THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION AMONG UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA

BY

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D E C L A R A T I O N

I hereby declare that this thesis has been written by me and it is a record of my own research work. It has not been previously presented for any degree. All sources of information and quotations used in the study are specifically acknowledged by means of references.

Binta L. Farouk
October, 1992.

CERTIFICATION

This thesis entitled "The Development of Cooperation among University Libraries in Nigeria" meets the regulations governing the award of the degree of Master of Library Science of Ahmadu Bello University and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and Literary presentation.

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A B S T R A C T

Cooperation among Libraries in Nigeria for resource sharing is necessary. The economic emergency recovery programme introduced by the Government has had adverse effects on the programmes of University Libraries. Books have become scarce and expensive. The annual book funds of many University Libraries are subjected to yearly reductions. This situation has created the need for Libraries to cometogether for the purpose of resource sharing.

Many attempts had been made in the past for such cooperation but there is hardly any evidence to suggest that these activities are in existence. The purpose of this study is to examine the development of cooperative activities among University libraries and to find out the factors responsible for the failure of Nigerian University libraries to form cooperative groups for resource sharing on a permanent basis. In order to achieve this purpose data were collected from libarians in ten sampled Federal University Libraries. The main tools for collecting the data are the questionnaire, Oral interview and documentary evidence.

The Committee of University Librarians in Nigerian Universities CULNU has been found to be instrumental in establishing several cooperative schemes since its inception in 1973. However, a number of factors were found to be possible factors militating against the establishment of viable schemes. These include the lack of proper planning; poor communication facilities; lack of bibliographical apparatus and facilities for cooperation and the problem of inadequate funding of the libraries.

The study further concluded with recommendations on how to foster sound and effective cooperation among the libraries. These include the immediate compilation of the Union Catalogue of holdings of University Libraries, the production of current and restrospective National Bibliography by the National Library; the provision of effective communication facilities in all University Libraries; provision of adequate funds to the libraries and the reactivation of the dormant Nigerian University Libraries courier service.

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1:0 INTRODUCTION

The whole of human experience has demonstrated over and over again that no man is an Island unto himself and neither is a library. Human affairs have reached a stage where no country can profitably remain an Island unto itself. That, no doubt, is the explanation for the various forms of co-operation that today exist not only among countries that share common cultural, economic and ideological values but also among those that pursue different and sometimes contradictory policies. Today, we find rich and poor nations seeking to work out possible areas of cooperation among themselves.

Co-operation, in general terms, indicates any form of working together as contrasted with competition or opposition.[1] It denotes a joint effort for mutual benefit or common purpose. It may take place between individuals or groups. Both may cooperate in order to generate more and better ideas, gain collective power, share ideas and resources, get their job or task completed more easily, develop trust and tolerance and enhance activity.

Cooperation among libraries is not a new phenomenon. The need for a cooperative approach towards the achievement of their individual service objectives has long been recognised by Librarians, many articles appearing in professional journals will attest to this fact. Becker has suggested that "no library can ever hope to become self sufficient in the face of this expanding universe of information".[2] There is a flow of information at an increasingly alarming rate that even the largest libraries of the world find it difficult, if not impossible,

to be absolutely comprehensive in all fields. In addition to the publication explosion, there has also been a spread of educational provisions at all levels which has also brought into being a more literate population making more demands upon libraries for books and information of a more purposive nature and on an increasing range of subjects. And with the demands becoming more sophisticated, the availability of books and periodicals as sources of information would have been severely limited without some sort of cooperation.

On the other hand, the desire to offer a more efficient, more reliable and in the longrun, a more economical service has given rise to Inter-library cooperation at both the national and international levels. In the United States, several cooperative networks have developed because of the desire to achieve economies. These are seen as a means of relieving pressure on the library budgets, for salaries, materials and other expenses.[3]

Other reasons adduced for libarry cooperation include developments in publishing, limited budgets, advances in the fields of microforms and computer technology which make it possible for libraries to automate their services.

For whatever reasons libraries enter into cooperation, the aim of all cooperative schemes designed by libraries of all kinds is to maximise the utility and rapid availability of materials and to improve access to the holdings of the libraries participating in a closely designed and co-ordinated network.

The present decade has seen a greatly renewed interest in cooperation and mutual involvement. Especially at the national and international levels, several cooperative schemes have been developed

throughout the world. Prominent examples are the standing conference on library materials on Africa (SCOLMA) established in Britain in the 1950's; the SCANDIA (established in 1956); the FARMINGTON PLAN (established in the U.S.A. with about seventy libraries, mainly Universities); the BLLD; the library of congress reference and cataloguing operations; British library MARC PROJECTS and other Smaller Systems.

There are various forms of cooperation among libraries throughout the world. These include cooperative acquisitions, cataloguing, Inter-library lending, reference and photo-reproduction, and storage of library materials to mention but a few.

In Nigeria, there have always been in existence some form of cooperation voluntarily practiced by librarians. However, the most common cooperative practices by libraries are inter-lending and reference services; and photo-reproduction ofmaterials. BOZIMO[4] traces the formal history of library cooperation in Nigeria to a 1955 memorandum which was submitted to the Nigerian Federal Government by John Harris, in which he surveyed the state of library development in the country and outlined a strategy for natural growth of various services including the setting up of a Library Advisory and Consultative Committee and the coordinated development and joint utilization of reference and research services. In 1970, an attempt was made by the national library to compile the National Bibliography of Nigeria (N.B.N) formerly known as the "Nigerian Publications". In the same year, the National Library also started a catalogue card service to government and quasi government establishment in the then Federal Capital, Lagos. Similarly, a full annual conference examined the problem of cooperation and came up with

only one resolution:

> Be it resolved that the Council Committee on Library resources examine the feasibility of acooperative acquisitions scheme embracing the National Library and University Libraries and if found possible to draw up a scheme for the country.5

Other efforts at establishing cooperation among libraries in the country include the weekly courier service (now defunct) establishedd by some libraries in order to facilitate inter-library lending. For a long time, the University of Benin library operated a courier service linking Benin with Ife and Ibadan. The Benin Library sent a vehicle to Ibadan University Library weekly to obtain readers' request. The University of Jos Library had also, in 1981, established similar links with Kashim Ibrahim Library, A.B.U., Zaria.

1:1 THE NEED FOR COOPERATION AMONG UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA.

Around the mid-seventies, Nigerian Universities and their libraries were known to have been adequately funded by the government. At that time, the National Universities Commission (N.U.C) stipulated that 5% of the recurrent budgets should be religiously paid to the libraries by all Universities. Similarly foreign exchange was immediately made available to libraries through individual University accounts in the overseas offices of the N.U.C. This, coupled with the availability of resources made each University library in the country, at that time, to be reasonably self sufficient. Most of the materials needed for the teaching and research functions of their institutions were supplied.

Due to the present economic recession however, the situation has now changed. The strict measures adopted by the Federal Government

in cutting costs has seriously affected University Libraries in the country. Many University Library's annual budgets are sliced, while others have maintained zero growth. The problem is further compounded by the import licence restrictions order imposed by the government which made it increasingly difficult for libraries to acquire books directly from abroad. Yet over 95% of the library materials used in University Libraries are obtainable from abroad. This problem of acquiring materials, coupled with thetremendous growth in the number and size of the Nigerian Universities is placing severe constraints on the ability of the libraries to satisfy all their clientele. They are consequently, failing in their aim of supporting the teaching and research functions of their parent body.

In view of the prevailing circumstances, prudence dictates that Nigerian University libraries should maximize the use of available resources nation-wide. The dramatic turn in the acquisition policy which was necessitated by inadequate funding not only called for a re-examination of their acquisition policies but also to seek solution incooperative ventures. While discussing library education in the country, Aguolu stressed that "Inter Institutional pooling of resources is required to ensure physical accessibility of the national intellectual resources for any one wherever he may be".[6] In the same vein, Dipeolu[7] had earlier suggested that University Libraries should think seriously of pooling and sharing their resources.

1:2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Informal links of cooperation already exist among University libraries in Nigeria. Since the establishment in 1973, of the Committee of University Librarians in Nigerian Universities, CULNU,

the Committee has been trying to encourage formal cooperation among its members. Empirical evidence however, suggests that these cooperative activities are hardly existing. Besides, a survey of the literature further reveals that there are many more descriptions of proposed schemesof cooperation rather than accounts of successful projects. Uba, writing on cooperation among Nigerian University Libraries in technical services stated that "if anyone of you should ask me what cooperative efforts... are being made in Nigeria, my answer would be nothing though absolutely nothing".[8] He further added that "if there have been any attempt now or in the past, they have been informal, haphazard and not properly documented".[9]

Oni-Orisan had similarly expressed concern over the status of Inter-lending among University libraries in the country as follows:

> It is a matter of deep regret that this important services is still being hampered by a number of factors... Most disappointingly, the service is not as prompt as it should be thus libraries prefer channelling their requests to overseas libraries in particular the British Library.10

This issue has therefore been one of major concern to many librarians in the country particularly now that the annual bookfunds of many University libraries are subjected to yearly decrease. Why is cooperation among University Libraries in Nigeria still a problem? The need for University Libraries to organize themselves intc networks for the purpose of sharing their limited resources can hardly be over-emphasized. What then are the causes of the inability ofthe University libraries in Nigeria to form cooperative groups for resources sharing despite the pressing need for it.?

1:3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study will specially seek to answer the following questions:

1. What are the types of cooperative activities existing among University Libraries in Nigeria?

2. What is the nature and present state of Inter-library lending among the University libraries?
3. What is the role of the Committee of University librarians in Nigerian Universities (CULNU) in promoting cooperation among the libraries?
4. Are there factors militating against effective cooperation among the libraries?
5. How can these barriers be overcomed?

1:4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main thrust of this study is to examine the development of cooperative activities and to identify the factors militating against the establishment of viable cooperative programmes among University libraries in Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives of the study are:

i) To examine the various functioning (if any) cooperative activities existing among the libraries.
ii) Identify the causes for the failure of Nigerian University libraries to establish viable cooperative programmes.
iii) Recommend measures for surmounting the barriers to effective cooperation.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to examine the development of cooperation among Federal University Libraries in Nigeria. It is also aimed at identifying the factors militating against effective cooperation among the libraries. The study focuses on cooperation among the Federal University libraries because of the realization of their important role in nation building. The Universities also have the largest and best organized libraries which have provided leadership for other libraries in the country. It is assumed that

conclusions and programmes based on a study of University of these libraries have a wider national significance and impact. And since the Federal University Libraries have many similar features in terms of their organizational structure, sponsorship and their clientele, it is expected that the data obtained from them might be more meaningfully compared and analysed.

There are various forms in which libraries do cooperate throughout the world. These include cooperative acquisitions; cooperative cataloguing; Inter-library lending and reference service; cooperative storage and photo reproduction of library materials. In order to have a thorough analysis and a better understanding of the problems of cooperative activities in Nigeria, the study is only limited to Inter-library lending among the libraries. The multifarious nature of cooperation necessitates the narrowing down of this study to only one form of cooperative activity. Similarly, Inter-library lending and reference service has been reported, in the literature, to be the most predominant, cooperative activity among libraries in Nigeria. It is therefore assumed that an examination of the nature and problems of this cooperative activity would provide an insight into the obstacles to effective cooperation among University libraries in Nigeria.

Finally, because of the wide scope of this kind of study, the coverage of the factors is by no means comprehensive. The work do not claim to cover all factors no matter how insignificant that affects either positively or negatively the development of effective cooperation among libraries in Nigeria.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The challenges facing University libraries in Nigeria are numerous. The current rationalization of courses and programmes going on in our Universities and colleges of education is aimed

at evolving a system for maximum utility of available resources through a programme designed to achieve cooperation while at the same time eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort. This can be achieved in part through inter-library cooperation. A great deal of factual information is needed in developing a viable cooperative scheme. It is hoped that the findings of this study will go along way in furnishing policy makers, particularly University Librarians with some information needed for the proper planning of effective cooperative programmes.

