MANAGEMENT, SERVICES AND USE OF LAW LIBRARIES IN NORTHERN STATES OF NIGERIA

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis for the degree of Master of Library Science has been written by me and it is a record of my own research work. It has not been previously presented either wholly or partly for any degree and is not being concurrently submitted for any other degree. All quotations are indicated and the sources of information are specifically acknowledged by means of references.

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CERTIFICATION

This thesis entitled "Management, services and use of Law Libraries in Northern States of Nigeria meets the regulations governing the award of the degree of Masters of Library Science of Ahmadu Bello University and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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DEDICATION

To my grand-father: Ahmadu Nda-yamma Legbo,

the Shaba of Etsu Dazhi (of blessed memory).

My father: Mallam Audu Madiwu

and my mother: Mallama Fatima Sungwa Audu.

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ABSTRACT

It is observed that no organisation particularly the type of Law Libraries investigated can survive well without effective management and support enjoyed from the authorities concerned. This study is based on the management, use and services of Law Libraries in the Northern States of Nigeria. They are the States High Court and the Ministry of Justice Libraries in Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Plateau and Sokoto. Investigation was carried out to critically examine their management, use and services. The survey research method was adopted for the conduct of the study while questionnaire was used to collect data. It was found that:-

Five of the ten libraries were headed by para-professionals (2) No Library controls library vote and neither maintains an imprest. (3) The majority of the Chief Executives of the Ministry of Justice and High Court Law Libraries to whom the Librarian were responsible to usually interfered with their professional duties. (4) Non of the Libraries existed as an independent department. (5) Non of the Libraries had a written acquisition policy. (6) The following services were offered by the Law Libraries: Lending, Reference, Abstracting, Indexing, Bibliographic, Selective Dissemination of Information and Noter-up-services. (7) Lending services received maximum attention by the libraries. (8) Based on the above finding it is concluded that the libraries do not meet the special library standards required for a law library if one considers quality and quantity of their

staff strength, materials and services provided and their physical facilities. (9) The use of the library is mainly by the Lawyers who were found not to care much about rules and regulations of the library, particularly when it comes to returning library books borrowed.

On the basis of the findings in this study several recommendations have been proposed aimed at improving the management, services and use of the Northern States Law Libraries and other special libraries in Nigeria.

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Definition of Terms

In a study of this nature it is necessary to define the key words used in this study in order to make the contents much more comprehensive to the readers. The following terms used in the context of this study are defined as follows:

1. Act: This is a legislative enactment or legislation passed by the "Parliament of the Federation" i.e the Senate and the House of Representatives. Acts are the laws passed during civilian regime.

2. Decree: Law passed by the Federal Military Government during the Military regime. It differs from "An Act" in one respect and that it is promulgated without reference to the parliament of the federation.

3. Edict: It is a law passed by a state (formerly Regional) Military Government. It is different from "a Decree" in its scope of operation or areas of coverage. Whereas a Decree is usually applicable throughout the federation. An "Edict" has force and effect only within the geographical confines of the state of its enactment.

4. Law: The legislative enactment of Regional or state legislature is what is referred to as a law. Usually passed by the legislative arm of civilian government.

5. Management: Refers to library funding and budgeting, control of library vote, ordering and purchasing law

publications, staffing, staff participation in decision making, communication and policy making.

6. Noter-up: This is a kind of library service which is particular to law libraries. "Noter-up Services" is therefore a process which involves continuous up-dating of enacted law or "legislation," as soon as an amendment to existing law appears in the gazette such amendment is noted by the law librarian, types and pasted on the appropriate page in the statute book. Repealed laws are then deleted and then entry is made for a new law in the index of the statute book.

7. Ordinance: This is a law enacted by the Federal Government, before the 28th December, 1961, and since that date all ordinances which have the force of law have been read or regarded as if they had been passed as "An Act" of the parliament of the federation. Only two enactments from the total body of Nigerian laws have been excluded from this retrospective forces they are:
The Nigerian Independence Act, 1960 and the Nigerian (Constitution) Order in council 1960.

8. Primary Soruces: These are statutes for example, laws of the federation of Nigeria and various states laws which sometimes appear in form of official gazette but usually in bound volumes.

9. Secondary Sources: In a law library books are usually divided into two categories "Secondary" and "Primary" Sources. The Secondary source books are those that talk about law and are not in themselves sources of legal authorities and these include "treaties", commentaries, text books and journals.

10. Services: Refers to the provision of a basic collection of law literatures, reference, lending, indexing, abstracting, bibliographic, information dissemination and Noter-up-services provided by the law libraries.

11. Statute: All laws passed by a legislative Assembly for the country is referred to as "Statute."

12. Subsidiary Legislation: This is a "rule", "order", "law", "Regulation" made by a Minister or Commissioner or any other authorised member of the Executive and under the authority of a named legislation.

13. Text Books: "Text Books on Law" contain only opinions as to the state of the law and their authorities are merely persuasive. Such authorities can be tendered before any court of law.

14. Use: Refers to the utilization of law library collection by users.

KAFANCHAN POLYTECHNIC LIBRARY

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study:

Libraries all over the world regardless of type, such as special, piblic or academic are considered to be store house of knowledge in form of printed books and other forms of media of information which are basic to continuous survival, development and progress of mankind. There can hardly be possible development and knowledge in the field of human endeavour today without books and various types of information media which exist in Libraries.

Law Libraries which are the focus of the researcher in this study were among the first set of special libraries that were established by the colonial powers in Nigeria. Jegede (1985) contended that the colonial powers came to recognise the contributions of law libraries towards economic, political and social development in Nigeria. For example, the law library of the Federal Ministry of Justice, Lagos dates back to 1900 if not earlier. The year of establishment of Law Libraries investigated in this research is also the main criteria for their study.

The State High Court and Justice Ministry Law Library Kaduna existed before the creation of five Northern States out of the defunct Northern Nigeria in 1967. Today most of the

existing Northern States were created out of one defunct state or the other. Thus at the time of this study the ten Law Libraries investigated were among the oldest established out of the thirty-two High Court and Justice Law Libraries in the Northern States of Nigeria.

Libraries as store house of knowledge can be divided into several categories depending on whom they serve, where they are located and further more their typical characteristics in sizes. Most Law Libraries in Nigeria are small in terms of numbers of staff, collections and accommodation; except some few academic law libraries which can compare favourably with other Sister Libraries. It can not however be assumed that all the Law Libraries in the country are the same with regard to number of collections and staff strength. However, it should be remembered that law libraries serve legal men who occupy different positions and perform various duties in the society. This, therefore is likely to be the reason for the differences in their objectives and standards. To a large extent the differences existing between the law libraries are more easily discerned in the performance of their duties and by the class of legal men they are established to serve. For example, differences of kind of materials and mode of services in a public library, Academic, State High Court, Ministry of Justice Law Library and Private Legal Practitioners are obvious and this is because of the

peculiar different interests they serve. The State Ministry of Justice serves Solicitors of the State Government, Law Students and other people who are interested in the legal documents, while the State High Court Law Library cater mostly for Judges and other Legal men for the dispensation of Justice.

The public library is therefore expected to serve the generality of people in respect of their discipline. This can be regarded as the major difference between the law and public library.

Since the focus of this researcher was on particular type of law libraries which fall under special libaries with particular reference to Northern States of Nigeria, it will not be out of place to discuss specifically types of libraries. An American William R. Roalfe in his standard work on the legal profession, in 1953 classifies law libraries into ten functionally or institutionally identifiable classes. However, if compared to his classification in Nigeria, Jegede(1985) classified law libraries into six types, namely:-

1. Federal Court Libraries
2. State Courts Libraries
3. Law School Libraries
4. Practitioners Libraries
5. Federal and State Ministries Libraries
6. Faculty Libaries and the Legislature Libraries

which can be regarded as the seventh operate only during civilian rules in Nigeria.

Having generally mentioned different libraries, in Nigeria with particular reference to law libraries, the researcher found it necessary to trace the history of law libaries in Nigeria.

Awolowo (1976) traced the history of law libraries in Nigeria as far back as 1802 during the period of Jihad activities of Usman Danfodio which according to him brought Islamic Law and commentaries to assist the rulers in the administration of justice in the Kingdom conquered.

Islamic law collections were said to be found in the various administrative jurisdiction of Usman Danfodio. These early Islamic Court collections, which some Sharia Court inherited and adopt for use. In the Northern parts of Nigeria, Islamic Law collections were said to have existed in the various administrative courts of Danfodio several years before the emergency of Colonial Rule which introduced another facet of court system in their administration.

We learnt that in 1884 after the Berlin Conference, colonization of Nigeria began and the protectorate of Northern Nigeria became administered in 1886 by Royal Niger Company Limited. The Company was said to be responsible to maintenance of law and order within the areas of its jurisdiction. Royal Niger Company as we learnt also established Court of Justice and appointed Chief Judge and had law collections.

By 1900, Ogbeide (1976) noted that the Lagos High Court and Federal Ministry of Justice Law Libraries were established.

Adefidiya (1968) also revealed that there were books stocked in the libraries of High Court and Ministry of Justice Lagos and affixed with ownership stamps dating back to 1806. The establishment of court by the colonial powers can be viewed as a means to strengthen their political and economic activities. However, the collections of such court served as one of the bases of the early law libraries. More so Awolowo (1976) added that "on first January, 1914 Nigeria was born, and this means that the various territories of Nigeria were amalgamated into one United Nigeria, and that same year three types of courts were established namely:-

(a) The Supreme Court of Nigeria (b) The Provincial Courts

(c) The Native Courts. The year 1914 therefore gave rise to wide spread development of civilized legal and judicial system in Nigeria.

