THE PERCEPTIONS OF NIGERIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIANS TOWARDS THE ROLE OF NIGERIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN MAMSER

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CERTIFICATION

This thesis entitled "The Perceptions of Nigerian Public Librarians towards the Role of Nigerian Public Libraries in MAMSER" by Musa Abdu Auyo meets the regulations governing the award of the degree of Ahmadu Bello University, and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed and developed to test the perceptions of Nigerian public librarians on the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER with respect to their working experience, sex, academic and professional qualifications as well as the administrative placement of the library where they work, as variables. Accordingly, relevant hypotheses were formulated, the data collected through an appropriate instrument. The data is then organized and statistically tested using relevant statistical method. At the end of the analysis of the data so collected, the hypotheses were either provded positive or otherwise. The findings were summarized, conclusions drawn based on the findings. At the end of the exercise, some recommendations were provided which it is hoped will promote a better understanding of the work and role of Nigerian public libraries especially as the relate to the enhancement of MAMSER and other social mobilization programmes of future governments.

Major findings of the study include the existence of significant differences in the perceptions of Nigerian public librarians of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER with respect to working experience, academic qualification and administrative placement of their libraries, while there is no significant sex differences in their perceptions. The study finally concludes that there is no homogeniety of perceptions of Nigerian public librarians on the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER, partly due to lack of adequate information on MAMSER available to them. The paper also concludes that contrary to logical expectations, Nigerian public libraries have not been very much involved in the operations, spirit and

DEDICATION

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ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARIES

The following abbreviations were used throughout this study to mean their corresponding concepts as provided here:

1. MAMSER means Mass Mobilization for Self-Reliance, Social Justice and Economic Recovery Programme.

2. PPPMQ means Perceptions of Public Librarians on the role of Nigerian Public Libraries in MAMSER Questionnaire.

3. LPLM means Librarians Working in Libraries Under Ministries.

4. LALB means Librarians Working in Public Libraries under Autonomous Library Boards.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Ever since 1960 when Nigeria attained political independence from its estwhile colonial master, Britain, subsequent Nigerian governments have made attempts to mobilize the citizenry towards the attainment of specific national objectives. For example, during the military regime under General Yakubu Gowon (Rtd) (1966-75) were efforts towards mobilizing Nigerians to remain united, using the clarion call "To Keep Nigeria One is a Task That Must Be Done". Also during the military regime of General Olusegun Obasanjo (Rtd), (1976-79), there was the Jaji Declaration, an attempt by government to mobilize the citizenry towards achieving national re-orientation, as well as 'Operation Feed the Nation' (OFN) Scheme for mobilizing Nigerians towards massive food production as a way of attaining national food self-sufficiency. Similarly, during the second republic (1979-83) under the civilian leadership of Alhaji Shagari, the government had made similar attempts through its "Green Revolution" as well as mobilizing Nigerians towards ethical rejuvenation through the "Ethical Re-orientation" programme. Furthermore, with the fall of the Second Republic, the then new military regime of General Muhammadu Buhari (Rtd) (1984-1985) launched another national mobilization

scheme, 'War Against Indiscipline' (WAI) with the broad objective of instilling discipline and inculcating patriotism in the minds of Nigerians.

The subsequent military leadership under General Ibrahim Babangida (1985 to date) have also recognized the heed for social mobilization, acknowledged these earlier attempts, but described all of them as being 'flawed'. According to the Directorate for Social Mobilization (1987)[1]

> MAMSER has ancestry. Before it were Obasanjo's Jaji Declaration and Operation Feed the Nation, Shagari's Ethnical Revolution, Buhari's War Against Indiscipline... All of them were fundamentally flawed. Each addressed only one part of a multifaceted problem.

It is perhaps in order to ractify the weaknesses inherent in those earlier attempts that the Babagida administration launched the National Orientation Movement and set up the political Bureau which among other things, is charged with the responsibility of recommending how best effect national mobilization. Based on the subsequent recommendation of the Bureau, a more 'whollistic' scheme was launched by President Babangida on Saturday, 25th July, 1987 under the name "Mass Mobilization for Self Reliance, Social Justice and Economic Recovery" (MAMSER), to which was added presidential impetus with the inauguration on September 2nd, 1987, of the Directorate for Social Mobilization under Decree 31 of 1977, to serve as a backbone

to MAMSER.

According to the decree, the Directorate has the following objectives:

(a) To create a new cultural and productive environment which will promote pride in productive work, self-reliance and self-discipline.

(b) To generally awaken the rights and obligation of the citizen to the nation;

(c) To encourage the people to take part actively and freely in discussions and decisions affecting their general welfare; and

(d) To promote new sets of attitudes and culture for the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Nigerian State.

Subject to the decree the Directorate will have the following functions, that is:

(a) establish an appropriate framework for the positive mobilization and education of all Nigerians towards economic recovery and development and a new social and political order;

(b) awaken the consciousness of all categories of Nigerian to their rights and obligations as citizens of Nigeria;

(c) inculcate in all Nigerians the value and spirit of civic responsibility, commitment to social

justice and economic self-reliance through mobilization and harnessing their energies and natural resources into productive use;

(d) sensitize, induct and equip all Nigerians to fight against external and internal domination of resources by a few individuals or groups;

(e) re-orientate Nigerians to shun waste and vanity and to shed all pretences of affluence in their lifestyles;

(f) to promote self reliance and pride in the consumption of home produced commodities;

(g) to prepare the framework for creating the basic institutions and norms of democracy at all levels in the society;

(h) create consciousness about power and its use and the proper role of government in serving the collective interest of Nigerians;

(i) ensure that materials which appear, in both the electronic and the print, are in consonance with the national objectives of self reliance, social justice, human rights, democratic norms, economic recovery and development;

(j) propagate the need to eschew all vices in public life including corruption, dishonesty, electoral and census malpractices, ethnic and religious bigotry;

(k) propagate the virtues of hardwork, honesty, self reliance, commitment to and promotion of national integration; and

(l) inculcate in all Nigerians the virtues of patriotism and positive participation in national affairs.

Subsequent to the foregoing, the Directorate has resolved to focus on three key programmes in its attempts of meeting those objectives; namely

(a) Mass mobilization for self reliance, social justice and economic recovery (MAMSER).

(b) Political education; and

(c) Mass Education.

This study essentially focusses on the perception of Nigerian public librarians of the role of Nigerian public libraries in enhancing the accomplishment of the first programme, i.e., MAMSER.

According to president Babangida (1987)[2] MAMSER is aimed at eradicating "all features of our behaviours in the past which made our society a bymerd of disharmony, dishonesty, distrust and disservice... the principles of MAMSER are freedom, democracy, equality of all citizens before the law, justice, fairplay and fundamental human rights". MAMSER is intended according to Gana (1987)[3]

Chairman, Directorate for Social Mobilization, "to focus on ways and means of mobilizing Nigeria's labour resources to generate greater productivity, to ensure economic recovery and self-reliance".

