

APPLICATION OF COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN BENUE STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigate application of collection development policies in universities libraries in Benue State, Nigeria. Two define research questions guided the study and one hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The design for the study descriptive. The population of the study comprises 217 library staff in three libraries study in Benue State. The study adopted census sampling technique, meaning that, all the total population of two hundred and seventeen (217) library staff were used for the study. Questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire was validated by three experts. The reliability of the questionnaire was established using Cronbach Alpha method and a reliability coefficient of 0.86 was obtained. Data collected were analyzed using Frequency Counts, Percentages, Means and Standard Deviation to answer research questions while Chi-Square test of independence was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Findings of the study revealed that the collection development policy available for acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State were selection, selection criteria and selection procedure statement among others. It was also found that selection, selection criteria, selection procedure statement and donation/free materials were the CDP applied for acquisition of library information resources.

Keywords: *Assessment, application, Available collection, development policy.*

Introduction

University libraries have proved over the years as a pivotal in enhancing academic excellence by providing divers information resources that cater to the diverse needs of learners be it a students, faculty, and researchers. These libraries execute services of collection information

resources, maintaining extensive resources that comprise of physical and digital materials, to support various academic pursuits, including teaching, research, publication, and community knowledge support in others to empower the academic community in achieving its objectives and advance knowledge. In addition, University libraries play a vital functions in supporting academic endeavors by providing quick access to a verities of collections present in the libraries for learning purposes. Libraries served as access gateways for knowledge, it is a bank that cater to the diverse needs of students, faculty, researchers, or a confine communities through a variety of materials that facilitate knowledge based information resources. Consequently, the materials offered by any libraries must be hub, diverse, and extensive enough to support various academic functions, including teaching, research, publication, and enhance community knowledge engagement (Uganneya, Anunobi & Ape, 2019). This are usually achieved through the creation and maintenance of library collections that encompass a wide array of resources tailored to the information needs of library users.

Library collections are meticulously in selection that are assemblage's different types of information resources which tailored towered the diverse information needs of users (Uganneya et al., 2019). The libraries resources are selected based on the library's goals and community requirements through collection development. The effective collection development involves a systematic ways or process of acquiring, evaluating, and maintaining high-quality materials that support the library's mission and user needs (Evans & Alire, 2013; Johnson, 2015). This process includes adding to existing collections, developed policies that aligning with user interests (Rubin, 2014). Similarly Uganneya, Anunobi, and Ape (2019), point out that collection development prioritizes and obtaining exceptional quality materials that enhance information services and user satisfaction through collection development policy. Collection Development Policy (CDP) is a formal guides or document for selection and de-selection of library materials to ensuring decision-

making and consistency procedures are followed (Evans & Saponaro, 2020). In the same vain, Uganneya et al. (2019), citing Fombad and Mutula, a Collection Development Policies is a crucial indicator for supporting libraries as a live wire of information. A well-structured Collection Development Policies provides a framework for library personnel to make decisions about resource allocation, outlining key components such as the library's mission, selection criteria, budgeting, and assessment procedures (Johnson, 2022). In establishing clear guidelines, a Collection Development Policies promotes transparency and consistency in selection and acquisition that enabling librarians to prioritize resources effectively.

A CDP demonstrates a library's commitment to intellectual freedom, diversity, and inclusivity, ensuring a well-rounded collection that meets community needs (ALA, 2022). The current collection development policy outlines selection criteria, including relevance, authority, accuracy, and currency, to guide librarians in resource acquisition (IFLA, 2020). It works as a framework for budget allocation and resource management, promoting responsible use of financial resources (Evans & Saponaro, 2020). The CDP also addresses collection maintenance, including guidelines for evaluation, de-selection, and collaboration with other libraries to support resource sharing (Johnson, 2022). By aligning with the library's mission and goals needs of users, the policy ensures a current and relevant collection.

