



Towards Sustainable Information Policy in Developing Countries: A Look at the Challenges

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper explored the role of information policy in national development.

Design/ Methodology/ Approach: The narrative textual case study (NTCS) method was adopted for the study. Literatures were extensively reviewed and used in drawing inferences for the study. The study adopted a theoretical approach using document analysis. The highlight of the paper includes conceptual analysis of key terms such as information, policy, policy implementation, information policy, and rationale for designing information policy towards national development, strategies for formulating a viable information policy.

Finding: the challenges to implementing national information policy such as lack of well-defined goals, indifferent attitude to policy implementation corruption, diffused nature of stakeholders and lack of required financial and manpower capacity.

Originality/value: The paper concludes that information policy serves as an essential instrument for formulation of frameworks to guide the access and use of information.

Keywords: Developing Countries, Information Policy, Libraries, National Information, Sustainable Information

1.0 Introduction

The citizens of any society be it developed or underdeveloped has the fundamental human right of seeking, accessing as well as receiving information from public and private institutions dealing with governing or carrying out public function, with them responsibility of providing such information. Information is the key to the existence and survival of any society both in the developed and developing world. Information is a key to development at any level. The availability of information is a determining factor in decision making process at all levels i.e., local, state, national, regional and international. Information is invaluable at all times and in all circumstance, especially in national development (Yusufu, 2007). Nebedum and Ugusi (2017) see information as the greatest product on earth for sale. Thus, everybody needs information to survive in this globalization world. It has become the most important element for progress in society. Information is closely related to culture in a way that information yields knowledge which then contributes to people's creative power (Basri, Yusof & Zin (2012).

Information is a necessity as we need it to face human challenges. Decisions are enriched by adequate and appropriate information. It is a strategic resource, necessary in competitive business, a weapon in commerce and industrial competitiveness (Ononogbo, 2009:6). However, as important as information may appear, it is important that frameworks are put in place to guide

its proper usage and application to human activities at the personal and corporate levels. This calls for national information policy (NIP) as instrument for information management.

No wonder, Burger (1986:181) replaced with Ononogbo, R. U. (2009). predicted that the present and future information –policy activity is central to our survival as a democracy. This is on the premise that, right access to information held within government institutions is usually justified as an instrument for promoting political participation (Robert, 2002). Moreover, right to information and particularly the right access to information held by public authorities have attracted a great deal of attention all over the world. The right of citizens to have access to information acquired by public agencies is founded in the ideal political principle that government should be of the people, by the people, and for the people (Omotayo, 2015). This has necessitated the need for information policy framework to guide the generation, accessibility, determination and distribution of information.

Federal, state, and even local governments have instituted policies to address the problems caused by imperfect information. The Federal government has empowered the regulatory agencies to direct firms to provide complete and accurate information about their products and workplace to ensure that consumer products and workplace meet acceptable safety standards (Winston, 2008). Policies are needed to provide guidelines within a framework to assist those in

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authority to allocate resources for the planned and better co-ordinate the development of infrastructure in this case specifically information infrastructures (Henrici, 2004). When policies are properly articulated, they can lead to good governance and national development, especially in the information industry (Uhegbu, 2008). However, development of information policies in developed countries is based on the information needs of the library as the main player (Basri, Yusof and Zin, 2012).

Policies are designed to bring to life the perspective, realities and tools for negotiating the political order (Bolaji, Gray and Campbell-Evans, 2015). The success and continuous sustainability of society either developed or developing is hinged on the effective utilization of information at the grassroots, state, federal, regional and international level. Information policy is crucial for the effective and efficiency of operations of nation and organizations (Mutongi and Marume, 2016). The formulation of a national information policy (NIP) is based on a certain philosophy about how policy development is approached (Henrici, 2004). There is hardly any sphere of government activities that does not thrive directly or indirectly on the availability and accessibility of information policy, since it has the expertise as an information provider (Basri, Yusof & Zin, 2012).