Successive governments in this country have, at different levels, identified various methods through which they seek to realize the goals and objectives of their respective mobilization programmes. MAMSER for one is intended by the Babangida administration, to be carried out through, according to Gana such tools as radio and television programmes, local governments, community level organizations, co-operative, labour unions as well as agencies involved with adult education.

According to Babangida, (1987)[4] one of the focal points of the social mobilization drive are the professional and voluntary associations in order:

> to learn from them and to impact to them the means better to apply their professional skills and resources in the service of our great goals...

Thus, in line with this commitment, various segments of the Nigerian society - professional associations, youth organizations, soldiers, police, women organization, etc. have been discussing (in private, public and professional fora) the various possible ways through which to make their contributions to the success of these programmes:

Librarians in Nigeria are not left behind in this effort.

Mass mobilization by its nature pre-supposes the deliberate involvement of the public in its implementation as well as communicating with them through various medium which the mass of the people have access to. Interestingly on the other hand, of all the different types of libraries (academic, school, special, private) the public library is the most freely accessible to the mass of the people without discrimination and for whom it is established. Thus by its nature the public library is most suited to the efforts for and most important in mass mobilization drive of this country and elsewhere, as Oloruntoba (1989)[5] has similarly observed:

> In any society like ours where technological breakthrough, rapid political education and economic development are the set goals, the place of libraries as agents of socialization, mass mobilization, public enlightenment... can not be over-emphasized. By its nature and collections the public library is everybody's library, the masses are its clientele and its collections are greared towards the success of mass literacy - public enlightenment and academic pursuit.

Despite this organic link however, it is quite perplexing to note, from personal experiences that it is yet unclear whether Nigerian public librarians public themselves have any clear and harmoneous perception of what roles public libraries could play in the drive for MAMSER. As Malumfashi (1988)[8] has also observed:

> One of the agencies where information is organized for human utilization is the library but it is a pity to observe that MAMSER has not fully appreciated the role the library can play in the mobilization process.

In other words, it is apparent that both the Nigerian public librarians and MAMSER officials have no clear perceptions of the organic link between their two institutions.

1.2 THE PROBLEM

There is little doubt that one's perception of any phenomenon, issue or concept affects his or her attitude towards it. By extension therefore, how public librarians perceive the roles of their institutions in mass mobilization is likely to affect their attitude towards MAMSER, whether negatively, positively or even indifferently. Casual observations by the researcher of some public libraries since the launching of MAMSER have in fact made him wonder whether public librarians in Nigeria have understood the concept of MAMSER as well as the role they play in promoting it. In other words, there seems to be an obvious role ambiquity on the part of Nigerian public librarians with regard to the role of their libraries in the mass mobilization programme. Their operations and collections do not seem to indicate any significant 'MAMSER touch'.

Thus, this study intends to obtain the characterization of MAMSER and the role of public libraries in promoting it as perceived by Nigerian public librarians, with regards especially to the following dimensions: Self reliance, social justice and economic recovery.

1.3 RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

This study is based on the following hypotheses:

1. There is no significant difference in the perceptions of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER among public librarians working under autonomous library boards and those public librarians who work under libraries directly run by State Ministries. The justification for this hypothesis is based on the conviction of the researcher that the members of the latter group of public librarians are likely to be more directly involved in MAMSER since certain ministries such as those of Information and Education under which most libraries are, have been specifically mentioned by the directorate for Social mobilization as agents for the propagation of MAMSER. Thus, it is assumed their perceptions of the roles of public libraries in MAMSER will likely be different from those of the former reference group.

2. There is no significant difference in the perceptions of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER among more experienced Nigerian public librarians and less experienced Nigerian public librarians. This hypothesis is justified on the ground that the former reference group are likely to have accumulated professional and other relevant experiences to enable them be differently perceptive to certain issues than the latter reference group.

3. There is no significant difference in the perceptions of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER among more qualified and less qualified Nigerian public librarians. The justification for this hypothesis is that, it is likely that the former reference group is likely to have more theoretical and research exposures to such issues as libraries and social mobilization than the latter reference group.

4. There is no significant sex difference in the perceptions of Nigerian public librarians on the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER. This hypothesis is justified on the ground that sex might influence perceptions and opinions of Nigerian public librarians on certain issues, just as it has on many social issues.

1.4 ASSUMPTION OF THE STUDY

This study is based on the following assumptions:

1. That Nigerian public librarians do not have clear and harmoneous perception of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER.
2. That it is possible to obtain a realistic insight of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER as perceived by Nigerian public librarians based on personal experiences, observations and purposive sampling of the various reference groups for this study.
3. That purposive sampling of Nigerian public librarians can provide an adequate representation of all Nigerian public librarians.
4. That the subjects will respond honestly in reperting their perceptions of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER with respect to self-reliance, social justice and economic recovery.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study is and designed to focus on the following objectives:

1. To determine the perceptions of Nigerian public librarians towards the role of the Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER.

2. The study is focussed only on MAMSER (thereby excluding the other programmes of the Directorate for Social Mobilization, i.e. political education and mass education).

1.7 OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

For the purpose of clarity, the following terms have been used in the study as to correspond with the respective definitions provided herewith.

1. Perception (Social) is hereby defined as having to do with the influence of socio-cultural factors on the cognitive structuring of man's physical and social environment. In other words, it is about receiving, selecting, acquiring, transforming and organizing the information supplied through our senses which is capable affecting man's outlook of any phenomenon.

2. Role is hereby defined as also by Katz and Khan[7] as "standardized patterns of behaviour required of all persons playing a part in a given functional relationship, regardless of personal wishes or interpersonal obligations relevant to the functional relationship".

3. Nigerian Public Librarians: by this is mean all those public library personnels who held a minimum

academic qualification of a first degree or its equivalent in library and/or related fields. Also included here are those personnel with an equivalent qualification as above in other fields but who are holders of additional recognized certificate in librarianship or membership of a professional library association.

4. More experienced public librarians is hereby meant to be those reference group members as described above who have worked in a public library for at least five years.

5. Less experienced public librarians is meant to describe members of the reference group as described in (3) above but whose working experience in a public library is less than five years.

6. The terms more qualified and less qualified public librarians are used throughout this work to mean the reference group as defined in (3) above but who have a post graduate qualification in library and related fields for the former while the latter i.e, less qualified public librarians is meant to be the reference group members with only a first degree or its equivalent qualification in library or related fields.

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CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This study seeks to examine the perceptions of Nigerian public librarians towards the role of the public library in mass mobilization in Nigeria. Specifically, it attempts to examine their role perceptions with respect to the mass mobilization campaign of the present military regime (1985 -), MAMSER.

The review therefore seeks to examine articles, research studies and general literature produced by other people and related to the problem under study. This is because knowledge of what has so far been recorded on the problem will help avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. It will also serve as an aid in determining what contribution(s) this study can make in relation to adding knowledge of what is already known on the problem.

