

Collection Development in Law Library for Innovative Legal Education and Training

Olayinka O. Tuyo & Ozor E. Stella²

Barrister-At-Law, & Head Law Librarian Nigerian Law School¹; Nigerian Law School Bwari-Abuja²
lawlady57@yahoo.com¹ ; nkemstella@yahoo.com²

Abstract

Purpose: This paper explains the importance of collection development in law library as it affects innovative legal Education and training. The paper also discussed new innovation in the legal profession and how it can be used in the library to improve legal education and legal information delivery.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The explanatory approach was adopted for this study. An observation method was used to identify new information technologies available for collection development process in the law library.

Finding: The paper found out that there are new technologies that can help improve the process of collection development in the law library. These includes: the internet, OPAC, Digital Library and other Electronic Storage and Retrieval devices.

Practical Approach: The use of information technology in Building Collection and handling collection development process is a new innovation in the law library that has improved collection development service delivery and has saved time and resources in the law library.

Originality/Value: The value of this paper lies in technology change in collection development practice in the Law library. The law librarian should see these new innovation technologies as unique opportunity which will raise the visibility in the information circle of their institutions.

Keyword: Collection development, Information technology, Law Librarian, Collection Development Librarian.

Paper Type: Conceptual.

Introduction

Collection Development is the bedrock of every library. Without a collection, the library is just an empty building and it cannot be regarded as a library. Library Collection Development is a process of acquiring library materials which includes selection, ordering and payment as stated by Shahnaz (2012). It involves planning, administration and control of materials that comes into the library. To achieve the objective for which the law library was set up for, the Law Faculty Library must ensure that their Collection Development Department is vibrant and follows new trends in acquisition of legal information resources which should be acquired, organized and made available for users. A law library is key to producing sound students as stated by Okere, Onayoyan and Ogbuyi (2014).

In order to facilitate effective and efficient Collection Development in law libraries, there should be a policy to follow in the process of building a library collection. A library Collection Development policy is a formal written

statement that guides in planning, budgeting, selecting and acquisition of library materials. This document is a blueprint of the institution's aspiration to avoid self-imposed and circumstantial limitations as well as a reflection of current practice.

The most effective tool a law library can create is a current and comprehensive collection development tool. Collection Development process started manually through collection of brochures from publishers physical selection, collection of invoice and receiving of book materials before payment but times have changed and modern technologies have emerged which is known as Information Technology (IT) and this has gradually changed the pattern of Collection Development and Collection Development Policies as some of the legal materials are electronic resources. Anyakoha (2005) ascertained that ICT influence the success of information service and has gone a long way in enhancing the productivity of academic libraries as stated by Shohnaz (2012).

There was a time librarians primarily acquire books and periodicals from list of publishers and it was easy to rely on reviews and standard reference work as means of selection. The invention of (IT) has made collection development easy for the librarians as it helps in generating, processing and disseminating collection development information. An attempt has been made in this paper to discuss the impact of (IT) in Collection Development in law libraries. Anyakoha also found out that ICT influences the success of information service and has gone a long way in enhancing the productivity of academic librarian.

Information technologies available for collection development

The role of Information Technology in the law faculty library and Collection Development department of the law library cannot be over-emphasized. The way collection development process is carried out has also changed as a result of the innovation of Information Technology Process as stated by (2001). Presently, Librarians are able to access bookshops online through the internet and acquisition is done without physically visiting a legal bookshop. Fabumi (2013) stated that Information technology makes acquisition of legal materials faster. In the context of Collection Development the impact of (IT) has been quite pronounced whether it relates to Collection Development policy, selection and acquisition of information materials, or resources sharing/networking, and collection evaluation, among others.

Okereke (2014) opined that information technologies have advanced to such an extent that their impact on libraries is significant particularly development with regards to digital libraries, internet, electronic publications, CD-ROM etc. This has forced the libraries to change the way they now function. From this observation and also due to the budgetary constraints, law librarians are giving importance to “accessing these other law ‘libraries’ ‘collection’ rather than possessing almost all ‘document’ on a given subject. (IT) has brought the innovation of online collection legal information for instance a number of full text legal databases are available on internet.