It is also important to note that other kinds of courts came into existence in Nigeria after the colonial Rule and this was because Nigeria was under-going some social, economical and politcial changes. Courts and other legal institutions were needed to meet up the changing condition of the country. For instance the Military came into power for the first time in 1966 with a new political wave until 1979. During this period Okagbue (1985) stated that the Military contented themselves with enacting hasty and sometimes ill-conceived piece meal legislation to meet the demands of particular situation as the need arose. Thus under this type of condition; dispensation of justice cannot easily be attained without increased

number of courts, and justice department. Further more in 1979 when civilians came to power a new constitution emerged. Aguda (1985) observed that the 1979 constitution was premised on the separation of government powers (that is as far possible) between the usual three arms of government: the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The new political change calls for establishmnet of more legal institutions. The constitution thus provided for the establishment of six superior courts of record, namely:-

a. The Supreme Court of Appeal.

b. The Federal Court of Appeal.

c. The Federal High Court.

d. High Court of State.

e. A Sharia Court of Appeal.

f. A Customary Court of Appeal.

In addition to the above courts established the constitution further gave National Assembly power to establish what is referred to as inferior courts of records. All these courts had their collections. They were also established to meet up with the country's economic; political, social and scientific development. Under this kind of phenomenon Raz (1980) described law as an aspect a political system which both its existence and identity are bound up with the identity of political system of which it is part. Law either natural or man made proved to be part of man's life. Its observation is vital. A society without law and order will be

achiotic one. Legal institutions are therefore established for the maintenance of law and order as one of their major functions.

At this point it is pertinent to note that from the history of Nigerian Law Libraries neither the early indigenous administrators nor the Colonial Masters neglected the maintenance of law and order. This therefore is one of the major reasons for the establishment of courts and other legal institutions and their Libraries in Nigeria.

1.2 The State High Courts and Their Law Libraries.

Nigeria became a federation in 1954 and during this period there were three regional High Courts in the then Western, Eastern and Northern Regions and the High Court of the Federal Territory of Lagos.

In another development, the 1963 constitution curved out the Mid-Westerm Region and the number of High Courts then rose to five. These courts had law collections.

The 1967, Decree 14, (State creation and transitional provisions) Decree, established a twelve State structure for Nigeria with Federal Territory becoming part of Lagos State. The States were:-

North-Central, North-Western, Central-West, North-Eastern, Benue-Plateau, Central-Eastern, South-Eastern, Mid-Western, Lagos, Kano, Western State and Rivers State.

The Decree 12 of 1976, States (Creations and Transitional Provisions) Amendment (No.2) Decree, created nineteen States each with its own High Court and Library collections. The States are:- Anambra, Oyo, Plateau, Ogun, Rivers, Bauchi, Borno, Benue, Ondo, Lagos, Cross-Rivers, Bendel, Gongola, Kano, Sokoto, Kaduna, Kwara, Imo and Niger.

In 1987, two additional States Akwa-Ibom and Katsina States were created by Decree 27 of 1987. These new States also have their own High Courts and Ministry of Justice Law Libraries with Judicial Divisions in Nigeria which make up the number of High Courts and Ministry of Justice Law Libraries to fourty two. The Federal High Court and the Justice Law Library for Federal Capital Territory Abuja also existed.

1.3 The State Ministries of Justice and their Law Libraries

The establishment of State Ministries of Justice Law Libraries is as old as the creation of the State. Thus in 1987 there were twenty one State Ministry of Justice Law Libraries in Nigeria. The State Ministry of Justice is one of the important ministries under each state and expected to serve as the legal advisory organ for the day to day activities of the state government on issues which are likely to have some legal implications or connections. As part of its functions the state ministry of Justice is responsible for the drafting of laws, defends and protect the interest of the government

or state in any legal matters between any party. Law Libraries therefore existed side by side as an important department in state Ministries of Justice to help the lawyers discharge their duties. Studies and discussions with some law librarians revealed that judges and lawyers depend so much upon the use of law books for the efficient discharge of their suties. This is obvious when it comes to legal drafting, citing of cases or making court decisions and a times citing authority to buttress decisions is always essential. From this researcher's years of working in a law library there is no profession so dependent upon books as lawyers. This likely to be attributed to the fact that they seem to be so conscious of legal implications of whatever they write or say.

Blunt (1976) further emphasized that dependence upon books by judges and lawyers is imperative and inevitable to achieve coherence in law making and consistency in the dispensation of justice. Carleton (1976) had a different opinion. He observed that lawyers and judges depend on the use of books because they are noted for their loss of law school training when it comes to application of legal bibliography. Sequel to the above reason a law librarian must be on top out ahead in mastering the indexes, tables, guides, check-list and other smaller details of publications so as to be able to bail the lawyers out. In this regard the libraries investigated should be able to maintain a standard in order to be able to meet the desired needs of the organizations.

1.4 Standards for Special Libraries.

Before any reasonable assessment of the libraries under investigation could be made there must be a possible measure of existing standards. In considering the standards for special libraries, the journal of "Special Libraries" (1964) stated that:

1.4.1 In any organization the special library should serve as a major source of information. It should be able to acquire, organize, maintain, utilize and disseminate information and other materials germane to organizations activities.

1.4.2 The special library administrator is recommended to be professional librarian who can by virtue of his education or subject speciality, experience and personal qualifications successfully carry out the objectives of the special library.

1.4.3 Staff librarians should be professional librarians who have wide range of educational qualifications and experience.

1.4.4 It is recommended by this body that the subject coverage of the special library's collection should be intensive enough to meet the current and anticipated information requirement of the library clienteles.

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1.4.5 The size of a special library staff and collection should depend upon the amount of materials available and pertinent to the organization's special needs.

1.4.6 It is also recommended that the condition policies of a special library must be established within the framework of the library's stated policies.

1.4.7 The special library staff is expected to be responsible for the efficient organization of materials and making available the catalogs, indexes and the guides needed for prompt access to the materials and the informations contained in them.

1.4.8 As for the use and services, it is recommended that the special library should function as a service unit that provides informations to further the objectives of the organization it serves. Thus the special library staff should be able to locate materials and information promptly upon request.

1.4.9 The reference services of a special library should include literature searching, compiling bibliographies abstracting and indexing.

1.4.10 The special library should lend its materials with the possible exception of reference sources and other designated restricted item.

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1.4.11 The special library is expected to be able to provide prompt translation services and also in addition need to keep record of publications that are unavailable in the library or the organization but may be obtained from another library or institution.

1.4.12 Special library must have an effective system for maximum utilization of current periodical literature which is an intergral part of its service program.

1.4.13 Consulting activities may be added responsibilities for the special library staff.

1.4.14 The special library is responsible for informing its clientele of its resources.

1.4.15 There must be adequate facilities in a physical environment conducive to optimum use of the library's collections and services. Furthermore, the special library should be conveniently located for its users.

1.4.16 Long-term planning for the location of the special library is important to permit space expansion when needs arises.

1.4.17 Finally the body further recommends provision for the safety of library materials and for effective working conditions for staff and users.

All the above recommended standards for special libraries can not be said to be completely exhaustive but reasonable and precise.

1.5 Statement of the Problem:

Ogbeide (1988) earlier remarked that the law library scene in Nigeria is viewed from the perspective of undue neglect and they are in shambles and to say the least dangerously unco-ordinated and out-dated. A preliminary survey of some of these libraries in Niger and Kaduna States by this researcher confirmed Ogbeide's observations. One begins to wonder if a neglected law library in Nigeria today particularly in the Northern States could be able to cope with the present legal information explosion and retrieval. It is a known fact that law is always changing, and statutes generally go through a complex process of amendments and substitution repeals etc. This situation demands for a functional law library for the judges and lawyers to facilitate retrieval of information from law reports and journals to support their decisions and opinion. Brodman (1976) believes that law library is very important to judges and lawyers because they are fundamentally interested in solving a particular problem with which they are faced with and the necessity of solving it within rather tight time limit. A non functional law library will not be able to achieve the stated objectives.

Under the present Nigerian situation, particularly in Northern States where this research was conducted some law libraries were found to have been offering very little of reference service to judges and lawyers. For example, some law libraries provide services such as amendment of Decrees, laws, edict, subsidiary legislations, rules and regulations, other law libraries fail to do so. Ikulala (1988) noted that a case where a law library fails to provide needed services for example, unamended or out-dated laws can spell disaster if judges use such copies of law in writing their judgment.

This study, therefore, sets out to solve the problem of management, services and use of the Northern States law libraries in Nigeria.

1.6 Research Questions:

In this study, answers shall be provided to the following questions:

1. What is the extent of the management of the Northern States Law Libraries?
2. What kinds of services are provided by the Northern States Law Libraries?
3. To what extent are the Northern States Law Libraries used?

1.7 Objectives:

1. To find out the extent of the management of the Northern States Law Libraries.
2. To identify the kinds of services provided by the Northern States Libraries.
3. To examine the extent of use of the Northern States Law Libraries.

