and Okpe (2013) stated that libraries are at the core of universities' efforts towards the achievement of their academic mandate of learning, teaching as well as research. Anyaegbu (2016) observed that all the teaching, learning and research revolve around the library collection. Lecturers consult the information resources in the library to prepare their lecture manuals and consequently refer students to the library to do their class assignment and research.

Completed research report are eventually turned into the library for further dissemination. Library resources come in both print and electronic media.

Acquisition is the second stage of collection development. Acquisition procedure usually starts with stock checking and ends with the receipt and certification of the ordered materials by the acquisition staff (Nwosu & Udo-Anyanwu, 2015). Acquisition is the systematic art of selecting, evaluating, ordering and receiving library resources in line with the needs of its users. Acquisition refers to the process of "selecting, ordering, and receiving materials for library or archival collections by purchase, exchange, or gift, which may include budgeting and negotiating

with outside agencies, such as publishers, dealers, and vendors, to obtain resources to meet the needs of the institution's clientele in the most economical and expeditious manner (Edem & Luqman, 2018.) Thus, placing an order for a library resource is preceded by a well-laid down budget. These processes are followed by the receipt of what is ordered and then, processing for collection development. Acquisition is the fulcrum of every university library whether electronic- library or the traditional library. The task of acquisition of information resources in the university library is undertaken by all librarians who possess the requisite expertise and competence in matters of collection development. With the advent of information and communication technology, students and lecturers alike can access the acquired library resources in digital form. Expectedly, the acquisition of information resources in the library is expected to be guided by a contemporary and comprehensive collection development policy. An acquisition policy is a *sine qua non* to a balanced and exhaustive collection. It refers to a set of guidelines that are followed when librarians wish to acquire novel library resources. According to Olayinka and Ozor (2017), acquisition policy is a blueprint of the institution's aspiration tailored towards avoiding self-imposed and circumstantial limitations as well as a reflection of current practice. A successful implementation of this policies will require the constitution of a library committee whose responsibility it is to interpret the terms of the policy. Several factors are taken into cognizance in adhering to the policy. They include the purpose of the library; the needs of the user community; the number of copies per title of a material to be acquired; the form in which a material is presented to be considered for its purchase (hard or soft cover); the cost of the individual material item to be acquired; the durability of the material; if the material has an alternative; the present collection of the library in given areas; the vendor or supplier; the edition/year of publication and the financial position of the library (Lundu & Lungu, 2014). It is instructive to note that compliance or otherwise to this policy will impact on the quality of information resources considered for acquisition. In the course of acquisition of library resources, certain methods are employed.

Library resources can be acquired through direct purchase and free-will donation from institutions of repute. Ezeh (2020) noted that the methods of acquiring library resources include the use of purchase, gift/donation, and exchange/inter E institutional cooperation, bequeath, legal deposit and consortia. Risper and Anna (2021) observed that donation, exchange and purchase are methods of acquisition of library resources. Risper and Anna noted that the common criteria used by selectors for the acquisition of information resources are curriculum support; cost (ongoing or one-time); standard source availability (standard or "core" materials on subjects studied at the University); faculty research support; graduate student research support; and collection continuity (maintenance of strong existing collections). The acquisition of library resources is however not without its attendant challenges.

In view of the researcher's observation as a university librarian, the attitude of those saddled with the responsibility of acquiring library resources poses a challenge. This is to the extent that they seem fixated on making money rather than quality. For instance, the trend of bringing the publishers' catalogue to the faculty for deliberation before acquisition is in recent times, being neglected. Other challenges to the acquisition of library resources in university libraries range from inadequate finance to the attitude of librarians towards such acquisitions. Plockey, Appiah and Ofori (2018) observed that poor funding, inflation, lack of current books, due process, dearth of current acquisition tools are key challenges militating against the acquisition of library resources in university libraries. Similarly, Mwilongo (2020) found that inadequate funding, lack of skills for hybrid collection management and lack of collection development policy catering for both print- and electronic-based information resources hinder the acquisition of library resources. Furthermore, Khatri (2019) observed that the steep rise in the cost of e-resources is a major factor hindering the selection and acquisition of library resources. Ezeh (2020) also found that inadequate funding, dearth of locally needed materials, over-protection of government documents, poor resource allocation and utilization and lack of a well-delineated

acquisition policy. In addition, Nweke (2018) noted that the award of contract and procurement of library resources with government funds without recourse to any laid-down policy or committee consultations by university managers is a hindrance to the acquisition of library materials. These formed the focus of this study.