Joved (2016) opined that the impact of IT on Collection Development has brought about the

collection of legal information on various formats such as:

1. CD – ROM:

According to Philip (2010) Maintenance storage is rapidly being replaced in many situations by desk top storage with the advancement of light based technologies in CD-ROM. CD-ROM is therefore being seen as a means of electronic publishing. The main difference between magnetic and optional storage is that the materials provided on the latter are not erasable even if more can be held per inches. According to Ramaiah (2014) CD-ROMS are now increasingly being accepted as a standard storage medium based on ISO standard. One CD can store about 650 MB data. Most legal materials are borne into CD’s and are read using a (PC). Databases are available on almost all legal subjects and multi-media data bases are now increasingly becoming popular. No law librarian can afford to ignore this new innovation. CD-ROM databases can be subscribed for and made available on CD-NET and can be linked to a local Area network for easy accessibility by Clientele. The law librarian can afford to have less shelving space as CD’s require only least space. Furthermore, complex queries can be searched effectively by Boolean expression. The use of CD-ROMS as an information storage and dissemination tool has actually helped the collection development libraries save cost for the library as CD-ROMS are less expensive and since it can be stored in a system and uploaded and can be shared on a network for multiple readers to read at the same time. Although some of the challenge of this (IT) device might be of compatibility of hardware and software with its different versions. New versions emerge frequently and compatibility with new system becomes a problem. This can be tackled by adopting certain international standards. The collection development might face a challenge of evaluating CD-ROM before purchase but the simple way is to know as Stated by Oduwole (2000) are:

- How good the retrieval engine is.
- What language and subject areas does it cover?
- How frequently it is updated.
- Whether it can be replaced if and when it is damaged or missing.

That being said, the collection development librarians can adopt this innovation for its law

library as the technology will improve the collection of the law library.

Internet

Oyedun (2007) discovered that Libraries are approaching the time perhaps not too distant when the balance of our budgets will go from hardcopy collections to leased digital information when we shall be paying more for access to database and online resources than we do for putting books and journals on the shelves. Another new innovation of IT application to collection development is the internet. Its impact on law libraries is enormous as stated by Igun (2005). The internet is popularly known and seen as network of networks. It is used worldwide for personal and group communication, transfer of information and for accessing databases on remote computers. Information sources on the internet are all stored as computer files of some kind or the other. These files on the internet contain various materials. Sources like electronic journals, pre-prints, technical reports, campus wide information system, databases, library catalogues legal journals and many other are available on the internet. Most of these documents are "reference type" in nature while other resources can be classified as Usenet resources, worldwide web resources, gopher resources etc.

The internet in the collection development context can be used to subscribe to online law journals and sending of mails to publishers and book vendors which saves the time of the collection development librarian. Subscribing to online legal journals gives the library an opportunity to read latest articles on journals immediately they are published. The electronic journals also makes legal research fast as the internet host a lot of Online legal Databases like Hein Online, Westlaw, Law pavellion, Lexis Nexis *legal databases* and many others. The collection development Librarians have to review their collection development policy to accommodate electronic resources as there process of acquisition is dynamic and not all document on the internet needs to be procured. The collection development librarian must always check on the internet to see what is available and how long it is available and how much it cost to access the site and if data can be downloaded before making suggestions to your library.

Digital Libraries

According to Akpoghome (2010) Acquisition models are applied to e-journals-books, reference work and primary scholarly content in digital form. He also mentioned that they can be acquired through many channels. It can be paid for as a single purchase or subscription or through various hybrid models that combine the two. As stated by Akpogome (2010) The term digital libraries refers to a new way of carrying out the functions of libraries which is made up of new types of electronic information resources, new approach to acquisition, new method of storing, preservation and dissemination, new approach of classification and cataloging, especially of electronic data, a digital library is also known as a distributed text based computerized information system and service. The digital library could also have several provisions to access documents even from outside the organization.

In digital libraries only digital information is disseminated. Digital software is produced locally and most of the information is obtained by remote access for example uploading law student's projects and Thesis on the institutions Websites, uploading lectures notes on the institution websites and past examination questions for further reading. This information's are less permanent in nature. In this situation, it is very difficult for the collection librarians to decide on:

- What should be acquired (by downloading), stored and organized?
- Who should access it; as such information is accessed by users directly without consulting the librarians.
- What standard to be followed in the digital libraries information is not usually structured to rules; codes are followed as no in one control, the information that is made available online. The collection development librarian requires cataloging practice and specialized technologies for compressing and organization of information.

These might be the major challenge that we will be faced by collection development librarian in a law library that has digital library and these challenges can be solved by the librarian researching on how to organize digital materials and attending such training as digitalization of legal information is part of collection development that should be encouraged in the

library to help legal researcher get access to more legal information.

Evaluation of Collection

Olorunsola (1997) opined that the use of information technology in the provision of information and communication in libraries and users of libraries has a far reaching effect on library users. Provision of information can be more effective with the use of electronic information resources. Evaluation of the library collection is one of the functions of collection development programme. Information technology can be used to evaluate library collection. When a library use OPAC Online public access catalogue all catalogue information of legal text are stored using an Online catalogue database and users can quickly locate the shelves a book a situated and even know the number of collection a law library holds. The collection development librarian can get records of information materials acquired into the library by one click as it has been stored in the OPAC.

