INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OF BOOKS AND TRADITIONAL LIBRARIES IN A NETWORKED ENVIRONMENT: PREDICTIONS, REALITIES AND EXPECTATIONS.

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Abstract

Information management has passed through various impactful technological development with lots of predictions, realities and expectations and challenges over decades and centuries. As new technologies ushered in and heralded, the old ones were either replaced or impact greatly reduced. The emergence of ICTs, internet, digitization as improvement on technologies amid books and traditional libraries is were not exceptions. The purpose of this study was to examine the predictions, realities and expectations as they relate to the contributions of books, libraries in areas of network environment characterized by ICTs, internet, digital libraries. Some basic concepts such as information management, books, traditional libraries network environments, predictions, realities and expectations were conceptually defined to guide the study. The study highlighted brief historical review of some predictions on the impact of ICTs in libraries and the society before its emergence, examined realities or the state of the art, that is, whether these predictions fulfill or invalidated. Also, the study x-rayed the expectations of library management as to what type of library to adopt in information management so as to serve the user effectively and efficiently as it relates service delivery. The paper concluded that, both traditional and electronic libraries are needed for effective library service provision to users. This study recommended among other things that library managers should integrate ICTs into the books and traditional libraries as to provide some level of balance between old generation of library professionals and users who are still computer illiterates and the literate computer professionals and users who possess the necessary skills to function effectively in a network environment. Emphasis should be given to library provision through adequate provision of funds, training of library personnel, provision of adequate computers/ICT facilities, frequent power supply among other strategies as to promote favorable learning, teaching and research oriented networked environment suitable to all users.

Keywords: Information Management, Books, Traditional Libraries, Networked Environment, Predictions, Realities, Expectations.

Introduction

The emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) alongside with books and traditional Libraries have come to add more roles and responsibilities to library managers. Information management according to Wikipedia cited in Ogunrombi (2012) is the collection

and management of information from one or more sources and the distribution of that information to one or more audience. This may relate to does who have a stake in or a right information such as cataloguer, indexer. It could be inferred that's because cataloguers' indexers and librarians are major stakeholders in information generation, processing, storage, access and dissemination, they could be referred to as information managers, librarians, library managers. Information management in this context therefore denotes that the collection and management of information from both the traditional and electronic libraries emanating from knowledge creation (general), organization storing, accessing and finally assimilating to the expected audience or users.

Bello and Kamba (2012) maintained that the issue of reality of information management in the 21st century deals with description, organization, collection management, preservations and archiving. All of the above functions fall within the assigned responsibilities of librarians, particularly cataloguers and indexers. This assertion therefore implies that cataloguers as key actors in knowledge organization should manage the available information resources and services of libraries for the benefit of both the natural and external uses of their libraries. The simple assumption here is that every library should be viewed as a network of information environment. This assumption supports the interpretation of networked environment by Robertson (2005), Sehgal (2004), Tiwari (2008:2010), that every functional Library is a web environment, an internet environment or addressed as an environment of free flow of information in all directions or a network of information environment.

Information management with librarians, especially cataloguers, indexers and other subjects' librarians/information professionals are key elements in our information environment. Bello and Komba (2012) identified some basic elements of upon which the objectives of information management depend to include peoples, process, technology and content. As further observed by the authors, it has been hinted that in networked environment, information management currently has produced volumes doubling annually, with new technologies such a social media, new storage locations such as the "The Cloud", new format with less centralized control of all information have emerged. It is now evidence that more information knowledge and activities within organizations, institutions including the universities and their libraries are now regularly documenting in a way that make their management more challenging. This development alone denotes change.

Before the advent of ICTs in the mid-21st century there were some predictions that with

technologies, libraries and the world would be turned into a paperless society. The question that may be asked is, how have these predictions been fulfilled?

The purpose of this study therefore is to describe some basic concepts as they relate to this study, highlights of impact of books and library in traditional setting in a digitization era, determine the state of the art and expectations of libraries in the naturalized information management era.

Conceptual Definition of Terms

Information Management

The concept of information as it relates to management has been defined by various authors in literature. Ogunrombi (2012) viewed information Management as activities sometimes involving those who have a stake in or a right to information as it relates to the collection, organization, storing and assessing that information to targeted audience or users. Recognizing the vital roles librarians, especially cataloguers and other professionals in information sectors play, they can also be termed information managers. Ogunrombi further maintained that with ICTs as powerful tools for librarians, need to integrate these new technologies with greater storage capacity in computers, internet, library and information services and other associate facilities across the various library operations such as acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation control, serial control, among others as to effectively manage library information resources and services both in traditional and electronic format.