The researcher has acknowledged the fact that there are lots of publications on the separate concepts of role perception, mass or social mobilization, public libraries, and (mostly in newspapers) MAMSER. It is however his conviction based on personal experiences that there are only few, if any on the specific problem under study.

In accordance with the objectives of this study, this review seeks to mainly cover the following areas as they relate to the topic under study.

2.1 Nature of role and role perception.

2.2 Social Mobilization and MAMSER.

2.3 The functions of Nigerian public libraries.

2.4 The connection between public libraries and mass mobilization.

2.1 NATURE OF ROLE AND ROLE PERCEPTION

Role, or the task assigned to a person in an undertaking is like many abstract concepts, difficult to precisely define. In their study on the problems associated with the concept of role, Neiman and Hughes[1] have reported that "the concept of role as at present is still rather vague, nebulous and non-definitive". Similarly Naylor[2] and his colleagues have observed that: concepts to characterize situations involving prescribed patterns of behaviours, the results of this approach are not as impressive as one might hope". They cited a work by Biddle and Thomas (Ibid)[3] which concured this view by observing that the state of developing a definite role theory is in-complete and lacks denotative clarity.

However, some writers have made some progressive attempts that represent an improvement towards evolving more definitive role theories. For example, in their

study of social psychology of organizations, Katz and Khan[4] have defined role as:

> Standardized patterns of behaviour required of all persons playing a part in a given functional relationship, regardless of personal wishes or interpersonal obligations relevant to the functional relationship.

Also Havigurst and Nargenten[5] in their work on social relations have defined role as a "coherent pattern of behaviour common to all persons who fill the same position or place in society; and pattern of behaviour expected by other members in society". Roots and Starke[6] as reported by Naylor have postulated three different definitions of role which they provided as:

1. a general pattern of behaviour accepted by a large number of persons in a culture or sub-culture;
2. sets of expected behaviour patterns held by those who interact with the individual occupying a position; and
3. the actual behaviour of occupants of a given position within an organization or society.

A more 'scientific' approach to the role concept is provided by Naylor (Op cit 1980)[7] and his colleagues

who attempted to define role by viewing role behaviour as products and role as a pattern of contingencies. Accordingly they define role as:

> A set of or pattern of non-zero contingencies between a perceived set of products for a focal person and the evaluation of those products on the part of same person (either self or other).

From the literature on role available to the study we can recognize the existence of four concepts which are necessary for the conclusive manifestation of the role process. These are the role sender i.e., the person who held some set of behaviours which he expects the person playing the role to display; the role expected of the focal person; the focal person or the subject of interest who is expected by the role sender to display certain behaviours; and the role which the focal person actually displays based on perception of his own role. The relationship or interaction of these concepts in the process of role is impressively presented by Katz and Khan, the sum-total of which they described as role episode.

There are differences between what the role senders expect of the focal person in terms of role playing or behaviour and what the latter expects of himself in that respect and these differences are very

crucial to the performance of role. It is thus axiomatic that the way a role is perceived by the focal person greatly determines how effectively he performs that role. On the relationship between role expectation and response, Gross Mason and McZachem have identified a number of significant relationships. Gordon[8] has similarly reported of "the tendency to identify a given individual with a given role, and a complementary tendency for an individual to adopt a given role."

Self evaluation on the part of the focal person has been associated with role performance. Gough and Peterson as reported by Khan and Katz[9] have found out that the number of roles played by an individual was related to his ability to be self-critical and that deficiency in role performance led to an increasing inability to see one-self in objective terms.

Also, the placement of the focal person (his 'office') is found to be among the basic determinants of role perception. For example, Stouffer[10] and his colleagues have reported of "sharp differences between officers and enlisted men towards the army with officer opinion consistently more favourable".

Azare[11] in his study of the role perceptions of schools vice-principals has noted that "to determine the role of any person, it is necessary to first locate his position in the set of on-going relationships and behaviours among members of his role set" adding that:

> The key concept of doing this in a formal organization... is office; by which is meant a particular point in the organizational set up with a set of activities and expected behaviours associated with the incumbent.

Role perception by public librarians has been studied by Reid-Smith[12] who reported that public librarians have considerably less positive and unclear perceptions of their roles in adult education. Also Bryan[13] has observed that librarian have:

> From time to time... official or private inquiries have tried to define more precisely what it was the public library had been, could or should be doing... not all have been explicit of their conception of the library's role".

2.2 SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AND MAMSER

The concept of social mobilization as a deliberate and conscious effort towards energizing people of a given social setting to attain social goals has attracted the atention of many writers. Social

mobilization efforts have thus been geared towards achieving some developmental goals of society, as Benge[14] has observed:

> The concept of 'development' implies a mobilization of the people to work for aims and ends which are beyond present achievement and beyond their own immediate personal interests.

The Directorate for Social Mobilization seems to agree with this view when it observed that "Mobilization of creative energies of our people... lies in the root of genuine development. From the perspective of the directorate,[15] mobilization was viewed as:

> The process of pooling together, harnessing, actualizing and utilizing potential human resources for the purpose of development. It is a process whereby human beings are made aware of the resources at their disposal, and are also motivated and energized to collectively utilize such resources for the improvement of their spiritual and material conditions of living.

Similarly, Oberscall[16] has described mobilization as "a process of forming crowds, groups, associations and organizations for the pursuit of collective goals... in which a social unit gains relatively and rapidly its control over resources it previously did not control". Writing on political

The social mobilization effort in the Nigerian context would be affected, according to the directorate (1987)[20] within the framework of Nigeria's five national goals which are the building of

(a) a united, strong and self-reliant nation;

(b) a great and dynamic economy;

(c) a just and egalitarian society;

(d) a land of bright and full opportunities for all citizens;

(e) a free and democratic society.

As mentioned earlier, MAMSER is the main focal point of this study and together with political education and mass education, they constitute the three key programmes of the Directorate for Social Mobilization.

Nigeria's information Minister, Tony Momoh[21] while speaking on MAMSER stated that:

> The principal objective of MAMSER is to provide each Nigerian with the right political orientation... al citizens irrespective of their social and economic status and their level of education, will have full access to the opportunity of widening their political consciousness and knowing their civic rights, privileges and responsibilities.

Also, Kay[22] writing on the aims of MAMSER has stated inter-alia that:

> MAMSER aims at inculcating patriotism, rekindling nationalism, creating a new awareness and consciousness... presenting the government not as an isolated machination of a few men, but as a testament, a social contract between the rulers and the ruled.

Considering the magnitude of MAMSER's task one might be tempted to ask; what strategies does the government intend to follow in order to achieve the objectives of MAMSER? Gana,[23] Chairman of the Directorate for Social Mobilization has in a speech at a press conference titled 'MAMSER's Critical Functions' provided a clue to the answer when he stated that:

> In addition to the use of radio and television programmes, the Directorate has designed a strongly community-based strategy of social mobilization. The Directorate intends to make local government and community level organs the main centres of mobilization, leaders of co-operative, labour unions... etc. shall be effectively involved.