If a law library uses OPAC for charging and discharging of legal materials, if it is adequate to have an electronic security chip on its legal materials evaluating collection, keeping track of what is missing and what should be replaced as most easy as most OPAC system generates reports. Less used document can equally be identified using an OPAC as the electronic system of borrowing will generate report of frequently used books and from there the less frequently used books could be identified.

Collection development activities of law library in information technology environment

The recent change in information technology, networking use of internet and electronic product have brought about a revolution any change law library's landscape, it has affected the selection, acquisition and information transfer process. The technology is mainly being used for communication, database searching, bibliographic and full text searching, it has also changed the concept of archiving (Kumba and Hadagal, 2005). The organization of information it's storage access, preservation and retrieval has become both-simplified and as well as complicated. It is believed that information has become more garmented, piecemeal and disembodied, resulting into changing its face completely. Collection Development in law libraries is moving towards electronic

documents/information sources using network facilities.

The trend of printed materials is decreasing and need for accessing electronic information resources is increasing slowly day by day and the concept of collection development which implies building, growing, dealing with selection and acquisition of library materials is changing towards collection Management. Combination of both print and electronic information resources like CD-ROM, online and Internet is the dilemma faced by the law libraries and law librarian in recent past "information mix is the order of the day (Gaudli, 2001).

Whatever form the collection development takes, it still requires policies that would govern the acquisition of both electronic resources and traditional forms of documents hence there is a need for redefining a collection development policy on the following key issues.

- (a) Balancing ownership and access
- (b) Co-operative efforts; and
- (c) Continuous monitoring and evaluation (Glenda,(2000)

Impact of ICT on collection development in law library

Chidi (2015) opined that ICTs application to library works and services could be seen as the best way that could be used to assist legal researches to adequately solve their literature need for effective research activities. The use of ICT has impacted on technical service and collection development in particular according to Igbeka (2008), Adebisi (2009) and Uwafor (2010) in the following ways:-

1. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC):- It is the computer form of library catalogue to access materials in the library.
2. Online Storage Capacity:- Digital libraries have the potential to store much more information, since it requires very little space to contain it.
3. Preservation and Conservation. This is key as paper document can decay but digital document can be retrieved at any time

Cataloguing and Catalogues

According to Luteran (2007), Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) has brought succor and relief to users of the law library and users of the catalogue in a way that different users can search the same information at the same time

using different terminals which is very impossible using the traditional can catalogue. With the invention of IT and ICT users of the law library can now search the online library catalogue through ISSN, ISBN and combination of titles and author/subject.

Borrowers can now be sent over due notices through overdue information generated from the OPAC.

- With the help of World Wide Web/Internet acquisition work has become simplified Order placing and price checking are done effectively using IT and ICT technique.
- Online bookshop and publishers' websites save the time of the law librarians. Orders for subscription to journals can be done online in the prescribed format to the publishers through internet and E-mails.
- Invoices can be downloaded from the publishers/Vendors websites and this makes collection development function faster and can save the issue of postal delay.
- E-mail helps for sending reminders to book vendors' publishers and even borrowers of library materials. Badaru and Oyegunle (2012)

Collection development policies for electronic resources

The ever-present anxiety about incorporating electronic resources (e-resources) into collection is over-whelming. The truth is that electronic resources are here to stay. The question now is how to manage the changes and guidelines for collecting electronic based resources. As formats, interface, contents, platforms and inter connectivity all have changed. The purchase of electronic resources requires close scrutiny, because each purchase is unique.

What are Electronic Resources?

Akpojotor (2016) asserted that electronic resources deliver the collection of information as full text (aggregated) database-journals, image collections, multimedia in form of C.D, Internet, web technology, etc. E-resources include E-journals E-discussions-news, data archives to mention but a few. According to Berwick (2003) Electronic Resources are intellectual materials that have been created in digital format and are transmitted and accessed via computer. , they come in various product packages which include a web-based internet product on the internet,

which could be for fee or at no charge or on a storage medium like CD-Rom or DVD. The IT industry is highly volatile and most publishers are a little stable in prices and product. But it is clear that we are moving to web environment. A Law librarian needs guidelines to help them make an informed decision of what to purchase.