Zaid and Popoola (2010) citing Wikipedia viewed information Management as an involvement of managers of information in the collection, organization and management of such information to the right and expected users. Librarians for proper information management must build a collection and around both traditional library collections and electronic information through various sources such a data, paper documents, electronic documents, audio, video, among others. Given these criteria, the main focus of information management is for libraries to capture, manage, preserve, store and deliver the right information to the right people at the right time. From the above observation, cataloguers and librarians should view information management as the term to describe the gathering, managing, disseminating, leveraging and disposing of all types of informationaccess within the library. Based on this that librarian can now be seen as playing the vital role of moving away from network of applications and databases towards a model of overlapping network of information within and outside the world of the library.

Chou and Charlene (2008) maintained that with the emergence of digital technologies, libraries need to limit records in their online catalogues directly to their digital resources they describe. Librarians need to integrate web resources with traditional library materials as to establish a well proven tool used for bibliographic control that will enable cataloguers and their libraries to extend their practice in organizing library materials to a variety of in a wide networked environment.

Alonge (2012) opined that in a network environment, librarians and information professionals as major actors in information management must demonstrates a wide range of functional and critical thinking skills relating to ICT in a network environment in other to be relevant and active in information management in this era. Librarians need to be trained and retrained to be able to become experts in information searching, selecting, acquiring, organizing, preserving, repackaging, disseminating and serving. This required that cataloguers and librarians must embrace information and communication technologies to keep abreast of recent development in the field of library and information science.

Books and Traditional Libraries

Books and their relevance have been acknowledged over decades since the discovery of printing press by Gutenberg in 1449. Books are still considered as among major source of information containing documents in libraries in this era of e-library. Many definitions have been offered of what a book is.

Ntui and Utuks (2008) defined a book as the compilation of a written work or composition of that which has been published or printed on paper bound together as single sheet of paper with a specific title. It has also been defined as the collections of poets relating to something or someone which is printed and published as a simple volume work. Authors further maintained that books are the most known of all information resources and constitute the main stock of most libraries especially in the developing countries like Nigeria. Books are classified among the information resources such as bibliographies/reference materials, newspapers/magazines, periodicals, pamphlets, good publications, international official publications from such bodies like UNESCO, UN, African Union etc.

Adesola (2002) defined textbooks as a catalyst of educational and national development are considered as instrument of intelligence and are of immeasurable value in both education and national development. Aramide& Bello (2011) maintained that textbooks are very important

for the development of the mind just as food is for body development. That competent and meaningful development is achieved early in the environment where books are valued and utilized. They further observed that the level of development of any nation is a reflection of the level of development of her people. The development of a people is also a reflection of the literacy level attained by reading from best books. Hence, real development leads to educational advancement, sound health, increase output, effective exploitation of the human and natural resources, technical advancement, functional communication systems, good governance and leadership maintained and practiced in a country. Hence books and reading are seen as valuable tools and strategies where real development and natural transformation could be anchored.

Styra (1994) cited in Aramide and Bello (2011) reaffirmed that books are the most important tools of teaching and learning in schools that help teachers in organizing their teaching and students to guide their academic works. This is in line with Valverde (2002) who states that textbooks are critical factors with respect to educational opportunities as a mediator between systems, goals and realities of classrooms.

In the era of ICTs, books remain the core library collections in schools and their libraries. Traditional library's collection is ranking closely with ebooks in certain areas of our educational system. Traditional libraries have been defined by various authors based on their perspectives.

Traditional school libraries according to Peters and Otong (2012) are information centres located within the school environment whose tasks are to identify and collect, process, organize, store, preserve, retrieve and disseminate information pertaining to the needs of members of the community with the view to satisfying their changing information needs. Fabunmi (2010) viewed school Iibraries as learning resource centres attached to individual schools to support teaching, learning and recreation and (according to Omera, 2013) contained books, films, pictures, artifacts, slides, film strips, video, audio records, radio, TV, maps, among others. The school library collections are organized along the school curriculum mainly to facilitate study, teaching and recreation activities. In a traditional library setting, libraries exist in an identified location, with personnel, library collections - books and non-books materials and with building to carry out almost all library operations to designated or targeted users of the community whose duties mainly manual in nature and routines. Similarly, in other types of libraries be it academic, public or special, their collections are revolving around the

mission, goals and objectives of the parent organization.

