



AKWAIBOM STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN PROMOTING NATIONAL INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Purpose: This study examined the influence of Akwalbom State University Library towards promoting national integration and sustainable development.

Design/Methodology/Approach: A descriptive survey design was used and proportional stratified random sampling was adopted. The population was made up of all the Library staff in AKSU Library and registered students while the sample was 168 respondents. Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection and data obtained were organized and analyzed using simple descriptive statistics which includes percentages, means scores, and frequency tables.

Implications: The result of the study showed that the library resources which promote national integration and sustainable development are conference proceedings, government publications newspapers, library, textbooks and internet. Also, the library services include reference services, reprographic services, acquisition of library resources and charging and discharging of library resources. The influence of ICT in AKSU library towards promoting national integration and sustainable development is achieved through the on-going Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID), availability of AKSU Wi-Fi for browsing, downloading documents from the internet using flash drive, and reprographic services. The problems associated with national integration and sustainable developments are lack of ICT training among staff, poor funding, lack of skilled professionals etc. The strategies towards ensuring national integration and sustainable development are staff training, adequate funding, encouraging skill professional etc.

Recommendations: The researcher recommended among others that, adequate funding and appropriate budget should be provided for academic libraries to ensure the acquisition of appropriate information resources and the services of skilled professionals should be encouraged to ensure effective service delivery. The researcher recommended that there should be appropriate funding and budget for academic libraries, staff should be sponsored for seminars, workshops, conferences and ICT training so as to update their skills and knowledge, adequate power supply should be ensured since ICTs operations depend on power, and finally skilled professionals should be encouraged so as to ensure maximum and adequate service delivery in the library.

Keywords: National Integration, Sustainable Development, Akwalbom State University Library

Paper Type: Empirical paper

Introduction

Akwalbom State University Library is an academic library that metamorphosed from the defunct Akwalbom State University of Technology Library (AKUTECH) to the modern Akwalbom State University Library. The Library was established in 2010 with a vision to foster reading culture for the pursuit of knowledge, academic excellence and the spirit of enquiry in a serene academic environment. Academic libraries are means to national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria.

National integration in this context refers to the awareness of a common identity amongst the citizen of a country. With national integration, it therefore means total unification and oneness irrespective of different castes, religious and language. Also, sustainable development refers to the process of improving the range of opportunities that will enable people to achieve their aspirations and full potentials over a period of time while maintaining the resilience of economic, social and environmental system (Ohunene & Ebele 2014).

Academic libraries are repositories of reading and research resources in order to achieve the aim at which the education institution is established. Education on the other hand is a means to achieve national integration and sustainable development. Through education, members of the society will become literate, united and strive for various ways and strategies to ensure sustainable development in the society. Education is a key to national integration and sustainable development hence Nnabuo & Asodike (2005) when ascertaining the relationship between academic library and education opined that the relationship between academic library and the educational institution is like the relationship between the eye and the body. The eyes see and guide the body towards its movement same as the library which equips and stocks resources which determines students success or failures according to its curriculum. The academic library is the life wire of any academic institution, hence it is a means to achieve education while education is also a means to achieve national integration and sustainable development.

Akwalbom State University library acquires information resources which support the school curriculum and their programs. These resources are available to satisfy the information needs of the library users. The library provides magazines, newspapers, journals, conference proceedings, textbooks, computers, software, e books and other materials that will help promote national integration and sustainable development.

Aliyu (2006) noted that if adequate and quality resources are not acquired into the library, it will affect the extent of use of the library by users. AKSU library is at the front line of providing adequate resources for its users but the extent at which it promotes national integration and sustainable development is uncertain, hence this study examines the extent at which AKSU library promotes national integration and sustainable development.

Literature Review

Information resources are those reading and research materials library users consults in the process of solving their information needs. In

Akwalbom State University library, information resources are provided to users in both electronic and printed format. These resources include textbooks, magazines, newspapers, dictionaries, government publications, journals, conference proceedings, handbooks, encyclopedias, manuals, e books, e journals etc. well organized and made available for users. These resources promote critical reasoning, innovations, technologies and sustainable developments.