**Research Questions**

These questions guided the study:

1. What are the prospects of the acquisition of information resources in South-East Universities?
2. What are the challenges to the acquisition of information resources in South-East Universities?

**Method**

The study adopted both descriptive research design. According to Nworgu (2015), descriptive surveys are those studies which aim at collecting data on, and describing in a systematic manner; the characteristics, features or facts about a given population. The population of this study comprised all the 157 catalogue librarians who are either previously or currently in the cataloguing

section of the library in the 10 public university libraries in the South-East Nigeria. No sampling was done as the population is of manageable size. Researcher-developed questionnaire was used for data collection. The two sets of questionnaire were titled ‘Prospects of the Acquisition of Library Resources in University Libraries Questionnaire (PALRULQ)’ and Challenges to the Acquisition of Library Resources in University Libraries Questionnaire (CALRULQ)’ PALRULQ sought information on the prospects of the acquisition of library resources in South-East Universities and has 10 items while CALRULQ sought information on the challenges to the acquisition of library resources in South-East Universities. It has 10 items which addresses research question 2. The questionnaires were designed on four-point rating scale. Data collected were analyzed using mean scores. Weighted mean score of 2.50 and above more was rated as agree or positive while weighted mean below 2.50 was rated as disagree or negative. Result of the analysis were presented in the tables below according to the research questions that guided the study.

**Results**

**Research question 1:** What are the prospects of the acquisition of information resources in South-East Universities?

**Table 1:** Mean Scores of Librarians on Prospects of Acquisition of Information Resources.

S/N	The following are prospects of acquisition of library resources:	Mean	Remark
1.	Increase in the variety of books for use by library patrons.	3.20	Agree
2.	Increase in the currency of information resources.	2.56	Agree
3.	Availability of more information resources for teaching by lecturers.	2.75	Agree
4.	Availability of more information resources for learning by students.	3.01	Agree
5.	Availability of more information resources for research by library patrons.	2.83	Agree
6.	Provision of an opportunity to weed out less vital information resources.	2.64	Agree
	<b>Cluster Mean</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>Agree</b>

Result of the analysis in Table 1 shows that item 1 has the highest mean score of 3.20. This indicates that the respondents agree that increase in the variety of books for use by library patrons is a major prospect for the acquisition of library materials. This is followed by item 5 with a mean score of 2.83, indicating that a good number of the respondents are in agreement that availability of more information resources for research is one of the prospects for the acquisition of information

resources in the library. Item 2 has the lowest mean score of 2.56 which means that the least number of the respondents are of the view that increase in the currency of information resources is one of the prospects of acquisition of library resources. The cluster mean of 2.83 shows that the respondents are in agreement with all the items listed in Table 1.

**Research question 2:** What are the challenges to the acquisition of information resources in South-East Universities?

**Table 2:** Mean Scores of Librarians on Challenges to Acquisition of Information Resources.

S/N	The following are challenges to acquisition of library resources:	Mean	Remark
1.	Inadequate funding.	3.25	Agree
2.	Lack of required materials locally.	2.52	Agree
3.	Over protection of government’s documents.	2.93	Agree
4.	Poor resource allocation.	2.58	Agree
5.	Poor resource utilization.	2.73	Agree
6.	Lack of clearly defined acquisition policy.	2.60	Agree
7.	Out-sourcing.	3.03	Agree
8.	Change in publication of information resources.	2.67	Agree
9.	Lack of current books.	2.46	Disagree
10.	Adherence to due process.	3.15	Agree
	<b>Cluster Mean</b>	<b>2.79</b>	<b>Agree</b>

In Table 2, the result of the analysis shows that item 1 has the highest mean score of 3.25. This indicates that majority of the respondents agree that inadequate funding is a major challenge to the acquisition of library materials. This is followed by item 10 with a mean score of 3.15, indicating that a good number of the respondents are in agreement that adherence to due process is one of the challenges to the acquisition of library resources. Item 9 has the lowest mean score of 2.46 which means that the least number of the respondents are in disagreement that lack of current books is one of the challenges to the acquisition of library resources. The cluster mean of 2.79 shows that the respondents are in agreement with the above-listed items as challenges to acquisition of library resources.