Nevertheless, to have effective, realistic policies requires the active participation of knowledgeable information professionals from all sectors (Bearman, 1986). However, the library and information services have not been acknowledged as playing its role as central agency for providing and regulating information for the nation (Basri, Yusof & Zin, 2012), even though, achieving the desired goal of any public intention is the hall mark of policy realization (Bolaji, Gray and Campbell Evans, 2015). It is against this backdrop that this paper seeks to address the pertinent issues as it relates to sustainable information policy in developing countries with reference to Nigeria. The paper generally seeks to advocate for sustainable information policy in developing countries using Nigeria as a reference point. The specific objectives of the study are, to:

- i. define and clarify the key terms used in this discourse;
- ii. describe the rationale for designing information policy towards national development;
- iii. discuss strategies for formulating a viable information policy.
- iv. identify challenges to national information policy implementation in Nigeria.

2.0 Basic Clarification of Key Terms

The basic key terms used in this paper are hereby explained in this section of the paper. The terms include information, policy, policy implementation, information policy, and national information policy.

2.1 Information

Information is a necessary requirement for the day-today activities of contemporary society. Members of any society at various instances need information to perform one activity or the other. No human being can successfully attain great heights without access to timely and relevant information. Information is the major raw material but with no value if access to it is problematic (Basri, Yusof & Zin, 2012). Information is not just a necessity for people - it is an essential part of good corporate and state governance (Calland, 2002). According to Ononogbo(2009:1), the importance of information in the determination of human activities has long been a widely acclaimed fact and no wise being or an organization can act without an adequate supply of information if they must act correctly. Information to him is the key resources in our society, a resource which allows us to change and improve society. The importance of information to national development is quite significant and it helps the people in adapting to the new challenges and also to predict the possible impact and obstacles of the future (Mamman, 2012). The value of information to any society at all times is hardly in doubt, especially its importance in national development (Uhegbu, 2001).

2.2 Policy

Policy is a complex topic with a variety of manifestations across nations (Case, 2010). Policy can be viewed as a plan of action, statement of aims and objectives, especially when made by government. It is regarded as a formal document or framework in which a government or other institution outlines goals and the guiding principle and strategies for achieving those goals and gives the authority to undertake actions in pursuit of them. The term policy is central to the operation and activities of both private organizations and public institutions (Uhegbu, 2008; Priestly, 2012; Ugwuanyi and Chukwuemeka, 2013). Policy contains a definition of the problem being addressed, a statement of goals (the desired state of affairs), and at least the broad outline of the instruments (approach and activities) by which the goals are to be achieved. A policy is a statement of the goals and objectives of an organization in relation to a particular subject and the description of the strategy for the attainment of these goals and objectives. It is also concerned with the selection of goals and the

means for achieving them within a given situation (Effiong, 2013).

Policy therefore can be defined as the deliberate action of government organization that alter or influences the society. These include taxation, regulation, expenditures, information, statements, legal requirements and legal prohibitions. Policy is a course setting action that provides the direction, the guide and the way to the achievement of certain goals objectives desired by government (Ugwuanyi and Chukwuemeka, 2013). Mutongi and Marume (2016) highlighting policy from the perspective of information and records management posit that, policy is what gives the lowest level file clerk the authority to deny a senior colleague access to certain categories of classified information or records. However, the goals of any policy many varied widely according to the organization and in the context in which they are made (Yusufu, 2007).

2.3 Policy Implementation

Policy implementation is a very tedious process that requires a careful and critical analysis before it is embarked upon. It is a process of converting human and materials inputs, including information, technical, human, demands and support into outputs in the form of goods and services (Effiong, 2015). Edwards (1980) as cited in Makinde (2005:63) defines policy implementation as "a stage of policy making between the establishment of a policy (such as the passage of a legislative act, the issuing of an executive order, or the promulgation of a regulatory rule) and the consequences of the policy for the people whom it affects. It also involves a wide variety of action such as issuing and enforcing directives, disbursing funds, making loans, assigning and hiring personnel etc."

