

HISTORY OF LIBRARIES

The origin of libraries: According to Johnson (1970), a library historian, "the origin of libraries, such as the origins of speech and writing is not known. Unlike speech and writing, the beginning of libraries came after the end of the pre-historical era, since the preservation of written records is considered to have begun the historic age.

Historically, before libraries came into existence, there had been undoubtedly collections of graphic materials approaching the form of libraries. Communication itself entails the passing of message or information from one person (the source) to another (the receiver) which is expected to generate corresponding response from the recipient, this indicates that, written communication was kept almost from the beginning of writing.

In the early days, written forms were considered to be sacred and as a result of this, preserved in shrines and later in the king's palace. Generally, the present and past libraries contained the records of civilization of men. Therefore, since the origin of writing, all human activities, his achievement, failures, beliefs, adventures, hopes and aspirations, etc. have been at one time or the other been recorded in one form of writing or one medium or another. This is why libraries are often referred to as "thoughts in cold storage".

In other way, recorded communication from archeological findings maybe, started with carving and painting on hard surface that was seen as more durable objects like stones and metals. Writing in pictograph had developed long time ago in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia as far back as 4,000 BC by 3,600BC, the Sumerian that resided in the lower Mesopotamia valley then developed a cuneiform script from the pictographs. Moreover, about 3,000BC, a cuneiform "alphabet" of about four hundred signs or character was generally used by scribes (secretaries) in government temples and businesses then. In few centuries later, well arranged library collection or records sprang up and were fairly and widely

established throughout the valley then, the writing were mainly of baked clays .

However, the history of the western is group into ancient, medieval and modern periods.

ANCIENT PERIODS: This is early time when nobody can vividly remember what really happened, some call it primitive or old period library have no doubt existed for a long period as far as 6,000 years ago start or beginning of libraries can be traced and linked with the Sumerian(West Pakistan) who introduced and developed clay tablet in which cuneiform Signs and character were used to put on records on the activities of Government temples and business. The cuneiform writing were a sort of wedge-shaped pen that was inscribed on clay.

Later, Libraries were further found in Egypt where in place of clay tablets used in west Pakistan, rolls made up of papyrus were used as medium of recorded information.

However, in China, then, animal bones and tortoise shells were used as medium of recorded knowledge. The bones were usually cleaned and polished before they could be used as writing mediums.

The Egyptians also utilized a writing called "hieroglyphics" i.e. stone writing in recording all types of activities they engage in then, be it in the temple royal places and other places, this involves the hieroglyphic picture writing was made up of symbols and characters that have been unanimously agreed Upon by the society as representing certain Ideas which were communicated through drawing painting.

The papyrus was made from papyrus reed in which the stems were cut into strips, and then pressed into sheets which were joined together to form scrolls. The papyrus then was formed to be perishable, in Egypt then, the papyrus covers many subjects like agriculture, government, poetry and medicine.

Besides the above, in ancient time, libraries also sprang from Greek and Rome. That ensured that libraries were established in the monasteries cathedrals and schools because the priests were the first set of people to be literate among them were teachers, etc.

The era 'was when Christianity played a dominant role as expansion of Christian religion depended heavily on the knowledge of religious document, therefore in every monastery or cathedral, there must be library. The priest then was seen as the torch bearer of knowledge . the monks and bishops were as well responsible for the growth of libraries. They then made use of parchment code' which was pncipal recorded knowledge m place of papyrus Then, the parchment codex replaced the books of today, It was a bound manuscript which had been into several parts and then sewn. Furthennore when the folded monasteries became many and expanded a sort of "Librarian" called special officer responsible for the care and preservation of books was appointed in many of the monasteries.

RENAISSANCE PERIOD (14th- 17th) CENTURY

From the 14th -17th century was regarded as the cultural bridge this is the age of humanism known as the period of discovery and exploration. It led to the following:

1. Discovery of the new world reforms

- Revival of interest in classical learning that freed men's mind
- Discovery and development of learning, scholarship, translation of old manuscript. into vernaculars (Greek to Latin). Made the 15th century churches and universities the patronage of new learning and was made intellec tual activities centers

2. Invention of printing:

This was during the 15th century The beginning of type printing m Europe that rose to the spread of socializing influence.

3 ROLES OF LIBRARIES AT THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD

- > people realized the importance of reading > The invention of printing brought about the mass printing of books
- > Formal education started to shape the minds of the people
- > Libraries at this time sprang up and became important center where reading, studying and formal education takes place.
- > Different types of libraries today grew in the renaissance period.