Speaking on the same theme, Babangida[24] has stated that the campaign will focus on the family, students, youth organizations, village wards and clan councils, farmers and farmer's co-operatives, workers and labour unions, etc.

A close examination of the concept of mass mobilization seems to reveal that there are certain vital

requirements for its success. The most important seems to be communications, mass education and information which coincidentally also constitutes the focal points of library services especially the public type. The Director of Mass Education in the Directorate for Social Mobilization, Aji[25] seems to agree with this view which he stated that:

> No nation ever progresses without making universal and popular education directed towards those who produce its wealth. Community libraries are one of those avenues that promote man's enlightenment and the enhancement of people's skills and abilities.

Also, the editorial column of the Daily Times[26] newspaper is of the opinion that for MAMSER to succeed:

> ... its campaign must reach every home no matter how remote. This called for effective combination of the mass and the traditional media of communication in the dissemination of its pursuasive messages.

On the value of education to MAMSER, Ujo[27] writing on 'MANSER and Social Justice' has observed that:

> The idea of social justice in Nigeria will have little meaning if the eradication of illiteracy is not put on the policy agenda. It is easier to mobilize an educated person than an illiterate one.

2.3 THE FUNCTIONS OF NIGERIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

A study of their functions is essential to the proper understanding of Nigerian public libraries' role in any social programme. Public libraries in Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa receive their roles and functions in the famous UNESCO seminar on public libraries in Africa which took place in Ibadan in 1953. The public library is the type that is set up whooly or partly from public funds and the use of which is not restricted to any class of persons in the community but is freely accessible to all. The American Library Association's Standards[28] for public libraries as reported by Zakari has outlined the expected functions of public libraries which were listed as among others:

> ... to assist people to contribute to the growth of knowledge, make much use of leisure as will promote personal and social well-being, develop their creative and spiritual capabilities to be more capable in their daily occupations, discharge political and social obligations...

Also, Ishola[29] has described the public library as a 'people's university' and a living force for education, culture and information... concerned with the freshment of man's spirit by the provision of... up-to-date technical, scientific and socio-economic information.

The historical genesis of development of Nigerian public libraries is characterized by three things which are:

1. Its pragmatic nature with the different political units of the country initiating and developing, at different times, their own services unilaterally. In this regard, Omoniwa[30] has reported Adeyemi as having observed that the evolution of Nigerian public libraries was "on regional basis as a result of which library development in each region depended largely on the foresight and enthusiasm of the political leaders that emerged in each region".

2. Most blue print for public library services in the country for many states are based on reports of government commissioned panels set up at different times and in different locations of the country. Notable among these reports were, as also noted by Omojowo[31]

   (a) The Library Needs of Northern Nigeria: A Report prepared under the Special Commonwealth Assistance Plan" headed by F.A. Sharr.

   (b) "Eastern Region Library Survey: A Report to the Eastern Region Library Board, 1956" the

survey was conducted by Kalu Okorie.

(c) "A Library Service for Mid-Western State of Nigeria: A Report" prepared by John Harris and Priscilla Harris for the State Government, etc.

3. Despite the pragmatic and varied nature of these developments, public libraries in Nigeria share the same functions (almost), which are drawn from principally the same source i.e., the landmark UNESCO seminar. Alegbeleye[32] has similarly observed that ever since that seminar "Nigerian public libraries have utilized the objectives of public libraries as enuciated at the seminar as wet stones on which to sharpen their own library objectives".

According to that seminar,[33] public libraries in Africa should have the following functions:

(a) to warrant support and reinforce programmes of adult and fundamental education;

(b) to provide effective services for children and young people...;

(c) to promote and stimulate reading for pleasure and recreation;

(d) to provide needed information and reference services; and

(e) to provide, wherever needed, adequate services for special groups... in order to ensure availability of resources on equal terms to all members of the community.

Some writers have focussed on some contradictions in terms of Nigerian public libraries' efforts to perform these functions. For example, Alegbeleye[34] has observed that:

> As to be expected Nigerian public libraries have always found it convenient to include the provision of information as one of their cherished objectives. Unfortunately, public libraries do not usually specify who to be provided with information whether to cotorie of users who happen by some good fortune to be literate or every one irrespective of social class.

The implication of this statement to the thrust of this study is the existence, apparently, of role ambiquity on the part of Nigerian public libraries, i.e., a situation whereby persons given a certain role are uncertain about the produce of that role. Similar view was expressed by Omojomo[35] who observed that:

> Of all types of libraries... it is only the public library that is accessible to the masses. But unfortunately, even this apparent

> democratic quality of our public libraries applies only in theory. This is because there are contradictions which in practice heavily undermine their usefulness to the masses.

This apparent role abiquity is also observed by Aji[36] according to him "very few people among educationists and librarians seem to care about the critical roles libraries can play in the promotion and reinforcement of mass literacy among common people". Many other writers have apparently observed this lapse between theory and practice, inadequacy of Nigerian public library services especially to the poor illiterate majority, and have tried to provide explanation for the lapses. Alegbeleye[37] for example has postulated that:

> There appears to be historical reasons for the non-use of public libraries by the silent majority of Nigerians. The legacy of circumscribe and limited conception of services - a service that is limited to the educated few - is owed to the trio of colonial government, the early 'library men' and the so-called experts who have had the fortune to be sent to Nigeria to give advice on library development.

Aboyade[38] has similarly noted that "while there are a number of writings to show how the library can be used

to promote literacy, there is not much to show how libraries can benefit people "inspite" of their literacy".

2.4 THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MASS MOBILIZATION

This study will now attempt to review some writings by others which hopefully, will provide an impression of the connections between public libraries and mass mobilization, especially as they relate to Nigeria. At this juncture, one might be tempted to ask: Why attention on public libraries alone (as against other library types) as agents of mass mobilization? The answer is two-fold in that it is because of (a) factors such as time and space limit in the study together with the need for focus in studying the problem and (b) above all, mass mobilization has always been directed to the masses in society and that as also observed by Omojomo[39] of all the types of libraries... it is the public library that is accessible to the masses". In fact, in their essence public libraries embrace the functions of all other library types since its potential users include clienteles for all other library types.

Public libraries like other institutions of society have to perform societal functions as pointed out by

Adiseshiah (1982)[40] who stated that "in many countries, the public library has come to be considered as an irreplaceable social institution... of positive value for economic and social progress". Murrison[41] has similarly noted that "the importance of public libraries can be measured by the effect for good they have in society". Writing on the role expected of the public library in society, Haffman[42] is of the view that: "if the library remains a passive institution while other agencies such as those mechandizing food, clothing and hard goods are active, it will tend to loose importance as a vital organ of society".

In a paper titled "MAMSER: What Public Libraries Can Do" Bello[43] was of the view that: "if government wants to succeed in MAMSER... funds must be released to the public libraries, additing that... "libraries can mobilize rural dwellers by organizing public lectures, using video tapes, posters, films, cassettes, magazines, newspapers so that villagers can participate actively".