Nevertheless, if the library fails to acquire adequate and quality information resources to students to utilize, it is obvious that the aim of education will be defeated. Hence on this note, Ayayi & Adetayo (2005) in their study argued that non availability of information resources in Nigerian universities cause frustrations and low utilization of libraries by students. They attributed it to lack of availability of information resources to the steady proliferation of the university along with the increase in students and faculty and diversification of courses and research programs without adequate information resources to meet the actual information needs. The availability of relevant information is a sine qua non to effective library operation. Brown (1980) reported that the resource availability is an indicator of stock effectiveness. Also its effectiveness is measured in terms of availability, access and services offered. Alokun (2003) affirms that availability of information is central to human development but insufficient knowledge may create problems resulting to abject poverty, ignorance, disease, hunger and illiteracy.

However, to promote national integration and sustainable development, AKSU library offers some information services to fulfill the mission and vision on which the academic library was established. Information services in AKSU are those services librarian and other library staff renders to library users in the library. According to Akwang (2010), it ranges from answering users queries, charging of library resources, library loan, reference services, current awareness services (CAS), Selective Dissemination of Information, etc. Librarian in Akwalbom State University always provide good and appropriate reference guide to users queries.

Moreover, the presence of Information and Communication Technology in the library influence and promote national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria. Its inculcation into library activities is a great concern in curbing the issue of information explosion and complexity. ICT has been introduced into different aspects of works and in all units to make work less cumbersome. At this juncture, librarians are faced with the challenge of possessing the necessary and required skills in information acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval, and dissemination. With the use of ICT in libraries, AKSU librarians are alert to face the challenge of making information resources readily available to users through acquisition of printed, non-printed materials that will foster unity among users.

ICT in AKSU library has a tremendous influence on promoting national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria. Since automation is the product of ICT, Nwachukwu(1998) observed that when a library is automated, there are some benefits that staff and students gain such as computer literacy skills, introduction of new services such as the internet search, online database search, CD ROM searches. According to NOK (2006), the Federal Government of Nigeria through the National University Commission (NUC) introduces project aimed at computerizing University library services across the country. They initiated Management Information System (MIS) and started the Nigerian University Network (NUNET) project, aimed at developing viable Local Area Network and Wide Area Network in each institution. The purpose was to provide equitable, cost effective and access to national and international library and information resources and for sharing locally available resources with libraries all over the world using digital technology.

In AKSU library, ICT promote national integration and sustainable development through improving the quality of teaching and research and also enhancing scholarship, and lifelong learning through the establishment of a paramount access to share digital archival collections.

Nevertheless, there are many challenges facing AKSU library in the quest for national unity and sustainable development. Among those problems is Poor funding and budgeting for academic libraries. Awah (2006) opined that for any academic library to fulfill the mission and vision in which it was established upon, there must be appropriate funding of the library. Fund is required to purchase relevant information resources which will go a long way to support the school curriculum. On this ground, Aguolu & Aguolu (1998) argued that for any library to flourish in any society the economy must be sufficiently vibrant and the government must commit funds to its development. Fund is required to purchase relevant information resources which will attract readers to the library. If the academic library is properly funded, literacy level in the society will be reduced because it will expose readers to certain information which will help them in life long activities.

Another problem associated with AKSU library in promoting National integration and sustainable development is staff training. Library Staff requires appropriate training to be able to fit into the job. Considering the present ICT era, it is obvious that AKSU library staff be trained on ICTs operation in libraries. Library staff should be sponsored to attend seminars, conferences, workshops, symposia, so as to develop on their working skills especially in this era of library automation.

Also, bad attitude and improper service delivery among library staff can affect national integration and sustainable development. Library staff are expected to be polite to library users. They are expected to answer any type of query that comes from the users. Librarians in the academic library render satisfactory services to library users.

To round it up, strategies towards promoting national integration and sustainable development include appropriate funding and budgeting for the library. Government and other interested institutions should show good interest towards funding of libraries. If the appropriate resources are acquired, organized, and stored properly, the academic library will fulfill its missions and visions, but if not, the aim

will be defeated. On this ground, Ehigiator(1997) argued on the effects of government releasing below what was appropriated for the library in a given year to affect the quality of services and resource materials acquired into the library.

Training and retraining of library staff is another strategy. Getting librarians trained and acquainted with automation and computer issues will circumscribe their mind from the traditional librarianship to the modern automated system. Sponsoring them for seminars, conferences, workshops, and symposia will help update their skills to face the current challenges in librarianship. Edward (1995) on this opined that the use of electronic information increases job satisfaction, confidence and effectiveness of the librarian in their work, lack of technical expertise can be very frustrating to the librarian.