1.8 Significance of the Study:

This study is conducted as contribution to the field of librarianship in Nigeria of which much has not been written particularly about Law Libraries in the Northern part of Nigeria. The findings of this study will assist law libraries to improve on their management, services and use.

1.9 Scope and Limitations:

The study covers a period of five years, 1986-1990. Two government owned law libraries each were investigated from the five selected states out of the existing sixteen states of Northern Nigeria. The study is limited to the management, services and use of the libraries studied.

Finding of this study apply to the ten Northern States Law Libraries investigated.

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CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria today the subject of study in this research has not received much attention of indigenous writers as in other subjects like education, history, economics, sciences to mention but a few. This does not mean that the field of law librarianship is less important but rather must be due to the fact that only very few professional law librarians operated or managed such law libraries at the early part of the country. In view of the above assumptions the review of related literature is very important for the success and relevance of the researchers investigations.

2.2 Standards and Objectives for Special Libraries

Standard is defined in Chambers 20th Century dictionary, Krickpatrick (1987 Edition) as a "basis of measurements; a criterion; an established model." Moving from the ordinary dictionary definition to a fairly academic and professional, Dean (1969) defined "Standards" as, an example, rule or basis of comparison established by authority, a general consensus of opinion or custom. It is based upon either a specific description of practice, method, process, construction etc., quality required to achieve stated objectives.

Considering the above definition, Oni-Orisan (1981) added that a "Standard is something established by custom or general consent and it follows that before a meaningful standard can be formulated for a group of libraries in a particular region, there must be a careful appraisal of the prevailing situation." The purport of this statement, he added, standards can not exist in vacuo but must be based on the reality of the situation in hand.

Views of special libraries Association in special libraries (1964); The Society of Public Teachers of Law Great Britain (1975) British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (1981) on the objectives and standards for special libraries is worthy of consideration in this study. In summary the objectives and standards of special libraries should be based on the fact it is a major source of information in the organisation it serves and should be able to acquire, organize, maintain, utilize and disseminate informational materials germane to the organizations activities. This covers both human and materials resources.

2.3 Objectives for Standards

Odeinde (1981) observed that libraries are always face with one problem or the other. Some of the problems enumerated include inflation and economic depression which are unavoidable. He stressed that experience shows that problems such as inadequate library resources, insufficient funding, mal-administration, poor staffing and services and many others, can nearly always be attributed to lack or neglect of laid down standards. He thus summarised the objectives for the standards of special libraries as follows:-

(a) Correct mistakes.

(b) Confer uniformity and order.

(c) Uniformity brings economics in both manpower and materials and the advantages of easy interchangeability.

(d) The introduction of standards equipment and materials in libraries has also resulted in considerable economic scale.

(e) Standards may also tell us what system to adopt to provide optimum return for outlay in terms of service.

(f) Standards nomenclature and usage bring common understanding.

Ajibero (1978) conducted research on the resources and organization of Federal Ministry of Justice, Lagos and touched on the brief history of its establishment, growth, development

and this study serves as an instrument of comparison with the libraries investigated. The comparison was necessary because the libraries are similar in almost all respect.

Amaakaven (1982) also studied the High Court of Justice, Makurdi and at the end of the study it was discovered that the library was not operating to the internationally accepted standard. In reaction to the above findings the researcher observed that the "Nigerian Standard" of assessing the library investigated could have been a better yard stick.

The findings of the research of the resources, organization and services of the Ministry of Justice Law Library Yola by Pagiel (1984) reveals that there was no written history about the library prior to the commencement of his study. The study therefore helped to bridge the gap between the information of what existed in that library before and at the time of his study.

2.4 Management of Law Libraries

Ogbeide (1988) noted that problems of management of some law libraries in Nigeria can be traced to decadence of numerous conditions among which are finance, staff, unacceptability and apathy even by those who should know better. He stressed that law libraries have long been reluctantly recognised as being different from other learned professions such as medicine, law, etc. and consequently not given fair share of support by

the the authorities. Ogbeide's observation above was with a particular reference to the High Court and Ministry of Justice Law Libraries in Lagos and with less emphasis about those in the other parts of the country.

The manual of law librarianship by Moys (1976) can be regarded as one of general text book for the discipline. Although the book is western bias a lot of issues discussed in it can be adapted to the Nigerian situation. This reviewed text, satisfied the requirements of both libraries specialising in law and academic or public libraries. This book is made up of two introductory chapters explained general librarianship in the British-Isles. The other chapter of the book dealt exclusively with general legal literatures, bibliography, reference books and also explaining, describing the various categories of legal publications and how to obtain access, most efficiently, to the informations. The chapter in addition discusses legislations, court reports, treaties, case books, prediocals, etc. and how they can be organized in a new law library. The remaining chapters are devoted to other library techniques; such as book selection, reference work, catelogueing, indexing and law library administration.

2.5 Services Provided By Law Libraries

Reader services in law libraries is one the most important functions of any law library. This aspect is treated by Logan (1979). He tried to identify and analyse problems of

a reader in the legal literature search and how law librarian can help the patron. His suggestions and observations are found to be a useful guide to the researcher in this study.

On the service concept of the law library, Switzer (1988) stressed what is actually involved in the "service concept" when talking about the law:- "Probably the single most important aspect of services is a knowledge of the resources which contain the information needed. The Librarian must know what exist, where it is, how to use it and if the library doesn't have it, where it can be borrowed." It was emphasized that law librarians need to have knowledge of law sources which demand a knowledge of the system from which those law came. Without such knowledge the law librarian will not be able to perform well. "Law unlike Medicine or Science and Technology is not uniform from country to country. It is nationalistic and varies from country to country." Issues discussed by Switzer help to place law librarians in a better position. The researcher has taken cognisance of the issues raised and noted for the purpose of this study.

Law library service to superior courts was an indepth discussion of kinds of services expected from law libraries in the Supreme Court of Nigeria and issues discussed by the author are of relevance to Nigeria Law Libraries. Thus a reader in law librarianship edited by Reams (1976) is one of the useful books in the field of law librarianship. The issue of inadequate materials is not only perversive in Nigeria but even in the Western world. One of

the famous writers in the field, Wasserman (1976) noted that:-

> "Unlike many other academic disciplines, librarianship has not yet began to exploit the contributions of the several disciplines toward the study of its own issues. Yet the literature abounds with materials germane to its concerns, too frequently, the task of identifying; correlating and collecting materials from numerable sources is burdensome, time consuming or simply impossible."

This statement was made by the writer at the time one would expect a country like America might have been better off in its contributions to the field of law librarianship. Therefore what Nigeria has presently in the field of librarianship can not totally be under-rated.

2.6 Use of Law Libraries

The findings of the research by Utor (1983) on the legislative libraries in the Northern part of Nigeria give the researcher a first hand information on how legislative libraries were regarded and used by the law makers who mostly never received legal education and thus seemed to have some implications on the degree of services provided by the librarians in such libraries, and also the extent of use by the law makers.

"How to use law library" by Dane (1979) is a comprehensive guide, providing basic information about how a law library collection can be used, organized and administered.

On the development of a law library, Dee (1970) emphasized the processes involved in acquisition of law library materials. He stressed that no law library can afford to give more attention to the secondary materials at the expense of primary materials.

2.7 Summary

The related literature reviewed in this chapter treated mainly some important hilighlites on standards and objectives for special libraries, management, use and services of law libraries.

The management aspect of this study deals with the personnel and how it affect services provided by the libraries. The influence of the authroties concerned, i.e those whom the librarian are accountable to about the management of the library is also an essential area which was treated in this research.

The services provided by these libraries play an important role considering their positions and the people they serve. Thus their services determine their use.

The use of any library can be judged by the availability of required materials, staff strength and the extent of its use by its clienteles.

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CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This study examined the management, use and services of ten State High Court and Ministry of Justice Law Libraries. The purpose of this chapter is to describe the research method adopted, the population and its sample, instrument for collecting data, procedure for collecting data and procedure used in analysing the data.

3.2 Rsearch Method Adopted

In this research, survey method was used and involves gathering data from Northern States government owned Law Libraries in terms of their management, use and services.

3.3 Population

The population of this study comprises all the thirty-two government owned Law Libraries in the sixteen Northern States of Nigeria. The clienteles of these libraries are mostly Judges of various Courts, Lawyers who are solicitors to the State government, private legal practitioners, law students and even those interested in legal documents or information from the government owned Law Libraries.

3.4 Sampling Procedure

A total of ten Law Libraries, two each from the five selected States out of the sixteen existing Northern States were chosen for this study. Their selections were based on their geographical positions, cultural similarities and more so the type of calibre of people they serve. The conditions provide the researcher a good ground to examining the extent of their management, the kind of services provided and the extent of use of the Northern States Law Libraries.

3.5 Instrument for Data Collection

The instruments used in collecting data in this study are: Questionnaire, interview, and finally observation.

In the case of questionnaire, relevant questions relating to this study were prepared for the respondents and spaces provided for answers.

Two separate questionnaires each for staff (Heads of the Law Libraries) and the other part for the users. The staff questionnaires contained thirty two (32) questions and the users questionnaires contained twelve (12) questions respectively.

Oral interview and observation was also conducted with some library staff and users to confirm some of the answers given in the questionnaires. The libraries were those States Ministry of Justice Law Libraries Kaduna, Kwara, Plateau and States High Court Law Libraries Kwara and Plateau.