The pattern and nature of policy implementation is the major explanation for the failure or success of any given policy (Ugwuanyi & Chukwuemeka, 2013). The process by which policies are made obviously will differ by nation over time, as political leadership, the economy, and other factors, change (Case, 2010). In the view of Bearman (1986), all policy work should begin with careful examination of both individual and societal information needs so that policies developed take into account the needs and concerns of the citizens and the society. Effective policy implementation entails implementing a policy in such a way as to produce, attain or realize the goals and objectives of the policy (Ugwuanyi & Chukwuemeka, 2013).

Policy implementation to Ahmed and Dantala (2016), is also affected by the degree of behavioural change programme envisages, for its intended beneficiaries. They posit that programmes

that are designed to achieve long range objective may be more difficult to implement than those whose advantage are immediately apparent to the beneficiaries. The effectiveness of policy implementation is largely determined by the efficiency and competence of government implementing agencies (Bolaji, Gray & Campbell-Evans, 2015).

Policy implementation usually involves a different set of actors (Burger, 1986). He further asserted that policy makers do get involved usually in order to ensure that their policy is implemented in a way consistent with their original intent. Policy implementation on the other hand, refers to the process of converting input: financial resources, information, materials, technical, human, demands support, etc into output: - goods and services including symbolic values likes titles and national awards which support behavior changes in beneficiary group (Azu, 2016). Policies are translated into reality through projects and programs and the very success or failure of a policy is determined by the way and manner in which programmes are executed (Azu, 2016). Policy implementation represents the stage where government executes an adopted policy as specified by the legislature or policy action (Agu, 2016).

According to Fung (1986), treating information as a nation's vital resource, constant creation, collection, processing, dissemination, transferring, availability, access, analysis, and utilization of information are indispensable for efforts in national development (Fung, 1986).

Yusufu, (2007) posit that a single information policy for the country should be able to address five basic cornerstones of information activities, this includes: Free access to information; Information security; Information storage and retrieval; and Information dissemination especially to rural areas and the less privilege. A NIP is required to ensure the harmonious implementation and operation of information resources, services and systems (Henrici, 2004).

2.3 Defining Information Policy

Information policy is even more difficult to define, as it ranges from physical things like books and libraries, to abstract content and arrangements for ownership thereof. The result is often a proliferation of different national and local policies, sometimes in conflict with one another (Case, 2010). Information policy as a term has many connotations depending upon different viewpoints and various interpretations: Some see it as the body of statutes and regulations that govern the telecommunication sector, whereas, others view it to be concerned with issues of privacy and freedom

of information. Information policy is determined as the set of rules, regulation and standards that controls the access to information for society. Schement and Curtis (1995) as cited in Duff (2004) defined information policy as "all policies relating to the allocation of resources for purposes of institutionalizing information and for providing access to channels of communication".

It is the nature of information policy that it supports others goals of government such as economic development, lifelong learning or health improvement, rather than being an end itself, which is why there is no focus within governance, or outside it (Cooke, Owen & Mathews, 2012). Information policy is an instigation of decisions related to the creation, use, preservation and flow of information (Unsworth, 2014). In academic, information policy suffers from disciplinary territorialism, conceptual under development and even the absence of a widely accepted definition (Duff, 2004). According to Braman (2011), information policy is comprised of laws, regulations, and doctrinal positions and other decision making and practices with society-wide constitution effects-involving information creation processing, flows, access, and use. Yusufu (2007:9) described information policy as any law, regulation, rule, or practice (written or unwritten), that affects the creation, acquisition, organization, dissemination, and/or evaluation of information. He noted further that most often; information policy is discussed in terms of governmental legislation. An information policy is concerned with identifying, delivering, and managing internal and external information resources needed by employees at all levels of the organization to perform their jobs as completely and efficiently as possible in order to meet business objectives (Mutongi and Marume, 2016). Information is seen as a process rather than a document (Cooke, Owen and Matthew, 2012).

Duff (2004) enumerated the normative list of information policy issues as: Freedom of information (FOI); privacy; Data Protection and Security, Official Secrets, Libraries and Archives, Scientific, Technical and Medical (STM) documentation, Economics of Government Publications, Copyright and Intellectual Property, National Information Infrastructure, and International Information Flows. Yusufu (2007:9) affirmed that there are a variety of stakeholders in the information policy process, stakeholders who are deeply concerned about information from a legal or political perspective such stakeholders include: business and industry, government ministries and parastatals which are responsible for information activities of government.