Oloruntoba[44] has provided a vivid illustration of how public libraries are relevant to social mobilization programmes when he stated that:

> In any society like ours where technological breakthrough, rapid political education and economic development are the set goals the place of libraries as agents of socialization, mass mobilization, public enlightenment, functional literacy... can not be over-emphasized.

Adebayo[45] writing under the caption: "Social Mobilization: Maryam seeks Intellectual Support" has stated that "documentation and sharing of life experiences in books and other publications are relevant to the promotion and propagation of any mobilization programme.

Of all the literature under review that have focussed on issues relevant to this study, one has so far specifically focussed on the perceptions of the Nigerian public librarians on the role of their institutions on MAMSER. It is in this respect that this study becomes unique.

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CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This study is undertaken with the broad goal of testing the perceptions of Nigerian public librarians towards the roles of their libraries in social mobilization programmes, particularly MAMSER. This would be done in order to provide empirical data and information to all concerned about the subject matter of the study.

From the onset of the Federal Government's mass mobilization programme, MAMSER, on the 25th of July 1987, it became apparent to some observers, including this researcher, that public librarians in Nigeria would likely have different perceptions about the roles of their institutions in MAMSER. Specifically, it is hypothised that variables such as age, working experience, administrative placement of the library, level of academic qualification, as well as sex may influence those perceptions. It is posited that one's perception of a phenomenon may have a strong influence on his or her attitude or disposition towards it. Accordingly, therefore, the perceptions of public librarians towards the roles of their institutions in MAMSER may have significant effects - negative, neutral or positive towards their roles in advancing the ideals of MAMSER. This study is

primarily undertaken to expose those perceptions with a view to provide suggestions as to how they could be transformed to have positive impact on the roles of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER.

3.2 RESEARCH METHOD

Given the fact that the study is supposed to involve public librarians working in public libraries all over the country, the survey research method was employed as to provide the most adequate chance of obtaining data reflective of all public library situations in the country. Also, the nature of the study itself i.e., being an opinion or attitude survey of a substantial population of a professional group, suggests that the survey research is the most appropriate for this study. This is because as also observed by Busha,[1] the method is characterized by

> "... the selection of random samples from large and small populations to obtain empirical knowledge of a contemporary nature. This knowledge allows generalization to be made about characteristics, opinions, beliefs, attitudes and so on of the entire population being studied."

In a study such as this about which the investigator is practically handicapped as to his ability to interview or question the entire population, survey research technique is also considered most relevant in terms of

efficiency, representation, time-saving and reliable accuracy.

Moreover, within the context of research in the field of librarianship, the survey research is considered the most suitable technique particularly to be employed to study among others, as Busha[2] also suggested.

1. Attitudes and opinions of librarians about their professions;
2. What librarians think about their status within the profession; and
3. Attitudes of students towards library school curricula and library education in general.

It is basically for these reasons that the survey research was employed for collecting data for this study which is on role perception by public librarians.

3.3 POPULATION AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The population for this study comprises all Nigerian library personnel with a basic qualification of a first degree or its equivalent who were working in public libraries in Nigeria. This population is considered as the backbone of the most informed segment of Nigerian public library workers, sufficiently capable of articulating opinions and whose opinions on library issues may significantly affect the services provided by their libraries.

In order to ensure that the characteristics of the subjects is representative of the population, stratified random sampling was employed by randomly sampling five established state public library services from the ten established state public library services in the Southern part of Nigeria and six from the eleven established state public library services in the Northern part of the country. The subjects for this study therefore are sampled from public librarians drawn from the eleven randomly selected state public library services. The stratified sampling was specifically carried out within each of the two stratum (i.e. Northern and Southern public library services by writing the names of the libraries each on a piece of paper, squeezing the individual papers and mixing them up, and then picking the required number of papers by chance within each strata.

In all, two hundred and twenty subjects were selected based on random sampling from the eleven public library services picked. In the final analysis however, only one hundred and seventy-six subjects were used due to cases of motality of the remaining forty-four subjects.

.4 *RESEARCH INSTRUMENT*

Relevant to the objectives and hypotheses of this study, a perceptions of public librarians on public

libraries role in MAMSER (PPPM) questionnaire was constructed and used to collect data for the study. The questionnaire was divided into five sections. Section I requests the subjects to tick as appropriate, information related to their personal and library backgrounds. The information requested for include academic qualifications, working experience, age, sex, beucratic placement of the library in which they were working, etc.

Section II requires the respondents to respond as appropriate, to questions related to the roles of their institutions in MAMSER, by indicating whether some statements relating to the functions of Nigerian public libraries are very important, important, neutral, unimportant or very unimportant to the promotion of the aims and objectives of MAMSER.

Section III of the questionnaire contains questions which seek to obtain information on the level of importance which respondents attach to the roles of public libraries in the attainment of the four specific objectives of the Directorate for Social Mobilization and the three major components of MAMSER i.e, self-reliance, social justice and economic recovery.

Section IV of the questionnaire requires the respondents to consider each of the stated activities or group of

activities carried out in public libraries in which they work and indicate their agreements or otherwise on whether the activities of the Directorate should affect the stated library activities in such ways as pointed at by indicating whether they strongly agree, neutral, disagreed or strongly disagreed to the Directorate's involvement.

Section V of the questionnaire requires the respondents to freely comment on any issue(s) about the role they expect Nigerian public libraries to play in MAMSER or any other related issue which may not have been covered by the previous sections.

In all, the questionnaire contained six items in Section I and a total of twenty-two items in Sections II, III, and IV. Items in the aforementioned three sections would chiefly be involved in collecting data to be quantified for statistical analysis.

In order to test the strength of the instrument, a pilot study was conducted on subjects in four different state public libraries prior to its final administration on the respondents for the study proper. At the end of the study, it was found that all the questions have elicited appropriate responses. None of the items is found or reported to be difficult to understand, ambigous or vague, nor controvertial or too sensitive to the respondents.

3.5 PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTING DATA

For the purpose of collecting data relevant to the study, the instrument was administered to the respondents at their respective stations through entirely three ways viz: personally administered by the researcher, through the use of some research assistants personally selected by the researcher, and by post (actually few). In all eleven (11) state public library services were covered out of the then existing twenty-one (21) public library services in Nigeria. Those covered have a reasonable spread in the country comprising of Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, (former Kwara), Benue and Niger in the Northern part of the country and the Middle Belt; and Rivers, Lagos, (former Oyo), (former Bendel), and (former Anambra) states in the Southern part of Nigeria.

For collecting back the completed questionnaires, the researcher and his assistants were the ones that were involved as no postal aid was used.

An interval of at least ten (10) days was granted the respondents within which to study and respond to the questions. The semester break was used as most of the research assistants were less engaged by their academic pursuits and were on holidays at their respective states of origin. The period provided an opportunity for the researcher and the assistants to personally see to the

administration, reminders and subsequent collation of the completed questionnaires. At least in two (2) of the states however, the administration and the subsequent collection of the completed questionnaires have to be undertaken by posting them first to an appointed assistant resident in the selected state who ensured the administration and collection of the questionnaires. They were then collected personally from the assistant by the researcher. A sample of the instrument and the introduction note is provided in the appendix.