3.6 Procedure for Data Collection

After the questionnaires were prepared, they were sent by post to obtain their responses. Also through personal contact, the researcher travelled to the States Ministry of Law Libraries Kaduna, Kwara, Plateau and States High Court Law Libraries Kaduna and Plateau to conduct oral interview. This exercise was carried out to enable the researcher get balanced information about the libraries investigated.

3.7 Procedure for Analysing Data

The data collected for this study were analysed using frequency covets and percentage satistics. The analysed data were used to answer the research questions which were stated in Chapter 1.6.

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CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The purpose of this chapter is to analyse the data and interprete the findings. The Chapter is organised according to the order in which research questions were stated in Chapter I.

4.01 Response Rate

A total of two hundred and fifteen (215) copies of the questionnaires were distributed to the users of the ten Libraries investigated. Fifty five (55) out of the 215 responded to the questionnaires while the remaining one hundred and sixty (160) were interviewed. Ten copiesof the librarian's questionnaire were also administered to the ten librarians of the selected libraries. Five of ten librarians responded to the questionnaire and the other five were interviewed.

4.02 Data Analysis and Interpretation

An attempt was first made to list the research questions in their logical order for easy comprehension to the readers and analysis as well. In otherwords, the analysis was presented to treating all aspects of management, followed by services finally on the use of the libraries under study.

Research Question I

What is the extent of the management of the Northern States Law Libraries?

As earlier mentioned, the first research question focussed on the extent of the management of the Law Libraries under study. Include in this category is the Heads of the Libraries responses to the sources of funding these law libraries, budgetary allocation, control library vote, selection of law library materials, order and purchase activities, staff strength, status of the law libraries, communication with superior officers, frequency of staff participation in meeting, types of library operation policies and library rules and regulations. These sub-themes were individually analysed and logically presented in the order stated above. The data gathered serves as the Heads of law libraries response to the extent of management of the Northern States Law Libraries investigated.

It is important to note that proper management of law libraries is an essential factor for their effectiveness and survival. Jegede (1985) also noted that from the history of the law libraries it can be reasonably stated that law libraries were more or less housed with clerk or clerical assistants to look after them and these were erroneously described as "Librarian." Such "Librarians" could only give minimum reference service that is:-

> ".... keep the books on shelves when not on use, ... keep accurate loan records and in addition be on hand to direct, suggest, explain, help a little, ... but be scrupulous always to stop short of finding or even looking for anything in any book."

Having seriously considered the above statement the researcher was therefore motivated to undertake investigations into the conditions of law libraries in the Northern States to be able to compare and contrst what really existed and operated in other Law Libraries and the present Law Libraries in the Northern parts of Nigeria.

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining basic special library standard for libraries of this nature, it is important to note that the quality and quantity of the staff, materials and services of such Law Libraries is highly significant to their survival.

Table 4.1 Sources of Library Funds

The table 4.1 below attempt to provide the information on how and where the libraries under investigation get all the monies to run their activities.

Table 4.1 Sources of Library Fund

Sources of funds	No. of Libraries	%
Government	10	100
Donation from other sources	0	0
Total	10	100

Ten officers in-charge of the Law Libraries (Librarians) or 100% of the respondents confirmed that the various State Governments were the main source of funding the libraries. Since these libraries solely depend on the financial support from the various State Government in all their development and have no any other source of funding any cut or decrease in their budgetary allocation usually have serious effect on their operation and services. The cut in budgetary allocation was a usual phenomenon among the libraries investigated.

Table 4.2 below shows how the budgetary allocations of the ten Libraries were spent. Analysis of the budgetary expenses indicates how properly their budgetary allocation were utilized.

Table 4.2 Five year budgetary allocation for the ten libraries.

Year	State	Ministry of Justice Law Library	Budget	Expense On		
				Books	Equipt.	Others
1986	Kaduna	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Kwara	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Plateau	"	#84,330	#52,521	#13,100	#13,709
"	Kano	"	#129,630	54,000	15,630	60,000
"	Sokoto	"	90,000	45,000	10,000	35,000
1987	Kaduna	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Kwara	"	#123,000	#43,000	#18,000	#30,000
"	Plateau	"	65,000	25,000	18,000	80,000
"	Kano	"	160,000	58,000	22,000	80,000
"	Sokoto	"	No record	X	X	X
1988	Kaduna	"	#191,000	#70,000	#37,000	#84,000
"	Kwara	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Plateau	"	#151,000	48,000	30,000	73,000
"	Kano	"	192,000	70,000	37,000	85,000
"	Sokoto	"	131,000	36,000	30,000	65,000

X = 'No Record' in Table 4.2

1989	Kaduna	"	#163,000	#45,000	#30,000	#88,000
"	Kwara	"	235,000	85,000	35,000	75,000
"	Plateau	"	167,000	85,000	32,000	50,000
"	Kano	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Sokoto	"	#186,000	60,000	40,000	86,000
1990	Kaduna	"	#345,000	#185,000	#60,000	#100,000
"	Kwara	"	338,000	200,000	43,000	95,000
"	Plateau	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Kano	"	360,000	200,000	50,000	105,000
"	Sokoto	"	203,000	60,000	44,000	99,000

Year	State	High Court Law Library	Budget	Expenses on		
				Books	Equipt.	Others
1986	Kaduna	"	#98,000	#45,000	#12,000	#41,000
"	Kwara	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Plateau	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Kano	"	#110,000	54,000	15,000	52,000
"	Sokoto	"	90,000	38,000	10,000	42,000
1987	Kaduna	"	#155,000	#56,000	#21,000	#78,000
"	Kwara	"	125,000	58,000	22,000	45,000
"	Plateau	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Kano	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Sokoto	"	#118,000	#45,000	#21,000	#52,000
1988	Kaduna	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Kwara	"	#153,000	#68,000	#20,000	#65,000
"	Plateau	"	111,000	69,000	32,000	70,000
"	Kano	"	180,000	65,000	35,000	80,000
"	Sokoto	"	152,000	60,000	25,000	67,000
1989	Kaduna	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Kwara	"	#164,000	84,000	40,000	40,000
"	Plateau	"	199,000	77,000	35,000	87,000
"	Kano	"	214,000	85,000	40,000	89,000
"	Sokoto	"	No record	X	X	X
1990	Kaduna	"	#194,000	#65,000	#40,000	#89,000
"	Kwara	"	300,000	198,000	50,000	52,000
"	Plateau	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Kano	"	No record	X	X	X
"	Sokoto	"	#195,000	#60,000	#45,000	#90,000

The above table 4.2 gives analysis of five years average budgetary allocation and expenses of each of the ten Law Libraries investigated.

Information gathered from the respondents revealed that in 1986 each of the libraries had budgetary allocations which range from #84,000 to about #129,630. From this average amount it was discovered that each of the ten libraries spent between #38,000 to about #54,000 on books, about #10,000 to about #15,000 on equipment (shelves, stacks furniture, display racks, catalogue cabinet, etc) and between #18,000 to #60,000 spent by each library on other materials not disclosed to the officers incharge of the libraries (Librarians) usually on the discretion of the superior officer (the Chief Judges, Chief Registrars and Attorneys-General/Solicitors-General).

In 1987 the average budgetary allocated of the ten libraries was between #118,000 to about #160,000. The average of amount spent by each library on books was between #25,000 to about #58,000, equipments range from #18,000 to #22,000 and other materials between #30,000 to about #80,000.

It was also discovered that in 1988 the budgetary allocations for the ten law libraries varied from #131,000 to #192,000. Information gathered revealed that each of the libraries spent on books between #36,000 to #70,000, equipments between #20,000 to #37,000 and other materials between #65,000 to about #85,000.

Examination of table 4.2 above further revealed that each of the ten law libraries in 1989 had average budgetary allocation of about #163,000 to #235,000. The sum of between #45,000 to #85,000 were spent on the purchase of books, equipments #30,000 to #40,000 and other unspecified materials was between #40,000 to about #80,000 respectively.

Finally, further information gathered from the respondents indicated that each of the libraries had budgetary allocations of between #195,000 to about #360,000 in the year 1990. Average amount spent on the following were:

books between #60,000 to #200,000, equipments #40,000 to #60,000 and other materials outside library requirements usually at the discretion of the superior officers stood at about #52,000 to #105,000. A consensus opinion of the ten respondents, officers incharge: (Librarians) revealed that some library allocations were usually diverted by the superior officers for the other purposes despite the fact that the libraries are discovered to be under-funded.

This unfortunate situation was discovered to be responsible to poor conditions of most of the libraries in the Northern part of Nigeria, the result of which is ineffective services and a low pace of development.

Attempt is made under table 4.3 to sample the opinion of librarians on who and how library vote is controlled as situation affect management of the Law Libraries under study.

Table 4.3 Control of Library vote

Control of vote by	No.	%
Officer incharge of libraries (Librarian)	0	0
Chief Judges/Chief Registrars	5	50
Attorneys-General/Solicitors-General	5	50
Total	10	100

In table 4.3 above five respondents from the High Court Law Libraries stated that the Chief Judges or the Chief Registrars control the library vote while another five respondents from Ministry of Justice Law Libraries stated the Attorneys-General (Commissioners for Justice) and the Solicitors-General presently referred to as Director-General and in the previous regimes called "Permanent Secretary" control the library vote. By the time this research was conducted, Chief Judges and Attorneys-General were the Chief Executives and Accounting Officers of their Ministries and Departments. But from the history of different regimes in Nigeria the issue of who should be the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Ministries has been interchangeable, either the Attorneys-General or the Solicitor-General. Under the Judicial Service Commission of which the High Court belongs, the Chief Judges were always the Chief Executive but sometimes the duties of financial management (Accounting Officers) were delegated to the Chief Registrars by the Chief Judges.