Uya (2015) identifies library books as a physical books and conventional libraries as traditional libraries in all types of libraries before the advent of ICTs. The major characteristics of conventional libraries are the collections are manually organized; collection is housed; access through retrieval tools with manual labour to organize knowledge in libraries. In traditional libraries routine duties, namely library administration, selection, acquisition, cataloguing, classification, circulation and other functions are performed in most cases manually. As observed by Bello and Komba (2012), up to the 1970s, information management was largely limited to files, file maintenance and file cycle management of paper-based files, other media and general records. In today's conventional libraries, information management is largely limited to library collections and their content.

With the introduction of information technology starting in the 1970s to tackle the challenges of proliferation of literature in all kinds of formats, the work of librarians as information managers has taken a new dimension. Hence, the need to extend information management by librarians especially cataloguers to information resources in new networked environment has become imperative.

 In today's libraries traditional (conventional) and e-library are operating in integration asto deliver the information needs of the learning population of users, especially in academic oriented network environment. Although the impact of e-library network environment is quite overwhelming, the role of traditional libraries has remained vital and will remain so for some decades from now.

Network environment in the contemporary global perspective which development in technology innovations and changes in the information landscape have been acknowledged in several quarters with some defined conceptual applications. Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (2001:787) defined network in the context of information as a number of computer and other devices that are connected together so that equipment and information can be shared.

Reitz (2095) defined networked in the Dictionary of Library and Information Science, Indian edition, as "a group of physically described computers interconnected to allow resources to be shared and data exchanged, usually by means of telecommunication links and client/server architecture". Both definitions expressed the meaning of networked to include two or more people or a closely connected group of people or organizations engaged in the exchange of

information through common communication channels usually for the purpose of accomplishing shared objectives (Bello and Komba, 2012).

Bello and Komba(2021) defined networked environment as a planned setting (real or virtual) or ina structured place deliberately created to facilitate exchange or storing of information or other information related elements or equipment in electronic formats. Networked environment is a term used sometimes synonymous with web environment, Wikipedia (2012), Web logs, Tiwari(2012), Facebook, Tiwari (2008), consortium, Fataki (2011), Networking, Library corporations, Library collaboration, Nwalo and Oganniyi (2012).

Unlike the traditional libraries where information management is limited to library collections and their contents but in a networked environment information management extendt to information resources in other electronic databases outside the library environment. As ascertained by Bello and Komba (2012) the new information management was necessitated by increase in information resources production. The introduction and rapid increase in electronic information resources, the gradual shift of focus from library resources to internet or web resources and most importantly the need to satisfy the information needs of the library users.

The emergence of new technologies, especially the information and communication technology have so much impacted positively on all fields of human endeavors globally. It has greatly changed the way libraries and information professionals organize and disseminate information. The integration of ICT into library operations has created a competitive role with the traditional libraries facing strong competition for survival and relevance.

Before the emergence of ICT to become a global tool for development, there were some predictions on the impact ICT will exert on the global society. It was predicted that thirty (30) years to the 20th century, the world and libraries will be turned to a paperless society. Prediction could be defined as an act of virtualizing the events or development that may likely take place in the future. The question one may asked is, has this prediction been a reality? Reality in this context denotes the extents to which this prediction has been fulfilled. What are the expectations of librarians and libraries in a networked environment?

Predictions of new technologies – ICT and impact on the world economy
Like older technologies before ICTs emergence, the actual adoption of ICTs at the 20th century was applauded very highly by many public commentators and scholars especially among the developed countries. The impact of computers, telecommunication, internet and other social

media technologies were popularly discussed and appraised as the most global best practices to transfer the world of information and development. Thirty (30) years before the emergence of ICTs in the global landscape, it was predicted that soon the impact of ICTs will turn the world into a global village and a paperless society. The implication of this prediction is that paperwork will be highly reduced or eradicated. The works in public and private offices that were done by traditional manual method would be replaced by technologies including library functions. This also means that the future librarians work must be redesign as to fit into the new technologies and remain relevance in the information environment.