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF RENAISSANCE LIBRARIES

The various types of libraries during the renaissance period played various roles in the development of libraries. These libraries are in this modern period:

1. UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: these libraries aided the establishment of more universities with academic and scholastic texts that literacy and awareness during the period.
2. RELIGIOUS LIBRARIES: These were established at the mission to serve the new reform other that spread during this period, the libraries have in their collection, well written educative and scholastic collection of literature.
3. COURTLY LIBRARIES: these were libraries that were responsible for the gathering and presentation of the new vernacular literature that expanded particularly in France under the patronage of King Charles V and the great noblemen, Jean du Berry.
4. HUMANIST LIBRARIES: These types of libraries were during the renaissance period, organized by the Italian patrons to preserve the manuscripts of the newly recovered ancient Latin and Greek texts.
5. THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES: these types of libraries at the period played the role of spreading the catholic counter Reformation and displayed the role of displaying the sensitivity of classical works. Furthermore, during this period, the available priests mainly teachers were generally the custodian of the papyrus they use in recording information. Most libraries were in the temple, then since priests were in charge and not only that, the temple was not only the spiritual centers but they are as well the economic and administrative centers that always have halls, schools, colleges for training would-be priests, for these reasons, libraries were located in the temple.

Historically, in Egypt then, many succeeding kings also have libraries attached to their palaces. King Ptolemy at Alexandria built a big library which was left as the focus of the succeeding governors' king Ptolemy II and Ptolemy III.

In Egypt then, the library attracted scholars from all over the world as the library was mandated to collect all books on ships that (docked) stop at Alexandria as well collects from Athens the capital of Greece including official copies (state copies) of the plays by Greek tragedians. At a time, the library comfortably housed more than 700,000 rolls of papyrus. Then, the library was very famous because of the quality of the arrangement of its collection.

EARLY LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA

Libraries of note were first established in Nigeria by colonial administrators in 1900. The high court library and federal ministry of justice library Lagos.

The High court library has about 10,000 Federal ministry of Justice (FMJ) has about 20,000 volumes of books .

SCHOOL LIBRARIES:

1909: Kings college library Lagos has about 9,500 volumes of books

1910: Methodist girls High School Lagos has about 6,000 volumes of books.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Public libraries movement started in Nigeria with the setting up of Tom Jones Library in Lagos in 1946 donated to Government by a Lagos Citizen. The best collection then in the whole of Nigeria was a private library, the Henry Carr memorial Library, Lagos. Henry Carr, born in 1863, the son of freed slave was an administrator and educationist who died in 1945. Henry Carr left his personal collections of about 18,000 volumes in the humanities and the arts. Nnaji (1986) reports that the collection were later purchased by the Nigeria government to form the nucleus of the central part of the national library of Nigeria.

The Yaba college of technology library established in 1947 was the first academic library in Nigeria. The University college then, now University Ibadan was founded in 1948 as an arm of London University therefore became the first University College Library in Nigeria. Between 1900-1970, Nigeria witnessed rapid library development in Lagos and at the regions (Eastern, Northern and western) then, by the year 1965, for instance, libraries of various sizes had risen to 43 which includes:

1. Federal Institute of industrial research Oshodi library established in 1957 With just one professional librarian with 3,728 volumes of books and 160 periodicals.

2. Central Bank Library Lagos was established in 1961 had an initial collection of 3,400 books and 550 periodicals with only one professional librarian and seven other staff. 3. In 1964, the national library of Nigeria was established by an act of 1964 to be the leading library in Nigeria expected to provide bibliographic service to the country, Nigeria. Thereafter, government department libraries sprang up in a large number both at the federal and regional government levels.

FORCES IN THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA.

Some forces no doubt positively influenced library development in Nigeria from 1950-1970. These are the most important factors for the rapid emergence of libraries in Nigeria.

1. Sporadic growth of educational activities and levels of literacy among the Nigerian Populace
2. The United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seminar, Ibadan 1953
3. Nigeria Political Independence 1960
4. Dynamic leadership of the West African Library Association (WALA) and later the Nigerian Library Association (NLA)
5. The creation of states in Nigeria.

1.) SPORADIC GROWTH OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:

i. Increase in literacy 1940-1970 rapid educational development in all levels in Nigeria which led to the establishment of more primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

- ii. school population increased from 600 000 in 1940-1950 to "atmost 4million in '1965.
- iii the university of Ibadan was established in 1948, Nsukka (1960), Ife (1961), Lagos and Zaria (1962).
- iv Various technical schools were established during this period.

2) UNESCO SEMINAR, IBADAN (1953): First of its kind in Nigeria.

The seminar was for:

- > The development of public libraries in Nigeria
- > Participants came from far and wide
- > Recommended pilot public library scheme In Eastern Nigeria i.e. in 1955, public library was established in Eastern region.
- > Besides a regional library that was opened in Eastern Nigeria, then in 1955, a small section of theTeading section was as well opened in Ibadan as regional library in 1957.
- > A number of local council reading rooms in the region where setup and fed with books from Ibadan lending Library. Thereafter, library development took place in the region.