**DISCUSSION**

The findings of the study revealed that increase in the variety of books for use by library patrons; increase in the currency of information resources; availability of information resources for teaching by lecturers; availability of information resources for learning by students, availability of information resources for research as well as the provision of opportunity to weed out less vital information resources were the prospects of acquisition of information resources in university libraries in South East Nigeria. This is obviously so given that students and lecturers alike look

forward to the acquisition of new information resources in the library. it provides them the opportunity to have a variety of information resources from which to choose. The finding of this study is in tandem with the position of Ogbuiyi and Okpe (2013) that libraries are at the core of universities’ efforts towards the achievement of their academic mandate of learning, teaching as well as research. Thus, the prospects of acquiring library resources cannot be over-estimated.

The challenges found by this study were inadequate funding; lack of required materials locally; over protection of government’s documents; poor resource allocation; poor resource utilization; lack of clearly defined acquisition policy; out-sourcing; change in publication date and adherence to due process. This implies that effective acquisition of library resources will not be actualized if the aforementioned daunting challenges were not addressed. Similarly, inadequate funding poses a serious challenge due to the fact acquisition can hardly be contemplated amidst dwindling funds. This agrees with the assertion of Plockey, Appiah and Ofori (2018) that inadequate funding, economic dislocations, lack of current books, due process, dearth of current acquisition tools were key challenges militating against the acquisition of library resources in university libraries. Mwilongo (2020) also found that inadequate

funding, lack of skills for hybrid collection management and lack of collection development policy catering for both print- and electronic-based information resources hinder the acquisition of library resources. Furthermore, Ezeh (2020) found that inadequate funding, dearth of locally needed materials, over-protection of government documents, poor resource allocation and utilization and lack of a well-delineated acquisition policy hinder acquisition of information resources in university libraries in Nigeria.

### Recommendation

In line with the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Library managers should prioritize the raising of funds for the acquisition of library resources for the benefit of its patrons.
2. Librarians saddled with the task of acquiring information resources should ensure that a well-articulated written acquisition policy guides both their acquisition and other aspect of collection development practices in the university library.
3. Acquisition librarians should ensure that only resources that meet the needs and preference of its patrons are purchased.

### References

- Anyaegbu, M.I. (2016). Rationale for a course on library and information literacy. *Use of library and information literacy*. Awka: Potential Books. P.1
- Edem, U.A. & Luqman, A.A. (2018). Collection development as a panacea for promoting effective use of library resources in academic libraries. *Research Journal of Library and Information Science*, 2 (4), 39-52.
- Ezeh, R.U. (2020). Impediment to acquisition of library resources in academic library in developing nations: Issues and prospects. *Jewel Journal of Librarianship*, 15 (2), 129-140.
- Khatri, N.K. (2019). *Selection and acquisition of electronic resources in academic libraries: Challenges*. Retrieved from <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334047783>.
- Lundu, M.C. & Lungu, C.M.B. (2014). Acquisition of scientific literature in developing countries: Zambia. *Information Development*, 5(2).
- Mwilongo, K.J. (2020). Collection development practices in academic libraries in Tanzania. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 10 (6), 62-70.
- Nweke, S. (2018). *Due process management*. London: Price and Barley.
- Nworgu, B.G. (2015). *Educational research: Basic issues and methodology*. Nsukka: University Trust Publishers.
- Nwosu, C.C. & Udo-Anyanwu, A.J. (2015). Collection development in academic libraries in Imo State Nigeria: Status analysis and way forward. *International Journal of Advanced Library and Information Science*, 3 (1), 126-135.
- Ogbuiyi, S. U., & Okpe, I. J. (2013). Evaluation of library materials usage and services in private universities in Nigeria. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, 2 (8), 33–41.
- Olayinka, O.T. & Ozor, E.S. (2017). Collection development in law library for innovative legal education and training. *Journal of Applied Information Science and Technology*, 10 (3).
- Plockey, F. & Appiah, D. K. (2019). Information acquisition mechanism of universities libraries: An empirical study of public university libraries in Ghana. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 1 (1). Retrieved from <http://www.academicjournals.org/IJLIS>.
- Risper, S. & Anna, K. (2021). Selection and acquisition of library materials in academic libraries: A Case Study of Sokoine National Agricultural Library (SNAL) And Mzumbe University Library. *International Journal of Academic Library and Information Science*, 9 (3), 87-92.