There is an urgent need for University libraries in the country to come together in cooperative efforts particularly where University libraries are experiencing budget cuts. The need therefore to identify and examine some of the forces behind the present state of cooperative efforts is obvious. The potential value of a study that would identify the obstacles to effective cooperation cannot be over-emphasized. Just as a doctor starts to tackle his patients problems by first making a prognosis which will help him diagonise the disease before finally applying any therapy, so it is hoped that the findings of this study will provide an insight into the causes of the failure of university libraries to establish viable cooperative schemes despite the pressing need for it. The suggested solutions to these problems can also help librarians and administrators to find ways of eliminating the problems of library development which will help in establishing viable projects or schemes of cooperation among University libraries in the country.

Finally, it is also hoped that this study will provide a reference text and serve as a tool for future studies and also add to

the meaningful reading on library cooperation in Nigeria and library history in general.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

In this study, the following terms are defined and used as follows:

COOPERATION - To cooperate means to work together for a common objective.

RESOURCES SHARING - It is here to refer to the sharing of library resources and services such as catalogue, acquisitions, storage, circulation, photocopy and delivery of service. The terms cooperation and resource sharing are used interchangeably throughout this work.

INTER-LIBRARY LENDING - The supply by one library to another of documents wanted by individual users on loan and the agreed activities towards that end.

COURIER SERVICE - This is a van circulating service using vans which move on predetermined routes collecting and delivering materials.

NETWORKING - A planned sharing of resources system among libraries so that improved services could be provided with maximum efficient utilization of and wider accessibility available resources.

KASHIM IBRAHIM LIBRARY

ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study is organized into five chapters. Chapter One comprises the Introduction, Statement of the Problem, research questions, objectives of the study, Scope and Limitations of the study, the significance of the study and definition of terms. Chapter Two is devoted to the Literature review. Chapter three deals with the methodology used in conducting the research. Chapter four comprises the analysis and Interpretation of data while Chapter five is the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study.

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CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Much has been written by many scholars on library cooperation. In essence, the literature of library cooperation is extensive and varied in both content and quality. Articles and papers which appear in various journals and conference proceedings testify to activities and efforts to cooperate at the global, international, and regional levels. However, very few studies were conducted in Nigeria on library cooperation. The purpose of this chapter is to examine articles and research studies that are relevant and most directly related to the topic of research. Owing to the diverse nature of the literature on library cooperation, this review does not, in any way attempt to be comprehensive. The concentration of this review is therefore, grouped into three broad areas, namely studies on; The nature and Scope of library cooperation; a brief review of the past and present cooperative efforts and; the problems or obstacles to cooperation with particular reference to University libraries in Nigeria.

2:1 THE MEANING, NATURE AND SCOPE OF LIBRARY COOPERATION

Inter-library cooperation is a broad concept and all embracing phrase which has come to mean things to different people. Esterquest has defined cooperation as "any manifestation of a concious endeavour among librarians to increase or improve library resources or services through joint action involving two or more libraries or institutions that are not part of a single

administrative organisation".[1] This definition is quite close to that of Markuson who wrote that "Library cooperation is any activity between two or more libraries to facilitate, promote and enhance library operations, services to users or use of resources."[2] The pervading aim of cooperation therefore, is the improvement of services through joint efforts.

Pond and Burlingame have also attempted a definition of the term cooperation. They wrote that "to cooperate means to work for a common object or to unite in producing a desired effect".[3] Sharma on the other hand, views cooperation or rather library cooperation as a means of achieving economy. According to him cooperation is a means of extending services and resources of the member libraries to a wider section of the society without a proportionate increase in cost.[4]

In the USA, several cooperative networks have developed because of the desire to achieve economies. These are means of relieving pressures on the library budgets for salaries, materials and other operating expenditures.[5]

An examination of the literature shows that library cooperative activities have shifted from the Inter-relationship between two or more libraries to a complex network of relationships among different types of libraries. The concept of cooperation have today broadened, the scope of activity developed and within them a new vocabulary has emerged. Cooperation of yesteryear has today matured into library systems, networking and resource sharing.

These terms are today being used interchangeably since many writers believe that the terms basically cover the same functions.

Havard-Williams for instance suggests that "Resources sharing is an omnibus expression to cover cooperation, coordination, Inter-library loans, cooperative acquisitions, copperative cataloguing (etc)".[6] Similarly, Rydings wrote that resource sharing "Imply making available the resources of a group or network of libraries to the sum total of the persons entitled to use any one of those libraries."[7] Still in reference to these terms, Kent[8] suggests that library network exists for the purpose of sharing resources, bibliographical data, functions, materials and technical resources.

In whatever way these terms are defined, Inter-library cooperation,, resources sharing and networking can be traced to the same broad and fundamental objective. These may be defined as improved conditions of physical and bibliographical access to books and other library materials and the provision of more economical, efficient and effective library and information service for all. This therefore, has made the researcher to accept the fact that the meaning of library resource sharing, library networking and library cooperation are nearly the same and therefore I will use them synonymously and interchangeably throughout this work.

The purpose for which librarians can and do cooperate are numerous and the ways in which this cooperation takes place are more numberous still. In Sharma's words, "Library cooperation can take place in many ways which human ingenuity, resourcesfulness and technology can provide."[9]

Esterquest enumerated a dozen manifestation of cooperative efforts as a means of indicating the scope of cooperative activity in our library world. Some of these include:

i) Professional confering
ii) Inter-library loan
iii) Union catalogue and Union list
iv) Bibliographic centres
v) Cooperative acquisition
vi) Cooperative reference service.[10]

In the same vein, the director of Indian Academic Library, Consortia had also proposed some very real and objective fields which library cooperation can successfully be practiced, namely:

1. The selection of reading materials
2. Acquisition of library materials
3. Processing of reading materials
4. Promote the development of programmes for the expanded use of reading materials.
5. Stimulate the improvement of library facilities and services
6. Provide thorough cooperative acquisition by voluntary agreements, materials beyond the reach of individual libraries.
7. Achieve economies in the use of resources both human and material.
8. Cooperate in the development of library personnel.
9. Facilitate sharing of materials among members of the group.[11]

Akinyotu[12] on the other hand have asserted that Inter-library cooperation is manifested in activities which fall into two major categories:

1. those that, incombination, result in the mobilization and use of existing library resources to the maximum advantage of all, and
2. those that lead to the enrichment of total resources of the cooperating libraries.

Among the first group he argues are such activities as joint bibliographic control and services, Inter-library lending, exchange of materials, photocopying services and cooperative acquisition, cooperative storage.

In essence, libraries can cooperate in various ways and these include almost all areas of library operations and services such as acquisition, cataloguing, reference service, Inter-library lending, photo-reproduction and storage of library materials. However, as Ike[13] had once observed, of all these, Inter-library lending is the commonest.

2:2 A REVIEW OF PAST AND PRESENT COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AMONG LIBRARIES.

Interaction among libraries is not a recent phenomena. The concept of library cooperation is in fact, said to be as old as the library itself. However, conflicting accounts exist in the literature about when Inter-library cooperation really began. The importance of cooperation in several areas of library operations and services however, has long been realized in many parts of the world particularly in the more advanced countries.

Becker[14] traces the origin of Inter-library activities in the United States of America to Vettemanes description of the chronology of cooperative efforts from 1832 to 1975. Paulson[15] however claims

that Inter-library cooperation and informal networks date back to 1901 with the beginning of the library of congress card service and the development of the ALA Cataloguing rules in 1917. Clapp's review[16] of the various attempts at centralized cooperative processing, however, gives a chronicle of cooperative cataloguing dating back to the french revolutionary governments constituent assembly decrees of December 1790 and May 1791. He also associates the arrival of centralized processing centres of the present day and discusses the cost effective controversy which these centres have generated.

The mass literature on library cooperation in the United States indicates the importance and dynamism of the practice of this concept in the country. This supports the claim made for United States as the leading country. This supports the claim made for United States as the leading country in one world in the field of library development. Eaton reported that "the latest efforts at cooperation have been directed towards the establishment of library networks u ing interactive computer systems to generate services and products. There are processing networks designed to realize the advantages of shared cataloguing, and reference networks to provide access to large data bases. The latter are operated both by libraries and by commercial firms such as Lockheed and systems development cooperation."[17]

In Great Britain, the literature reveals that there has been several cooperative activities in that country. Tracing the history of cooperative activities in that country, Batubo[18] reports that the

first and loudest call for organized cooperative schemes came from the Kenyon Report of 1927. This report is said to have encouraged the setting up of voluntary cooperation between all types of public library authorities ranging from country Borough or district. In recent years, the advance of technology has brought major improvements to existing schemes through the use of telex to speed-up Inter-library loan requests, computerized cataloguing and bibliographical services, the availability of Micro-editions of Union Catalogues such as LASER (London and South Eastern Regional Library Bureau) and the easy photo copies.

The vast extent and phenomenal rate of increase of published materials which librarians seek to acquire, record and preserve for users have made some degree of cooperation between them inevitable. Awareness of this inter-dependence has led to numerous, local, national and inter-national schemes and they cover the whole gamut of acquisitions, bibliographical services, exchange of materials, centralized processing of materials and the most common of all, Inter-library lending. The library literature is replete with histories of successful cooperative programmes as well as plans that have long existed only on paper.

Akinyotu[19] has identified the Scandia Plan, involving special and research libraries in the four Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, as a classical example of international cooperative acquisition programmes. This programme is sponsored by the Scandinavian Federation of research librarians, established in 1947. Under the plan, specific subject fields are

assigned to each library which then assumes the obligation of systematically acquiring materials and, at the same time, functioning as a bibliographical information centre on the subject concerned.[20]

Harrison also agree with Akinyotu on this issue but he however pointed out that the plan "never was applicable to all the libraries in the Nordic countries, since its membership is confined to the major research libraries of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden".[21]

On the other hand, the Farmington plan in the U.S.A. and the British subject specialization schemes in Great Britain are also regarded as good examples of national cooperative acquisition schemes. The Farmington Plan which became operative in 1948, had its objectives as follows:

> to make sure that at least one copy of each new Foreign book and pamphlet that might reasonably be expected to interest a research worker in the U.S. will be acquired by an American library, promptly listed in the Union Catalogue at the library of congress and made available by Inter-library loan.22

This programme, according to Akinyotu has now been terminated probably because of the National programme for Acquisitions and cataloguing of the Library of Congress which covers basically the same ground.

Harrison however stressed that "Inspite of its demise, due recognition will be accorded to the Farmington plan for its pioneering spirit and for the influence it had on developing the idea of cooperative acquisitions and storage in other countries, chiefly in Britain..."[23]

The British subject specialization schemes began in 1950 at a regional level. Esterquest however, reported that:

> the Eastern Regional Library System was the pioneer of scheme in which 88 public libraries have participated on a voluntary basis.24

Another important areas of library cooperation is cooperative or centralized cataloguing. The most outstanding example of this is the U.S. Library of Congress cooperative scheme and the British National Bibliography, established in 1950. However, the latter is described as not being as successful as that of the library of congress.

Example of joint storage scheme is the Mid-west interlibrary centre which was opened in Chicago in 1951. Gelfand has described, this agreement as follows:

> Participating libraries agree to house their seldom used but important publication in cooperative storage buildings, and to buy jointly certain significant materials which are not likely to be used heavily enough to warrant the cost of individual ownership. Access to materials is provided through Inter-library loans and copying services".25

Another important scheme of some interest to this research work is the cooperative scheme of some Canadian University libraries. The main objective of the Scheme is "to avoid duplication of cataloguing effort while retaining the advantages of economy and speed which are felt to result from decentralization".[26]

Cooperation in the field of Inter-library lending and exchange of materials have also been reported in the literature. In 1965-67, a normative survey of the current Inter-library loan practices in

academic libraries in the United States was undertaken to assess the characteristics of lending and borrowing libraries, the readers and materials requested, policies, procedures, and attitudes to determine the influence of these factors on the success or failure of Inter-library loan requests. The findings of this study has been fully reported in the dissertation "General Inter-library loan services in major Academic libraries in the United States".[27] Another study, undertaken by the Association of Research Libraries[28] examines the characteristics, costs and Magnitude of Inter-library loans in academic libraries in the United States. Both studies reported and discussed extensively cooperation among Academic Libraries in the United States.