Provision of a reliable power supply in AKSU is another strategy towards promoting national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria. It is obvious that all ICT operations are dependent on power, at this juncture, it is considered as an important factor.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

For the purpose of this study, the following research questions were adopted. This include

1. What are the AKSU library resources that promote national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria?
2. What are the AKSU library services that promote national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria?
3. What are the influences of ICT in AKSU library towards promoting national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria?
4. What are the problems associated with AKSU library in promoting national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria?
5. What are the AKSU library strategies towards promoting national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria?

Methodology

The research design used in this study was descriptive survey research design because it is a valuable tool for assessing opinions and trends. It measures variables by asking people questions (data collection) and interpreting the data. On this ground, Jibril (2010) asserted that survey research focuses mainly on the vital fact of the people and their beliefs, opinions, attitudes, motivation and behaviour.

However, the entire Akwaibom State University constituted the area of study in this research. It constitutes both IkotAkpaden Campus and ObioAkpa Campus. The population of the study consisted of all the library staff in Akwaibom State University library and registered students of the library totaling up to 313. The sample consisted of 108 registered students from both campuses and 66 library staff also from both campuses which is a total of 174. The sampling technique adopted in this study is proportional stratified random sampling. This is a sampling technique which gives all sections of the population the chance to be represented.

Nevertheless, a well-structured questionnaire titled AKSULNISD was designed to elicit information from the respondents. Research questions formed the basis of data analysis. Data was analyzed using percentages, mean scores, and frequency tables. The mean formula was $X = \frac{EX}{EF}$ where $E = \text{sum of}$, $X = \text{score}$ and $F = \text{Frequency}$. A four liker's scale type was used to determine the mean score of respondent's perception in the study. The values assigned to different scaling statement are as follows:

SA-Strongly Agreed	MA-Most Appropriate
A- Agreed	A- Appropriate
D-Disagreed	FA- Fairly Appropriate
SD-Strongly Disagreed	NA- Not Appropriate
ME-Most Effective	VHE-Very High Extent
E-Effective	HE-High Extent
LE-Less Effective	LE- Low Extent
NE-Not Effective	NE- No Extent

However, any item that has a mean score of 2.5 will be accepted and any item with a means score below 2.5 will be rejected. The formula for determining the average means score of 2.5 is $4+3+2+1/10=2.5$.

Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of Data

Research questions formed the basis of data analysis. A total of 174 questionnaires were given out and a total number of 168 were returned representing 97% of the total number. In answering research question 1, data collected through the questionnaire were analyzed using frequency counts and means scores of respondents on the library resources that promote national integration and sustainable development.

Table 1 shows the analysis and means response on the library resources that promote national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria.

Research Question 1: What are the Akwalbom State Library Resources that Promote National Integration and Sustainable Development in Nigeria?

Table 1: Akwalbom State Library Resources that Promote National Integration and Sustainable Development

s/n	Items	ME	E	LE	NE	X	Decision
1	I read about national integration and sustainable development in AKSU Journals	70	50	36	12	3.05	accepted
2	I read about national integration and sustainable development in the internet	60	55	40	13	2.96	accepted
3	I read about national integration in the AKSU newspapers	80	50	20	18	3.14	accepted
4	I read about national integration and sustainable development in conference proceedings	90	33	27	18	3.16	accepted
5	I heard about national integration and sustainable development through the oral source (from library users, library staff etc)	11	19	100	38	2.01	Not accepted
6	I read about national integration and sustainable development from AKSU Textbooks	90	30	30	18	3.14	accepted
7	I read about national integration and sustainable development from government publications in the reference unit of AKSU library	74	66	10	18	3.16	accepted

From the analysis on table 1 concerning the library resources which promote national integration and sustainable, it showed that Conference proceedings and Government publications are the most effective library resources with mean score of 3.16 respectively. Other resources are Newspapers and Library

textbooks with mean score of 3.14 respectively. AKSU Journal is yet another library resource with a mean score of 3.05. The internet is another library resource with a mean score of 2.96. The only item that is not acceptable is the oral source (from library users, library staff etc) with a means score of 2.01.

Research Question 2: What are the AKSU Library Services that Promote National Integration and Sustainable Development?