The collection development policy censor intellectual collection of information resources that are to be acquired into library's for the provision of a well-balanced and inclusive collection (American Library Association, 2014). Typically, CDP show case a clear selection procedure or criteria, outlining several factors such as relevance, authority, accuracy, and currency of information resources (Johnson, 2015). It serves as a guideline and roadmap for librarians in other to carryout systematic approach to budget allocation and resource acquisition, for ensuring effective and responsible use of financial resources (Evans & Alire, 2013). According to the

authors, these policies addresses the dynamic nature of library collections, incorporating guidelines for ongoing evaluation and de-selection or weeding of library materials to maintain a current and relevant collection. It also entails collaboration with other libraries or institutions, promoting resource sharing and cooperative collection development (Johnson, 2015). The policy is very important to library by ensuring any collection aligns with its goals and the mission of the users.

The application of (CDP) is an essential tools that enables libraries to maintain a relevant, up-to-date, and dynamic collection that supports the academic and informational needs in the library, effectiveness of use of libraries depends on management and development of their collections through clear objective in line with it guidelines and criteria, that prioritize resource selections, this to ensured that acquisitions align with libraries mission, user needs, and institutional goals. The Collection Development Policy and it implementation is a concern in the libraries as to the way librarians operate, particularly in selection and acquisition process that crucial for university libraries, this plays a pivot role in supporting research, teaching, and learning initiatives. Furthermore, the application of collection development policies ensures that libraries continuously evaluate, upgrade and update their libraries holdings. A balance structured of Collection Development Policy are fundamental to achieving the goal of its parent institutions. It guides the systematic acquisition processes and management of information resources, enabling the library to fulfill its mission of providing access to knowledge. If the Collection Development Policy are not properly implemented in the various university libraries for information resources selection and acquisition, it may lead to utilization of those library materials.

Statement of the Problem

The application of Collection Development Policy (CDP) in libraries plays a pivotal role in directly and influencing the caliber of education and research conducted within university institutions. A good collection development is a meticulously planned and executed process that

ensures the library's collection remains current, comprehensive, and relevant to the evolving academic and research needs of the university community. A well-structured and effective application of Collection Development Policy (CDP) is fundamental to achieving the goal of its parent institutions

Despite the benefit of collection development, the researcher has observed from the study area that most university libraries do not apply collection development policies (CDPs) in the selection and acquisition of information resources. This may perhaps, be as a result of institutional priorities, resource constraints, or a lack of awareness regarding the benefits of a structured CDP. The consequence of these observations is a sub-optimal library collection that may not fully meet the information needs of students, faculty, and researchers. Inadequate or inconsistently applied collection development policy can result in outdated and irrelevant resources, leading to gaps in the library's collection. This, in turn, could hinder academic and research pursuits, limiting the ability of the library to support the institution's educational goals. It can also affect the overall quality of research and teaching within the universities. It is against this backdrop that the researcher assessed the application of collection development policy in universities libraries in Benue State, Nigeria.

Objective of the Study.

The general objective of this study is to assess the application of collection development policy in universities libraries in Benue State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to achieve the following objectives:

Research Question.

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the available collection development policies for selection and acquisition of information resources in universities in Benue State?

2. What are the available collection development policies applied for selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State?

Statement of Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study and tested at at 0.05 level of significance.

H0₁: The availability of collection development policy does not significantly lead to selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State.

Literature Review

Conceptualization

A collection development policy in academic libraries provides a crucial framework for decision-making, ensuring that resource acquisition and management align with the institution's objectives. Through establishing a distinct work lines and parameters, the policy enables libraries to prioritize effectively, even in the face of limited financial resources. Consistent assessment and revision of the policy allow libraries to adapt to changing user needs and community demands. Ultimately, a well-crafted policy promotes consistency, transparency, and effective communication, supporting the library's portion in providing access to pertinent and valuable information resources.