The first notable example in the field of exchange of materials was said to have started as long as 1694 when Louis XIV authorised the royal library of France to exchange its duplicates for books printed in foreign countries.[29] Other cooperative exchange programmes reported include the International exchange programmes of the Smithonian Institution in the United States, the Medical exchange, housed in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library in Great Britain. The British National Book Centre, likethe United States exchange programme, also operates nationally and internationally.

It is a fact that libraries in Africa as well as other less developed countries are Western Oriented. The relations of some libraries in these countries with the libraries of Europe and U.S.A. are sometimes much stronger than the relations that exist among themselves. This is a national bye-product of the fact that the

libraries of the West are more advanced and better organized than their counterparts in other parts of the world and thus, in turn, is a bye-product of the leading cultural role of the West in the modern world. The above survey of outstanding efforts in these countries therefore is aimed at giving us an insight into the nature and extent of such activities. This might go a long way in giving us an insight into the nature of libraries in the less developed parts of the world since they are known to follow the trend in these leading countries.

2:3 INTER-LIBRARY COOPERATIVE PROGRAMMES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO NIGERIA

In nNigeria, although theoretically the idea of library cooperation is quite familiar to the librarians, in practical terms, not much has been done in this direction. The efforts made by librarians to benefit themselves by mutual help has so far been to try cooperative activity more or less at local level rather than national level.

BOZIMO[30] traces the history of library cooperation to a 1955 memorandum which was submitted to the Nigerian Federal Government by John Harris, in which he surveyed the state of library development in Nigeria and outlined a strategy for national growth of various services including the setting up of a library Advisory and Consultative Committee and the co-ordination, development and joint utilization of reference and research services. Other reports and recommendations have since followed along similar lines but her conclusions on the matter leaves us without any doubts of the dearth of cooperative practices among libraries

in this country despite the interest and apparent efforts of practicing librarians to start something.

Other accounts of earlier cooperative initiatives in Nigeria indicate that the earliest conference on cooperation was held in salisbury (now Harare) in 1964, when University librarians met to look at the problems confronting University libraries in tropical Africa.[31] It was preceeded by a seminar in 1953 at Ibadan, in which twenty nine librarians from various African countries participated. In 1964, the Nigerian Library Association, in their third annual meeting, recommended the establishment of a standing committee on library resources to make constructive proposals for the coordination, use and cooperative acquisitions of library materials.[32] The committee was later given the task of examining the feasibility of a cooperative acquisition scheme, embracing the National Library and the University Libraries. Another development was the formation of a joint standing committee on library cooperation in Lagos in 1964. Nine years later, in 1973, the Committee of University Librarians was set-up. In November 1975, a meeting of University Librarians was held in Lagos and the six existing University Libraries agreed to share the African continent for the purposes of cooperative acquisition.[33] Two definite cooperative schemes were set in motion. The first is an agreement between the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs and the University of Lagos library to obtain British Parlimentary reports. The second concerns the acquisition of African government documents whereby each of the six other University libraries are assigned areas of responsibility for

receiving all publications.[34] The distribution of materials and areas are enumerated by Ahmed (1977) as follows:

1. Ahmadu Bello University: government publications in French from Morocco and Madagascar, government - documents in English from Lesotho, Tanzania and Botswana and from Sudan in English and Arabic.
2. University of Benin: government documents in French from Gabon, Cameroon and Niger, in English from Kenya, Liberia, Zambia and Libya (also in Arabic).
3. University of Ibadan: government documents in French from the Central African Republic, Guinea and Rwanda, in English from South Africa, Mali, and Egypt (also in Arabic).
4. University of Ife: government documents in French from Chad, Ivory Coast and Senegal, in English from the Gambia and Malawi, in Spanish and Portuguese from Equitorial Ginnea, Angola and Mozambique.
5. University of Lagos: government documents in French from Congo, Zaire and Togo, in English from Mawritius, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Ethopia, and Tunisia (also in Arabic).
6. University of Nigeria: government documents in French from Benin, Mauritania and Upper Volta, in English from Ghana, Somalia, Algeria and Liberation Movement (also in Arabic).[35]

Writing on cooperative acquisitions programmes in Nigeria, Aje observed that "the National Library of Nigeria has been successful in its endeavours to promote the design and mobilization of a national cooperative acquisition programme by means of an Advisory Committee on cooperation.[36]

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On the other hand, Uba does not seem to agree with Aje when he declared that: "If anyone of you should ask me what cooperative efforts... are being made in Nigeria, my answer would be 'Nothing', though absolutely "Nothing".[37]

Adeyemi and Ifebuzor etal[39] have all dealt with the situation in this country at different times calling on all concerned to bring the libraries together in this country in order to share their resources and services for the benefit of all. In fact, Adeyemi reported that library cooperation in Nigeria is on a gentleman's agreement basis.

Although the literature reveals that several efforts were or are being made in Nigeriato establish cooperation among libraries, there is hardly any evidence to suggest that these proposals for schemes of cooperation in this country are put forward with no basis than the rather vogue mutuality of understanding and feelings generated at professional meetings of librarians. There are abundant lamentation over abortive or abandoned efforts in this direction. Oni-Orisan for instance regretted that the country-wide network of courier services proposed by the Committee of University librarians is yet to be fully implemented. He regretted the state of Inter-library lending among University libraries as follows:

> It is a matter of deep regret that this important service is still being hampered by a number of factors. The basic tools fore effective Inter-library lending are yet to be prepared. Requesting material or information from another library is still a matter of guess work. A Union list of serials held by Nigerian University Libraries is lacking. There is no Union Catalogue of books either. Most disappointingly, the service is not as prompt as it should be; thus making libraries prefer channelling their Inter-library loan requests to oversea libraries in particular, the British library.40

He finally urged that there is urgent need to bring Inter-library lending services to the same level of efficiency as obtained in advanced countries.

Similarly, in 1980, Adelabu[41] proposes a model Frame-works for cooperative acquisitions in Nigeria where he discusses types of cooperative acquisition and some of the problems facing such cooperation. He fianlly suggested the setting up of cooperative advisory committee to take charge of the scheme in order to make it a successful venture.

Aguolu (1986)[42] while discussing library education, stressed that "Inter-Insitutional pooling of resources is required to ensure physical accessibility of the nations intellectual resources for anyone, wherever he may be". The most recent cooperative effort in the country is the National Information Centre conceived by the National Library of Nigeria in 1987. The aim of the centre is to provide an active referral services whereby information resources wherever they maybe in the country are mobilized for use by everyone.

The general inactivity which plague academic libraries, and other libraries in Nigeria with regards to cooperative efforts however is not peculiar to the Nigerian scene. The situation appeared to be the same in such other developing countries as West Asia.[43] Algeria,[44] India[45] and Indonesia[46]. The absence of library cooperation was also noticed in Egypt.[47]

Ashein (1960)[48] was greatly surprised at the lack of coordination among University libraries in developing countries. His assessment of the situation in these countries is as follows:

> "Each of these separate libraries in a University may have its own rules and regulations, its own system - or no system at all - of cataloguing, classification, its own restrictions to used and complete independence of any centralized administrative oversight. There is seldom cooperation among them for exchange of information, Inter-library loan or coordinated acquisition".

The situation is still the same in many developing countries. Aman, in reference to University libraries in Egypt, pointed out paucity of exchange programmes among these libraries. He observed that:

> "It is rare to see books leaving campus for another on Inter-library loan basis. Students have to travel from one library to another in order to read certain books or to find the necessary information which their library cannot provide".49

The foregoing survey of the lierature of library resource sharing in Nigeriaas well as libraries in many developing countries reveals some degree of cooperative spirits manifested. However, most of these efforts were not successful. At the moment, library cooperation among University libraries in the bulk of these countries and Nigeriain particular are said to be non-existent. The few attempts often lacks efficiency and organisations two conditions indispensable to its success.

What then is or are responsible for the failure of Nigeria University libraries to establish effective cooperative or resource sharing programmes among them?

2:4 OBSTACLES TO INTER-LIBRARY COOPERATION

The desire to be self-sufficient has long been abandoned by University libraries in Western countries, largely because of burdgetary curtailments, an excessive amount of published literature,

readers diversified information and research needs, storage problems and above all, inflationary prices of both documentation and Audio-visual resources.

In Nigeria, where University Libraries have deficient collection, meagre funds, unsuitable and inadequate premises and a lack of sufficient qualified personnel, the need to cooperate and share is of paramount importance.

While it is true that there are several organisations in the library field which have established viable cooperative systems in U.K., U.S. and other countries, University libraries in Nigeria have failed to achieve this objective. Several reasons for the failure of cooperative schemes have been profounded in the literature.

In Nigeria, librarians accept the concept of cooperation but find that it is much harder in practice than in preachment. Sinclair however, cites "lack of clear goals and initiative, over enthusiasm later too much tempered by dismay as real difficulties"[50] as two major obstacles to effective cooperation.

On the other hand, Daugherty[51] identified the attitude of staff towards cooperation; intersystems incompatibilities and the quest for perfection and immediate prospects as some of the complex problems associated with library cooperation.

The barriers which hinder or prevent the introduction of networks among University libraries were also given by Ahmed as follows:

i) Insufficient and Improperly trained manpower

ii) Size of the library collection

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iii) Incompatible processing of materials

ii) Negative attitudes to resource sharing

v) Lack of national body to oversee, coordinate and build up networking.

vi) Lack of students enthausiasm for Intensive study and research.

vii) Reluctance of large libraries to participate, because of the danger of being over-utilized without compensation.[52]

Several scholars have given series of problems or obstacles that can hinder effective cooperation among libraries in developing countries. Bouzza[53] have proposed that these obstacles can be classified into four major categories:

1. Economic Factors
2. Political factors
3. Human factor
4. Social factors

ECONOMIC FACTORS:

The most chronic problem which libraries face in the developing countries is a constant shortage of funds.[54] Because of these financial constraints, libraries in developing countries find it almost impossible to build up a strong collection suitable for effective cooperation with other libraries. Parker have stated that "Librarians cannot share what they do not have and may feel that if too little is shared between too many, everyone will end up with even less than they had begin with".[55]

The inadequate communication systems in developing countries, a result of limited financial resources, is also reported as capable of presenting problems regarding networking activities among libraries.

Addressing this problem, Parker[56] maintained that poor delivery time can negatively affect the development of resource sharing schemes. In many developing countries Postal and Telecommunication services are so slow and unreliable that Inter-library lending and any written communication between libraries may be seriously affected. Thus as Wynter[57] wrote, it took, an average 17.7 days for the University of Lagos and Ibadan to exchange a book but on an average of 13.3 days for either of them to get it from London.

Furthermore, Parker[58], Synter[59] and Ndegwa[60], reported that the long geographical distance between cities would affect library cooperation in developing countries negatively.

POLITICAL FACTORS

The implementation of library cooperation in developing countries may also be complicated by political factors.

Recalling a series of networking conferences held in Asia between 1955 and 1970 library resource sharing Quiasson commented that: "no substantial scale of implementation has been made of the various recommendations, this was partly due to the lack of effective and vigorous support from the Asian government".[61]

Other writers such as Parker and Adeyemi (1975) have also voiced concern over the indifference shown by governments concerning library cooperation.

