INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, VOL.3, NO.3, NEW YORK.

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Funding and Evaluation as Correlates of Management of Information Resources in United States of America Libraries

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to assess funding and evaluation as major variables responsible for the acquisition and management of information resources in United States of America libraries. The study adopted the survey research design. The area of the study covered the libraries in United States of America. The target population for this study was the academic librarians of the study area. Census sampling technique was adopted in selecting 25 libraries and one librarian from each library, giving a total of 25 respondents as the sample size for the study. The researcher used structured questionnaire as instruments of data collection. A self-designed questionnaire titled "Funding and Evaluation as Major Variables Responsible for the Acquisition and Management of Information Resources Questionnaire" (FEMVRAMIRQ). The questionnaire was validated by the researcher's supervisor. The supervisor critically examined the instrument for clarity, appropriateness and consistency with the study. Corrections were made and the final draft of the questionnaire was developed for the study. The data collected were analysed using appropriate statistical technique such that research questions were answered using percentage analysis while hypotheses were tested using regression analysis. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level with 23 degree of freedom. The study concluded that funding, and evaluation significantly influences the management of information resources in United States of America libraries. One of the recommendations made was that proper evaluation of library resources should be carried out in the library before purchasing, also, library materials should be carefully selected to avoid waste of funds.

KEYWORDS: **Selection, Ordering, Acquisition, Management, Information Resources, and Libraries.**

Introduction

Library has moved from traditional era to digital in order to meet the current information needs of people. The acquisition department, also known as collection development department performs the crucial role of bringing into the library information, carrying materials and ensures efficient record keeping. According to Ogunsaju, (2001), Library is a designated building where information in prints and other formats are collected, organized, carefully prepared according to same specific or definite plan, and made accessible for reading and consultation by all ages and interest. Libraries acquire information resources in copy such as CD-ROM, database, internet resources, audio materials, video materials, microfilms, among others. Information resources according to Adomi (2012) are resources or materials from which people receive ideas, meaningful messages, enlighten and direction that will enable them to accomplish tasks, take decisions and solve problems. When

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these resources are properly managed one of the objective of the library will be achieved which is to satisfy the needs of the user.

An important factor in document selection is funding. Proper planning of finance is basic to good acquisition work. Every library works according to its budget. The total fund of the library will include separate provision for books. The amount thus set apart for books is the fund placed at the disposal of the Acquisition Department. The fund allocation is done by the library authority or its delegate body like the Book Selection Committee. In funding the information relating to the actual and potential needs of the clientele, the current and future programmes of the parent institution, the strength and weakness of the existing collection, the price range of publications in particular subjects is critically considered. According to Melling and Little (2000), management of information resources in any library has its root on funding. Therefore, for any library to achieve its mission there must be a proper funding.

Evaluation is the major way of accessing the adequacy and sustainability of the collection in the library as it helps the library to be relevant and useful to its clientele. Evaluation of library resources are the integral part during acquisition because it helps to determine from time to time the materials that needed by students or users. The acquisition department is expected to be prudent, performing all it operations economically. They are expected to choose the right agent, right method of purchase, right method of handling returns when items are not found satisfactory according to library standards at the time of delivery.

Statement of the Problem

Acquisition plays a vital role in the support of the university's academic and research missions by providing access tools to quality information resources in multiple formats utilizing current technologies. The researchers' interaction with some staff reveals their opinion that the library management does not consider all the acquisition indices during acquisition of library materials. Also, others are of the opinion that the library staff does not also carry out proper evaluation of information resources to check the quality of materials acquired. This has brought questions like, Could proper funding enable efficient management of information resources? Could proper evaluation enable proper management of information resources? To this end, this research sought to state means how funding and evaluation enhances the management of information resources.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study was to assess funding and evaluation as major variables responsible for the acquisition and management of information resources in United States of America libraries. Specifically, the study sought:

1. To find out how funding influences the management of information resources in United States of America libraries.
2. To find out how evaluation influences the management of information resources in United States of America libraries.

Research Questions

1. What is the influence of funding of information resources on management of information resources in United States of America libraries?