Information policy according to Mutongi and Marume (2016:93) is concerned with identifying, delivering, and managing internal and external information resources needed by employees at all levels of the organization to perform the jobs as competently and efficiently as possible in order to meet business objectives. Bustamante (2007) and Soler (2007) as cited in Basri, Yusuf & Zin (2012) explained information policy from the micro perspective, as a combination of legislation, procedure, guideline which regulates the production management and use of information which shape the role of information in society.

Braman (2006:4) sees "Information Policy" as the prospective organ of the nation state, the means by which it senses itself and, therefore, the medium through which all other decisions making, public or private takes place. Information policy according to Yusufu (2007) is any law, regulation, rule or practice (written or unwritten), that affects the creating acquisition, organizations, dissemination, and / or evaluation of information. Information policy simply refers to the policy that governs the way information affects our society. Basri, Yusuf and Zin (2012) defining information policy from the micro perspective see information policy as a combination of legislation, procedures, guideline which regulate the production, management and use of information which shape the role of information in society. As expressed by Braman (2006), while information policy is among the ancient forms of governance, there has been a phase change - a change of state in the extent to which governments deliberately, explicitly, and consistently control information creation, processing, flows and use to exercise power (Braman, 2006).

2.4 National Information Policy (NIP)

A National Information Policy (NIP) essentially covers the issues of the information life cycle from generation to destruction (Henrici, 2004). Malley (1988) in Cooke, Owen & Matthews (2012) defined a NIP as "... government directed policy for co-ordinated action on all matters relating to information". National information policy talks about laying down guidelines to regulate participation (Uhegbu, 2008). The formulation of a NIP is based on a certain philosophy about how policy development is approached.

Braman (2011:2) affirmed that though information policy creates the conditions under which all other decision making, public discourse, and political activity take place, it was long considered "low policy" of relative unimportance. Bates (2014) citing Braman (2006), posit that information policy has been claimed as a key tool in

the exercise of state power over the last 30 – 40 years, resulting in the development of an “informational state” (p.1). Yusufu (2007:11) conclude that information polices can be identified in the various bodies responsible for information services both in the private and public sector, he stated further that it should be appreciated that though a single white paper on “national information policy” do not yet exist.

According to Henrici (2004), the successful implementation of a NIP requires the existence of an effective national information infrastructure, adequate skilled manpower, supportive facilities and appropriate financial resources. A national information policy to Uhegbu (2008) would ensure that information is provided to the right person, at the right time, and in the right format, it would ensure that appropriate information is provided to all in any spheres of activities by properly-equipped libraries and information centres.

3.0 Rationale for Designing Information Policy towards National Development

Most of the information which members of the public required to access in order to participate effectively and efficiently in national development is predominantly held by government and other public bodies (Republic of Malawi, 2014). This implies that the citizens will have to go through some process to access these information, the reason being that government information are not easily accessible, nor are they available in public domain. Information policy as reasoned by Mutongi and Murume (2016) determines the kind of information to be created, acquired, collected, created, organized, stored, accessed, disseminated consumed, used retained and reused. It indicates the authorized people to use the information, whether it is free information or is not free.

The information policy problems recently entailed by the new information and communications technologies are likely to require increasing attention, given the rapid pace of technological advancement and the prospect of cheaper storage, handling and communication of information. This must have informed Wesley-Tanaskovic (1985:3), replaced with Juma, T. O. & Onkware, K. (2015). articulating the need for a national information policy as governments the world over are striving to ensure that the information requirements of society are met and that users have access to and can fully utilize the information they need to carry out their respective functions. In addition governments should be able to exercise a certain measure of co-ordination of action of such priorities. However, Neuman (2002) posit that poor public access to information feeds

corruption; secrecy allows back-room deals to determine public spending in the interests of the few rather than the many. Furthermore, lack of information impedes citizens’ ability to assess the decisions or their leaders, and even to make informed choices about the individuals they elect to serve as their representatives.

