

**ADVANCED ROUTINE, TRENDS AND CHALLENGES OF COLLECTION  
DEVELOPMENT IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA**

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**Abstract**

This work discusses the advanced routine, trends and challenges of collection development in academic libraries in Nigeria. Librarians play unique roles in academic libraries as information professionals, in the course of gathering, systematize, synchronize, retrieval and access to the available information resources for their clientele. This process is key to a functional library and passes through processes and stages for appropriate dissemination of information. This work evaluates the methods of collection development, Preservation of Library Collection, New Trends in Collection Development, Challenges of collection Development, and Solutions for Improving Collection Development in Academic Libraries. The work concludes that new policies and methods of collection development should be introduced by libraries to satisfactorily meet the users demand.

**Keywords:** Advanced Routines, Collection Development, Trends, Challenges

**Introduction**

Different information organizations are coming up with assorted formats of information diffusion and access. While Borders and Blockbuster were going out of business, Amazon announced that they sold more eBooks than hardcover books in 2021 and The number of eBooks sold in the first half of 2021 is down 8% from the first half of 2020 but still 8% higher than they were prior to the pandemic in 2019. The last decade saw the number of eBooks' sold per year nearly triple, from 69 million in 2010 to 191 in 2020.

If everything is in digital form and available for download (books, movies, music, and software) what then becomes of a library and where does it fit in with this evolution? As we ponder on this, a documented recently released entitled redefining the library; stated, "The

library's traditional role as a custodian for physical books and periodicals is quickly diminishing, meaning that space utilization in the library may sooner or later not be necessary, resource acquisition, and staffing not left out. (American library, 2018). Areas of change covered in this report include the fact that the quality of a library should no longer be measured by the size of its collection as, a lot is incurred into journal subscription, hidden somewhere on the Internet but available for use just a click away. The exponential growth of journal costs has rendered some scholarly publication profitless as, open access journals have taken over reasonably. This gives way to a situation where by academic library users can afford most of their information needs without coming into a physical library. Academic library circulation and reference requests are no longer on high demand. This are areas the collection development librarian should consider in her daily routine of book order and purchase to meet the advance level of information demand of present era library users.

This scenario is a pointer that if your library is completely a physical place without online alternatives, it may soon go out of patronage. Libraries must be more than structures and furniture and books but the service you provide and what you have to offer to users and the society. As the world is moving and a lot of revolution going on, so must librarians decide the trends libraries will follow in ten or twenty years and, head towards achieving that dream. Mashroofa, (2013). If we refuse to follow the wave of ICT trends and development, people from others fields are ready to take over the market of information acquisition and dissemination in this era information explosion and revolution Maitin, (2023). So, every academic library will

have to rethink its kind of collection, the skills of those to serve, and demonstrate their relevance as time go by.

Collection Development (CD) Practices in Libraries happens to be the most important and fundamental aspect of library and information centres. Accordingly, owing to vast scope of collection development and management in academic libraries, researchers across the globe have attempted to research not only on the concept, but the individual components of this collective process to highlight about various aspect associated with these components that are interconnected with each other (Sumaira, and Shabir, 2019). Since, each component in itself is a process that collectively helps to accomplish the goal of effective collection building in libraries.(Harbo and Hansen 2023). Therefore, we shall look at the process of collection development under the following subheadings: a) Collection development policy (CDP) b) User needs assessment c) Selection d) Acquisition e) Evaluation of collection f) Weeding and g) Preservation of collection.

## **Processes of Collection Development**

### ***Collection Development Policies (CDP)***

Purpose of the Collection Development Policy: The main purpose of the Collection Development Policy is to establish operating guidelines for the planned development of a quality collection of materials to meet the educational needs of students and faculty. From the mission statement of the Library: The mission of the Library is always clearly stated as for example in the case of an academic library: To, provide users with information and access to information in support

of scholarly activity and research, student learning, teaching excellence, and curricular development.