The assistants involved were initially briefed on the subject matter of the study and unclear procedures clarified before they were assigned their respective duties. The subjects in most cases were found to be co-operative and willing.

3.6 PROCEDURE FOR SCORING AND ANALYSING DATA

As mentioned earlier, to take measures of the perceptions of Nigerian public librarians on the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER, the questionnaire was constructed which was divided into five (5) sections. Section I which contained six (6) items relating to such information as academic qualification, working experience, age and sex of the respondents would essentially be used to collect data relevant to the determination of important

variables vital to the study. Sections II, III, and IV are about the functions of the public library in Nigeria, the objectives and basic components of MAMSER, and some basic library activities respectively. Altogether, the three sections contain twenty-two (22) items requesting the respondents to rate roles of the Nigerian public libraries in the realization of MAMSER's aims and objectives and vice-versa on five point scales of very important, important, undercided, unimportant and very unimportant (for sections II and III); and strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagreed or strongly disagreed (for section IV) as might be the case.

In order to quantify the data obtained by the use of the questionnaire based on the three sections mentioned above (comprising twenty-two items altogether), a five-point scale was constructed. For each statement in the three sections and in the order stated in the last paragraph, the numerical units 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. Maximum and minimum scores for section II which contains nine (9) items could be 45 (9x5) and 9 (9x1), for section III 35 (6x5) and 7 (7x1), and for section IV 30 (6x5) and 6 (6x1).

The last section of the questionnaire, Section V, requires the respondents to freely comment on issues related to the problem under study, and therefore does

not require quantification on such scales. However, data obtained from the section would be of great use for other non-statistical analysis in the study.

For the statistical analysis of the data for this study, the inferential statistical method was considered best because it provides researchers relevant tools by which they can be able to estimate how they can confidently infer that phenomenon observed in samples would also be observed from the population from which the samples are drawn. Therefore, it is considered that this method would enable us estimate the reliability of our observations. In otherwords, it would enable us test adequately and statistically, our research hypotheses.

Various indices used in inferential statistical methods were accordingly considered to determine the most relevant for our use. In the final analysis, the chi-square (X^2) test for indipendent samples was chosen because of the following reasons:

1. The design for this research is that of a two-independent sample type because the study seeks to compare the performance of subjects under two levels of some independent variables (such as experience in terms of more experienced and less

experienced, qualification in terms of more qualified and less qualified, sex, in terms of male or female etc.) in order to determine whether such variables affect the behaviour or more specifically the perceptions of the subjects on the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER. In this type of design, the samples, as in this research are said to be independent (not related) because the design involves the random allocation of subjects to two sets of entirely independent groups.

2. The nature of the data for this study is such that it can only be adequately qualified and used to allow for reasonable generalizations by non-parametric tests which, as in this study (a) can only be measured on nominal and ordinal scale and not interval or ratio and (b) makes no assumption that the two samples of data are drawn from populations that have normal distributions. This point has eliminated the chance of considering parametric independent two sample tests such as the normal distribution (Z) test for independent samples and the t-test. Accordingly, we were left with only two possible opinions of non-parametric tests i.e., the Mann-Whitney test and the Chi-square test for contingency tables.

3. Of these two possible options, the Chi-square was finally chosen because the Mann-Whitney test, though similarly does not make assumption about the 'normality' of the population distribution as the Chi-square test, but could only be used on ordinal or internal scaling - and not nominal. It is only the chi-square test for contingency tables that satisfied the requirements for this particular study, some aspects of which data can only be measured on nominal scaling and which is therefore most appropriately useful for comparing groups in which the behaviour of the subjects can be classified into discrete, qualitatively different categories.

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CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND ANALYSES OF DATA

PREAMBLE

In the preceding chapter, a detailed discussion of the methodology was given. In this chapter, therefore, details of the analyses of the data is presented. For clear presentation of the results of the study, the analyses of the data are discussed in sequential order.

ANALYSES OF DATA

1. Ho. There is no significant difference in the perception of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER between librarians in autonomous library boards and those in public libraries under ministries.

To statistically test the above hypothesis, the PPMQ scores for the two groups (librarians in libraries under ministries LPLM and librarians in autonomous library boards, LALB) were obtained. In addition, the frequencies of those who showed high perception and low perception towards the role of public libraries in MAMSER (for the two groups) was obtained using 55 and above and below 50 for the high and low perception respectively. A total number of 99 (56 LPLM and 43 LALB) subjects were obtained as those who showed high perception and 59 (21 LPLM and 38 LALB) subjects as those who showed low

perception. The remaining 18 subjects who did not fall within the two extremes were not considered.

Table 4.1A: Shows the frequencies obtained

	High Perception	Low perception	
LPLM	56/48*	21/29*	77
LALB	43/51*	38/30*	81
	99	59	158

* Expected frequencies.

Table 4.1B: Calculations

	LALB	LPLM	
HP	56/48*	43/51*	99
LP	21/29*	38/30*	59
	77	81	158

$$X^2 = \frac{E(fo-fe)^2}{E}$$

0	E	0-E	$(0-E)^2$	$\frac{(0-E)^2}{E}$
43	51	-8	64	1.25
56	48	8	64	1.33
38	30	8	64	2.13
21	29	-8	64	2.21
				6.93

Using the data above, the preceding hypothesis was tested using the chi-square statistics. The calculated chi-square is 6.93 (df=1). This is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is significant difference in the perception on the role of public libraries in MAMSER between the librarians in public libraries under ministries and those in public libraries under autonomous library boards.

2. Ho. There is no significant difference in the perception of the role of public libraries in MAMSER between the more experienced and less experienced Nigerian public librarians.

To test the above hypothesis, frequencies of the more experienced and less experienced public librarians were obtained from the 158 subjects who were categorized as those who showed high and low perception on the role of public libraries in MAMSER. Subjects who have been working in public libraries for more than five years were regarded as more experienced whereas subjects who have been working for less than five years as less experienced.

Table 4.2A: Shows the frequencies obtained.

	High Perception	Low Perception	
More experienced	51/41*	36/46*	87
Less experienced	23/33*	48/38*	71
	74	84	158

* Expected frequencies.

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Table 4.2B: Calculation

	HP	LP	
More experienced	51/41*	36/46*	87
Less experienced	23/33*	48/38*	71
	74	84	158

O	E	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$\frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$
51	41	10	100	2.44
36	46	-10	100	2.17
23	33	-10	100	3.03
48	38	10	100	2.63

$X^2 = 10.28$

KASHIM IBRAHIM LIBRARY
RECEIVED
31 JAN 2000
ZARIA NIGERIA
Ahmadu Bello University

The above hypothesis was also tested using the chi-square statistical analysis. The obtained chi-square is 10.28 (df=1). This is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. Thus, we reject the null hypothesis and

assert that there is significant difference in the perception on the role of public libraries in MAMSER between the more experienced and less experienced public librarians.