CDP is crucial for libraries to effectively manage and curate their resources. According to recent studies, such policies should be flexible and adaptable to accommodate emerging information formats, like e-books, and the needs of expanding campuses (Namhila et al., 2020). A well-crafted policy facilitates clear communication with users through library websites or intranets (Kasalu & Ojimbo, 2020). Collection development polices involves several processes, including user needs assessment, selection, acquisition, evaluation, and weeding, all guided by a policy that establishes priorities and informs decision-making. As defined by Johnson (2022), a collection

development policy is a formal statement outlining the principles and criteria governing the selection and deselection of information resources.

Empirically, the findings of Uganneya, Anunobi and Ape (2019) investigated documenting Religious Conflict without sustaining Resentment using application of (CDP) in Nigerian Universities. Results of the study discovered that CDP applied in Nigerian and development policies such as selection and selection criteria are to a very great extent applied while selection procedure statement and resource sharing policies are applied to a great extent. Similarly, Chaputula (2014) investigated the funding of collection of information resources in library. The study revealed that the funding of collection development activities is inadequate thereby it post negatively impacting on the purchase of books, subscription to print journals and electronic journals, book binding and repair, and staff training. The study suggested that the university authority should allocate more fund to library to enhance effective acquisition of library information resources. Furthermore Edem, Nse and Emeka (2016) revealed that the academic libraries had a collection development policy which is documented. The discoveries of the study also revealed that collection development policy was implemented to the high extent. The study recommended that academic libraries should have a written collection development policy which that serve as a guide to their acquisition of library information resources. According to Ezech, (2020) acquisitions policy, along with the Selection Policy, is a 'sub-policy' of the Collection Development Policy.

The Acquisitions Policy is a statement that details how the resources identified by the selection process are to be acquired for the library of for access by the information users within the organisation. It sets out the procedures that are to be followed and who does the work. Designed to be an 'in house' document it must be a 'living' document and must be regularly reviewed and updated. When changes are made to how things are done in practice, they must be reflected in the

Acquisitions Policy. The policy can be as detailed as to list individual vendors that are to be used for specific types of resources, or it can be a general statement that allows the acquisitions librarian to make informed choices according to the material type, urgency and cost. Adekanmbi and Boadi (2008) postulated that there is an important needs for the devising of a (CDP). According to Johnson (2009), a library devoid of a collection development policy and library without CDP is like a business without a business plan; hence, it is imperative for a library to have a collection policy in place. Khademizadeh (2012) justified that whatever format that one takes when coming up with a collection development process; one needs a policy that must oversee the acquisition of both electronic resources and traditional forms of documents. Therefore collection development policies act as a framework of establishing the library's collections goals in terms of both formats (electronic and print resources).

Methodology

The design of this study is a descriptive survey research design. According to Ifidon and Ifidon (2007), survey research design involves collecting data in order to answer questions concerning conditions or relationships that exist, practices that prevails beliefs, points of view or attitudes that are held. This design described a systematic manner, and characteristics of facts about a given population. This study therefore, find out the opinions held by the respondents, by analysing data from staff of Francis Suleiman Idachabo Library, Joseph SarwuanTarka University Makurdi, Benue State University Library and Information Services and Asom Bur Lerning Centre, University of Mkar, Mkar. The study was carried out in Benue State. The study population comprise of 217 library staff in three universities in Benue State (Offices of the University Librarian, Francis Suleiman Idachabo Library, Library and Information Services BSUM, Asom Bur Learning Centre, University of Mkar, Mkar, 2022).The study adopted census sampling technique. Hence, all the total population of (217) library staff were used.

The instrument used for data collection was a self-developed questionnaire titled “Application of Collection Development Policies in Universities libraries in Benue state Resources Questionnaire (ACDPULRQ). The instrument for data collection was self-structured questionnaire with 18 items that elicited information based on the objectives of the study. The response options were Available (AV) and Not Available (NAV), Applied (AP) and Not Applied (NAP), three experts subject the instrument to face and content validation. To ensure the reliability of the instrument, a trial testing was carried out on 40 library staff from Nasarawa State University. This was not part of the study area but had characteristics that are similar to that of the study population. Data obtained from the trial testing was subject to reliability analysis using Cronbach Alpha method. Cronbach Alpha yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.78, 0.79, respectively. The overall reliability estimate obtained was 0.86. The method of data collection was researcher and research assistant. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency count, percentages while Chi-Square was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The benchmark was thus, any percentage that is 50% and above was considered ‘Available/Applied’ while a percentage value less than 50% was considered as ‘Not Available/Not Applied’.