The library is a vital instruction and information resource for the public/users. In the case of the academic library, the primary users are the undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff.(Barry,2022). This means, its collection must cover instructional, curricular and research needs of all its clientele, including those with disabilities. At the same time, the exploding production of books, periodicals, audiovisual media and electronic resources, rising costs and a limited budget demand a prudent selection policy which acknowledges the need to rely on cooperative resource sharing.(Agbanu, Nwankwo, Ogalue, and Olorunfemi, 2019)

The policy provides general guidelines for fair allocating financial resources and formula for objective selection criterion. The goals are to achieve consistent results among those who have the responsibilities for developing the collection to provide instruments for assessing and validating collections for all relevant disciplines. The library collection includes all formats, i.e., books, periodicals, microforms, audio-visual materials, electronic resources, etc.(Sumaira and Shabir 2019). The library upholds and promotes the following statements from the American Library Association: The Collections Policy Statements govern the Library's collections development and acquisitions efforts. They provide the policy framework to support the Library's responsibilities to serve the community as a whole, the scholarly community, and the general public (ALA 2022). The policies provide a plan for developing the collections and maintaining their existing strengths. They set forth the scope, level of collecting intensity and goals sought by the library to fulfill its service mission. The library's collection building activities are extremely broad, covering notably every

discipline and field of Endeavour, including diverse forms of publication, recording gazettes and storage devices. The library's goal is to formulate statements which are sufficiently inclusive to ensure this broad coverage, yet specific enough to serve the particular needs of the library's varied clientele. The library has been developing its body of Collections Policy Statements since the mid20th century and has based their formulation on three fundamental principles, or "canons of selection" which succinctly summarize its collections development programs.

### **User's Need Assessment**

The Library of Congress has taken a leadership role in the development of a National Digital Library. LC's role in this effort is articulated in the document The National Digital Library Program--A Library for All Americans. Needs assessment has many manifestations ranging from general market research to specific recommendations for conducting reference interviews. The primary principle of the current needs assessment is to be user-centered--with the intention of focusing on user characteristics and the information-seeking tasks they bring to the Library. One of the problems associated with assessing information needs is to distinguish the global needs of user communities from the specific needs of a single user. Secondly, problem associated with assessing information needs is that there are multiple levels of an individual user's need. The objective of needs assessment of users' is practical: to determine the perceived needs of different users and user communities in order to inform the design process of book selection.

### **Selection and Acquisition of Library Collection: Vendor Catalogs & Online Inventory Lists**

Major library vendors such as Baker and Taylor and Ingram maintain extensive bibliographic databases for their customers. These databases are interactive for ease of online ordering. At one time simply inventory lists containing information about items actually in stock and ready to be shipped, they have expanded to include both older titles which may or may not actually still be available and items not yet published but anticipated. Library customers have access to these extensive databases which often also include book reviews.

**Online Bookstores:** Online bookstores such as Amazon and Barnes and Noble provide quick and easy ways to find publication information for a wide range of books. They also provide a convenient method for purchasing books that are needed very quickly. The disadvantage of these sources is that there is little professional critical opinion included.

**Booklist Online:** Booklist Online is the web version of the Booklist print magazine. It offers free content to non-subscribers including a Review of the Day (a highlighted review we're featuring), and a generous selection of additional reviews and features written exclusively for Booklist Online. Subscribers also gain access to digital editions of Booklist and the full Booklist Online database, which contains more than 180,000 reviews and thousands of features dating back to 1992 and 8,000 new reviews and related features every year. Much of that content dynamically linked—review to review, review to feature, and feature to feature. Others are book journals, New York Times Bestseller, New York Times book review, World street book review.

### Evaluation of Library Collection

Evaluation is meant to determine whether or not the objectives of the library are being achieved, whether or not the needs of library clientele are met. Librarians are constantly under pressure to evaluate their collections and services. According to Ogbuyisi and Okpe (2013) the following are some of the methods for evaluating library collections and services: i. By taking statistics of library usage ii. Check list of Acquisition of materials iii. By direct observation of the physical use of materials iv. Comparing records with world standard practices.

### **Weeding of Library Collection**

**This** is the process of regularly removing outdated or irrelevant library resources. It enable library to update the collection with useful fresh stock and make it visible to their users. to add relevant materials. The definitive resource on weeding is the CREW manual, which was created by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The CREW manual explains why weeding is important, it covers the weeding process, and it also offers weeding assistance on specific categories (nonfiction, fiction, graphic novels, periodicals, children's books, young adult fiction, etc.).