The reflection of the prediction of ICTs and their impact on the global networked environment, the world has been tremendously transformed across various field of human endeavors. Eventually almost every country across all continents in the world have been largely influenced by ICTs for growth, development and advancement. The economic, social, political, cultural and physical lives of the world as global entity have changed and still changing. The impact of ICTs in education is quite overwhelming and cannot be overemphasized. Notable, the impact of ICT in development is quite imaginable and highly impactful on the society across all aspect of human lives. The roles of ICT in adjustment of learning, research, teaching and public service in promoting scholarship, development and advancement of nation are alarmingly increasing as to continue fostering sustainable development. This condition is yet to be obtained in development in developing countries like Nigeria. This is due to multiplicity of challenges confronting developing countries, mainly in areas of bad governance and leadership, corruption, ethnicity, religious differences, nepotism, dysfunctional system of education among other vices. This scenario has resulted to technology divide between developed countries and developing countries like Nigeria. Although, the impact of ICT on the global information and knowledge society has been highly acknowledged with its enormous benefit to the world. The role and the impact of traditional libraries and books are still yet to be disregarded. The existence and the high patronage traditional libraries and books are still receiving in the face of e-library and e-archive and other electronic means of information storing and retrieval is a proof of evidence of the imperativeness of traditional libraries and books in the era of a networked environment.

Long before the prediction of the impact of ICTs as new technologies i n the 20th century. Ranganathan, an Indian philosopher and a professor of Mathematics, later turned a librarian formulated the famous Five Laws of Librarianship (Library and Information Science in 1931)

Predictions on paperless libraries and society. The realities

Technological change since the industrial revolution has been impacting so much on the libraries and the society towards transformation and development especially in education. As one technology type emerged, it is welcomed to every generation seems to be heralded in such a way as to make the old one looks seemingly not to be relevant any longer. As some public commendation comment, it is the recycling of old technologies with some few modifications and renaming of new ones.

For centuries since the invention of printing press by Johannesburg Gutenberg in 1455, books and later libraries remain the oldest communication technology. Books according to Altbach (1992) still remain apart from internet, a primary means of communicating knowledge, central to providing information, entertainment, analyzing and educating to millions of people throughout the world. In 1991 UNESCO statistics cited in Altbach (1992) indicated a rough impression on book titles production published were 863,000 worldwide. Despite the advent of internet (technologies) for knowledge growth, distribution and consumption or utilization such as internet and computer-based innovations, books, magazines, newspapers among other paper-based knowledge collections are still among the major sources of information globally.

In the 21st century, books, libraries and ICT regarded also as a networked environment have come to be acknowledged as the world's best practices in knowledge information generation, organization and determination. Although, the impact of ICT is the leading modern technology in knowledge/information packaging and delivery, the impact of books and libraries still remain popular as accepted source of information in libraries.

Decades before the end of the 20th century, some scholars predicted the tremendous impact of technology, later came to be known as ICT (internet) to be future technologies that would change libraries and the global environment into a paperless era.

Okoro (2008) and Achebe (2008) cited Samuel (1964) the IBM invention of office equipment predicted that libraries for books would cease to exist in more advanced countries, except for a few which will be preserved in museum. Also,Okoro citing the prediction of Microsoft (the software manufacturing company in 1999, maintained that by 2010 fifty percent (50%) of the materials read from books will be read online from digital books Licklider (1965) in Okoro (2008) visioned and envisaged on a future library that will be fully computer-based that he believed will send printed books to its grave. This implies that libraries will become book less

but fully computerized. Lancaster (1978) predicted a paperless library as future libraries to come into existence. It is not in doubt that technology especially ICTs with its increasing emerging impact and other technology like internet, telecommunication, computer with associated resources and services have tremendously impacted on the global knowledge and information sharing and development across every sector of the global society, in economic, social, political, cultural and their spheres of human lives. Despite their tremendous development brought about by technologies, libraries in this era becoming or has become a paperless environment.

Earlier before the prediction of Scholars on the world and libraries transforming into a paperless society, Ranganathan, an Indian philosopher, university mathematician and later a notable university librarian propounded a theory - The Five Laws of Library and Information Science, namely:

1. Books are for use
2. Every reader his/her book
3. Every book it's reader
4. Save the time of the reader
5. The library is a growing organism

Ranganathan's laws of library and information science also embedded prediction on library as a growing organism in terms of library and information resources/collections, use/users, saving the time of the users.