Table 2: AKSU Library Services that Promote National Integration and Sustainable Development

S/N	ITEMS	ME	E	FE	NE	X	Decision
1	I charged and discharge my books without ethnic or tribal discrimination	60	50	30	28	2.84	accepted
2	I was given a resource material from another university	10	20	30	108	1.9	accepted
3	When I encountered problems in browsing the internet and searching for books for my assignment, I was assisted by librarians without discrimination	73	66	24	5	3.23	accepted
4	Acquisition of books into AKSU library is done accurately irrespective of author's or publisher's background, tribe or ethnicity	80	50	20	18	3.14	accepted
5	The reprographic division offer services to all library users and staff irrespective of personality, background or department	64	60	30	14	3.03	accepted
6	I support the Radio Frequency Identification project because it will encourage library automation, national integration and sustainable development	60	64	13	31	2.91	accepted

From the analysis on Table 2 concerning the AKSU services that promote national integration and sustainable development, it indicated that reference services is the most effective library services that promote national integration and sustainable development with a mean score of 3.23. Another library services is acquisition of relevant resources irrespective of publisher's background, tribe or ethnicity with a means score of 3.14. Reprographic services is another services with a means score of 3.03; charging and discharging of books without ethnic or tribal discrimination with a means score of 2.84.

Also, the present ongoing automation project is another service with a means score of 2.91. The only AKSU service which is not acceptable as a service that promote national integration and sustainable development according to the respondents is giving information resources on loan from other academic libraries with a mean score of 1.9.

Research Question 3: What are the Influences of ICTs in AKSU Library towards Promoting National Integration and Sustainable Development in Nigeria?

Table 3: Influences of ICTs in AKSU Library towards Promoting National Integration and Sustainable Development

S/N	ITEMS	VHE	HE	LE	NE	X	Decision
1	I type and print and photocopy my term paper, assignments and other documents in the reprographic unit of AKSU library	60	65	20	23	2.96	Accepted
2	I chat using social media while in the library	30	10	90	38	2.19	Accepted
3	I downloaded information from the internet on national integration and sustainable development into my flash drive	73	50	40	5	3.13	Accepted
4	I support the ongoing Radio Frequency Identification project because it is part of automation process in AKSU library.	100	40	21	7	3.38	Accepted
5	AKSU networks are always available for browsing	106	24	15	23	3.26	Accepted
6	I can browse the internet and e books with AKSU computers in the e library.	60	64	14	30	2.91	Accepted

From table 3 above, concerning the influence of ICT in AKSU library towards promoting national

integration and sustainable development, the result showed that the ongoing Radio Frequency Identification project in AKSU influences national integration and sustainable development with a mean score of 3.38. Also, the Availability of AKSU Wi-Fi network for browsing is another ICT influence with a mean score of 3.26. Downloading information resources from the internet using flash drive is another ICT influence with a mean score of 3.13. Typing, printing and photocopying in the reprographic unit is another ICT influence in

promoting national integration and sustainable development with a mean score of 2.96. Browsing the internet and other e-books in the library is another ICT influence with a mean score of 2.91. The only item that is not considered as ICT influence is chatting using social media while in the library with a mean score of 2.19.

Research Question 4: What are the Problems Associated with AKSU Library in Promoting National Integration and Sustainable Development in Nigeria?

Table 4: Problems Associated with AKSU Library in Promoting National Integration and Sustainable Development

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D	X	Decision
1	Lack of ICT training programs, seminars, workshops and conferences for both staff and other library users	71	60	20	17	3.10	Accepted
2	Lack of skilled professional staff to add more effort in procurement process and organization of library materials for users in AKSU library	60	50	30	28	2.84	Accepted
3	Lack of constant power supply to provide power for ICT operation in AKSU library	20	23	30	95	1.80	Accepted
4	Lack of fund and inadequate budgeting to procure resources that will support national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria	60	64	14	30	2.91	Accepted
5	Acquisition of controversial and discriminating resources that will hinder national integration and sustainable development	51	53	45	19	2.80	Accepted
6	Bad attitude of AKSU library staff towards answering queries from students	20	25	25	98	1.80	Not accepted
7	Insufficient publication from local authors towards creating awareness on national integration and sustainable development	16	20	70	62	1.94	Not Accepted

From table 4 above concerning the problems associated with AKSU library in promoting national integration and sustainable development, the study showed that Lack of ICT training programs, seminars, workshops and conferences for library staff is a problem with a mean score of 3.10. Lack of appropriate funding to procure appropriate information resources that will support national integration and sustainable development is another problem with a mean score of 2.91. Also, lack of skilled professional staff to add more efforts to procurement process, and organizing of library resources is another problem with a mean score of 2.84. Acquisition of controversial and discriminating resources that will hinder

national integration and sustainable development is another problem with a mean score of 2.80. The following items were not regarded as problems that hindered national integration and sustainable development in AKSU library. They are Insufficient publication from local authors towards creating awareness on national integration and sustainable development in AKSU with a means score of 1.94, lack of constant power supply and bad attitude of library staff towards answering queries from library staff are problems with mean scores of 1.80 respectively.