>At the seminar,it was recommended that there should be establishment of institute of librarianship at the university of Ibadan in October 1963 with prof. John Harris as the first Director and as the university librarian. From the institute, the first/ pioneer librarian locally trained in Nigeria to train other professionals.

- > Prof. John Harris was the first president of West African Library Association (WALA)
- > Mr. Kalu Okorie, the~first secretary of WALA and later the first president'of NLA that was inaugurated in 1962
- > Through the professionalism of these leaders in librarianship, there was story foresight in processing government at all levels for improved library services and resources that should include manpower training such as periodic workshop, conferences and seminars.

3) POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF NIGERIA: Nigeria got its independence in 1960 which brought about various administrative reforms that ' included expansion in social and economic activities.

- Literacy programs were pursued all over the country.
- Primary schools were increased
- Tertiary institutions were established e.g. Ibadan (U.I), university of Nigeria, Nssuka, Ife and zaria. The establishment of these institutions of higher learning increased and encouraged literacy that called for development of libraries in Nigeria.

The Creation of 12 states in Nigeria by the F.G. in (1967)

This is another major factor that promoted the development of libraries but

- it affects the Eastern Nigerian adversely because of the civil war, most schools were destroyed and taken over by soldiers and the university of Nigeria library in Nsukka, Enugu was destroyed while the seat of public library then, in Enugu was vandalized by

soldiers as the town was a battle field for the year.

•After the civil war in 1970, librarians got a boost with: ' National library decree (1970) that mandated the establishment of National Library Boards with the responsibility of maintaining a national library of Nigeria with branches in the state of the federation.

• In the 1970, seven (7) states out of the 12 passed their edicts: the east central state (1971), River state (1971), Mid western state,(1971), South Eastern state (1973), Kaduna State (1976) ,Imo state (1976)

All these made library services a permanent feature of most states of the federation since 1970s. the numbers of libraries in Nigeria presently over 2,000.

DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES BY TYPES TYPES OF LIBRARIES AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

Libraries could be grouped or categorized into six (6) major types which are:

1. National library
2. Public library
3. School library
4. Academic library
5. Special Library
6. Private library

1. NATIONAL LIBRARY: The National library is expected to be at the apex level of the library services system of a country because the national library of any nation is the largest and most comprehensive library of the country expected to serve the entire citizens of the country. For example, the national library of Nigeria which is as well in the executive department of the government, also as well serves all part of legislature such as the library of congress in America.

In Nigeria, the university of Ibadan prior to the establishment of National libraries of Nigeria in 1970; performed the expected functions and responsibility of a national library of the country (Nigeria).

The major function of a national library_ is to serve as the recipient and custodian of all copyrighted publications within a country. This is no doubt facilitated all publications made by individuals no matter the subject area. The publication of comprehensive bibliographies known as the national bibliography of Nigeria is the product and services of the library. The national library has other functions such as national center for translation,

national information center, national bibliographic center and National referral center.

It also publishes current national Bibliography and has it as responsibility to produce union catalogue, issuing and assigning International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) to the publications in a country. Its function as well represent the country (Nigeria). On all library matters at international conference and mostly expected to provide a leadership role to all libraries in the country. National libraries are not expected lend books and other resources to individuals but they could lend materials to organizations such as universities or other serious bodies in the

country for long term basis. Examples of national libraries are the National Library of Nigeria, national library of Ghana, National library of Kenya, the library of congress of the united states of America, etc.

2. PUBLIC LIBRARIES: The public libraries are meant for a specific group of users, it is not restricted to certain group of people, it could be seen as universal library because it must stock materials needed by every unit of the society. These types of libraries are supported by the state or local government. Users of public library varies from high level lower level, educated users, which could also be categorized as highly educated people to stark illiterate. The public library serves as recreational center and intellectual center. The public library goes out to users through the mobile library service.

The public library is mainly interested in serving everybody within its environment and must understand their information needs. Therefore, everybody in the community where it is situated is expected to make use of the library and the librarians in the public library are expected to reach out to them for service delivery.

The public libraries are expected as a matter of duty and responsibility, to serve the interest of nursery-and primary school children and should have the data of all primary and secondary schools libraries in the in the state through the state universal basic education board (SUBEB), this would afford the public libraries the opportunity to inoculate library utilization in the pupils from primary to secondary to the university in promoting the readership culture in the students even later at the tertiary level of education.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES: these are the libraries organized for school principally basic schools (primary and secondary) levels of education, It is most expected to cater for children anxious to read and as well for slow learners who read with difficulties that may require audio-visual materials/aid such as computers, projectors, television/video machine and all other sorts of instructional aides to actually study well. These type of libraries (school libraries) stock in their collection more learner's friendly materials such as pictorial books, photograph, papers cuttings more than others types of libraries to further encourage reading habit in young learners.