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2. What is the influence of evaluation of information resources on management of information resources in United States of America libraries?

Hypotheses

$H0_1$: There is no significant influence of funding on management of information resources in United States of America libraries.

$H0_2$: There is no significant influence of evaluation on management of information resources in United States of America libraries.

Literature Review

Acquisition and Management of Information Resources

Druker (2006), quotes Wilson and Swank who describe the acquisition as "the continuous systematic-analysis of weak spots in the book collection through the checking of bibliographies against the library's holdings, the submission to the faculty lists of materials not owned, the rating by the faculty and library staff of these titles, and finally the preparation of want or desiderata lists". The lists then go to the order department where the process of procurement begins. Acquisitions departments also have internal goals, such as; quick procurement of order; ensuring lowest possible unit cost by keeping work processes simple, to keep work processes simple, to achieve the lowest possible unit cost; and, to develop close, friendly working relationships with other library units.

ODLIS (2010) defines acquisitions as "the process of selecting, ordering, and receiving materials for library or archival collections by purchase, exchange, or gift, which may include budgeting and negotiating with outside agencies, such as publishers, dealers, and vendors, to obtain resources to meet the needs of the institution's clientele in the most economical and expeditious manner. Also refers to the department within a library responsible for selecting, ordering, and receiving new materials and for maintaining accurate records of such transactions, usually managed by an acquisitions librarian. In small libraries, the acquisitions librarian may also be responsible for collection development, but in most public and academic libraries, this responsibility is shared by all the librarians who have an active interest in collection building, usually on the basis of expertise and subject specialization."

Funding and management of information resources

Generally, libraries require adequate funding to enable them to fulfill their obligations to the clienteles. However, regrettably, libraries are grossly underfunded to the point that many services that should be rendered free of charge are now done with fees charged on the users. Adequate funding is an enabler of the successful provision of an academic library services. According to Evans (2004), services of libraries cannot be provided optimally without the necessary funding as it is essential for a library to possess the resources that will enable it to meet its goals. The amount of funding given to libraries directly influences the quality of services provided.

If libraries had all the funds they ever needed, materials selection would be a much easier process. They could just buy anything they wished. Librarians must make difficult decisions in which some items which would be very good for the library must be foregone in order to buy items that have more importance. Libraries approach this dilemma in a number of ways. In very small libraries, where only one or two people make the selections, the materials budget may just be included in a single line-item. This fund is used for all different kinds of

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materials, but the librarians may limit themselves to only spending a certain amount for each month or quarter of the year. This insures that fund will be available for the purchase of materials throughout the year. In academic libraries, allocations for library materials are made for separate departments. During acquisition of library materials, proper funding helps in purchasing of relevant library materials which promotes effective management of information resources.

Evaluation and Effective Management of Information Resources

Evaluation is an essential part of Library acquisition process. In fact, Evaluation is a cardinal principle of collection building (Eze and Eze, 2006). Cleaver (1980) observed this and a lot more when he opined that the final criterion of a library is not how many books it has, or how nice it looks, or how big the room is created. Hence this calls for effective management of the information resources to ensure appropriate utilization. Evaluation is the assessment of the extent to which a resource meets the library objectives. It is concerned with how good an information resource is in terms of the kinds of information resources in it. The exercise is to determine the scope or depth and usefulness of the collection, test the effectiveness, utility and practical applicability of the written acquisition policy. It further assesses the adequacy of the collection and thereby highlights the inadequacies and suggests ways of rectifying them. One way to ensure that the needs of the library are met is through collection evaluation within the framework of the curriculum.

Collection analysis is the basis for evaluation with the purpose of determining the quality of the collection. Evaluation can be done either by analyzing how well each individual item is or how good the item suits the particular needs of the users. To evaluate in these two terms utilization of the users knowledge is essential. (Katz, 1980) gave the possible ways of evaluation. They are:

- o Statistics on holdings use and expenditures
- o Checking lists, catalogues, bibliographies and so forth.
- o Examining the collection directly and applying standards; and
- o Testing document delivery capability.