There is no gain saying that the Librarians are more committed to survival, growth, and development of their libraries and therefore should be more responsible to the control of library vote in order to forestal the judicious management of the libraries vote which hitherto have contributed to the present poor conditions of most of the libraries investigated.

Table 4.4 Selection of Library Materials

Selection of Materials by	No.	%
Chief Judge/Chief Registrar	4	40
Attorney-General/Solicitor-General	4	40
Librarian (Officers-In-charge of Library	2	20
Total	10	100

The researcher was informed by the four heads of the various High Courts Law Libraries that the selection of Library materials was done by the Chief Judges/Chief Registrars. Another four officers in-charge of the Ministry of Justice Law Libraries also revealed that the Attorneys-General/Solicitors-General usuall carried out the selection of materials. Two Librarians confirmed they do the but must always be endorsed by their superior officers before ordering can be effected; even though the Librarians know their readers and what they usually need or request at any particular time, still the librarians cannot order directly any material without the approval of their superior officers. These situations indicate that the librarians were not given free hand to perform their professional duties.

Table 4.5 Ordering and Purchasing

Ordering and Purchasing	No.	%
Chief Judges/Chief Registrar	4	40
Attorneys-General/Solicitors-General	4	40
Librarian (Officers In-charge of Lib.)	2	20
Total	10	100

Table 4.5 above is another analysis of the opinion of the respondents revealing the true position of those responsible for ordering and purchase of library materials. About 40% of the respondents stated Chief Judges and Registrars do the ordering and purchases. Another 40% of the respondents stated the Attorneys-General and only about 20% of respondents confirmed that the librarians do the ordering and purchases in their libraries. It was further revealed that all orders and purchases by the librarian must be approved by the superior officers even if such materials were necessary and there was availability of funds. This shows that librarians in all the law libraries studied were not given free hand to do the ordering and purchases.

This kind of prevailing situation in some Northern States Law Libraries were found to have serious negative effect in the growth development and services of the libraries. Moreso, the collections of such libraries were not found to be balanced thereby fail to meet the bias of the readers.

Table 4.6 Heads of ten Libraries on Establishment

Cadre of Library staff on Establishment	No.	%
Professionals (Graduate)	-	0
Para-professional (Diploma & Certificate)	3	30
Untrained	7	70
Total	10	100

In Table 4.6 above, the researcher identified the qualifications of the staffs that started working in the ten Law Libraries during their establishment. The professionals are those cadre of staff holding degree qualification in the field of librarianship. The Para-professionals are those cadre of staff holding certificate or Diplomas in Library Education and the untrained staff are those working in the library without rudimentary knowledge or education in library practices.

Analysis of the above table shows that 30% of the libraries pioneer staff were para-professional. The libraries are Ministry of Justice Law Libraries Kaduna, Plateau and Kwara. Another 20% of the libraries on establishment started with untrained staff. The libraries are Ministry of Justice Law Libraries, Kano and Sokoto. Others are High Court Law Libraries, Kaduna, Plateau, Kwara, Sokoto and Kano respectively. Libraries which the pioneer staff were found to be either untrained or para-professional (Certificate holders) proved to be faced with problems of ineffectiveness of general library operations and management moreso because of their low level of academic qualifications a good number of such staff have little or no effective influence on decisions, and policies about their libraries, due to maturity and professional experience. Libraries where these categories of staff were heading sufer a great deal of neglect from their superior officers which consequently lead to poor services.

Table 4.7 Current staff strength

State	High Court Law Libraries		Ministry of Justice Law Library	
	Graduate or Professional	Certificate Para-Professional No.	Graduate or Professional	Certificate or Para-professional
Kaduna	1	2	1	2
Kano	-	2	-	3
Kwara	1	2	1	2
Plateau	-	2	1	2
Sokoto	-	2	-	2
Total	2	10	3	11

Table 4.7 above gives full analysis of the current positions of the staff strength of the libraries investigated. It was therefore revealed that state Ministry of Justice Law Libraries Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Plateau, Sokoto had two each para-professionals while Kano had three. Kaduna, Plateau and Kwara had one each professional librarian.

The High Court Law Libraries, Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Plateau and Sokoto had two para-professional each.

Investigations further revealed that up till the time of this research five law libraries out of the ten investigated were still being managed by para-professionals who had very little experience and necessary qualifications to manage the specialized libraries that need special services. Under this type of prevailing situation in some libraries investigated one would begin to wonder the desirability of such libraries by the organizations. The answer is however not far fetched because it was discovered that

officials controlling the vote of these libraries prefer to maintain or employ unqualified, inexperienced and in-matured library personnel hence they can easily be used to their advantage to the detriment of library development and growth.

Table 4.8 Law Libraries as an independent or department

Departmental status of Library	No.	%
As a department	0	0
Under a department	10	100
Total	10	100

Table 4.8 above shows a positive statement of the ten respondents which indicated that all the libraries investigated existed under a department. The High Courts Law Libraries were placed under administrative machinery of the various Judicial Commissions and the librarians were accountable to the Chief Registrars. It was also reported that five State Ministry of Justice Law Libraries were placed in administrative management and the librarians were directly responsible to the Solicitors-General. Thus the librarians were tied down to bureauratic chains of the system and not normally free to take decision deemed necessary about the operation and services of their libraries since they are always expected to get final approval from above about everything or anything. This sutation is counter productive and dangerous to the development and services of the libraries investigated.

Table 4.9 Method of Communication with superior officers

Communication strategies	No.	%
Personal contact	4	40
Official minutes.memo writing	2	20
Staff meeting	2	20
Non of the above	2	20
Total	10	100

Table 4.10 Frequency of participation in staff meetings

Participation in staff meetings	No.	%
Always	5	50
Sometimes	1	10
Not at all	4	40
Total	10	100

Above 4.9 shows the result of 40%, the population of respondents who used the strategy of "personal contact" with their superior officers to discuss official matters for possible solutions. Another 20% of the respondents stated that they used one of the stated communication strategies. Analysis of the above table therefore revealed that some of the respondents did not appreciate the importance of embarking in writing official minutes and memos which could always serve as a permanent record and could be referred to when the need arises.

In Table4.10 above 50% of the respondents confirmed that they "always" attend Heads of Department/Senior Staff meetings. The other 40% stated they do not participate at all and only 10% participated once in a while. Further analysis of the above table

here shows the degree of influence, importance and how recognised the law librarians were in their ministries. It is only when the law librarians are given their due recognition and their importance felt that they may be remembered in decision making and they can thus contribute to the betterment of their libraries.

Table 4.11 Types of Library policies in operation

Types of library policies	No.	%
Written policy	0	0
Unwritten policy	10	100
defined policy	0	0
Total	10	100

Table 4.11 shows the types of policies being operated by the various libraries investigated. It was revealed that all the ten libraries had what can be described as "unwritten" policies. Thus the existing policies of the ten libraries investigated were not officially documented for easy reference and guidance. This situation was therefore discovered to be responsible for undue neglect of some law libraries. This situation further encouraged the apathy exhibited by some accounting officers who gave little attention to the development of the libraries.

Table 4.12 Library rules and regulations

Rules and regulations	No.	%
Defined and written rules	1	10
Unwritten rules & regulations	9	90
No rules and regulations	0	0
Total	10	100

In Table 4.12 above revealed that 90% of the libraries operated unwritten rules and regulations and only 10% of the libraries have written and functional rules and regulations. This explains why large quantity of the library materials were not regularly returned to the libraries on time by the readers since there were no sanctions for such act. Lack of effective and functional library rules and regulations was no doubt a threat to the general security of the scarce available materials, and efficient management of the library operations and services.

Research Question 2

What kind of services are provided by the Northern States Law Libraries?

It would be interesting to note that the basis for this research can best be understood if the importance of providing relevant services with maximum speed to Judges, Legal practitioners, Law Students is given a top priority. This condition became paramount because of the specialized nature of Law Libraries. A Law Library which is not able to provide services with maximum speed can not be said to measure to the expected special library standard.

Before examining the kinds of services provided by Northern States Law Libraries it is pertinent to survey the collection of the Libraries and other similar issues which are treated under title sub-themes of the tables below: Ministry of Justice and High Court Law Libraries volume of books on establishment and current volumes; the materials purchased between 1986 - 1988, 1989 - 1990, types of services offer by the ten libraries, and finally systems of borrowing or lending out materials.

Table 4.13 Volume of books on establishment: The Ministry of Justice and High Court Law Libraries.