Research Question 5: What are the Strategies towards Promoting National Integration and Sustainable Development using AKSU Library?

TABLE 5: Strategies towards Promoting National Integration and Sustainable Development using AKSU Library

S/N	ITEMS	MA	A	FA	NA	X	Decision
1	Encouraging training programs on ICTs, seminars, workshops and conferences for both staff and other users in AKSU library.	63	57	30	18	2.98	accepted
2	Encouraging the services of more skilled professional staff to help in acquisition and organization of resources which will promote national integration and sustainable development	55	50	39	24	2.80	accepted
3	Provision of constant power supply to ensure smooth running of ICTs operations in AKSU library	61	56	40	11	2.99	accepted
4	Provision of adequate fund for AKSU library.	101	40	19	8	3.39	accepted
5	Acquisition of uncontroversial and undiscriminating resources that will not hinder national integration and sustainable development in AKSU.	60	50	40	18	2.90	accepted
6	Attentiveness and politeness among library staff towards library users queries	91	40	30	7	3.25	accepted
7	Provision of more publications by local authors and publishers towards creating awareness on national integration and sustainable development.	11	19	100	38	2.01	Not accepted

From table 5 above, the result showed that provision of adequate funding for the library is the most appropriate strategy with a mean score of 3.39. Attentiveness and politeness among library staff is another strategy with a mean score of 3.25. Provision of constant power supply to ensure the smooth running of ICT operation is another strategy with a mean score of 2.99. Also, encouraging training on ICTs, seminars, workshops, and conferences for both staff and students is another strategy with a mean score of 2.98. Acquisition of uncontroversial and undiscriminating information resources that will not hinder national integration and sustainable development is another strategy with a mean score of 2.90. Encouraging the services of more professional staff to help in acquisition and organization of resources is another strategy with a mean score of 2.80. From the table above, the item that is not acceptable as a strategy to improve national integration and sustainable development is Provision of more publication by local authors and publishers towards creating awareness on national integration and sustainable development with a mean score of 2.01.

Summary

This study was to examine the extent at which Akwalbom State University promote national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire well-structured to elicit information from the respondents. For the purpose of this study, research questions were formulated and it guided the study. To be able to answer the questions, statistical tools were used which include frequency counts, percentages, mean derivation, and criterion mean. However, analysis of the data yielded the following results:

1. The Akwalbom State University library information resources which promote national integration and sustainable development are Conference proceedings, Government publication, Newspapers, Library textbooks, and the internet.
2. The Akwalbom State University library services which promote national integration and sustainable development are Reference services; Acquisition of relevant information resources irrespective of the publisher’s

- and author's background, tribe or ethnicity; Reprographic services, Charging and discharging of library resources without discrimination, and the present ongoing automation services.
3. The influence of ICTs in Akwalbom State University library in promoting national integration and sustainable can be achieve through the ongoing Radio Frequency Identification project. Also, the availability of AKSU Wi-Fi Networks for browsing; downloading information and other document from the internet using flash drive; typing, printing and photocopying in the reprographic unit; and browsing the internet and other e books in the e library are ICTs in AKSU library which promote national integration and sustainable development.
 4. The problems associated with AKSU library in promoting national integration and sustainable development are lack of ICTs training programs, seminars, workshops and conferences for library staff and users; lack of appropriate funding to procure adequate resources; lack of skilled professional staff and acquisition of controversial and discriminating resources.
 5. The strategies in Akwalbom State University library towards promoting national integration and sustainable development are funding and appropriate budget for the library; attentiveness and politeness among staff; provision of constant power supply; staff training on ICTs, seminars, workshops, conferences etc; acquisition of uncontroversial and undiscriminating resources and encouraging the services of a more skilled professional staff.
1. There should be appropriate funding and budget for academic libraries.
 2. Staff should be sponsored for seminars, workshops, conferences and ICTs training so as to update their skills and knowledge.
 3. Adequate power supply should be ensured in academic libraries since ICTs operation depends on power.
 4. Skilled professionals should be encouraged so as to ensure maximum and adequate service delivery in the library.

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Recommendations

The study was on Akwalbom State University library in promoting national integration and sustainable development in Nigeria. However in view of the above analysis, the researcher hereby recommended that:

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