Yu and Breivold (2008) listed the criteria the selectors should consider when evaluating library materials for renewal and continuity. They include: access, cost-effectiveness, breadth, audience, and uniqueness of the resource. No matter how good a resource is, if the users are not accessing it, it is not of value to the library users. In addition, Yu and Breivold (2008) suggested that using statistics is not the only deciding factor, rather the use of overlap analysis report will aid in the determination of a good information resource.

Evans (2000) with the assistance of Zarnosky in 'Developing library and information centre collections' provides an integrated approach to the process of building a library collection for a specific community of users. The purpose of this book is to help library students gain an overall understanding of what is involved in acquiring materials for a particular library collection. The book discusses each and every aspect of library acquisition department. The book emphasizes on the similarities between types of libraries in the process of developing a collection. For example, community analysis has been most widely used in public libraries while weeding and evaluating the collection deal with issues most pertinent to academic libraries. As electronic issues now pervade library acquisition and management activities, almost every chapter of this edition of the book contains something about electronic resources, reflecting the changing environment of library acquisition.

Method

The study adopted the survey research design. The area of the study covered the United States of America. The target population for this study was the academic librarians of the study area. Census sampling technique was adopted in selecting 25 libraries and one librarian from each library, giving a total of 25 respondents as the sample size for the study. The researcher used structured questionnaire as instruments of data collection. A self-designed questionnaire titled "Funding and Evaluation as Major Variables Responsible for the Acquisition and Management of Information Resources Questionnaire" (FEMVRAMIRQ). The questionnaire was validated by the researcher's supervisor. The supervisor critically examined the instrument for clarity, appropriateness and consistency with the study. Corrections were made and the final draft of the questionnaire was developed for the study. The data collected were analysed using appropriate statistical technique such that research questions were answered using percentage analysis while hypotheses were tested using regression analysis. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level with 23 degree of freedom.

Results and Discussion

Research Questions 1: What is the influence of funding of information resources on management of information resources in United States of America libraries?

Table 1: Summary of Responses on the Influence of Funding of Information Resources on the Management of Information Resources

S/N	FUNDING	AGREED	%	DISAGREED	%
1	The acquisition department is well funded	15	60	10	40
2	Funds are specifically set apart by the school management for acquisition of information materials	17	68	8	32
3	Funds provided for acquisition of information materials is always enough	14	56	11	44
4	The library fund is well considered before acquisition resources	23	92	2	8
5	The fund available determines the quality of information materials to be acquired	20	80	5	20

Table 1 above shows the summary of the item by analysis of the influence of funding of library resources on management of information resources in United States of America libraries. The analysis revealed that 14 (56%) of the respondents agreed that funds provided for acquisition of information materials is always enough while 11 (44%) of the respondents disagreed. Also, 15 (60%) of the respondent agreed that the acquisition department is well funded while 10 (40%) of the respondent disagreed. 17 (68%) of the respondent agreed that funds are specifically set apart by the school management for acquisition of information materials while 8 (32%) of the respondent disagreed. Consequently, 23 (92%) of the respondent agreed that the library fund is well considered before acquisition of information materials while 2 (8%) of the respondent disagreed and 20 (80%) of the respondent agreed

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that the fund available determines the quality and quantity of information materials to be acquired while 5 (20%) disagreed. The result therefore means that funding of information resources has remarkable influence on the management of information resources in United States of America libraries and that is why the library fund, among others, is well considered before acquisition resources.

Research Question 2: What is the influence of evaluation of information resources on management of information resources in United States of America libraries?