Igwe Onah (2013) identify services in library that support the library in a growing organism as

- collection development - adding new materials that are of interest to the users
- Weeding - removing materials that are not been used is critical to keeping the collections current and up to date
- Wireless access to resources and services
- E-books, book-filled, iPads shuffles, Netflix subscription. Staying current with the times by offering the latest technology-based services to patrons
- Renovation or adding to the library building
- Information literacy instruction, formally or still referred to as user education by some, with few on teaching patrons how to use information resources.

The above observations revealed that the laws of Ranganathan are still much relevant in this era of globalization, not minding whether library is operating web-based, paper-based or hybrid-based information services. Many scholars have rendered the laws of Ranganathan through their postulations to reflect the realities of globalization era.

Gorman (1995) cited Igwe and Onah (2013) reiteratedRanganathan's laws as it applied to the present era of technologies (ICTs) in library services as:

1. Libraries serve humanity
2. Respect all forms by which knowledge is communicated
3. Use technology intelligently to enhance services
4. Protect free access to knowledge and
5. Honor the past and the future.

Here, Gorman believed that the term library science as to demonstrate how these laws could be applied to future issues and challenges that librarians and information professionals will face. The five laws suggested that the libraries and the web will exist to some people's information, meaning also that both will act as synergy to bring library services to users adopting various measures.

Norouzi (2004) in Igwesi and Onah (2013) in line with the laws of Ranganathan propounded the Five Laws of the Web, namely:

1. Web resources are for use
2. Every user his/her web resources
3. Every web resource it's user
4. Save the time of the user
5. The webis a growing organism

The above laws suggest that web like traditional libraries exist to help users achieve success through serving users information needs in support of world community.

Taking a critical view of various laws propounded by Ranganathan, Gorman and Noruzi revealed that all indicate a line of process, based on development of various stages. These assumptions of theories suggests that libraries of all types and forms need to work in synergy as to the delivery of the desired services to meet the needs of users timely.

Bello and Komba (2012) while approving the realities of information management in a networked environment enumerated some major events that are characterized by the information management in a globalization era as follows:

1. Data volumes are doubling annually, new technologies - social media, storage locations (the cloud), new formats with less centralized control of information are emerging.

2. Evidence of activities within organizations, institutions, agencies are regularly documented thereby creating their management problems.

3. Number and type of information sources and resources accessible via internet are increasing alarmingly. Billions of documents such as text, pictures, audio, video etc are available for scholars and everyday users.

4. Irreversible change in ways people communicate and conduct businesses due to advances in technology, especially internet.

5. Evolution of ICT in making the tasks of managing and preserving network information and electronic resources complex.

6. Institutions, organizations and agencies are increasing alarmingly moving to an organizational environment in which is electronic-oriented than paper records, provide comprehensive documentation of their activities and business processes.

7. New data bases that provide bibliographic and full text access to information resources have proliferated and the volume of information content now available from bleskstop is alarming.

8. Library catalogues have been computerized and available and interoperable across the Internet.

9. More information sources are born digital or later become digital and publicly accessible through the Internet. The relative important of the management of information in personnel, organization and societal levels also increased tremendously.

10. Cost of storing and transmitting large amount of information replicating it in different places over the globe or networked environment or even making it an extension of human brain for collective intelligence still requires speedy access to a retrieval of useful information.

11. Traditional libraries owning a book or a journal guarantees access to the content of that information source at least by one. This is not the case with networked environment sources.

12. Collection and information managers of information center are getting together to provide consortia access to electronics sources to get more favorable deals from information vendors as to provide better services with shrinking budget.

Physical books and conventional libraries who need them in era of globalization?

There are basically two schools of thought that seems to answer this question which to some level of degree is related to scholars' predictions on future paperless libraries and the fully computer-based libraries for the future by the advocates of impact of technologies in libraries and Society.

Uya (2015) while commenting on a proposal to upgrade British legation in Rome to full embassy observed that Queen Victoria of England objected to the proposal on the ground that with ICT, the need for British legation in Rome to full embassy was no longer necessary, as ICT can handle all matters relating to diplomatic relation with Rome through online communication.

This same sentiment has been attracted into conventional libraries since the emergence of new telecommunication techniques.