The librarians in school libraries are expected to have diploma or degree in Librarianship. The teachers should be able to use instructional resources in this wise, school media resource centers should be established and manned by qualified library personnel in school library. In school libraries, the media resource center should integrate both print and non-print media to facilitate individualized and group learning by basic school users (pupils) in the school.

The materials including the furniture in school libraries are designed specially to suit the age and reasoning of young learners, hence, the whole school environment with the library should be made attractive to entice, arouse and motivate pupils visit and use of the library.

4. ACADEMIC LIBRARY: For that fact that we refer to academic institutions as tertiary

institutions, therefore, any library attached to a postsecondary institution are called "academic Library" these libraries are varied in function but, center distinctively expected to meet the needs of the institution which they are to serve.

Therefore, in Nigeria, all libraries established for Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education, Colleges of technologies, and other post-secondary institutions are academic library. Academic libraries can be therefore be grouped into two:

- i. University libraries
- ii. Colleges libraries

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: the university library is library mainly to support teaching, learning and research objectives of the university; hence, the undergraduates. postgraduates, lecturers, professors, and other member of the university community are the expected users of the university

library. To this end, the university library is the heart of the intellectual system of the university, moreover, to a reasonable extent; the quality of a university is no doubt measured by the services rendered by its library In view of the library's unique position in the system.

COLLEGE LIBRARY: this is the libraries of colleges of education, technology, polytechnics, schools of agriculture, etc. The college library is although similar to the university library but, the services it provides are smaller to that of university library, but, the two types are regarded as academic library because of post secondary nature of these schools.

For instance, college of education serves the library to produce teachers in various subject area, but, education will be broader in their collections'.

5. Special libraries: Special libraries are also referred to and grouped as research libraries. This is because special library service the interest of some research institutions and people working in organization with specific subject's interest that could be named in scope and a times it as well serves the interest of the public on a narrowed discipline (special).

For its name, "Special", it is either users for whom the library was established are special are the materials resources are special e.g. Library of the blind. the materials there are special (braille) which could not be" used by any other person except the blind.

6. PRIVATE LIBRARIES: these types of libraries are owned by individuals or organization such as churches. Individual may out of his or her own educational, political or economic activities or the drive or personal desire to offer library services to the user community for commercial purpose. However, the private libraries owned by organizations only support the works of the organization such as evangelism, lawyers, even the Obafemi Awolowo, Olusegun Obasanjo libraries in Ikenne and Abeokuta respectively in Ogun State are private libraries established by politicians of repute. in support of the above,

various subscription libraries are being established across the country, hence some private libraries are similar to special libraries, viewing their above stated characteristics while some covered general areas of users' needs in terms of collection in the library

LIBRARY LEGISLATION: librarianship is based on the recognition of status of the librarian by other librarians. As a matter of fact, Librarianship is not new in Nigeria. It was after much struggle that the Nigerian association could be given its desired recognition as a profession. Furthermore, before Nigerian government gave its approval to the (NLA) as a profession, it was a serious battle of wit, however; at last, librarians' succeeded the struggle and were granted backing as "librarianship" as a profession, through a law that came into effect in 1995 "The Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria" decree 1995.

The decree stated amongst others as follows:

- i. The establishment of a body to be known as the Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria.
- ii. The council shall be a corporate body with perpetual succession and a common seal; it may sue or be sued in its corporate name.

The Nigerian library registration council (NLRC) is hereby charged with the general duty of

- a. Determining who librarians for the purpose of this decree are.
- b. Determining what standard of knowledge and skills are to be attained by person seeking to become registered as librarians and receiving these standard from time to time as circumstances may require
- c. Securing in accordance with provision of this decree. the establishment and maintenance of a register of person entitled to practice the profession and the publication, from time to time, of the list of such person.
- d. Maintaining discipline within the profession in accordance with this decree; and performing such other function as may be conferred upon the council by this decree.

NIGERIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AS A PROFESSIONAL BODY

The Nigeria Library Association (NLA) has branches or chapters in all the states of the federation that promotes the practice of librarianship through organized meetings, seminars, workshops, and conferences. The Nigeria library association (NLA) has its own professional publications such as the Nigerian Libraries, 21 journal devoted to the promotion of excellent professional practice through research and publication the journal amongst others, inform members of forthcoming meetings and many other activities of mutual interest to all members of the profession.

The various state chapter of the Association have official publications for example, the Ekiti state chapter of the Association, publishes Ekiti State . Journal of library information science "EKJOLIS", Lagos chapter publishes the Lagos Librarian and Oyo state was not left out of its own, "the Nigerian library and information science review". Worldwide libraries have international federation of Library Association (IFLA) that publishes the IFLA journal in circulation all over the world to propagate library

professions.

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