Table 2: Summary of Responses on Influence of Evaluation of Information Resources on the Management of Information Resources

S/N	EVALUATION	AGREED	%	DISAGREED	%
1	The quality and accuracy of information materials are considered during evaluation	15	60	10	40
2	Evaluation of library materials is considered as a vital necessity in maintain a viable collection	23	92	2	8
3	Evaluation of information resources in the library is carried out regularly	18	72	7	28
4	The library has guidelines that determine how collection evaluation is being carried out	15	60	10	40
5	Evaluation of library resources are effectively considered in this library	19	76	6	24

Table 2 above shows the summary of the item by item analysis of the influence of evaluation of library resources on management of information resources in United States of America libraries. The analysis revealed that 15 (60%) of the respondents agreed that the quality and accuracy of information materials are considered during evaluation while 10 (40%) of the respondents disagreed. Also, 23 (92%) of the respondents agreed that Evaluation of library materials is considered as a vital necessity in maintaining a viable library collection while 2 (8%) disagreed. Consequently, 18 (72%) of the respondent also agreed that Evaluation of information resources in the library is carried out regularly while 7 (28%) disagreed. 15 (60%) of the respondents agreed that the library has guidelines that determine how collection evaluation is being carried out while 10 (40%) disagreed and 19 (76%) of the respondents agreed that Evaluation of library resources are effectively considered in this library while 6 (24%) of the respondents disagreed. The result therefore means that evaluation of information resources has remarkable influence on the management of information resources in United States of America libraries as evaluation of library materials, among others, is considered as a vital necessity in maintain a viable collection.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant influence of selection on management of information resources in United States of America libraries. In order to test the hypothesis regression analysis was used to analyse the data, (see table 3).

Table 3: Regression Analysis of the influence of funding on the management of information resources

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. error of the Estimate	R Square Change

| 1 | 0.90* | 0.81 | 0. 81 | 0.72 | 0. 81 |

*Significant at 0.05 level; df = 23; N = 25; critical r–value = 0.413

The table shows that the calculated R-value 0.90 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.413 at 0.5 alpha level with 23 degree of freedom. The R-square value of 0.81 predicts 81% of the influence of funding on the management of information resources in United States of America libraries. This rate of percentage is highly positive and therefore means that there is significant influence of funding on the management of information resources in United States of America libraries.

Hypothesis 2: Evaluation does not significantly influence management of information resources in United States of America libraries. In order to test the hypothesis regression analysis was used to analyse the data, (see table 4).

Table 4: Regression analysis of the influence of evaluation on the management of information resources in United States of America libraries

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. error of the Estimate	R Square Change
1	0.77*	0.62	0. 60	1.03	0. 62

*Significant at 0.05 level; df = 23; N = 25; critical r–value = 0.413

The table shows that the calculated R-value 0.77 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.413 at 0.5 alpha level with 23 degree of freedom. The R-square value of 0.62 predicts 62% of the influence of evaluation on the management of information resources the United States of America libraries. This rate of percentage is highly positive and therefore means that there is significant influence of evaluation on the management of information resources in the United States of America libraries.

Discussion of Findings

Funding and Management of Information Resources

The result of the data analysis in table1 is significant based on the fact that a greater percentage of the respondents agreed to the items on the questionnaire. Consequently, the correspondence hypothesis in table 3 revealed that the calculated R-value of 0.90 is greater that the critical R- value of 0.413 at 0.05 level of significance at 23 degree of freedom. This indicates that the result is significant and the null hypothesis rejected while an alternative hypothesis which states that funding of information resources significantly influences the management of information resources in the United States of America libraries. This study is in affirmation with Andrew (2005) who posited that proper planning of finance is basic to good acquisition.

Evaluation and Management of Information Resources

The result of the data analysis in table 2 is significant based on the fact that a greater percentage of the respondents agreed to the items on the questionnaire. Consequently, the correspondence hypothesis in table 4 revealed that the calculated R-value of 0.77 is greater than the critical R-value of 0.413 at 0.05 level of significance at 23 degree of freedom. This is an indication that Evaluation significantly influences management of information resources in the United States of America libraries. This study is in line with Eze and Eze (2006) who

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posited that Evaluation is an integral part of Acquisition process. In fact, Evaluation is a cardinal principle of collection building.

Conclusion

Based on the result of analysis and findings of the study, it is concluded that funding, and evaluation significantly influences the management of information resources in United States of America libraries.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Proper evaluation of library resources should be carried out in the library before purchasing.

2. Library materials should be carefully selected to avoid waste of funds.

3. Government should fund the educational libraries; this will enhance the student usage of library resources, thereby promoting an effective management of information resources and overall attainment of educational goals.

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