Table 4.13 Ministry of Justice Law Libraries and High Court Law Libraries

Ministry of Justice Law Library	No. of Vol. on establish-ment	Current No. of Volumes
Kaduna State	5,115	8,500
Kwara "	817	15,783
Plateau "	1,519	14,210
Kano "	2,180	17,850
Sokoto "	780	6,311
Total	10,411	62,654
High Court Law Library	On Establish-ment	Current No. of Volumes
Kaduna State	3,210	16,413
Kwara "	850	12,418
Plateau "	980	5,873
Kano "	1,300	15,508
Sokoto "	895	5,600
Total	7,235	55,812

The result of the respondents as shown in the above Table 4.13 reveals that as at the time of the creation of five States from the defunct Northern Nigeria in 1967, the Ministry of Justice and High Court Law Libraries Kaduna had total number of about 10,411 and 7,235 volumes of books respectively. It was found that these materials were mostly primary sources which generally comprised

Northern Nigeria Laws, Ordinances, British Law Reports, treaties of West and African Origin.

It was further revealed that on the creation of five states from the defunct Northern Nigeria in 1967, the collections of the then Ministry of Justice and High Court Law Libraries (North Central) Kaduna were shared among the newly created states. Thus in 1967 the collection of Kaduna State Ministry of Justice Law Library was reduced to about 5,115 volumes, Kwara had about 817 volumes, Plateau 1519 volumes, Kano 2180 volumes and Sokoto 780 volumes. And the States High Courts in 1967, also had the following collections:- Kaduna (North Central) had 3,210 volumes, Kwara 850 volumes, Plateau (Benue/Plateau) 980 volumes, Kano 1,300 volumes, Sokoto (North-Western) had about 895 volumes.

Further results of the investigation conducted on the ten libraries revealed that by 1990, the current collections of state Justice ministry law libraries in Kaduna was about 8,500 volumes, Kwara 15,783 volumes, Plateau 14,210 volumes, Kano 17,850 volumes and Sokoto 6,311 volumes. By 1990, the current collections of States High Court Law Library, Kaduna was about 16,413 volumes, Kwara 12,418 volumes, Kano 15,508 volumes and Sokoto state about 5,600 volumes respectively. If one compared the collection of volumes of the ten libraries investigated, particularly after about twenty four years of establishment, one observed a great desparity in number of collection of volumes among the ten libraries.

This situation can be attributed to the fact that some libraries have not been receiving due attention from the authorities concerned, in developing their libraries and that is why their collections have not increased reasonably. While for example, Kwara State Ministry of Justice Law Library increased its collections by about 14,960 volumes, Plateau about 12,691 volumes, Kano about 15,670 volumes, the Kaduna Ministry of Justice Law Library had its collections increased by only 3,385 volumes and Sokoto High Court Law Library had only additional of 4,705 volumes and Plateau 4,893 volumes. The low increase in volumes of some libraries usually have a negative influence on their services. This because they will not be able to meet the requirement of their readers.

Table 4.14 Materials purchased by the Law Libraries between 1986 - 1988 and 1989 - 1990

Types of materials purchased	Year	No.	%
Primary sources materials	1986-88	2	20
Secondary sources materials	" "	2	20
Equipment	" "	1	10
Total	1986-88	5	50
Types of materials purchased	Year	No.	%
Primary sources materials	1989-90	2	20
Secondary sources materials	" "	2	20
Equipment	" "	1	10
Others	" "	5	50
Total	1989-90	10	100

The opinions of the respondents showed that 20% gave priority to the purchase of primary source materials, another 20% indicated equipment and 50% reported that libraries spent vote on other materials not necessarily having connections with the library needs.

The librarians confirmed that they were not contacted by the accounting officers. This shows that the librarians were not effectively utilized or rather their functions were marginalized and consequently this affected the expected library services.

Table 4.14 shows that majority of the Chief Executives of the libraries investigated usually monopolised the ordering and purchases of library materials and thereby erode part of librarians professional responsibilities. Analysis of the investigations further revealed that 20% of the respondents felt that some primary and secondary source materials were purchased into their libraries between 1989 - 90. The other 10% of the libraries confirmed the purchases of equipments while 50% of the respondents stated that other materials outside their libraries requirement were purchased with the library vote.

Above observation therefore shows that most of the libraries investigated did not give due attention to the purchase of relevant materials. It would have been more approrpriate to spend about 5% instead of 50% of the library funds for other irrelevant services and 20% for other purchases.

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Table 4.16 Types of services offered by the Ten Law Libraries

Services	Number of Law Libraries (N=10)	Percentage
Reference	6	60
Lending	10	100
Indexing and Abstracting	6	60
Bibliographic, Noter-up services	4	40
Selective Dissemination of Information	3	30

Table 4.16 above the researcher examined the types of services offered by the ten law libraries studied. It needs no further emphasis to state that law libraries are specialized set of libraries. They are not like the general reference libraries where every individual who can read and write can make use and derive benefit, and this is because of their specialized nature. They are parochially oriented to the discipline of law though they could shelve non-law books. Thus the various services examined in the above tables are integral part of law library services.

Still in Table 4.16 above five respondents stated that their libraries offer reference services to the users and five others reported that they do not. As for the library lending services it was found that all the ten libraries offer it.

As for the indexing and abstract services it is revealed that six libraries (60%) do offer such services while the remaining four libraries do not.

Four (40%) out of ten libraries investigated offer bibliographic, library bulletin and noter-up services. The other remaining six libraries did not offer such services.

Only three libraries (30%) indicated that they offer services like selective dissemination of information (S.D.I) and photocopying services. The respondents of the other seven libraries confirmed not offering such services. Specialized libraries like the ones investigated should however provide all other services to meet the expectation of the users. Anything short of this usually affects the expected services of the specialized libraries.

Table 4.17 System of borrowing/lending

	No.	%
Ticket/card system	2	20
Ledger system	2	20
Open register	6	60
Other system	0	0
Total	10	100

Out of the ten libraries investigated to determine their systems of borrowing materials to readers; table 4.17 shows that about 20% of the libraries operated Ticket/Card system. Each on presenting to the lending librarian qualified the reader to borrow the intended materials. On returning the book(s) the ticket were given back to the reader. Another 20% of the libraries adopt the ledger system. Each ledger contained particulars about the reader and entries were made in the ledger of the reader duly signed on collection and on return of any materials.

About 60% of the libraries adopted open register system. This system enables the reader to write down his/her name against the material(s) borrowed. The merits of card/tickets system was that it allows the readers to borrow only specific number of books at any given period. The reader was also identified by the card/ticket code number which was person-specific. This system is used by most academic and public libraries.

The "ledger" systems was found to be most applicable in small libraries like the ones investigated. Each reader was provided with a ledger which contains all the necessary information about him/her. The duly completed ledger by the reader qualified him/her to borrow specific number of books. The ledger was normally kept under tight security out of reach of reader. All the materials borrowed were recorded in the ledger and signed by the reader on collection and on return of the same. This system allows the librarian to easily identify the individual records at any given period.

The open register system was mostly adopted in the libraries managed by untrained personnels. It did not give room for easy retrieval of borrower's names and materials due to the nature of jumbled up of names in the register. The open register was not usually neat, the poorest and not popular.

Research Question 3:

To what extent are the Northern States Law Libraries used?

A Law Library which is poorly managed will surely have a negative effect on the services and this will eventually reduce the extent of its use. A Law Library which is poorly patronized by its clienteles can not be said to be living up to an acceptable special library standards.

In this Chapter effort was made to answer the above research question under the following sub-theme tables: Category of users, purpose of using the library and frequency on the use of library.

Under the table category of users, an effort was made to identify the different category of users in the Law Libraries under study. This was considered important because it would reveal calibre of users.

Table 4.18 Categories of Users

Category of users	No.	%
Judges of High & Lower Courts/ Magistrates	285	23.3
Lawyers/Law Students	844	58.9
Private Practitioners/others	96	7.8
Total	1,225	100

Table 4.18 shows that the break down of average readers of ten libraries. It was discovered that there was about 285 or 23.3% average potential users of Judges of High Court/Lower Courts, Magistrates and Registrars all over the ten libraries investigated.

The number of lawyers and law students who used the ten libraries were estimated to be about 844 or 58.9% of the overral population and about 96 or 7.8% the average number of private practitioners and other readers.

The researcher could not get response to the questionnaires or interviewed all the 1,225 estimated readers from the ten libraries and consequently only 215 readers were interviewed or responded to the questionnaires.

In Table 4.19 below an attempt was made to further to determining the purpose of using the Library. This was considered important because it will provide data on whether these libraries are achieving their objectives.

Table 4.19 Purposes of using the library

	No.	%
Reading for leisure, personal books and news papers	132	61.4
For reference and research	83	38.6
Total	215	100

Table 4.19 sought to find out the purposes for which the respondents use the library. It was discovered that 132 or 61.4% come to the library in order to look for a quiet atmosphere to read for leisure. The materials include news papers and personal books. The remaining 83 or 38.6% stated that they use the library for making reference and research. The situation still proved that the libraries did not provide all the expected services, and that was why the percentage of readers of personal books and newspapers

was higher than those who make maximum use of the libraries particularly for reference and research purposes. To attract maximum use of the libraries investigated there was need to provide adequate relevant books, comfortable furniture and condusive accommodation.

Table 4.20 below shows the frequency of the Law Library usage and this aimed at examining their effectiveness.