Duff (2004) citing Patenting Life (2000), maintained that the economics of government information, i.e., the problem of which official publications should be treated as private or public goods, is also governance to information policy. In this context, copyright and intellectual property rights (IPR) are now absolutely crucial, not least since hubristic private corporations started claiming copyright in the human genetic code. As reported by Juliet and Paquet (2001), while in earlier periods information could reasonably be rationed on a need-to-know basis without much consequence, in the new information society, access to information is a basic necessity for without it social learning is stunted. Moreover, information in the new context is not only a public good but it is also a public resource.

The concept of a national information policy became possible only because political leaders around the world came to recognize that, in fact, laws and regulations affecting information are actually matters of “high policy” of over aching strategic importance (Braman, 2011). He noted further that although ultimately few governments put comprehensive single information policy packages in place, the shift in perspective indicated by relatively short-lived debates over national information. Policies were enduring and the intensity information policymaking has continued to increase worldwide. Efficient flow, access to, and the use of information have become crucial factors in determining the economic strength of nations (Omotayo, 2015). National information policy (NIP) will help to streamline both the nature and format of information resources that will be made available to Nigerians. It will help to strength information infrastructure by specifying low resources will be recognized and managed (Uhegbu, 2008).

Access to information laws allows individuals and groups to understand the policies with which the government makes determinate decisions, relating to health, education, housing and infrastructure projects and the factual basis for such decisions (Neuman, 2002). A policy is developed with the intention to guide, influence and determines decisions, actions and other matters; it is means to an end (Priestley, 2012). A national information policy will help ensure proper packaging of information by determining the nature and

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format of information resources to meet local needs. With it, book and non-book material that violates local content specification will no longer be allowed into the country (Uhegbu, 2008).

According to Uhegbu (2001), observed that Nigeria's information environment is highly uncoordinated and open to abuse. The environment epitomizes into proliferation of all sorts of information and information generating products. The most universally important reason for a NIP as enunciated by Henrici (2004), is because of the rapidly changing ways in which information is produced, packaged, marked and distributed. The provision of information is a key-element in citizenship. Citizens need detailed and accurate data and information on the activities of the government to help them contribute meaningfully to the debate on appropriate strategies for socio economic planning, growth and development (Omotayo, 2015). To him, people cannot play their full part in society without access to information. Uhegbu (2008:3) believed that NIP would encourage the provision of minimum standards of operation in acquisition, accommodation, personnel, equipment and quality of services. More so, it would ensure that the right technology, information generating resources publishing materials and facilities are allowed into the country.

The absence of an information policy causes lot of havoc in a nation and organizations. As highlighted by Mutongi and Marume (2016), information policy makes work easier as there are clear guidelines that are to be followed. According to Henrici (2004), in general, policies are needed to provide guidelines within a framework to assist those in authority to allocate resources for the planned and better co-ordinated development of infrastructure in this case specifically information infrastructure.

The need for formulating information policy includes but not limited to the following:

- to ensure that members of the society have easy access to information required for their day to day activities;
- to enable users maximize and utilize the information they need to carry out their respective functions;
- to provide a frame work or basis upon which the decisions of leaders can be assessed;
- to strengthen information infrastructure;
- it influences the kind of information to be created, acquired, collected, organized, stored, accessed and disseminated.
- it ensures that right information is provided to the right person, at the right time, and in the right format.

- it facilitates appropriate provision timely information to the people in all spheres of activities; and
- to ensure that democracy function effectively.

4.0 Roles of Libraries in the Design and Implementation of National Information Policy in Nigeria

Library is a distinct institution that plays a prominent role in shaping the knowledge society closely driven and guided by information policy (Basri, Yusof and Zin, 2012). They further posit that library and information service is not only fundamental but should also be the main player in information policy making. The role of library is event pivotal in the development of information society and it acts as gateways to the information resources on the global superhighways. Library plays an important role as providers of electronic information and access points to information in the efforts to bridge the gap between the information rich and poor (Nwosu & Ogbomo, 2010 as cited in Basiri, Yusof & Zin, 2012). Oriogu, Ogbuiyi, Etu and Umahi (2015) reasoned that the exponential growth of information has placed the world in a state of anarchy; thus, librarian as organizers of knowledge makes information easily accessible to the society through the use of modern technologies.