HUMAN FACTOR

An examination of the literature also reveals that an obstacle to the implementation of systems of library cooperation could be with the attitudes of the professional librarians themselves. According to Parker, a librarian fearful of change could exhibit a

"sense of insecurity arising from real or imagined threats to employment or status associated with the idea of cooperation".[62]

Other writers have been fascinated by the librarians attitudes as the sources of success or failure of system of cooperation. Human Foible, such as rivalries, jealousies and other ego factors can all have a detrimental effect on the operation of successful cooperation. Commenting on the all pervasive ego factor, Bowden wrote that "cooperation or reseurce sharing whether practiced nationally or regionally will depend for success... on the tools and organisation and on the elimination of the ego factor"[63] Bowden (1977) further suggests that there could be a relationship between librarians motivation and the success of library resource sharing efforts.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS

Other problems constituting series problems to the establishment of library cooperation reported in the literature are those caused by cultural and social factors such as the many different languages spoken, within the countries, the illiteracy rate of the people, the public indifference towards the library as an institution, etc.

According to Tee[64] language could negatively affect cooperation. "It isclear that the possibilities for international and regional cooperation to solve common library problems are rather limited. The various South-east Asian countries with their different languages and varying levels of economic, educational and library development would find it difficult to cooperate on regional basis".

A number of obstacles are actually reported to have hindered library cooperation in all types of libraries in developing countries. But there was no any systematic study conducted in Nigeria to determine the factors or obstacles that hinder library cooperation among University libraries. This study will therefore attempt to discover whether the absence of library cooperation among University libraries in Nigeria is due to some of the factors mentioned in the literature or other factors or forces contribute to the inability of University libraries to establish successful cooperative programmes.

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CHAPTER THREE

3:0 METHODOLOGY

3:1 INTRODUCTION

As a result of the large population, there was a need for a methodology that would be useful and efficient with a large number of respondents. Therefore the survey research technique was used to collect data for this study. This allowed the researcher to gather data from a large population. The survey method is also known to be a vital method of analysing the social, political, economic and related conditions of a phenomenon. The choice of this methodology is therefore appropriate to the topic since it aided the researcher in observing, describing and analysing the present condition of Inter-library cooperation among University Libraries in Nigeria. It further assisted the researcher in identifying some factors that affected the development of this service among the University libraries.

The purpose of this chapter therefore, is to present the methods and procedures used in carrying out this study. In this chapter, the following specific aspects are discussed: Population and sampling, Instruments used for gathering data, procedure for gathering data and procedures for analyzing the data.

3:2 POPULATION AND SAMPLING

The study involves the examination of Inter-library cooperation among University libraries in Nigeria. The population of this study comprised all the Libraries of the Federal Universities in the country.

There are thirty (30) Federal University Libraries in the country. The Limitations of time did not allow for an examination of all the libraries. Out of the 30 existing Federal University Libraries, a sample of twelve (12) Libraries was selected by random sampling method. The selected University libraries include:

1) Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Library, Bauchi;
2) Bayero University Library, Kano;
3) Federal University of Technology, Akure;
4) Kashim Ibrahim Library, A.B.U., Zaria
5) Kenneth Dike University Library, Ibadan;
6) Ramat Library, University of Maiduguri;
7) University of Calabar Library;
8) University of Jos Library;
9) University of Lagos Library;
10) University of Benin Library, Benin;
11) University of Ilorin Library, Ilorin, and
12) Usman Danfodio University Library, Sokoto.

3.2.1. SUBJECTS OF THE RESEARCH

The subjects involved in the research include the librarians or Unit heads of the sampled libraries. The selections of these subjects was justified by the fact that, University librarians, as the overall administrators and Unit heads (particularly heads of Inter-library activities Units) could provide relevant information regarding the administration and management of this important service. Also they could indicate problems encountered as well as their needs and aspirations. The policy makers, or rather, library managers on their parts could reveal the adequacies of any laid down

policy on library cooperation. The problems associated with this service could also be highlighted.

3.3 DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

Attempt was made to develop instruments that would bring reliable and valid responses from busy subjects like the University librarians and their Unit heads. The following research tools were therefore used in procuring information concerning the study:

i) Questionnaires

ii) Oral Interviews

iii) Examination of records of documents.

Questionnaires

The Questionnaire was used to serve as an appropriate and useful data gathering device. The decision to use questionnaires for this study was largely based on the desire to obtain current and up-to-date information on the state of library cooperation among University libraries in Nigeria. The use of questionnaires also allows for anonymity and therefore frankness from respondents. The quesionnaire yields larger amount of information and allows for economy of effort since the researcher does not have to be physically present to administer it. Finally, the questionnaire is furthermore one of the most stable instruments when it comes to analysis.

The quesionnaire was designed and developed by the Investigator. It was based on Instruments used by Bozimo (1) and Adeyemi (2) and adapted for the study. The quesionnaire was divided into three sections for clarity, easy coding and analysis. Section A consisted of questions designed to provide general/background information about the library. Section B was designed to find out about the nature and

extent of Inter-library lending and also to identify other cooperative activities existing among the libraries. Questions in Section C were designed to identify the problems or factors hindering the development or otherwise of Inter-library activities among University libraries in Nigeria and also to elicit responses concerning the future prospects of library cooperation in Nigeria.

3.2.2. Interviews

In this type of research, it is only through oral interviews that access to the policy makers and librarians who are concerned with library cooperation was possible. The researcher therefore found this a very useful data gathering device. Data which might not have been given adequately by using the questionnaire was gathered from the Interviews. Librarians who are incidentally membres of the committee of University librarians of Nigerian University libraries CULNU were interviewed for the purpose of this study.

3.2.3. Records of Documents

Records and documents are also important in this research and were utilized for the purpose of gathering data. The documents examined include minutes of the meetings of the CULNU, Memos, Conference papers, records of CULNU programmes, files, records of loans statistics, etc. All these serve as aids to an effective analysis of findings of the study by complementing the information obtained from the questionnaires and interview.

3.4 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

After the University libraries have been sampled, twelve questionnaires were mailed to the sampled University Libraries.

The mail service was used because of the wide geographical spread of the libraries. Six questionnaires were filled and returned within two and a half months after mailing the questionnaires. A reminder was sent to the remaining six libraries. Another four questionnaires were returned two months after this reminder. A total of ten questionnaires were therefore received. Two are yet to be sent to the writer. So the analysis was based on responses from the ten out of the twelve sampled University libraries.

On the other hand, oral interview were conducted with about four librarians working in the libraries and some of them are also members of the Committee of University Librarians in Nigeria Universities (CULNU).

3.5 PROCEDURES FOR ANALYSING DATA

For the purpose of analysis and interpretation, the questionnaire items were divided into four sections, each section sought to determine slightly different but related questions to the problem.

Descriptive analysis of the data was used. The data is presented in tabular forms and expressed in percentages. Descriptive analysis has been used in most cases and cross table analysis undertaken in addition, where there are relationships between tables. The results of the interview were also contrasted with some of the responses from the questionnaire where there is the need to support the interview responses.

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CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This study was undertaken to examine the development of cooperative activities among University Libraries and to identify some of the factors affecting the development of Inter-library cooperation among University libraries in Nigeria. Because of the various forms and ways in which Cooperation can take place among libraries a thorough study of factors affecting the development of all formsof cooperation is impossible. This research work therefore focuses on Inter-library lending activities only in order to have a thorough analysis of the subject matter.

A questionnaire was used to gather information on various aspects of cooperation/resource sharing among the libraries. In addition to this, interviews were held with some librarians in some of the University libraries. A total of twelve copies of the questionnaires were mailed to the libraries chosen for the study. Ten were completed and returned and used for the study. The data collected were analyzed and the results presented in tabular forms and expresed in percentages where necessary. The analysis and interpretation of the data is what this chapter is about.

4.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As mentioned earlier, twelve Federal University libraries were randomly selected for the purpose of this study. Ten University libraries responded while two did not respond. In the questionnaire, each University library was asked to state

the year of its establishment and the approximate size of its collection. Table 1 below gives a summary of the names of the ten University libraries that responded, their year of establishment and the present size of their collection

TABLE 1: SAMPLED UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AND THE SIZE OF COLLECTION

S/No	Name of the Library	Year Established	SIZE OF THE COLLECTION	
			Approx. No Books	Approx. No. of Journals
1.	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Library, Bauchi	1981	32,640	1,127
2.	Bayero University Library, Kano	1975	148,000	2,500
3.	Federal University of Technology, Akure	1981	21,000	240
4.	Kashim Ibrahim Library, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.	1962	424,317	66,980
5.	Kenneth Dike Library University of Ibadan	1948	630,000	58,000
6.	University of Benin Library, Benin	1970	120,000	3,000
7.	University of Ilorin Library, Ilorin.	1975	45,384	13,466
8.	University of Jos Library, Jos	1975	117,800	4,155
9.	University of Lagos Library, Lagos.	1965	130,000	5,307
10.	Ramat Library, University of Maiduguri.	1975	116,356	2,817

The table above clearly shows that University Libraries in Nigeria have been in existence since 1948. However, the history of University libraries in Nigeriais is synonymous with the history of higher education in the country which dates back to 1896 when the leading citizens of Lagos proposed the establishment of a training college and an Industrial Institute which was to be a kind of vocational University. This led to the establishment of the Yaba Higher College in 1934. In 1948, the British Government approved in principle the establishment of a University College in Ibadan with a special relationship with the University of London until 1962 when it became a full fledge autonomous University. By that year, four other Universities emerged. They include the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria; University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University); University of Lagos; and University of Nigeria, Nsukka. These were followed in 1970 by the mid-west Institute of Technology (now University of Benin). All of these constitute the first generation Universities. 1975, saw the arrival of the second generation of Universities when the Federal Government established another seven Universities simultaneously in Calabar, Ilorin, Jos, Kano, Maiduguri, Port-Harcourt and Sokoto. It was politically expedient to establish them because at about that time new States were created bringing the total number of States to twelve. By the second half of the 1970s the Federal Government began to put great emphasis on Higher Education in favour of science and technology. This era saw the arrival of the third generation Universities. Between 1980 and 1983 alone seven Universities of Technology were established. These include the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa

University of Technology, Bauchi; Federal University of Technology, Akure; Federal University of Technology, Minna; Federal University of Technology, Yola; Federal University of Technology, Owerri; and the River State University of Science and Technology.

Nigerian Universities have thus grown rapidly within the last 30 years from the modest beginnings in 1962 when there were five autonomous Institutions. There are now thirty one Universities in Nigeria distributed as follows: Six Federal specialized Universities of Science and Technology; two Federal Universities of Agriculture; one Federal Military University; fourteen all purpose Federal Universities and eight all purpose State Universities. Each of these Universities has a well established library that is geared towards supporting the teaching and research functions of its parent body.

It can be seen from table 1 above that the oldest University library in Nigeria is the University of Ibadan library with a collection of about 630,000 volumes of books and an approximate collection of about 58,000 volumes of journals. In essence, four of the libraries are among the first generation Universities; Four from the second generation Universities; while two of the libraries represents the third generation university libraries. This would enable the researcher to clearly identify the relationship between the oldest and latest University libraries.

The data also revealed that each of the libraries has managed to develop some sizeable collections over the years of its existence. From table 1 above, it can be seen that the first and second

generations University libraries not surprisingly have the largest collections. The libraries lay greater emphasis on the acquisitions of materials for curriculum support but the collections, it is claimed have been decreasing over the years. This could be due to the inability of the libraries to purchase current publications particularly Foreign publications due to lack of sufficient funds induced by the very poor foreign exchange. This situation is likely to reduce the ability of the University Libraries to meet the requirements of its user. A study conducted by Ifidon have revealed that;

> "In statistical terms, the number of research degrees which a University produces is a function of library books, periodicals and of the number and quality of teaching staff who participate in the collection building exercise."1

On the organization of the libraries, responses from the questionnaires indicate that some of the University libraries are centralized while some are decentralized, depending on the number of faculties, colleges or departments in each University. The Kashim Ibrahim Library, A.B.U., Zaria, for instance, has a decentralized library system with four faculty libraries, in which technical services are completely decentralized. The University of Jos with eight faculties and the University of Ilorin with six do not have faculty libraries and the central libraries are responsible for servicing the needs of individual faculties. At the University of Benin, in addition to the Central library, two of the none faculties and colleges have independent faculty libraries, but technical services are based at the main Campus library.