Table 4.20 Frequency on the use of the Library
(Use of Library)

	No.	%
Regularly	84	39.1
Occasionally	112	52.1
Not at all	19	8.8
Total	215	100

Frequency on the use of library by the readers can be determined by the availability of necessary materials and services provided by the libraries. Table 4.20 above revealed that 84 or 39.1% of the respondents used the libraries regularly. The occasional readers were found to be 112 or 52.1% while the indicated non users of the libraries were 19 or 8.8%. It can therefore be concluded that generally, libraries were not effectively utilized because of certain factors such as lack of available relevant materials poor reading condition and untrained staff who were not able to provide the needed services.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction:

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a summary of findings of the study, draw conclusion and make recommendations. The study was conducted to investigate the management, service and use of law libraries in the Northern States of Nigeria.

5.2 Summary of Findings:

Based on the analysis in chapter four, the findings of the study are summarised as follows:-

5.3 Management

5.3.1 Five out of the ten libraries investigated were found to have been headed by para-professionals. This is to say that they have not got enough professional qualifications and job experience to be able to manage the law libraries effectively.

5.3.2 No Library controls library vote and neither maintains an imprest. All expenses of the libraries were usually forwarded to the Chief Executives for approval no matter how small or urgent. Thus most of the Chief Executives were found to occasionally use library funds at their discretion without necessarily consulting the librarian.

5.3.3 Through careful study of five years budgetary allocations of the ten libraries, it was found that in 1986 the lowest allocation for some libraries was ₦84,000 while the highest amount got by some libraries was #129,630. In 1987 the lowest was #118,000 and highest was #160,000. In 1988 the lowest was #131,000 and highest was #192,000. In 1989 the lowest was #163,000 while the highest was #235,000 and finally in 1990 the lowest amount was #195,000 while the highest was #350,000. It was further discovered that almost 50% of the allocations was usually diverted to other uses different from the purposes they were meant for. Thus only 50% of the library allocation was used for the procurement of books (primary and secondary sources) and other equipment.

5.3.4 It was also found that majority of the

chief executives of the various law libraries usually interfered with the professional duties of the librarians. Some of the chief executives took it upon themselves to undertake ordering, purchasing and selection of library materials.

5.3.5 None of the ten libraries investigated existed as an independent department but rather placed under either administrative department or law reform, legal drafting, public prosecution or civil litigation department respectively.

5.3.6 None of the libraries investigated had written policies which guide the libraries on their operation and services. As for the well defined library rules and regulations only 10% of the libraries had such rules as shown in table 4.32.

5.3.7 Only about 50% of the libraries ascertained that their readers usually complied with what they referred to as library rules and regulations. Readers did not take library rules seriously because they were never reprimanded for any default by the chief executive and the librarian cannot deal with them directly since most of them were seniors to the library staff particularly the para-professionals.

5.3.8 Some 40% of the librarians indicated that they were not usually invited to attend senior staff or heads of department meeting where issues concerning welfare of staff, management and administrative issues or decisions were made.

5.4.1 Services:

All the various libraries were found to be operating different methods of borrowing out materials to readers. The card/tickets, ledger, open register and files were used by different libraries. The majority of the libraries still use the open register. This method was found not to give room for easy searching of readers names and all the materials borrowed out. There was also security risks to library materials because readers often make mistakes by signing in or out against wrong names from the jumble of names in the open register.

5.4.2 The majority of readers, most of them senior lawyers were found to have borrowed large quantity of library materials which were not returned to the libraries only to say that they still need such books to dispose off cases before them. Some of them never cared to return such books to the library even on retirement or transfer of their services to another place.

5.4.3 About 66% of the readers showed their dissatisfaction about the services provided by the ten libraries investigated.

5.4.4 In confirming the inadequacy of book stocks for the ten libraries 130 or 60.5% of the readers expressed their desires for more relevant books in the libraries. About 65 out of 215 or 30.2% were in favour of more qualified

staff and 20 or 9.3% readers wanted better accommodations for the library collections.

5.4.5 Only lending services received maximum attention by the ten libraries and other services suffered undue neglect.

5.4.6 Currently two out of the ten libraries still occupy temporary accommodation and even eight out of the ten libraries that occupy permanent accommodation still complained about their inadequacy.

5.5.1 Use:

The use of the library is mainly by the Lawyers who were found not to care much about rules and regulations of the library, particularly when it comes to returning library books borrowed. Many users were found to have a number of books against their names. This is to say that majority of the library users were defaulters.

5.6 Conclusion

Based on the above findings, the researcher concludes that both Federal and State Governments attached great importance to State High Courts and Ministry of Justice Law Libraries and that was the more reason why they were usually established along with all the newly created States. Consequently the responsibility of funding these law libraries rested on the various State Governments.

The findings of this study enabled the researcher to conclude that all the successive governments or regimes in Nigeria have not been insensitive to the provision of relevant laws, their operation and dispensation of justice. The responsibilities mentioned above rest on the judicial arms of the government, the judges who usually make necessary references to the existing laws stocked in the law libraries for the purposes of making accurate interpretations and decision of the laws. On the other hand Ministry of Justice Law Libraries also provide the lawyers, and the Solicitors to the State Government with necessary information stocked in the law libraries in order to be able to advise, draft relevant laws for the states and apperance in the law court.

However, the findings from this study had helped the researcher to conclude that the current development of the ten libraries investigated with regard to management, use, and services did not commensurate with their growth in number and general requirements of their readers. Law Libraries if properly stocked with relevant legal documents, and conducive reading environment can be one of the interesting reading/research centres particularly to lawyers/judges who cannot afford to be ridiculed before the law court or mess up his/her client's or government case(s). Since most of the legal books were found to be very expensive only few lawyers or judges can buy all the required books for personal uses without relying on the use of the law library at his/her disposal. The libraries investigated do not meet the standards required of a law library if one considers quality and quantity of their staff strength, materials and services provided and other physical facilities.

5.7 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion drawn from this study, the following recommendations are hereby made:-

5.7.1 In recognition of the importance and vitality of law library, facilities needed for research purposes as a vehicle law making and eventual evolution of a stable democratic policy, all the Northern State Governments should as a matter of necessity and priority ensure equiping the growing law libraries with essential books and personnel so as to be able to develop and sustain

benefitting services in accordance with standard requirements.

5.7.2 Law Libraries should as a matter of priority have written policies, rules and regulations to guide their operations and management. The authorities and the librarians should comply with the demand of the library policies, rules and regulations in order to compel library users to respect such policies and regulations so as to ensure effective, reliable use, services, management and security of library materials against intentional defaulters.

5.7.3 I wish to strongly suggest that as a matter of policy the law libraries should stock relevant books and reference materials on Nigerian Law especially current law journals and statutes. The law libraries in Nigeria should also bear in mind that their libraries are in Nigeria and this country is part of the world community, therefore, all Northern States Law Libraries should endeavour to acquire materials from other countries that operate common law system. This will go a long way in harmonizing their standards.

5.7.4 All the ten law libraries investigated should provide enough space for staff, readers, shelves and other equipment. A congested library with staff, books and readers crowded into one small space could be horrifying experience and this is not only unhealthy but also frustrating and disappointing to serious readers.

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If one considers the status of the readers, "Honourable Judges and Learned Lawyers" of the law libraries, the reading environment should be favourably compared with their office rooms. if not better. Thus law libraries should have adequate and comfortable furniture particularly the reading carrels. Moreso, law library should be a fairly cool environment and so should be provided with air-conditioners.

5.7.5 Librarians in all the High Court and Ministries of Justice should be given free hand in performing their professional duties as related to selection, acquisition and prosessing of library materials without undue interferences.

5.7.6 The staff strength of all the present Northern States Law Libraries should be composed of at least one professional librarian who must have a minimum qualification of first degree preferably in the discipline of librarianship and another two or three para-professionals at least one of them should be a Diploma or Certificate holder. This will go a long way to improve the services.

5.7.7 Moys classification scheme should be adopted by all the Northern States Law Libraries. It is the only scheme which currently make adequate provision of all the legal documents. The adoption of Moys classification scheme will ensure uniformity in the classification system of Law Libraries.

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APPENDIX I

LIBRARY STAFF QUESTIONNAIRE

1. (a) Name of the Library.....

   (b) State.....

   (c) How long have you been working in this library?.....

   (d) Present Rank?.....

   (e) Data collected or information given through:
   Tick the correct one (i) Questionnaire
   (ii) Interview.

   (f) Position held now?
   .....

   (g) Year of establishing the library?
   .....

2. How did your library started building its collections and what were the sources? Tick the correct answers below:-

   ☐ Through inheritance from the defunct state.

   ☐ Through gifts and donations

   ☐ Other sources.

3. What was the number of volumes of books when the library was established? Write the figures.

   .....volumes.

4. What is the present volumes of books stocked by the library? Write the figures.

   .....volumes.

10. What were the types of materials purchased by the library between 1986 - 1988? Fill in the boxes below in the order of priority of purchases made: a, b, c and d?

    ☐ Primary sources

    ☐ Secondary sources

    ☐ Library equipments

    ☐ Other materials.

11. What were the types of materials purchased by the library between 1989 - 90? Fill the boxes below in the order of priority of purchases made a, b, c and d?

    ☐ Primary sources

    ☐ Secondary sources

    ☐ Equipment

    ☐ Others

12. Are the present books in your library adequate? Tick the correct answer.

    a. ☐ Yes

    ☐ No.