Unarguably, information professionals play an important role in the formulation and implementation of information policies in organizations and the nation at large (Mutongi and Marume, 2016). Smith (2002) maintained that a powerful contribution which government libraries can make to policy development for national information policy is to assert the enduring values of librarianship. This implies drawing together different knowledge formats, covering all shades of opinion, in a structure which enables the end user to challenge and to be challenged by a range of differing data. He noted further that the library role of gathering together knowledge, and then of enabling meaningful access to it, so that this climate of creativity can flourish, is a previous one and has been proven over decades to work (p. 189).

However, within the context of Malaysia, library continues to be cast aside with the perception that this institution is not relevant to information policy making (Basri, Yusof and Zin, 2012). Libraries exist as one element in this existing mosaic of "information policy" and of the knowledge society (Smith, 2002, p. 185). He pointed out that apart from libraries; there are very few if any agencies of government which understand the social significance of the accumulated resources of knowledge in the public domain.

A NIP is required to ensure the harmonious implementation and operation of information resources, services and systems (Henrici; 2004). NIP will specify how libraries in will go into cooperative resources sharing either among themselves or with those over sear (Uhegbu, 2008).Information resources should be deployed to support democracy, because certain information is instrumental to the exercising of basic human rights, in which case, people should have the right of access to this information (Henrici, 2004).

Libraries embrace the social responsibility to offer services that bridge social, political and economic barriers. It traditionally make effort to extend services to marginalized people, by providing unlimited access to information, through public libraries, which are located in the community (Akande, 2012).Library and Information service is not only fundamental but should also be the main player in information policy making (Basri, Yusof & Zin, 2012). There can be no visible development in any nation of the world in the absence of information policy. In the words of Adekoya & Ajlore (2012), development is continuous process; therefore, whatever is put in place today should not hamper future progress and continues development. Libraries exist as one element in the existing of "Mosaic information" and of the knowledge society (Smith, 2002).As out rightly expressed by Fung (1986: 20); replaced with Salman, A. A., Ocholla, D. N., Mostert, B. J. & Mugwisi, T. (2013).

A sound, comprehensive, and coordinated national information policy, therefore, should be determined with a broad concept and should deal with every facet of information: creation, collection, organization, supplies, processing, dissemination, transfer, and usage. In effectively and successfully formulating a national information policy, centralized high – level leadership, hierarchical up grading of responsible sub-units, participation of public and private sectors, issues of standards, and comprehensive, continuous, and coordinated efforts are the basic considerations.

Fung (1986) (Salman, A. A., Ocholla, D. N., Mostert, B. J. & Mugwisi, T. (2013). contend that national library and information service policy can be logically and effectively derived from the framework of the overall nation information policy aimed at treating assorted issues of information communication, information technology,

information economics, information privacy, laws pertinent to information related activities, information management, information networks, information / library science services and information education. He further posit that while libraries do constitute an important component of the entire national information network, national information policy should also concern itself with various issues confronting library and information entities.

The library has been identified as one of the key elements for open access to information without neglecting the basic role of library which concentrates in collecting and organizing information and offering access needs to be maintained (Basri, Yusof & Zin, 2012). Furthermore, Basri, Yusof and Zin (2012:318) affirmed that:

Only information professionals are capable to deliver their expertise in monitoring, regulating, shaping and implementing activities such as transborder data flow, national information system, information expert and profession, information skill, content dissemination, laws related to books, collection policy, data usage and distribution, reading campaign, information retention, public access centre, knowledge sharing, nation bibliography, repository library, acquisition of foreign publications availability of information and books access.

Nevertheless, the library and information science remains a significant element of the source of information, even though the current focus is on ICTs for transforming the economy for national development (Basri, Yusof, and Zin (2012).