Steps in formulating Collection Development Policy

- i. General Mission and Collection Development Policy Statement:-Every law library has a library policy. An electronic collection development policy must be consistent and fully represents the library's mission statement. The basic mission of all law libraries is to support the work of their institution by providing comprehensive and timely access to needed information. Academic law libraries support their law schools, teaching, and research and service mission. Before formulating an electronic resources collection development policy, you must have a general collection development policy which represents your institutions strategic plan, business plan, r other defining documents. Once there is an overall collection development policy then the librarian will have to decide the context within which to evaluate the criteria for electronic resources. The law library collection development librarian should consider these criteria before selecting e-resources.
- ii. Pricing: - Pricing is considered as the price for single e-resources users is different from simultaneous access users.
- iii. Location of access points: Location of access points could be only in the library or anywhere password holders find themselves and there is internet connectivity.
- iv. If the license agreement on the use of the e-resources is annually, quarterly, or bi-annually.

Make your electronic collection development policy a formal policy

The electronic resource policy must be a part of the large collection development policy and should be approved by the institution. The policy document should be written in broad terms to preserve the discretion of the library personnel in decision making, and to help explain decision to those with question. A working library document

for internal library use may include a detailed record of decision, with extension comments, noted, about specific vendors or products, opinions and conclusion and reference to specific decisions. A working document can serve as a checklist and a guide library staff..

Is your library book bias or enthusiastically electronic?

Your selection policies should reflect the culture of the institutions. And if the policy is to purchase books whenever possible, then you electronic collection development policy may have strict guidelines requiring that any e-resources purchased have significant additional content not found in a print counterpart or even may specify that the information is unavailable in print. If your institution is rapidly moving into digital environment then the most important criteria in purchasing an e-resource may be the availability of the network compliments the printed volumes. You institutions mission will provide guidance for this balancing the act.

Will no-cost resource be treated differently from fee-based resources?

Cost must always be considered in any library acquisitions and it will not be good to stretch scarce funds by incorporating no-cost services into you collection. You must make sure the e-resources assessing value is appropriate for your collection even the no cost e-resources comes with some cost implication. There should be a prior demonstration of all legal databases for at least a period of one week before final decisions on subscription are taken as this helps to determine if the legal database is suitable for users and to help users know how it operates. Note that all e-resources must be catalogued and regularly tested to ensure that the URL works. Users should be assisted in learning how to use the e-resources no cost/free e-resources must be evaluated before adding them to the library collection. The only way to understand e-resources is to see it work, and this should be done by demonstrating the E-resources through usage for a trial period. A trial period is very useful as it gives the library personnel the opportunity to explore the E-resources, to help make and inform decision of how much effort the support staff and the end users will put before it can be used.

How will licensing specification affect selection decision?

Licenses can specify who can access the information and from what location and during what times. Other consideration should be if the E-resources is easily accesses by all or if the access is restricted to a few simultaneous users and therefore of limited utility. Before agreeing to acquire the information, the collection development librarians must have a clear understanding of how the resources will be used and how the license terms can affect users and licensing is also a contracted matter and can require the attention of the institutional counsel Mary and Jeff (2014)

Internet application in collection development activities in law libraries

The internet application has increased and has become more dynamic, and it has provided more access to information on collection development process. Some of the new trends besides Email and other conventional application on the internet are: A. Blogs, B. Twitter, C. Wing, and D. Facebook E. Wikki

- A. Blog: A blog which is also a truncation of (weblog) is a discussion or information site published on the worldwide web and consisting of discrete entries (post). The blog will help the collection development librarian get information alert on new books or information materials from publishers through their blogs. Blog also helps the librarian update students and researchers on new collections. Blog can also link the collection development librarian to a publisher websites.
- B. Twitter: -Twitter is a micro blogging application, that keeps staff and patrons updated on daily activities like frequently updated collection, new arrival, current content services of library. The collection development librarian who has a twitter handle can follow publishers and vendors of software to know what is new in the market in other to prepare for acquisition.
- C. Wing: -Collection development can use this tool to get connected with students, library associations and publishers. This can be used to take request of students and researchers on what to purchase for the library.
- D. Facebook:-This is a social media site frequented by students facebook is Librarian friendly. It encourages group communication among patron and can help

the collection development librarian get information of collection development activities of other libraries and Librarians that care for his friends on face book. Ideas can be shared and publishers can also place their new works on facebook.

- E. Wiki:- Wiki is the world's largest provider of hosted business and educational wikis. It encourages collaboration from students, a way to showcase work, and a central gathering point for information. A collection development librarian can actually have opportunity of reading a writer's work before publication and will be able to make a concise decision on purchase.

The above mentioned internet application can help a collection development librarian diversify and get more information on collection development.