3. No. There is no significant difference in the perception of the role of public libraries on MAMSER between more qualified and less qualified Nigerian public librarians.

To test the preceding hypothesis, the frequencies of the more qualified and less qualified public librarians were obtained from the 158 subjects already categorized as those who showed high and low perception on the role of public libraries in MAMSER. Subjects with post graduate qualification were considered to be the more qualified public librarians, whereas subjects with first degree or its equivalent were considered as less qualified.

Table 4.3A: Shows the frequencies obtained.

	High Perception	Low Perception	
More qualified	63/51*	29/41*	92
Less qualified	25/37*	41/29*	66
	88	70	158

*Expected frequencies

Table 4.38: Calculation

	HP HP	LP	
More Qualified	63/51	29/41	92
Less Qualified	25/37	41/29	66
	88	70	158

0	E	0-E	$(0-E)^2$	$\frac{(0-E)^2}{E}$
63	51	12	144	2.82
29	41	-12	144	3.51
25	37	-12	144	3.89
41	29	12	144	4.97

$$X^2 = 14.19$$

The above hypothesis was also statistically tested using the chi-square statistics. The calculated chi-square is 15.19 (df-1). This is also significant at 0.05 level of confidence. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected. The conclusion therefore, is that there is significant difference in the perception on the role of public libraries in MAMSER between the more qualified and less qualified Nigerian public librarians.

4. Ho. There is no significant sex differences in the perception of Nigerian public librarians of the role of public libraries in MAMSER.

In testing the above hypothesis, the frequencies of the male and female subjects were obtained from the 158 subjects already categorized as those who showed high and low perception on the role of public libraries in MAMSER. Out of the 60 female subjects, 52* (24 as those who showed high perception and 28 as those who showed low perception)* subjects fall in the two extremes.* From the 116 male subjects, 106 subjects fall within the two extremes (i.e. 64 as those who showed high perception and 42 as those who showed low perception).

Table 4.4A: Shows the frequencies obtained.

	High Perception	Low Perception	
Males	64/59*	42/47*	106
Females	24/29*	28/23*	52
	88	70	158

*Expected frequencies

Table 4.4B: Calculation

	HP	LP	
Males	64/59	42/47	106
Females	24/29	28/23	52
	88	70	158

0	E	0-E	$(0-E)^2$	$\frac{(0-E)^2}{E}$
64	59	5	25	0.42
42	47	-5	25	0.53
24	29	-5	25	0.19
28	23	5	25	1.09

$$X^2 = 1.87$$

The above hypothesis was also tested using the chi-square statistical analysis. The calculated chi-square is 1.87 (df-1). This is not significant at 0.05 level of confidence. Therefore, the hypothesis which predicted no significant sex differences in the perception of Nigerian public librarians on the role of public libraries in MAMSER was upheld.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study was undertaken with the broad goal of examining the perceptions of public librarians in Nigeria of the roles of the public library in Nigeria in the Mass Mobilization for self-reliance, social justice and economic recovery (MAMSER), a social mobilization programme of the Federal government (1987 -). This is done in order to provide empirical data and information to all concerned on the subject matter of the study.

5.1 SUMMARY OF THE STUDY AND FINDINGS

This study was conceived of on the conviction of the researcher that from the onset of MAMSER when it was launched by President Ibrahim Babangida on July 25th 1987, public librarians in Nigeria would have different perceptions on the role which public libraries in Nigeria can play. It was particularly thought that these perceptions may differ according to such variables as working experience, administrative placement of the library, qualification, and sex of the librarians under reference.

The first chapter deals with the introduction to the study, bringing forth such basic elements of the study as its objectives, the problem under study, the

hypotheses on which the study was based, the significance of the study, its limitations, as well as operational definitions of some concepts that are basic to the study.

The second chapter dealt with the review of some books, articles, papers and many other kinds of literature that have been produced by librarians and other scholars on areas related to the problem under study. The chapter for the sake of convenience and logic was broken to review literature on such issues as the nature of role and role perception, social mobilization and MAMSER, as well as the relationships between public libraries and social mobilization.

Chapter three of the study was devoted to the discussion of all the methodological elements of the study. The chapter outlined in detail the research method and design, the population and sampling procedure, the research instrument, as well as the procedure for scoring and statistically analysing the data. Justifications were provided where necessary for the choice of any particular element mentioned.

The fourth chapter dealt with the discussion of the results of the study as well as the statistical analyses of data collected for the study.

At the end of the exercise, some important information was discovered as the findings of the study based on the hypotheses which are summarized as follows:

1. There is significant difference in the perception of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER between librarians in public libraries under ministries and those in public libraries under autonomous library boards.
2. There is significant difference in the perception of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER between more experienced and less experienced public librarians in Nigeria.
3. There is significant difference in the perception of the role of Nigerian public libraries on MAMSER between more qualified and less qualified public librarians in Nigeria.
4. There is no significant sex difference in the perception of Nigerian public librarians of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER. In addition there are other findings of the study which are notable such as:
5. Public librarians in Nigeria that are working in public libraries under ministries have higher perception of the role of Nigerian public libraries

in MAMSER than their counterparts working in public libraries under autonomous library boards.

6. More experienced Nigerian public librarians have higher perceptions of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER than their counterparts who are less experienced.

7. More qualified Nigerian public librarians have higher perceptions of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER.

5.2 DISCUSSION

This section will attempt to discuss the major findings of the study as follows: For instance, based on the findings that public librarians working in public libraries under ministries have higher perception of the subject matter than their colleagues in public libraries under autonomous library boards, it is believed that the difference group is more informed on activities of MAMSER than the latter. This is because the two principal ministries under which their libraries are placed (i.e. ministries of education and information) have specifically been mentioned by and involved in the activities of the Directorate for Social Mobilization. Similarly, we may postulate that the fact that more experienced Nigerian public librarians have higher perception of the subject matter

of the study that their less experienced colleagues may be due to the fact that the former, through their wealth of experiences may have come across issues related to social mobilization and how the public libraries got involved or otherwise.

Also, as it is the finding of this study that more qualified Nigerian public librarians have higher perception than their less qualified counterparts on the subject matter under study, this may be because the additional training and/or education of the former may have exposed them to issues related to public librarianship and social mobilization than their less qualified counterparts. Through the study based on data collected from the subjects through their free comments (provided for in the last section of the questionnaire for the study), it was found that most of them expressed the view that Nigerian public libraries be more involved in MAMSER and a more clearly defined role be assigned to the libraries in relation to MAMSER.

Another major finding of this study is that there is no significant sex difference in the perceptions of Nigerian public librarians of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER. This shows that gender is not an important factor in the determination of perceptions of

public librarians in Nigeria of the role of their institutions in MAMSER.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of this study including both the quantifiable and the unquantifiable analyses of the data collected for the study, some major conclusions are hereby drawn.