13. Write down the number of your library staff cadre when it was established?

    a. How many Graduate or Professional Librarians ☐

    b. How many Diploma Certificate or Para-professional Librarians ☐

    c. How many untrained ☐

14. What is the present staff strength of your library?

    a. How many Graduate or Professional Librarians ☐

    b. How many Diploma, Certificate or Para-professional librarians ☐

    c. How many untrained ☐

15. What types of services does your library offer?

    Tick the correct one(s)

    a. ☐ Reference services

    b. ☐ Lending services

    c. ☐ Indexing and Abstracting services

    d. ☐ Bibliographic,Noter-up services and library bulletin.

    e. ☐ Selective dissemination of information (S.D.I) and photocopying.

16. When your library was established was it staying in a permanent or temporal accommodation?

    .....

17. Is your library currently occupying permanent or temporal accommodation?

    .....

18. Is the present library accommodation adequate?
    Tick the correct one.

    ☐ Yes

    ☐ No

19. Please give average number of the library users?

.....

20. Is your library a department of its own or under a department

.....

a. If under a department name the department please?

.....

21. How do you get your problems or issues affecting the library solved with your immediate senior officials? Tick the correct one(s).

☐ Through personal contact

☐ Through memo writing

☐ Through staff meetings.

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22. How frequent do you participate in the staff meeting?

☐ Always

☐ Occasionally

☐ Not at all.

23. What factors do you consider to be affecting services of your library?

☐ Qualified staff

☐ Adequate books

☐ Enough funds.

24. (a) What was the condition of your library furniture on establishment? Tick the correct one(s).

☐ Adequate and comfortable

☐ Inadequate but comfortable

☐ Inadequate and uncomfortable

24. (b) What is your view about the current library furniture? Tick the correct one(s).

☐ Adequate and comfortable

☐ Inadequate but comfortable

☐ Inadequate and uncomfortable.

25. What type of library policy do you operate? Tick the correct one(s).

☐ Written policy

☐ Unwritten policy

☐ Undefined policy.

26. Which of the following rules and regulations does your library have?

☐ Defined written rules and regulations

☐ Unwritten rules and regulations

☐ No defined rules and regulations.

27. Does your readers observe or obey library rules and regulations?

☐ Yes

☐ Occasionally

☐ No

28. Which of the below listed borrowing system does your library adopt?

☐ Ticket/Card system

☐ Ledger system

☐ Open register system/open file

29. Which of the classification scheme adopted by your library?

Tick the correct one(s)

☐ Dewey decimal classification scheme

☐ Moys classification scheme

☐ Library of congress

30. Do you normally enjoy support from your accounting officers?

☐ Always

☐ Occassionally

☐ Not at all

31. How often do you receive constructive criticisms from your readers and superior officers?

☐ Always

☐ Occasionally

☐ Not at all

32. Please give further suggestions which could eventually lead to the development and better services.

APPENDIX II

USER'S QUESTIONNAIRES

1. a. Name of the library.....

   b. State.....

   c. Occupation of the reader?.....

   d. Place of work?.....

2. Data collected for the informat on given through:-

   Tick the correct one(s)

   ☐ Questionnaire

   ☐ Interview

3. Do you have your personal lib ry or some legal collections at home or in the office?

   ☐ Yes

   ☐ No

4. What is your view about the services f this library?

   ☐ Very useful

   ☐ Not useful

5. Why do you use this library at all?

   ....

   ....

6. Hor regular do you use this l'' ary?

   ☐ Regularly

   ☐ Occasionally

   ☐ Not at all

7. Are you satisfied with services of your library?

☐ Satisfied

☐ Fairly satisfied

☐ Not satisfied

8. Does your library have rules and regulations?

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. Which of listed services do you enjoy more from your library?

☐ Reference services

☐ Lending services

☐ Indexing and abstracting services

☐ Bibliographic/Noter-up services and library bulletin.

☐ Selective dissemination of information (S.D.I) and photocopying services.

10. Do you support existence of your library rules and regulations.

☐ Strongly in support

☐ Not necessary

☐ No comments

11. Which area do you want improvement in the services of your library?

☐ Enough book stock

☐ More qualified staff

☐ Better accommodation

12. Please give further suggestions.

.....

.....

.....

.....

APPENDIX III

AN EXAMPLE OF A WRITTEN AND DEFINED LIBRARY RULES AND REGULATIONS. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. MINNA.

The followings constitute the rules and regulations on the use and operations of the Library of this Ministry. The essence of these rules and regulations is premised on not only PRESERVING the available materials therein but also in making them easily available as and when needed by the numerous users of the Library.

KASIUM IBRAHIM LIB.

1. REFERENCE BOOKS:

(a) Books with inscription "REFERENCE ONLY" are strictly meant to be used within the Library and/or the reference room.

(b) No book(s) specific in paragraph (a) above should be loanded or borrowed to anybody or moved without express permission of the librarian.

(c) Where such permission is granted or obtained the borrower shall return the book(s) within two days inclusive of the date of collection.

(d) Failure to comply with (c) above will attract the provisions of Rule 5 below.

2. USE OF LIBRARY:

(a) The Library is open to all the staff of the Ministry.

(b) The use of the library by non staff or the general public is as provided hereunder.

3. NON STAFF:

(a) These include the following categories of people:

i. Law students of Niger State Origin.

ii. Private legal practitioners resident within Niger State. However, those resident outside the State will avail themselves use of the library if he/she is guarantor under Rule 7 below:

iii. Other interested members of the public residing within Minna.

(b) All the non-staff as defined or specified above may or shall not be loaned or borrowed any book(s) material(s) without fulfiling the conditions set out under Rule 7 below:

4. BORROWING LIBRARY BOOKS/MATERIALS:

(a) All professionals (i.e. the Senior Staff of this Ministry) are entitled to borrow not more than five 5 books/materials for the two weeks at any given period.

(b) A Junior staff and non-professional Senior Staff with exception of the Librarian shall not be allowed to borrow more than two books for two weeks.

(c) Non staff may be allowed to borrow any book or books from the library (except those strictly for reference) upon satisfying the following conditions: He/She must

(i) register with the library with a recent passport photograph affixed to the registration ledger.

(ii) provide all required and necessary information on the registration ledger.

(iii) Renew his/her registration every other two years subsequent.

(d) A non staff can borrow atmost three books for a two weeks period only.

(e) A book or books may be renewed on the condition that nobody is waiting or has booked for same.

(f) Borrowers must make sure book(s) loaned or borrowed them are signed for on collection and also on return.

5. BOOKS DUE FOR RETURN:

(a) Any borrower (whosoever) that fails to return any book or books in his/her possession at the expiration date shall be served with an overdue notice by the library.

(b) Any default by the borrower after three days of the service/receipt of the overdue notice shall make himself/herself liable to #2.00 fine per day per book for any other subsequent days he/she retains the book(s).

6. LOSS AND DAMAGE TO LIBRARY BOOKS:

(a) The borrower must pay thrice the current price of book(s) lost or damaged while in his/her custody or possession.

(b) Any deliberate damage or destruction to any book or books by way of removing its pages shall be viewed seriously and referred to the A.G. and or the S.G. for any drastic disciplinary action.

7. BORROWER'S GUARANTOR:

Any of the underlisted can sign as a guarantor for prospective borrower(s). They are:-

(a) The Attorney-General & Commissioner for Justice

(b) The Solicitor-General/Director-General

(c) The Director of Public Prosecution

(d) The Director of Civil Litigation

(e) Other Senior Staff of this Ministry

(f) The Law Librarian.

8. CLEARANCE:

(a) The Commissioner for Justice or the Solicitor-General shall on receipt of a note or on consultation with the Librarian refuse to approve the release of any staff retiring or transfering or the corpers leaving the services of the Ministry until all library books in his/her possession is/are returned to the library.

DATED this 11th day of March, 1985.

SIGNED
LAW LIBRARIAN

SIGNED
SOLICITOR-GENERAL/DIRECTOR-GENERAL

APPENDIX IV

AN EXAMPLE OF WRITTEN LIBRARY RULES AND REGULATIONS

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE LAW LIBRARY
JOS, PLATEAU STATE:

4736

1. Rule.

   Only the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General are allowed to borrow more than four books at a time.

2. Rule.

   Other professional staff, (lawyers) who are permanent staff should not be allowed to borrow more than two - four books at a time and must ensure that they return to the library the loan books within two days.

3. Rule.

   N.Y.S.C. members may be allowed to borrow not more than one book at a time, and should return the said book on the same day or the following day.

4. Rule.

   Any Civil Servant may be allowed to borrow any interested publications/provided he/she produces and surrenders his/her identity card to the library staff until such a time he/she returns the borrowed materials to the library staff.

5. Rule.

Books or publications given out on loan by he who discharged the said books,publications to the borrower must be recovered by him in case the borrower fails to return to the library the borrowed materials.

LAW LIBRARY

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, PLATEAU STATE
JOS.

TO THE BORROWER OF THIS BOOK:

This book belongs to me but no less to you.

You are in honour bound to return this book promptly, on finishing with it; and, in any case, not later than a week from the borrowing date. Renewal is, of course, possible.

A record is kept in the Library of your use of each book and for this purpose a file is opened in your name. A fool proof 'charging' system has been devised: this enables the Library staff to follow any book on its journey from the shelves to your desk and back.

If you lose any book, you will be required to replace it.

It is not allowed to borrowers to exchange or transfer books *inter se*. To do this is to contravene Library regulations and to disrupt Library services.

MUSA IRMIYA
Librarian

APPENDIX V

AN EXAMPLE OF BORROWER'S LEDGER