Three out of the four faculties of the Tafawa Balewa University libraries have their own libraries, but the technical services are fully centralized. To some extent, the Bayero University library is also decentralized between its two Campuses. But the processing of faculty materials is done centrally in the main library. Other University libraries included in this study, gave no information about their organizational patterns.

4.2. TYPE OF CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES AMONG THE LIBRARIES

In order to find out the type of cooperative activities that exist among University libraries in Nigeria, section two of the questionnaire attempted to identify, if any, the different types of cooperative activities among the libraries and also to examine the nature and extent of involvement in some of these activities. Table two below summarizes the types of cooperative activities and the number of libraries participating in the scheme(s)

TABLE II: TYPES OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES AMONG UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

S/No.	TYPE OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES	%
1.	Inter-library lending and reference service.	6	60%
2.	Photocopy service	2	20%
3.	Inter-library Courier Service	2	20%
4.	Gifts and exchange	4	40%
5.	Compilation of Union Lists/Indexes	4	40%
6.	Cooperative acquisitions	NIL	-
7.	Cooperative processing including Cataloguing and classification	NIL	-
8.	Cooperative storage	NIL	-

From table two above, it is quite clear that a number of cooperative activities exists among the libraries. With the exception of the University of Benin library, all the libraries reported that they take part in one form of cooperative activity or the other. Among the range of cooperative activities, Inter-library lending and reference service featured as the most prominent activities in which 60% of the libraries are engaged. Gifts and exchange and the compilation of Union lists comes second with about 40% of the libraries. Inter-library courier and photo-copy service were also reported by 20% of the libraries respectively.

On the other hand, none of the libraries reported taking part in cooperative acquisitions, cooperative processing and cooperative storage activities. In an Interview with some of the librarians, it was gathered that there were nevertheless attempts in 1975 by the Committee of University Libraries to establish cooperative acquisitions programme among the six University libraries that were in existence at that time. But with the establishment of more Universities in the country and the creation of more states, coupled with deficient collections, and meagre funds, these programmes were never accomplished. (The efforts of CULNU at establishing cooperation among its members will be discussed in detail in later part of this chapter).

Another interesting finding of the study is that the libraries engage in more than one cooperative activity and it is common to find a library cooperating with at least three other University libraries. The Abubakar Fafawa Balewa University

library, for instance, reported taking part in Inter-library lending, Gifts and exchange programme, compilation of Union list and photo-copy service with at least four other University libraries in the country. Similarly, the Ahmadu Bello University library participates in three types of cooperative activities with three other University libraries in the country. However, none of the libraries cooperate with all the other University libraries in the country.

From the above analysis, one can conclude that there are cooperative activities in existence among University libraries in Nigeria. Inter-library lending however was found to be the most prominent cooperative activity.

4:3 INTER-LIBRARY LENDING ACTIVITIES AMONG THE LIBRARIES

Since Inter-library lending was found to be the most predominant cooperative activity among the libraries, an attempt was also made to find out the nature and extent of involvement of the libraries in this cooperative activity. Some loan statistics of the University libraries were used to gather information on this. Table three below gives us a summary of the loan statistics in these libraries for a period of four years:

TABLE III: SUMMARY OF INTER-LIBRARY LENDING TRANSACTIONS AMONG UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA FOR A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS

S/No.	INSTITUTION	Years	Number of Request to Other Libraries	No. of Request From Other Libraries.
1.	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Library.	1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91	NIL 4 2 NIL	NIL NIL 6 4
2.	Bayero University Library, Kano.	1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91	12 5 NIL 2	18 NIL NIL NIL
3.	Federal Univereity of Technology, Akure.	1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91	NIL NIL 2 NIL	NIL 4 NIL 2
4.	Kashim Ibrahim Library Ahmadu Bello University	1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91	52 17 6 9	- 101 157 15
5.	Kenneth Dike Library University of Ibadan.	1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91	30 - 12 -	44 25 20 15
6.	University of Benin Library.	1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91	N/A	N/A
7.	University of Ilorin Library.	1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91	15 - 5 2	12 14 — 1
8.	University of Jos Library	1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91	N/A	N/A
9.	University of Lagos Library	1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91	10 12 13 5	35 — — 7
10.	Remat Library University of Maiduguri Library.	1987/88 1988/89 1989/90 1990/91	13 - - 11	25 12 — —

The responses as shown in table 3 reveals that request made between libraries during the past four years were very few. Although there was no standard at hand with which to compare the adequacy of the Inter-lending statistics, one can reasonably conclude that requests made by the libraries to other libraries within the period understudy was low. With the exception of the Kashim Ibrahim Library no library had made or received more than 50 requests within the period under study. And the number of loans requests made btween the libraries had been decreasing rather than increasing over the years.

The low volume of transactions between the libraries testifies in part to the ineffectiveness of inter-library lending activity. It is also an indication that there was little interdependence among the libraries. In fact, when the libraries were asked to state the extent to which each library depends on other University libraries for materials needed, all the libraries claimed that their dependence on the other libraries was very little. This further confirmed the statement made above that there was not much Inter-dependence among the University libraries.

A careful observation of the loan statistics of some of the libraries made by the writer clearly indicates that a high proportion of Inter-library lending occurs between libraries located near each other. Even though University libraries in one geographical area transact Inter-library loans more than those that are far away. The University of Ibadan Library located in the Southern part of the country for instance, reported that it

lends and exchanges materials with the Obafemi Awolowo University library, Ile-Ife; University of Lagos library, Lagos and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. While the Ahmadu Bello University library on the other hand cooperates with the University of Jos library; University of Maiduguri library, and the Bayero University Library, Kano which are all located in the North.

On the other hand, the libraries were found to be cooperating on an individual basis rather than on a national basis. Inter-library lending between the libraries was also found to be operating without cooperative agreement terms as such all the libraries that take part in this cooperative activity affirmed that their current cooperative activity is maintained on an "adhoc" basis and on a gentleman's agreement basis.

An Inquiry was made to identify the means by which libraries get information about what materials can be obtained on loan from other cooperating University libraries. The responses received showed that current efforts at locating information about what materials in other libraries can be obtained on loan are quite unreliable.

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Table four below summarises the responses received on this.

TABLE IV: MEANS OF LOCATING INFORMATION ABOUT MATERIALS THAT CAN BE OBTAINED ON LOAN.

S/No.	Ways of Knowing about the existence of an item for loan	Number of Libraries	%
1.	Union list of holdings of participating libraries	NIL	-
2.	By Telephone	2	20%
3.	By Trial and Error	1	10%
4.	From the Users of the library	5	50%
5.	By going to the library	2	20%

From the table above, it is quite obvious that the libraries have no formal and properly organised means of knowing about the existence of an item for loan purposes. None of the libraries reported that it gets information about the existence of a document from cooperating libraries through Union lists or Catalogues of the holdings of the member libraries. Although the libraries are aware of attempts by the Committee of University libraries to produce a Union lists of journal holdings of the University libraries, the libraries nonetheless indicate that they do not rely on the "Nigerian periodical Index" because the publication is irregular and often contains out-dated information. That is probably why about 50% of the libraries indicated that thay rely on the users of the library for information about an item to be borrowed from another library. However, 20% of the libraries revealed that they get this information through the

telephone while another 20% have to visit other University libraries for information on items for loan purposes. Yet some 10% of the libraries gets information about holdings of other libraries by trial and error.

In an attempt to find out the frequency at which the libraries transact Inter-library loans, the libraries were asked to enumerate the times they transact Inter-library loans on behalf of their client. The responses from the librarians can be summarised as "Irregularly""depends on demand" and "as the need arises". These responses are a pointer to the fact that the rate of transactions among the libraries is very Irregular. This however, may be due to the absence of demands from staff, students and other users of the library.

An important aspect of Inter-library lending examined by this study is the format for lending and receiving requests and also the libraries loan policy regarding the type of the materials to be given on loan to other University libraries. It is indeed desirable to have a uniform format for sending and receiving requests among libraries in a cooperative scheme. Except the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University library none of the libraries claimed to have a prescribed format for transacting loans with other libraries. The libraries also have no written policy regarding the type of materials to be given on loan. Some of the libraries however have some restrictions on lending out serials. Except on special cases and except where the serial publication is not on demand by the users of the libraries,

most of the libraries would not lend out their publication. However, some libraries claimed that they lend out materials to other libraries on whatever subject and in whatever language to other University libraries provided they are in cooperation.

An attempt was also made to find out the Units handling Inter-library lending and the responses are summarised in table five below:

TABLE V: DEPARTMENTS HANDLING INTER-LIBRARY LOAN TASKS

S/No.	Departments handling Inter-library Loans	Number of Libraries	%
1.	A special Unit designated with handling Inter-library loans	NIL	-
2.	Circulation Unit	3	30%
3.	Reference Section	3	30%
4.	Acquisitions Department	2	20%

From the responses received, it would appear that none of the libraries has a Unit designated to handle Inter-library lending transactions. The task is performed by different Units and departments in the libraries. 30% of the libraries use the circulation departments, 30% utilize the reference section, 20% acquisitions and 10% of the libraries did not indicate any Unit. Similarly, none of the libraries used in this study was found to have library staff specifically designated to handle loans transaction. The work is carried out by some staff in the various Units stated above.

Another area explored by the questionnaire is on the available communication facilities and equipments. Since some of the

libraries have reported that they participated in photocopying services and Inter-library courier service, it was desirable to examine the type of facilities available for the successful execution of these services. Surely the availability of effective communication facilities could ensure prompt, speedy and reliable document delivery of loan to other University libraries in the country. The responses are summarized in table six below:

TABLE VI: EQUIPMENTS AND FACILITIES FOR COOPERATION

S/No.	EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY	NUMBER OF LIBRARIES POSSESSING IT.	%
1.	Photocopy Machine	8	80%
2.	Catalogue Card Duplicator	7	70%
3.	Telephone	10	100%
4.	Radiophone	3	30%
5.	Telex	1	10%
6.	Computer System	2	20%
7.	Motor Vehicle	8	80%
8.	Motor Cycle	1	10%
9.	Bicycle	1	10%

From the summary of the communication facilities in Nigerian University libraries given in table six above, one can deduce that the University libraries have the facilities and equipment needed for effective transfer and delivery of information. 100% - that is all the libraries used for this study reported having telephones. Whether it is working, of course, is another matter. In fact most of the libraries were quick to add that the telephone facility

is only restricted to local usage. That is to say one cannot communicate directly from the library to anybody/organisation outside the University set up. In the Bayero University library for instance, the library cannot communicate directly between its two branches by means of a telephone. The responses also show that 80% of the libraries have photocopy machines and 70% of the libraries were found to have catalogue card duplicators. Similarly another 80% of the libraries have Motor vehicles while 30% reported having Radiophones. Some 20% claimed to have computer system while 10% have telex installations. It is also interesting to note that 10% of the libraries have reported having Motor cycles and Bicycles in addition to the motor vehicles.

Certainly, of interest is the fact that although 80% of the libraries have Motor vehicles, all the libraries admitted that they do not utilize these vehicles in Inter-library loan transactions. Most of the vehicles are said to be in a poor condition. They can hardly withstand any long journey. In fact some of the vehicles are no longer functioning. That is to say, they need serious repairs before they can be put back on the road.