The study of the frequencies of perceptions of the subjects of the role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER has clearly shown that Nigerian public librarians have no homogeniety of views on the subject matter. Therefore, we could further conclude that this is basically due to the fact that (as is reflected on their free comments on section five of the questionnaire) there is inadequate information on MAMSER with Nigerian public librarians.

It is also the conclusion of this study, based on empirical finding that MAMSER is not involved very much in spirit and practice in the operations of Nigerian public libraries, nor are the latter significantly involved in the operations and activities of the former.

An interesting conclusion drawn from the study is the fact that although Nigerian public librarians have shown lack of homogeniety in terms of their perceptions of the

role of Nigerian public libraries in MAMSER, majority of them have however shown high perception on the subject matter.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Nigerian public librarians, and indeed all Nigerian librarians should evolve ways of interacting in organized fora such as seminars, workshops, sympothia, conferences, etc. so as to articulate common and more effective positions on issues such as the topic under study. This could best be done through their professional associations and unions.

2. The Directorate for Social Mobilization should endeavour to organize joint projects and meetings with Nigerian public librarians to discuss ways and means of outlining clearly their areas of common interest and how they can complement each other.

3. Scholars in librarianship should endeavour to take up research work (preferably in collaboration with the Directorate) on other areas related to the topic under study

4. The Nigerian library Association (NLA) should officially approach the Directorate to explore ways of carrying out the above recommendations.

5. There is need for political education to be provided to Nigerian public librarians at different levels of their training.

6. Professional librarians should be recruited into the Directorate to provide professionally informed services on how to improve relations between the Directorate and public libraries in Nigeria.

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APPENDIX I

PPPM QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIANS IN NIGERIA
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

To the Public Librarians:

This questionnaire is part of a research project studying the perceptions of Nigerian public librarians towards the role of the public library in MAMSER. You are therefore cordially requested to please, answer the questions to the best of your knowledge as your opinions on library issues are considered very important and authoritative.

Some of the questions relate to your personal and professional backgrounds, others to your work and some to your views as librarians. Please, do not discuss these questions with anybody and your responses will be treated as confidential.

Thanks for the anticipated co-operation.

SECTION I

N.B. Please, tick as appropriate in the right column.

1. Please indicate your qualifications:

Diploma or equivalent qualification	
Degree/Lib.Sc./Related field or equivalent	
Degree in non library related field or equivalent	
Post-graduate	
Any other (please, specify)	

2. Please, indicate your sex.

Male
Female

3. For how long have you been working in a public libraries?

0 - 5 years
6 - 10 years
11 - 15 years
16 - 20 years
21 years and above

4. Please, indicate the position of your library in the state beaucratic set-up:

Under a separate liabrary board
Under a ministry of ministries

5. Please, indicate appropriately as per your training and working experience:

Exposed to foreign library training and/or experience

Exposed to only local library training and/or working experience

6. Please, indicate your age:

20 years and below
21 years to 30 years
31 years to 50 years
51 years to 60 years
61 years and above

SECTION II

This section of the questionnaire requires you to consider each statement as it relates to the functions of public libraries in Nigeria.

Please, indicate on the right side how important each of the following statements is to the functions of Nigerian public libraries by showing whether it is very important, important, undecided, unimportant, or very unimportant to the promotion of MAMSER's aims and objectives.

Key:

VI = Very important

I = Important

UN = Undecided

UI = Unimportant

VUI = Very unimportant.

	VI 5	I 4	UN 3	UI 2	VUI 1
1. Assisting in the attainment of educational goals of society both at individual and national levels such as through the provision of relevant texts for formal and non-formal/adult education.					
2. Promoting the quest for effective communication among the various segments of society so as to achieve common goals of national development					

	VI 5	I 4	UN 3	UI 2	VUI 1
3. Stimulating leisure and recreation by providing the appropriate resources for that e.g. providing light-hearted literature like novels, games, records, news-magazines, etc.					
4. Providing needed information to all for individual and collective goals such as information on agriculture, employment opportunities, politics, current affairs, job improvement, etc.					
5. Acting as agent for mass mobilization by providing the necessary facilities to those who need them for the discharge of their social and political obligations such as through the provision of proper sign-posts, guides, bulletins, etc.					
6. Enhancing the cultural advancement of society as well as realization of social, political and economic objective of the country e.g. through organizing activities such as plays, drama, etc.					
7. Facilitating the democratic transformation of society by providing appropriate information in the most democratic manner to all					
8. Providing facilities for such activities as sympothia talks, community meetings, political discussions, meetings between leaders and the led, etc.					
9. Provinding forum for trade union meetings, youth and professional organizations' meetings, etc.					

SECTION III

This section of the questionnaire is divided into two parts. Part I requires you to consider each statement and relate it to the role of Nigerian public libraries in the attainment of the far set objectives of the Directorate for Social Mobilization as stated on the left by indicating whether it is very important, important, undecided, unimportant or very unimportant. Part II requires you to consider each statement and relate it to the role of Nigerian public libraries in the attainment of the three component aims of MAMSER as stated on the left by indicating whether it is very important, important, undecided, unimportant or very unimportant as provided for on the right side.

	VI 5	I 4	UN 3	UI 2	VUI 1
10. To create new cultural and productive environment which will promote pride in productive work, self-reliance and self-discipline					
11. To generally awaken the rights and obligations of a citizen to the nation					
12. To encourage the people to take part actively and freely in discussions and decision affecting their general welfare.					
13. To promote new sets of attitudes and culture for the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Nigerian state					

	VI 5	I 4	UN 3	UI 2	VUI 1
Part II					
14. Attainment of National self-reliance					
15. Achieving social justice in Nigeria					
16. Realizing the national goal of economic recovery					

SECTION IV

This section of the questionnaire require you to consider each of the following activities or group of activities in your library and indicate your agreement or otherwise whether the Directorate for Social Mobilization's activities should influence the stated library activities in such ways as indicated, by indicating whether you strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagreed or strongly disagreed:

The Directorate for Social Mobilization should be involved in the library's:

	SA 5	AG 4	UN 3	DA 2	SDA 1
17. Collection development policies acquisition of materials specifically published by the Directorate for it or relevant to its objectives					
18. Specialized information services such as periodical/newspaper cuttings, maintenance of vertical files, abstracts, documentation, etc. relevant to the Directorates' objectives					

	SA 5	AG 4	UN 3	DA 2	SDA 1
19. Financial administration such as specific fund allocation to activities related to the Directorate's objectives.					
20. Outreach activities such as establishing new or special branches specifically in response to the Directorate's mass mobilization drive.					
21. Reader services activities specifically designed and carried out in direct response to the Directorate's campaigns such as special orientation or user education programmes, film shows, current awareness services, etc. relevant to MAMSER's objectives					
22. Inter-library co-operation and other co-operative programmes with sister institutions such as radio, and television jointly sponsored and or implemented with the library and related to the Directorate's activities					

SECTION V

This section of the questionnaire requires you to comment freely on any issue(s) related to your views on the roles Nigerian public libraries are supposed to play in MAMSER or any other issues related to this study which you think have not been covered by the questionnaire.

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