Results

Research Question One What are the collection development policies available in universities libraries in Benue State?

To answer this research question, data on the available collection development policies in universities libraries in Benue State were collected and analyzed as presented on Table 1:
Table 1: Frequency Counts and Percentages of the available collection development policies in universities libraries in Benue State

S/N	Collection Development Policies	Frequency		Percentage (%)		Decision
		AV	NA	AV	NA	
1	Selection	217	0	100.0	0.0	AV
2	Selection Criteria	217	0	100.0	0.0	AV
3	Selection Procedure Statement	217	0	100.0	0.0	AV

4	De-Selection/Weeding	217	0	100.0	0.0	AV
5	Donation/Free Materials	217	0	100.0	0.0	AV
6	Collection Evaluation Methods	217	0	100.0	0.0	AV
7	Resource Sharing	217	0	100.0	0.0	AV
8	Routine de-accessioning	217	0	100.0	0.0	AV
9	Others (Specify)	-	-	-	-	-

Key: AV = Available, NA = Not Available

Table 1 shows the collection development policies available for effective acquisition of library information resources in universities in Benue State. From the table, it can be seen that all the items (item 1 - 8) have percentage values for AV = Available, above 50% benchmark indicating that the collection development policies are available for effective acquisition of library information resources in universities in Benue State.

Research Question Two: What are the collection development policies applied for selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State?

To answer this research question, data on the collection development policies applied for selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State were collected and analyzed as presented on Table 2

Table 2: Frequency Counts and Percentages of the collection development policies applied for selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State

S/N	Collection Development Policies	Frequency		Percentage (%)		Decision
		AP	NAP	AP	NAP	
1	Selection	217	0	100.0	0.0	AP
2	Selection Criteria	217	0	100.0	0.0	AP
3	Selection Procedure Statement	178	39	82.0	18.0	AP
4	De-Selection/Weeding	101	116	46.5	54.5	NAP
5	Donation/Free Materials	155	62	71.4	38.6	AP
6	Collection Evaluation Methods	70	147	32.2	67.8	NAP
7	Resource Sharing	63	154	29.0	71.0	NAP
8	Routine de-accessioning	84	133	38.7	61.3	NAP

Key: AP = Applied, NAP = Not Applied

Table 2 shows the collection development policies collection development policies applied for selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State. From the table, it can be seen that, items 1, 2, 3 and 5 have percentage values for AP = applied, above 50% benchmark indicating that the collection development policies are applied for acquisition and selection of information resources in universities in Benue State. The table also revealed that items 4, 6, 7 and 8 have percentage values for AP = applied, less than 50%

benchmark indicating that the collection development policies are not applied effective selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis: The availability of collection development policy does not significantly lead to selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State.

Table 3: Chi-Square Test of Independence on availability of collection development policies and selection, acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State

Variables	N	Df	χ^2_{cal}	Sig	Alpha Level	Remark
Availability of Collection Development Policies	217	21	17.239	.071	.05	Not Significant
Acquisition of Library Information Resources						

Df = Degree of Freedom; χ^2_{cal} = Chi-Square Calculated Value; Sig = P-Value

Table 3 showed the Chi-square calculated value of 17.239, degree of freedom df = 21 and a sig (P-value=0.071) which is greater than the alpha value ($\alpha=.05$). Since $P>.05$, the result was not significant, therefore the null hypothesis was accepted. This implied that, the availability of collection development policies does not significantly lead to selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State.

Summary of Major Findings

The following findings emanated from the study:

1.The collection development policies available in universities libraries in Benue State are selection, selection criteria, selection procedure statement, de-selection/weeding, donation/free materials, collection evaluation methods, resource sharing and routine de-accessioning.