Similarly, it was discovered that all the libraries that claimed to have Computers, telex and Radiophones are not actually the sole owners of these equipment. The facilities are mostly institutional - that is to say, they belong to the parent body. The libraries can however compete for the use of them with other Units and departments of the University. That could probably be the reason why the libraries honestly revealed that they never

utilize such facilities in transacting Inter-library loans with other University libraries. However, all the libraries have indicated their willingness to mobilize and utilize these facilities in Inter-library transactions in the near future.

From the foregoing analysis on the state of art and extent of Inter-library lending among University libraries in Nigeria, one can deduce that, Inter-lending activities are not vigorously pursued by University libraries. Inter-library loans are practiced on a very low scale with no proper coordination and organization. The reported courier service between the libraries is severely limited due to lack of good vehicles. Similarly, inspite of the National Libraries effort at bringing the libraries to cooperate since 1973, the libraries have no written policy on loans and the cooperating libraries hold no meetings or seminars with one another to make policies or appraise inter-lending schemes. The libraries have no prescribed format for transacting loans with one another and very few requests have been made to or sent out to other University libraries within the last four years.

4:4 CULNU AND COOPERATION AMONG UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA.

One cannot conclude discussions on the state of art of cooperative activities among university libraries in Nigeria without examining the role of the Committee of University Librarians in Nigerian Universities (CULNU). Indeed the poor state of cooperative activities among the libraries makes one wonder whether such a body exists in reality. In an attempt

to find the role and efforts made by CULNU at establishing cooperative schemes, particularly Inter-lending activities among its members, an interview was held with some members of the CULNU and Unit heads of the sampled University libraries. From the interviews and examination of some of the files emanating from the meetings of the CULNU, Memos and other documents, the following were gathered.

The Committee of University Librarians in Nigerian Universities (CULNU) was said to have been founded in 1973 as a result of the need to have a Forum for discussions and exchange of ideas among the University libraries. The aims and objectives of the CULNU as contained in its constitution are as follows:

a) To advise and make recommendation to the National Universities Commissions through the Committee of Vice-Chancellors on matters concerning the general development of University libraries in Nigeria.

b) To advise any other bodies on the same matters as may be appropriate from time to time.

c) To formulate standards for operations and services in Nigerian University libraries.

d) To promote library cooperation in the country generally and specifically among University libraries.

e) To monitor the work of agencies connected with the development of libraries and librarianship in Nigeria with a view of making recommendation/representations as may be deemed necessary.

f) To consider other matters specifically referred to it by the National Universities Committee of Vice-Chancellors, and other relevant bodies.

g) To organize seminars, workshops and conferences.

h) To promote the welfare and protect the interest of all staff of Nigerian University libraries.

i) To do any other thing that would enhance the practice of librarianship and information science in Nigerian University libraries.

In addition to the above, it was further stated that the Committee may establish formal relationship and cooperate with similar bodies within and outside Nigeria.

It is pertinent in this study therefore to re-examine the type of cooperative programmes that are being undertaken by the Committee after the publication of this constitution and to determine whether they are still in existence.

4.3.1 PROGRAMME FOR COOPERATIVE ACQUISITIONS OF NIGERIA

The Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian University Libraries (CULNU) has been trying since its inception in 1973 to encourage cooperation among its members. Responses from the interview held with some librarians confirmed that the Committee had proposed several cooperative activities among which are the Cooperative Acquisitions of Africana Cooperative Acquisitions of Nigeriana and courier services.

The cooperative acquisitions of Nigeriana was said to be the first cooperative effort that the committee undertook. In a meeting

held on March 3, 1978, the Committee decided that:

a) each University library should acquire on a continuing basis materials published in the state where located.

b) that the under-mentioned Universities should in addition, acquire materials published in the states against their names:

Ahmadu Bello University	–	Bauchi State
University of Ife	–	Ondo State
University of Ilorin	–	Niger State
University of Jos	–	Benue State
University of Lagos	–	Ogun State
University of Maiduguri	–	Gongola State
University of Nigeria	–	Imo State.

c) that the materials acquired should be as comprehensive as possible but should exclude those not likely to be relevant to teaching and research e.g. school texts and cheap ephemera etc.

d) that each University library should compile and issue a list of material it acquired at least twice a year.

The acquisitions of Nigeriana Programme proposed by the Committee was a laudable effort whereby Nigerian University Libraries were urged to acquire Nigerian publications that would aid the teaching and research functions of their parent bodies. However, with the creation of more states and the increase in the number of Universities in the country coupled with the limited financial resources available to the libraries, this programme has long been abandoned by the University libraries.

4.3.2. ACQUISITION OF THE AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Another area of special interest was the decision of the Committee to cooperate with other African University libraries to acquire their government materials for research purposes. In the Committee's proposal, each of the six older University libraries was assigned areas of responsibility for receiving all government publications in the continent. The aim of the programme was to create good access to the continental bibliography and promotes exchange of information.

This programme however, is said to be facing serious financial constraints which limits the ability of the University libraries to acquire extensively materials in their countries of assignment. One of the librarians interviewed however, revealed that the programme does not exist today.

4.3.3. COURIER SERVICE

Results of the interview also revealed that for quick and efficient document delivery service and for the promotion of Inter-lending activities among the University libraries CULNU had made a move in 1978 to introduce Courier Services in which Alhaji K. Mahmud the then University Librarian of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, was requested by the Committee to submit for discussion a working paper as to how the proposed courier service should operate. The submissions of Mahmud to the Committee for discussions were as follows:

I East-West Route

Calabar	-	Port-Harcourt
Port-Harcourt	-	Nsukka (via Enugu)
Nsukka	-	Benin
Benin	-	Ife
Ife	-	Ibadan
Ibadan	-	Lagos
Lagos	-	Benin

II North-South Route

Maiduguri	-	Jos
Jos	-	Kano
Kano	-	Sokoto
Sokoto	-	Zaria
Zaria	-	Ilorin

To make the programme more successful, Mahmud also made the following recommendations:

a) Each University should be responsible for the availability of a vehicle and a driver to participate in the programme.

b) Frequency of trips should be worked out but to be at least twice a week.

c) Routes will be twbetween neighbouring Universities.

After many years of delibrations on the programme, the Committee finally decided in 1981 to put it aside. During the meeting of the Committee of July 17, 1981 (Item 332.2) it was decided as follows:

> Until it would be possible to have an effective courier service between and among all University Libraries in the country, regional courier services and bilateral courier cooperative arrangements should be encouraged.[2]

From the interview with a member of the CULNU it was gathered that although the Committee had taken a decision on the courier service, some University libraries proposed to start such a programme on regional basis. The librarian of University of Lagos proposed to start weekly service to Benin. Also the University of Maiduguri Librarian announced the commencement of Ramat Library Courier Service with some neighbouring University libraries. A copy of his letter to the librarian of Bayero University library to that effect is in appendix III. These individual efforts according to the interview are also virtually non-existent due to serious financial constraints. With the present economic crunch, the libraries cannot purchase or even maintain the few vihicles that are to be used in the programme.

Another area of cooperative effort which the Committee is undertaking as at now is the Indexing of Nigerian Journals and Newspapers. Because of the problems involved in Indexing, the project has been confined to journals alone. Each University library is assigned journal titles by subjects which are published in Nigeria to be indexed. The coordinating centre is Jos University library. The first and second issues of the Indexed journals were said to have been published in June and December 1986, respectively.

When a Librarian was asked whether the programme is still in existence? He responded in the affirmative and further revealed

that subsequent issues have not yet been produced owing to considerable financial constraints.

From the foregoing revealations from the interviews held with some librarians in Nigerian University Libraries on the role of CULNU towards establishing cooperation among its members, it is clear that the Committee has been a positive force in the development of cooperation among University libraries in the country. The Committee had initiated and proposed several cooperative schemes, particularly among University Libraries. Despite these laudable efforts however, it appears that most of these schemes never took off successfully. There is hardly evidence to suggest that any of these schemes is currently operating effectively. The proposed acquisitions programmes of government documents and the proposed courier service scheme designed to facilitate quick document delivery service are far from being functional. What then can be responsible for this state of affairs. The next section of this chapter would attempt to identify the causes/factors responsible for the inability of the Nigerian University Libraries to establish effective cooperation, particularly Inter-library lending among its members.

4.5 FACTORS/OBSTACLES TO EFFECTIVE COOPERATION AMONG UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES.

In question 22, of the questionnaire, an attempt was made to find out the problems encountered by the University libraries in transacting cooperative activities, particularly Inter-lending with each other. Table 7 below shows the analysis of question 22 as follows:

TABLE VII: PROBLEMS/OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

S/No.	TYPE OF PROBLEM	NUMBER OF LIBRARIES	%
1.	Finance	7	70%
2	Transportation	4	40%
3.	Absence of Bibliographical apparatus, Union Catalogue	4	40%
4.	Negative attitude to resource sharing.	2	20%
5.	Lack of resources	2	20%
6.	Absence of planning and coordination.	3	30%

From the table above, the most predominant problem reported is the lack of financial resources with which to enter into cooperation. 70% of the libraries pointed to this fact. This is followed by absence of communication facilities and the absence of Bibliographical apparatus such as the Union Catalogue reported by 40% of the libraries respectively. Another problem encountered by the libraries is the negative attitude shown by librarians towards resource sharing. This was reported by 20% of the libraries. Yet some 30% reported that the absence of proper planning and coordination of cooperative activities is hampering the development of an effective scheme. Another 20% revealed that lack of adequate resources with which to share with other libraries is an obstacle to cooperative schemes. In fact, the University of Benin library reported that the library has no adequate collections. As such the library at the moment takes no

part in any cooperative activity with other libraries in the country.

4:6 FACTORS MILITATING AGAINST EFFECTIVE COOPERATION AMONG UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES - DISCUSSIONS

From the data gathered from the questionnaires and the interviews conducted, it is clear that a number of factors/obstacles were hampering the smooth operation of effective cooperative activities among university libraries in Nigeria. In this section, it is the intention of this writer to discuss each factor extensively and to examine how each factor affects the establishment of effective cooperation among the University libraries.

4:5:1 FINANCIAL PROBLEM

Without adequate funds, the chances of recording a huge success on the provision of any library service and programmes is very limited. And for any meaningful development, maintenance and support of any cooperative programme, enough money should be made available to the libraries.

Responses received from both the interviews and the questionnaires revealed that the most predominant problem or factor affecting the development of cooperative programmes has been the issue of finance. The problem of finance was responsible for the failure of some cooperative schemes such as the proposed courier service by the Committee of University Librarians and the production of the Union list of journals held by Nigerian University Libraries. Although none of the libraries used in this study indicated how much they received for running their libraries, all of the libraries reported

that their annual budgets are quite inadequate. The libraries also reported that they do not receive funding from any quarters for the purpose of organizing, conducting or promoting any cooperative activity with other libraries in the country. They totally depend on part of their annual budget which they receive annually from their parent body for the purpose of cooperative activity. This has serious implication for the development of any networking activity among the libraries since the libraries are now finding it difficult to cope with the cost of delivery, photocopy and other Inter-library transactions. Similarly the libraries cannot also afford the cost of running the vehicles used in the Inter-University library courier service.

4:5:2 POOR COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

An important factor reported to be hampering the development of viable cooperative programmes among the University libraries is poor communication facilities in the libraries.

Computers, telex, telephone, postal services,rail-road transportation, air and sea routes are all part of the national communication networks. The transmission of inter-library loan message requires good and uninterrupted telephone facilities at a relatively low rate. Indeed to despatch documents destined for another University library located at a very considerable distance, very reliable postal services are desirable. And also to ensure that a message is accurately conveyed and interpreted precisely at the other end, there is the need for telex installations in the library.

From the data gathered for this study, the libraries were found to have some of these communication facilities but on the whole,

Nigerian University Libraries have a very poor communication system. The libraries were found to have ineffective telephone system mostly restricted to local usage. There are also no telex installation in most of the libraries.