More threatening to the needs of conventional libraries in a networked environment has been the advent of e-books, e-journals, e-newspapers and other printed materials now in electronic formats. These are because they offer or allow access to library resources anywhere in the world from desks at home (Uya, Okon et al). Some public commentators have questioned the rationale on the relevance of the conventional libraries in this internet era of inter-connectivity, when physical books, journals, articles, research findings and other resources can now be accessed online. (Uya 2015) argued and predicted that tradition libraries of current time will not die, that the profession will not become irrelevant, with innovations, creativity and some adaptation, it will even become more useful and relevant in the years ahead. The author further referred to the report of the British Publishers Association who observed that in 2012 the Association spending on both printed and digital books respectively rose by four percent (4%), although digital spending rose by 66% which did not affect a decline in market for print marginally.

From the above argument, one can predict that with high or advanced technology and acquisition of competencies, knowledge and skills on e-library projects are reliably in developed countries, physical books remain critical sector in educational development. One

can imagine how more critical in Nigeria. This development has created the need and relevance of both physical and electronic books and libraries to exist together as to play complimentary roles to meet users increasing information requirements of the users' communities.

Challenges of library and information services in contemporary networked environment
There are several challenges confronting the provision of library and information services in Nigeria, arising from the emergence of information technology. Information and communication (networked environment) have so much impacted positively on the world learning environment, especially in the universities and libraries, there are also some observable challenges and hinderances militating against the effective use and utilization of these technologies. Igwe and Onah have identified some of these challenges to include:

1) Absence of relevant government policies for overall library development and services in all sectors of Nigeria such as:
   - Lock of National Information Policy (NIP)
   - Lack of policy for Public Libraries as the information for all in the society
   - Lack of standards and neglect for school libraries, which should be considered as a rallying point for nurturing and development of intellectual ability and reading habit of students.
2) Lack of or poor state of existing Public Library in Nigeria
3) Absence of community libraries in the country
4) Poor states and or absence of libraries in public primary and secondary schools across Nigeria
5) Lack of commitment towards library development among government and stakeholders in education and library development in Nigeria.

Similarly, Issa, Amusan, Olarangbe and Akangbe (2013) in Issa, Igwe and Uzuegbu (2013) cited some challenges of ICT militating against e-library and effective information services delivery among academic in Nigeria. These include reluctance in accepting change, access related problems, high cost of digitizing, inadequate expertise, librarians/ICT expert competition, high cost of ICT facilities and bandwidth, lack of ICT skills by staff and students, inadequate ICT facilities and services, frequent technological obsolescence, lack of maintenance culture, inadequate finance and sustainable problems of e-library adoption.

Balancing traditional libraries and e-library in an era of globalization

It is no more in doubt the impact of information and communication technologies in contemporary world. The impact exerted by ICT has brought the world to be viewed as a global village through the communication of knowledge and information to people across nations and continents with limits and barriers to geographical location, distance and language using technologies for storing, accessing and communication. Information and communication technologies has not actually completely replaced traditional libraries as advocated by many scholars and inventors that before the 20th century predicted paperless society.

Although the influence of e-library is increasingly challenging the functions and survival of traditional libraries, the former still has great influence in learning, teaching and research especially in developing countries. Even developed nations where the impact seems to be felt with high development strides, the rate in which paper works are still preeminent still cannot undermine the role of traditional libraries in the society. These scenario and other factors call for resolving the conflict between traditional and electronic libraries in our educational system. The need for balancing traditional library and electronic library is to place the two formats of libraries together in our school or education system as to harmonize library and information resources and services as to play complementary roles in the information services, provision and delivery. For now, it is obvious that one cannot exist without the other as some seemingly reasons have made is inevitable for each to act in isolation.

Ominyi (2013) observed that some scholars have long predict for the replacement traditional libraries with new information resources, yet we still have traditional and digital libraries all around us. This is to suggest that no one can replace the other because of the value. Hence, the only option that can rest this case is the nature of the resources of the two libraries together.