2. Selection, selection criteria, selection procedure statement and donation/free materials are the collection development policies applied for selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State.

Discussion of Findings

Based on the results of the study, the following were discussed:

The first finding of the study revealed that the collection development policies available in universities libraries in Benue State are selection, selection criteria, selection procedure statement, de-selection/weeding, donation/free materials, collection evaluation methods, resource sharing and routine de-accessioning. However, a related test of hypothesis revealed that availability of collection development policies does not significantly lead to selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State. The findings corroborate with that of Afua (2021) who reported the existence of (CDP) development policies in university libraries. The finding also corroborate with that of Edem, Nse and Emeka (2016) who found that academic libraries had a collection development policy which is documented. The finding however disagree with that of Okwu and Echen (2019) who found that there is a significant influence of collection development policies on availability of current resources. The congruence between the findings of the present study and those of Afua (2021) and Edem, Nse, and Emeka (2016) regarding the presence of collection development policies in university libraries in Benue State suggests a common awareness of the importance of formalized policies for guiding collection management. However, the finding that the availability of collection development policies does not significantly lead to selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State, may be influenced by various factors. It is possible that while the policies exist, their implementation, funding, or adherence to the stated

criteria might not be consistently strong across the institutions studied. Additionally, external factors like budget constraints, the rising costs of library materials, and the challenges associated with licensing and copyright issues could impact the effectiveness of policy implementation. It is crucial to consider that the mere presence of policies does not guarantee their successful application; effective acquisition also relies on various contextual and operational factors that may differ among institutions, contributing to the observed results. Over all, this finding underscore the complexity of the relationship between policy existence and its practical impact, emphasizing the need for further exploration and context-specific analysis.

Secondly, the findings of the study revealed selection, selection criteria, selection procedure statement and donation/free materials are the collection development policies applied for selection and acquisition of information resources in universities libraries in Benue State. The findings corroborate with that of Uganneya, Anunobi and Ape (2019) who found that collection development policies applied in Nigerian Universities include selection, selection criteria, selection procedure statement, collection evaluation methods, donation/ free materials and resource sharing. The finding also agree with that of Chukwusa (2012) who reported that the university libraries studied have collection development policies that are applied for acquisition of resources. The alignment between the findings of the present study and previous research by Uganneya, Anunobi, and Ape (2019) and Chukwusa (2012) regarding the collection development policies applied in Nigerian universities, particularly in Benue State, suggests a consistency in the approach to managing library collections within this context. The commonality in the identified policies, such as selection, selection criteria, selection procedure statement, and donation/free materials, underscores the standardized nature of these policies as essential components of collection development. It reflects a shared recognition among universities of the significance of these policies in guiding the strategic acquisition of library

materials. This consistency can be attributed to the influence of best practices in academic librarianship, the need for clear guidelines in resource management, and the recognition of the importance of documenting these policies for effective collection development. These findings emphasize a collective commitment to ensuring that libraries fund in university libraries in Benue State are well-equipped to meet the information needs of their academic communities through the systematic application of established collection development policies.

Summary

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are offered to university libraries in Benue State, Nigeria, to enhance the application of collection development policies for the effective selection and acquisition of library information resources:

- 1 University libraries should consistently apply all aspects of their collection development policies, including selection criteria, selection procedures, and donation policies, to improve the acquisition of relevant and high-quality library information resources.
- 2 Universities should establish strict monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure that policies are consistently followed and adapted to meet evolving library needs to address the low application of collection development policies

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that, though, there is existence of collection development policy in university libraries in Benue State, its application for their effective resource selection and acquisition is low. This suggests a disparity between policy availability and practical application within university libraries. The identified challenges,

including difficulties in policy implementation, staffing issues, financial constraints, and copyright concerns, underscore the complexities associated with collection development in this context. To enhance the selection and acquisition of library resources, it is imperative that universities libraries in Benue State address these challenges and implement strategies that promote a more robust application of collection development policies.

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