In Nigeria, the postal service is so slow and unreliable that inter-library lending and any written communication between libraries is often seriously affected. The system was reported to be so poor that there is always the fear that books will get lost in post and there is therefore a reluctance to send them particularly when they are expensive or irreplaceable items. Addressing this problem, Parker maintained that "poor delivery time can negatively affect the development of resource sharing schemes".

4:5:3 LACK OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES

A library depends almost entirely on the possession of dadequate and relevant collections of materials and trained staff to enable it give any meaningful service to its clientele.

In this study, an important factor reported to be hampering the development of cooperative activities among University libraries in Nigeria is the lack of adequate resources with which to share with other libraries and the University of Benin library revealed that, at the moment, the library takes no part in any cooperative activity because the library has inadequate resources.

Although no attempt was made by this researcher to measure the adequacy of the Nigerian University library collections, nevertheless most of the libraries reported that their collections are grossly inadequate for the purpose of teaching and research of their individual

Universities. In an interview with some librarians in the sampled libraries it was gathered that collection development in their libraries is slow and expensive because very little publishing is done in the country and as such, most publications have to imported from more advanced countries. The 1984 issue of the Bowker Annual of Library and Book Trade Information recorded Nigeria, which has the largest publishing industry in West-Africa as publishing only 2316 books in 1980, while the United Kingdom published 48,069 titles in the same year. The dependence of the libraries on materials published overseas usually results in higher overhead cost per item and consequently libraries spend a disproportionate part of their total budget on books and serials. With the current inflation in the country and the world at large, libraries are experiencing budget cuts which limits their capabilities to expand, acquire and improve their services in other directions.

Considering the problem of inadequate library collections, it would seem that any attempt to promote the sharing of resources and services among the libraries would be futile, since libraries not are not able to meet their own needs would not be able to meet the needs of others. As stated by Parker "Libraries cannot share what they do not have, and may feel that if too little is shared between too many, everyone will end up with even less than they had to begin with".[5] Similarly, a study conducted by Ifidon, suggests that quality correlates with size (inquantitative terms) of library collections in the humanities and the social sciences.

4:5:4 ATTITUDES OF LIBRARIANS TOWARDS COOPERATION

Another obstacles to the implementation of systems of library cooperation among the University libraries was reported to be the negative attitudes of librarians towards cooperation. This was reported by 20% of the libraries. It is similarly gathered from the interview that some University librarians have not given the much needed attention to Inter-library cooperative activities particularly where they feel that this would threaten the financial stability of the institution in which they worked. Although many librarians in the University libraries have realized the need for a viable cooperative scheme among them, some of them are fearful of the changes that this might bring to their employment or status. That only 20% pointed to this is indicative that it is not too serious a problem.

4:5:5 ABSENCE OF PLANNING AND COORDINATION

The absence of proper planning and coordination of cooperative activities was also reported to be militating against effective cooperation.

From the responses received from the questionnaire, there is little or no coordination of efforts among the libraries in cooperative activities. Although the CULNU had taken it upon itself to organize cooperative programmes such as the Acquisitions of African Government publications and the courier service, most of these programmes are virtually not in existence today due to lack of detailed and proper planning and organization. The libraries

were found to be cooperating without any formal agreement terms and no meetings or seminars are held between the libraries to make policies or appraise the programmes. Similarly, the libraries reported having no written Inter-library loan policy and the University libraries are yet to evolve a Union list of holdings of participating libraries. Due tc lack of proper planning, the University libraries that are engaged in Inter-library lending have no uniform format for transacting loans with one another. Each library operates on the dictates of the person in the leadership position.

However, since library cooperation requires at least minimum of planning and organization, it may not be too realistic to think about successful programmes of cooperation among the University libraries.

4:5:6 ABSENCE OF BIBLIOGRAPHICAL TOOLS AND UNION CATALOGUES

Union Catalogues, Union lists, Indexing and Abstracting publications, subject and National Bibliographies are essential for effective systems of cooperation. It is common knowledge that Nigeriais yet to produce a comprehensive list of material holdings of their libraries in the country. With the exception of the National Bibliography of Nigeria formerly known as Nigerian Publications published since 1973, the National library of Nigeria is yet to produce a comprehensive and current list.

Responses from the questionnaire also revealed that Nigerian University libraries have no Union catalogue or list of the holdings of cooperating libraries. There were however reports of the attempts by the CULNU to produce a Union list of the Journal holdings of Nigerian University Libraries. Due to financial

problems, the publication of the Nigerian Periodical Index has been quite irregular and erratic. The Committee had only published the first and second issues of this journal in 1986. Upto the time of this writing, other issues of the Nigerian Periodical Index are yet to be published. One can therefore conclude that there is no upto date and comprehensive list of the material holdings of the libraries. Yet no network can be successfully envisaged without upto-date Bibliographical information about the holdings of participants. The absence of Union lists and other Bibliographical tools is therefore a serious set back to the ability of Nigerian University Libraries to cooperate. Although some of the libraries reported having their own in-house method of disseminating information on the publications in their libraries for example through the publication on newsletters and accession lists, most of these publications are usually out of date before they are received in other libraries. And most of the libraries find it difficult now to produce such list due to the lack of stationaries in the libraries. Therefore, libraries find it difficult to know the holdings of other libraries in the country thereby making inter-library lending very difficult and cumbersome.

Finally, although a number of factors were found to be hindering effective cooperation among University libraries in the country, many librarians are optimistic that the future of cooperative programmes is very bright because of improvements in telecommunication (NITEL), Telephone and Telex systems and services; Improvement and Introduction of Expediate Mail Service

(EMS) by National Postal systems and the use of Computer that is gaining popularity in the Universities. Similarly, the Committee of University Librarians is relentless in its effort of bringing the University Libraries together for the benefit of all.

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CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES.

5:0 SUMMARY

The present economic recession and the economic emergency recovery measures introduced by the Federal Government has seriously affected the programmes of most Nigerian Universities. Books have become scarce and expensive and they are not easily obtainable from abroad. Those available locally are also inadequate to meet the needs of the teaming population of our University libraries. The annual bookfunds of many University libraries are subjected to yearly reductions. These trends call for prudent cooperative planning such that the limited resources in many of these libraries can be judiciously organized and utilized.

However, there seems to be no vigorous cooperation existing among University libraries in Nigeria. Presently, every library appears to have its own form of Inter-library loan programme which largely depends on the dictates of the person in the leadership position. A survey of the Literature also revealed more detailed descriptions of proposed schemes rather than accounts of successful cooperative schemes. This study therefore addresses this problem by surveying the state of library cooperation and resource sharing activities among the University libraries with the aim of identifying some of the factors militating against effective cooperation.

For the purpose of conducting this study the survey methodology was employed while mail questionnaire was used as the main source of data collection. Interviews were however conducted with some librarians in the sampled University libraries particularly unit heads incharge of Inter-library activities. This serves as an additional means of gathering data which might not have been adequately given by the questionnaire alone. Similarly, some documents including files and Minutes of Meetings of the Committee of University Librarians in Nigerian Universities (CULNU) were also examined in order to observe trends and to identify earlier and present efforts made at establishing cooperation among its members.

A total of twelve copies of the questionnaires were administered to twelve Federal University Libraries that were randomly selected. The questionnaire was designed to:

a) Obtain general information about the selected University libraries.

b) Identify the type of cooperative activities existing among the University libraries.

c) Determine the state of Inter-library lending among the libraries.

d) Ascertain the role of the CULNU in establishing cooperation among its members.

e) Identify some of the obstacles militating against effective cooperation.

Ten questionnaires were completed and returned and are therefore, used for this study. The questionnaires were analyzed and the results

presented in Chapter four in tabular forms and expressed in percentages where necessary.

This Chapter provides a summary of the findings of the study, draws conclusions and finally makes recommendations. It must be mentioned at this junction that the findings of the study are only applicable to University libraries in the country, but it may have some relevance to other libraries in the country.

5.1 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

It is a general truism that no library can acquire all that it needs single handedly. A library needs the cooperation of other libraries at all times. The findings of this study have revealed that:

1. University Libraries in Nigeria are engaged in one cooperative activity or the other. The range of cooperative activities among the libraries include Inter-library lending and reference service: Photocopying services; Courier service, gifts and exchange programmes. Inter-library lending services were however found to be the most predominant cooperative activities. The study has also found that none of the libraries is participating in cooperative Acquisitions, Cooperative Processing including Cataloguing and Classification and Cooperative Storage activity.

From these findings one can see that University libraries in the country have long realized the need for a cooperative approach towards the achievement of their individual service objectives. However, the absence of cooperation in Acquisitions, processing and storage of library materials may be due to the

low level of library development in the country and the high costs usually involved in running these programmes.

2. On the other hand, although the University libraries were found to be engaging in cooperative activities of some sort with one another, all the libraries used in this study were found to be operating on an adhoc basis and without cooperative agreement terms. Bozimo (1980) and Adeyemi (1975) had also reported that cooperation among libraries in Nigeria is based on a gentleman's agreement basis".

3. And on the nature and state of Inter-lending activities, it was also found that there is an unco-ordinated and occasional Inter-library loan and photocopy services between the libraries. Each library uses a system that is convenient to it to transact Inter-library loan with one another. It was also found that the libraries have no organized pattern of sharing resources and delivery of documents among its members. The libraries rely mostly on national mail service or personal delivery which are very expensive and often un-reliable.

4. Loan statistics of the University libraries also revealed that there is very little interactions between the libraries as very few requests were either received or sent to other libraries over the years.

On the whole, there is a complete lack of active and committed cooperative programmes among Nigerian University libraries. In general, one can conclude that cooperation among University libraries in Nigeria have not made any considerable improvement over the yeare.

5. Another finding of this study is that cooperative efforts were attempted in the past, by a group of University libraries. Before the University libraries started experiencing budget cuts, a number of cooperative activities were proposed and sponsored by the CULNU. Among them were the acquisition of African government publications, Nigeriana; and the Inter-University libraries courier service programmes. There have also been efforts to produce a Union list of periodicals held in each University library. These laudable programmes were however found to be now non-existent among the libraries. This is because most of the programmes had remained at the planning stage and were partly or never executed.

6. A number of reasons were however, found to be responsible for the failure of these programmes. These include the attitudes of some Vice-chancellors to cooperative efforts by the libraries; the growth in the number of Nigerian University libraries and the lack of commitment and devotion on the part of participating libraries.

7. Other important obstacles that are found to be affecting effective cooperation among the libraries are poor communication systems in the country.

Although the libraries were found to have telephones and have access to other communication facilities like vehicles radiophones and computer, the communication systems in the country is so poor that even the telephone cannot be depended upon much of the time. Postal services are so slow and unreliable that Inter-library lending and any written communication between libraries are seriously affected. It can be

concluded therefore that the absence of adequate communication facilities and poor communication systems in the country make any meaningful attempts to cooperate very difficult to accomplish.

8. On the other hand, the inability of the University libraries to produce a Union catalogue of the holdings of other University libraries in the country and the absence of a current national bibliography is also found to be affecting the success of cooperative activities among the libraries. The cooperating libraries have no Union list of holdings of their libraries and yet this basic tool is essential to any effective system of cooperation. It would therefore, be difficult for libraries to borrow or share resources efficiently if there are no means of knowing what is available in the participating libraries.

9. The study also revealed that poor and inadequate financial support is the greatest obstacle that has hindered meaningful cooperative or resource sharing activities among University libraries in the country. Most of the libraries are insufficiently financed and the libraries do not have other sources of financial support. This is seriously affecting the ability of the libraries to acquire resources and extend its services. Without adequate resources and facilities, no meaningful cooperative programme would succeed.

10. Other factors that were found to be negatively affecting cooperative activities include the negative attitude of librarians towards cooperation; lack of adequate resources

concluded therefore that the absence of adequate communication facilities and poor communication systems in the country make any meaningful attempts to cooperate very difficult to accomplish.