Lancaster (1989) one of the advocates of paperless library mentioned that digital libraries will be an alternative to replace traditional Iibraries, hence, the use of modern information resources to replace the traditional and warned that the society should be fully prepared to embrace the use of strictly electronic information resources in transaction. The author concluded that failure to adopt the new technologies may lead to in library services. Contrary to the view of advocates of the paperless library, Rushbridge (1998) cited Ominyi (2013) argued that print based library and other non-digital information resources will always be major use because of their importance. The author further emphasized that it will be unlikely to think that sophisticated technologies will replace papers and replace the original based on the value of the later to

research and learning. From the above augment both libraries have their benefits and challenges. The application of both forms of libraries has a better option of correcting the challenges and improve library and information resources and services and information delivery in educational system. This development necessitated the need and call for the establishment of hybrid library.

Hybrid library is the application and combination of various resources and services of traditional and electronic libraries together in a library environment. Law (2007) defined hybrid library as a physical library in which seamless integrated access is provided to all resources available to their library irrespective of medium or location, sometimes known as a one stop-shop.

Ominyi (2013) cited Pintied (1998) described hybrid library as a continuum between the conventional and digital library where electronic and paper-based information-based sources are used alongside each other. The author further maintained that hybrid library should be designed to bring a range of technologies from different sources together in the context of working library, andto begin to explore integrated systems and services in both the electronic and print environment as to facilitate effective service delivery to the end-users.

Lisgarten (2002) listed some of the reasons for the establishment of hybrid libraries:

- ➢ Investment in the print materials
- ➢ Irrelevant titles
- ➢ Archival materials for information, legal, historical etc purposes
- ➢ Timelessness
- ➢ Restrict license condition
- ➢ Expensive
- ➢ Short lifespan of some electronic materials e.g., CD-ROM, CD diskettes where information can be easily lost. The lifespan of electronic materials can be from 10 - 15 years
- ➢ Users are more comfortable with the use of print materials.

Al-Ansir (1999) cited in Ominyi (2013) maintained the benefits of hybrid library to include - easy access to quality education; affordable education; convenience and flexibility to learners in much content; it saves the time of users in accessing information; it creates enabling options to electronic materials user especially users within library/information literary skills.

Although hybrid library has some benefits, it is not devoid of challenges. Some factors as well limit the effective operation of hybrid library such as lack of fund, lack of skills necessary to carry out effective services, poor infrastructure, fear of redundancy, ownership/publisher resources not clearly defined, problem of preservation/conservation of resources, and lack of appropriate collection development policy (Ominyi, 2013).

Conclusion

Libraries over the years have passed through generational transformation from the art of writing to this present electronic age. Today, libraries can be described in many forms - digital, virtual, electronic libraries and hybrid libraries. The concept of hybrid library was developed to address the conflict between the traditional and electronic libraries.

Due to the enormous impact of ICT that emerged towards the middle of the 20th century, there are many scholars that advocates the future ahead of the 20th century society and libraries will become paperless. This prediction has some elements of fulfillment, but it is still devoid of exactment. This is because with ICT and attendance impact, the production of paper products such as textbooks, journals, magazines among others are still in large production. These are not only in large production, but they have also heavily been corrected to electronic formats for use by students, information professionals, lecturers, educators and general learners. There are so many contending variables or factors that make the combination of print materials and electronic materials merit-ably and essentially inseparable in servicing community of users. The use of hybrid library has the assumption and possibility of existence for some decades to come.

This need calls for all stakeholders to invest much efforts and fund to develop and promote hybrid library for the present and future generation.

Recommendations

Based on the relevance and necessity for hybrid library in our education system in globalization era, this paper recommends the following:

a) Formation of consortium among libraries to reduce the cost of establishment and management of hybrid libraries.
b) Employment of qualified staff and train and retrain them as to equipped them with skills, competence and knowledge to operate effectively in a hybrid library environment.

c) Organize regular in-service training and creating opportunities for staff to attend seminars, workshops and conferences on education in hybrid library and other information related programmes.

d) Funding of libraries for adequate provision of resources and training of staff on hybrid library management.

e) Hybrid libraries participating in consortia should seek for financial and other support organizations, agencies and philanthropic entities for development.

f) Information service providers should seek and obtain a standard for ownership/publication rights to protect intellectual properties of authors and publishers.

g) Introduce technology preservation and conservation facilities as to sustain the lifespan of hybrid resources and facilities in libraries.

h) Adopt hardware and software in preservation of hybrid library resources emulation of other institutions applying this method of hybrid preservation in libraries.

i) Proper evaluation and management of hybrid library resources and services should adopt the best policy required in libraries.

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