5.0 Challenges in Implementing National Information Policy in Nigeria

- i. **Indifferent attitude to national information policy implementation:** The various stakeholders in the information sector has not been serious concerning the implementation of national information policy. This indifferent attitude no doubt affects the process, Makinde (2005:65), lamented that little attention is paid to the subject of policy implementation by policy decision makers while it is often taken for granted that once a policy is adoption by government it must be implemented and the desired goals achieved. The above lapse to him has often resulted in poor policy implementation, which, in effect, gives rise to implementation gap. In other words, there is a

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- sizeable gap between a policy decision and its implementation.
- ii. **Lack of well-defined goals:** If the any policy must be realistic and attainable, there ought to be well-defined goals. The absence of well-defined goals will delay the implementation process of any viable policy. As pointed out by Makinde (2005:68) inadequate definition of goals makes a policy to lack clarity, internal consistency and compatibility with other policy goals with the result that the successful implementation of such a policy becomes problematic.
 - iii. **Lack of will power to enforce information Policy:** Most government officials lack the will power to ensure full compliance with stipulated policies. The lack of willpower limits the effectiveness of implementing information policy. Neuman (2002) posit that of government see passage, implementation and enforcement of a vigorous access to information law as a priority.
 - iv. **Corruption:** Corruption is a clog in the wheel of any development process. In the context of information policy, corrupt activities between the point of design and implementation can mar the whole system. As pointed out by Ahmed and Dantata (2016), in Nigeria, the most serious challenge is the ability of the government to eradicate corruption at all levels.
 - v. **Diffused nature of stakeholders:** according to Cooke, Owen and Matthews (2012), if the information profession does not appear to have much influence on information policy internally, neither do external information organization. They believe that a key problem is that either is both too many voices within the profession and too many government departments with some kind of information policy agenda.
 - vi. **Lack of required manpower and financial:** According to Ugwuanyi and Chukwuemeka (2013), another critical factor inhibiting effective implementation of policies in Nigeria is that some agencies or institution saddled with the responsibility of implementation given polices do not possess the require manpower and financial resources to effectively implement them.
 - vii. **Complex nation of most society:** Henrici (2004) proposed that practitioners have to satisfy the information requirements of the very heterogeneous society, composed of many cultural, language and ethnic groups. In summary, the challenges associated with information policy implementation, especially in developing countries includes:

- Lack of clear definition of goal
- Corruption
- Diffused nature stakeholders
- Lack of required financial and manpower
- Indifferent attitude towards implementation of national information

Ahmed and Dantata (2016:63) highlighted on the problems of policy implementation in Nigeria, and these include: lack of clear definition of goals, over ambitious policy goals, lack of appropriate technology for implementation, lack of condemnatory commitment to policy, lack of clear definition of responsibility and coordination, companion during implementation and corruption. Similarly, Uhegbu (2001:133) articulated the problems confronting Nigeria's national information policy efforts as: unstable nature of Nigeria's economic and political environment; government apathy on information services; weak and uncoordinated information professional associations in the country oral medium of communication and high literacy rate; underdeveloped and deficient information facilities within the country; and frequent within the country; and frequent interferences in the functions of the country's information institutions'

6.0 Conclusion

Information is an integral part of the global world with national information policy serving as an essential instrument for formulating frameworks to guide the access and use of information. The study concludes that availability and utilization of information is a pre-requisite for the sustainability of any society and since most of the information required by members of the public are held by government and other public agencies, it is imperative that information policy should be designed as a tool towards national development. Also, it is clear from the study that research is necessary to really understand and build a strong and reliable framework for government policies. Furthermore, despite the relevance of information policy in national development, their implementation processes are not without challenges. National information policy is an essential instrument for promoting national development. Effective library and information service delivery can only be a reality if the requisite information frameworks and infrastructures are in place. It is imperative that library and information professionals (LIPs) should wake up and face the reality of contributing to the overall information infrastructure. In view of the fore going, it is pertinent to say that priority should be given to the design and implementation of national information policy among librarians. This would invariably affect

how information are being generated, managed and disseminated in this present age.

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