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10. Other factors that were found to be negatively affecting cooperative activities include the negative attitude of librarians towards cooperation; lack of adequate resources

in the libraries; and the inability to follow through after proper planning and coordination by CULNU.

5:2 RECOMMENDATION

Having examined some of the factors that affect the establishment of viable cooperative schemes among university libraries in Nigeria, the following suggestions and solutions may, if applied, correct or, at least, reduce the present deplorable condition.

1. For any meaningful cooperation to exist among University libraries, there is the need to compile and make available Union Catalogues of the holdings of the participating libraries. There is also the need to produce current and retrospective bibliography both local and national by the National Library of Nigeria.

2. There is also a need for closer ties among University libraries through good communication networks and the provision of effective communication facilities such as Computer, telex, etc. in all University libraries.

3. Taking into consideration the wide geographical spread of University libraries in the country, and the ineffectiveness of earlier efforts at establishing cooperation, it seems that small scale schemes of cooperation might be more successful rather than grandiose projects. In other words, cooperation should be done on a zonal basis among the neighbouring University libraries in the first instance. This would ensure proper planning and co-ordination of cooperative efforts.

4. University libraries in Nigeria have no organized pattern of sharing resources and delivery of documents between Univ themselves. Many library's delivery systems have relied mostly on personal delivery or national mail services which are often inadequate and unreliable. The researcher is suggesting here that the immediate reactivation of the dormant Nigerian University Libraries Courier service could go a long way in aiding the success of cooperation among the libraries, given adequate funds for car maintenance.

5. A look at the major obstacles to effective cooperation found in this study all centres around the issue of inadequate funding of the libraries by the government and the subsequent failure of the libraries to develop and maintain cooperative programmes. The appendage structure of the libraries to their parent Universities constitutes a set back in the development of effective cooperative programmes in Nigeria where some Vice-chancellors do not welcome any attempts by the libraries to enter into cooperation with other libraries. This situation can be redeemed by CULNU. The Committee which constitute the head librarians should make a strong call to the N.U.C. and the Committee of Vice-chancellors for special grants to University libraries in order to allow them enter into cooperative activities with libraries within and outside the country. The Committee should also seek financial assistance from local banks, industries, and also from international bodies such as the UNESCO, IFLA, etc. to support library programmes.

6. Finally, there is the need to develop a joint machinery that would facilitate active participation in the programme(s). The CULNU must fully accept the responsibility of developing and serving as coordination centres for all cooperative programmes in the country. The members must be fully committed to the idea of evolving viable cooperative schemes in the country.

5:3 RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

1. This study has not been able to assess whether the University libraries have adequate resources with which to share with other libraries. Research is therefore, needed to find out if there are sufficient resources to facilitate effective programmes of cooperation (i.e. Finance, Staffing, Telex communication services, Fax, etc.).
2. Research is also needed to examine the characteristics and nature of Inter-library loans among libraries in Nigeria. How are Inter-library loans requests generated. Are users aware of this services?
3. Research is also needed to investigate the financial involvement of University libraries in resource sharing activities with a view of demonstrating the extent of which resource sharing among the libraries can reduce cost.

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APPENDIX I

Department of Library Science,
Faculty of Education,
Bayero University,
Kano.

Date:.....19.....

The University Librarian,
.....
.....

Dear Sir,

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

I shall be grateful if it would be convenient for you to grant me an interview to discuss some issues regarding Library Cooperation in Nigeria. The interview is a follow-up to the research questionnaire already mailed out to some Nigerian University Libraries on Investigation into the "factors affecting cooperation among University Libraries in Nigeria". Some of the issues I will like to discuss with you include the following:

1) The type(s) of cooperative programmes that exist between your library and other University libraries.

2) The role of the Committee of University Librarians in Nigerian Universities towards establishing cooperative programmes among its members.

3) The extent and degree of your participation in the cooperative programmes of CULNU.

4) The problems you encounter in implementing the proposed cooperative programmes.

5) Your suggestions concerning improvement on cooperative programmes among Nigerian University Libraries.

6) It is possible for University Libraries in Nigeria to come together for the purpose of sharing their resources?

Yours faithfully,

MRS. B.L. FAROUK.

APPENDIX II

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

a) When was your library established?

b) Have you ever initiated any cooperative scheme between your library and another University libraries in Nigeria?

c) Do you encourage cooperative scheme among Nigerian University libraries?

d) The Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities (CULNU), has one time decided on Nigeriana collection as part of a cooperative venture among Nigerian University libraries. Does your library have a depth collection in the subject area allocated to it?

e) What was the extent of your participation in the defunct Inter-University library Courier Service of the CULNU?

f) What are the problems encountered by your library in implementing cooperative programmes?

g) Please, state briefly your suggestions concerning improvement on cooperative programmes among Nigerian University Libraries.

h) What are the future prospects of cooperative schemes among University Libraries in Nigeria.

APPENDIX III

Dr. Halil Said,
University Librarian,
Bayero University Library,
P.M.B. 3011,
Kano.

Dear Halil,

COURIER SERVICE

With effect from Monday January 17, 1981, we plan to start our regional courier service. Our route will be Maiduguri-Kano-Zaria. The vehicle will leave here every other Monday at 8.00 a.m. arrive Kano at 2.30 p.m. Leave letters, messages etc, with Bayero University, our Liaison Office and other establishments, leave Kano at 4:30 p.m. and arrive Zaria at 6.00 p.m. Tuesday will be devoted to business transactions, but the vehicle will again leave Zaria on Wednesday at 8.00 a.m. arrive Kano at 9.:30 p.m., pick up all replies from Bayero University, our Liaison Office and other establishments, leave Kano at 11.30 a.m. and arrive at Maiduguri at 6.00 p.m.

I hope this service will be mutually beneficial to us.

Yours sincerely,

DR. SAM E. IFIDON
University Librarian.

APPENDIX IV

Department of Library Science,
Bayero University,
P.M.B. 3011,
Kano.

The University Librarian,

_____

_____

REQUEST FOR FILLING QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am currently undertaking a study entitled: "Factors Responsible for Failure of Nigerian University Libraries to Establish Viable Cooperative Programmes" as part of my M.L.S. programme at the Department of Library Science, A.B.U. Zaria. The attached copy of the Questionnaire is intended to collection data needed for conducting the study.

Sir, I will be most grateful if you fill this questionnaire to facilitate the study. I shall appreciate very much if I can get the completed copy by the end of November, 1991. Enclosed is a self addressed stamped envelop for the return of the questionnaire.

I would also like to inform you that all the information supplied will be treated in confidence and will be used, solely, for the purpose of this study.

Yours faithfully,

BINTA L. FAROUK (Mrs.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Kindly tick () the appropriate answer in the space provided and fill the blank spaces with the appropriate answer.

1. Name of the Library.....

.....

2. When was the library established?.....

3. What is the approximate size of your collection during the last five years? (Please state approximately)

Year	Approx. No. of Books	Approx. No. of Journal	Other Materials
1986			
1987			
1988			
1989			
1990			

4. Apart from the stipulated library's annual subvention, does the library enjoy any grant/subvention from outside?

a) Yes from ( )

a(i) Government agencies ( )

a(ii) World bodies ( )

a(iii) Private organizations ( )

a(iv) Others (Please specify) ( )

b) No ( )

5. Approximately how much is such grant in a year?.....

6. To what extent does your library collection satisfy your clientele's needs?

a) Very adequate ( )
b) Adequate ( )
c) Fairly adequate ( )
d) Inadequate ( )

7. How much does your library depend on other University libraries for materials needed?

a) Very much ( )

b) Much ( )

c) Little ( )

d) None ( )

8. Does your library participate in any cooperative activities with other University libraries in the country?

a) Yes ( ) b) No. ( )

9. If "No" give reason(s) for your non-participation in any scheme?

a) Not aware of any form of cooperation ( )

b) Restrictions from parent body ( )

c) The library has no adequate resources for sharing with other Libraries. ( )

d) It serves no purpose ( )

e) Not interested ( )

f) Other (please state..... ( )

10. If "Yes" to question No.8 please tick the appropriate cooperative activity in which your library is involved (you may tick more than one activity appropriate to your library).

a) Cooperative Acquisition of Materials

b) Inter-library Lending and reference service

c) Cooperative processing of materials

d) Compilation of Union catalogues/Indexes

e) Inter-library courier service schemes

f) Photocopying services

g) Cooperative storage

h) Exchange and gift programmes

i) Others (Please specify).....

.....

11. Please list three University libraries with whom you are in cooperation:-

i) .....

ii) .....

iii) .....

12. At what level are you participating in the scheme?

a) Individual library basis ( )
b) Regional basis ( )
c) National basis ( )

13. How are the present cooperative activities maintained?

a) Formal agreement ( )
b) Informal agreement ( )
c) Others (Please state) ( )

14. Is there a body appointed to coordinate the activities of of the scheme?

a) Yes ( ) b) No. ( )

15. Do libraries in the scheme pay any fee?

a) Yes ( ) b) No. ( )

16. If 'Yes' who finances your library in the scheme

a) Special grant from the N.U.U. ( )
b) Subvention from the University budget ( )
c) Library's annual book vote ( )
d) Voluntary organizations ( )
e) Others (Please state).....

17. Does the system of funding the programme negatively affect your performance in the scheme?

a) Yes ( ) b) No. ( )

18. How many different staff in your library are regularly involved in one or more of the inter-library cooperative activities?

a) Professional .....
b) Para-professional .....
c) Clerical .....
d) Others .....

19. Which department/Unit of your library coordinate inter-library transactions?

a) Reference department ( )
b) Circulation/Reader services Unit ( )
c) Serial Unit ( )
d) Others (Please specify).....

26. Did your library borrow any material from other University library during the past year?

a) Yes ( ) (b) No. ( )

27. If 'Yes' what is the shortest response time between your library's request for an item and your receipt of it?

a) 1 - 3 Month ( )
b) 4 - 6 Month ( )
c) 7 - 9 Month ( )
d) 10 - 12 Month ( )
e) More than 1 year ( )

28. By what means do you send out or receive documents and other research information? (tick approximately).

a) Nigerian Postal Services NIPOST ( )
b) Library Courier Service ( )
c) Personal calls ( )
d) Commercial Courier Services ( )
e) Telephone ( )
f) Radiophone ( )
g) Others (state).....

29. How do you rate the effectiveness of the channels? (Use the following ratings 1 - 5)

1) Excellent (2) Very good (3) Good (4) Fair 5) Poor

a) Nigerian Postal Services NIPOST.....
b) Library Courier Services .....
c) Commercial Courier Services .....
d) Personal calls .....
e) Telephone .....
f) Radiophone .....
g) Others .....

30. Do you have any prescribed format of sending and receiving requests between participating members?

a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

31. Do the participating libraries hold meetings or seminars to appraise the scheme?

a) Yes ( ) (b) ( )

BIBLIOGRAPHIC LIBRARY TOOLS

32. Indicate the information tools you have in your library to facilitate cooperative activities.

a) Union Catalogue of University libraries book holdings ( )
b) Union list of University libraries serials holdings ( )
c) Union Catalogue of participating libraries ( )
d) National bibliography of Nigeria ( )
e) Others (Please specify).....

COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

33. Tick from the following the communication equipments your library has

a) Computer terminal ( )) e) Photocopier ( )
b) Telephone ( ) f) Catalogue Card Duplicator ( )
c) Telex ( ) g) All other above
d) Radiophone ( ) h) None of the above.

34. Indicate the type of transportation vehicles the library has.

a) Motor vehicles
b) Motor cycles
c) Bicycles
d) Others (Please state).....

35. Are some of these vehicles assigned to inter-library transactions?

a) Yes ( ) b) No. ( )

36. What (in your opinion) are the major obstacles to inter-library cooperation among University libraries in Nigeria?

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37. What is your opinion about the future of inter-library cooperation in Nigeria?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.