The role of the collection development librarian in a law library

Technology is changing drastically. The law librarian and collection development librarians in law libraries and law faculties library need to work with new innovation as (IT) has the geometric increase in the quantity and quality of information and has greater access, easy and quick retrieval of information are most crucial issues in scenario of knowledge management. Also the presentation of law libraries collection in virtual format seems to be great debate for future. The law libraries and collection development librarians in law libraries should see these innovative technologies as a unique opportunity which will raise visibility in the information circle of their institutions by applying these new technologies in law library collection development activities.

A collection development librarian in an innovative IT Age should perform the following roles to meet the collection needs of the library:

- (i) Information Broker:- As an information broker he/she should identify, retrieve, organize, repackage and provides electronic access to digital information resources by various means.
- (ii) Change Agent:- ITs has posed a great challenge. For proper access of E-Resources, the law librarians should work as technology application leader. He/she should always evaluate systems that would facilities E-acquisition, selection and organization of

information material e.g. the use if library of congress online cataloging scheme and the moys classification scheme.

- (iii) Policy Maker: - The collection development policy of the library should be strictly followed and framed for the organization ensuring total or selective access to all information resources. The policy should be effectively analyzed before implementing it in the library.
- (iv) Image maker:- Add value to the library to gain managements support and project positive image to the outside world.
- (v) User Interaction:-Finally acquiring expensive legal materials, software and e-resources is good. But the collection development Librarians should take cognizance of the patrons needs. In other words getting out of the library and meeting where patrons congregate and this means accessing some of the online social worlds of the educative online world that gives feedback on your services.

Conclusion

There is a great deal of benefit and potential embedded in use of information technology (IT). This is particularly true for the law libraries which are already embracing information technology tools across many of its core activities. Although there is still some level of resistant, skepticism and fear surrounding the of adoption these modern technologies, theuseof these modern technologies within the work place by many collection development librarians in law libraries is still minimal. A suitable plan and strong evaluation needs to be looked at, while pioneering information technologies in law libraries. Users need to inform of the new technologies in the library. And staff needs to be trained in order to accomplish the task of planning information technology network in the law library.

The collection development librarian is the sole custodian to accomplishment of the task of planning, organizing, selection and acquiring of quality legal information resources with the supervision of the law librarian. In this context and view sufficient training and more expertise need to be gained by him/her to furnish and give absolute shape to information technology in the law library.

Reference

- Akpojotor, L.O. (2016) Awareness and Usage of Electronic Resources Among Postgraduate students of Library and Information Science in Southern Nigerian Library philosophy and Practice.(e-Journal).Federal University of petroleum Resources Effurun,Delta State.
- Akpoghome,U.(2010) The role of Digital Library in Law Research. International journal of Library and Information Science. (2):6.
- Badaru and Oyegunle (2012): Impact of ICT in Technical Service – Library and Information Journal 10(1) 1-
- Chidi,C.N. (2015) Collection Development in Academic Libraries in Imo State Analysis and Way Forward.International Journal of Advanced library and Information Science3(1):126-135.
- Fabumi ,F. et.al (2013) Information and Communication technology as a vehicle for improving the Collection development of School Libraries resources in Nigeria. International Journal of Library and Information Science.
- Glenda.A (2001) Impact of Electronic resources on library trends 8(4):843.
- Igbeka, J.U.(2008) Entrepreneurship in library and information science. Ibadan Nigeria. Sterling. Hodden Publishers:22-23
- Igun .S.E (2005) Users and internet skills: A report from Delta state university Abraka, Nigeria. Electronic journal of Academic and special Librarianship 6(3):1-9.
- Joved .K. (2016).Impact of Information Communication Technology on Library and it's service International journal of research.(4):9
- Krubu.E.D.(2011) The impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in Nigerian University Libraries. Library philosophy and practice journal.(3):6
- Oduwole,A. (2000),The study of the use of CD.ROM database in Nigerian academic Libraries. Journal of information Science (1):12-13.
- Okereke,J.et.al (2014) Use of library information resources: A study of Babcock university Law Student students. Library and Information Science Digest: Journal of the Nigerian library Association Anambra State University Chapter (1):129-142.
- Oyedun,G.U.(2007) .Internet use in the library of federal university of Technology, Minna.A case study.Gateway Library Journal .10(1):23-32.
- Ramaiah .C.K (2014) Adoption of CD-ROM in libraries. DESIDOS METCALFTE HOUSE Delhi India.(6).
- Shahnaz.Khakemizadek(2012) Use of Information and Communication Technology(ICT) Collection Development in Scientific and research institute Libraries Iran (1):10-12.