**Key points to take away from the CREW manual:** When it comes to the issue of how much to weed, the CREW manual offers advice and best-practice, but it ultimately leaves the final decision up to the libraries and the best judgment of the librarians, as the number of items to be weeded can considerably vary from library to library. The manual emphasizes that instead of focusing on how much to weed, focus instead on making weeding a continuous process (see the quotes below from the CREW manual for affirmation). (<https://library-nd.libguides.com/cd/weeding> 2023).

- “The CREW method calls for systematic and continuous weeding of the collection... It’s not enough to weed every couple of years or only when space is getting tight. A vital, viable library collection is reviewed on an on-going basis.
- “In general, you should weed about the same amount as you are adding to the collection unless you are in a developing mode.

### **Preservation of Library Collection**

Preservation and conservation of library materials refer to a comprehensive set of practices, principles, and strategies aimed at maintaining the physical, intellectual, and cultural integrity of various types of materials housed within libraries, archives, and cultural institutions. Preservation and conservation of library collections are crucial for maintaining the cultural, historical, and intellectual heritage of society. Methods of preservation and conservation includes Handling Guidelines, Pest Management: Environmental Control, Book Repair and Binding, Lamination, Encapsulation, n, ASCII (Non-Image), Digital Imagery, Microfilming, Chemical De-acidification.

### **New Trends in Collection Development**

Changes in the economy, technology, the book industry, and new ideas about library collections themselves are shaping collection development policies the traditional modes of collection development are purchase, subscription, membership and gift or exchange. But with the development of ICT, a radical change has taken place in the collection development of libraries. Now the users are experiencing the new sources of information and technology.



Electronic format of books, journals, CDROM, and DVD are available. Internet, www and online databases are recognized as new source of information. ( Nilaranjan, and Narayana,2016). So libraries are adopting new policies for a sound collection of both print and non-print source of information.

**Acquisition through consortia:** Consortia are formed among a group of libraries for collective acquisition of library materials with reduced cost and greater accessibility. Some of the leading consortia of India are INDEST, TIFR, FORSA, UGC-INFONET etc.

**Subscription to Online Databases/ E-Books:** Online databases are a collection of information arranged in to individual records to be searched by computer, which is available through the internet or an organization's intranet. It is a compressive collection of information in electronic form and organized for quick retrieval. A library may subscribe to as many as online database/ e-books as per its needs and financial provisions.

**Subscription to online reference Tools:** Many encyclopedias, dictionaries, directories are available online or in CD/DVD format which a library can acquire. Examples of some online encyclopedias are as follows.

- Encyclopedia Americana
- Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia
- The New Book of Knowledge
- La Nueva Encyclopedia Cumbre

- The New Book of Popular Science
- Lands and People

**Access to open access materials:** The library can acquire many open access library materials which are available free in large number. Collection developers are increasingly using social media in book selection .note that” Twitter allows librarians to find not only materials but also what patrons are saying about it. Twitter has the potential to allow collection development librarians to obtain real-time data on what materials their patrons are discussing, requesting, and enjoying."How do you provide access to electronic resources once they've been identified or purchased? They're difficult to "see". Marketing virtual library services is growing in importance.Handouts with QR codes are a quick way to provide access to remote resources.

#### **New Trends in Collection Development:**

Collection development is influenced in a number of ways by factors both internal and external the library. Among these factors are the library’s structure and organization with its objectives, production and distribution of the information materials and the procedure followed by other libraries in the area. The following are the methods of acquiring library resources.

1. Document Selection Problems,
2. Background or Document Acquisition Transaction,
3. Need of Subject Background,
4. Multiplicity of Vendors,
5. Document Procurement Problems,
- 6 Need for Avoiding Duplication,
7. Choice of Vendors and Problem of Local Vs Foreign Suppliers,
8. Problems Relating to Terms of Payment,
9. Problems of fiscal Management,
10. Price

Verification, 11. Vendor Controlled Order Plans, 12. Problems of subscription to journals,13. Other Problems of Documents Acquisition

### **Challenges of collection Development**

The introduction of eBooks is one example of the many challenges that have come from innovation. New ways of storing, sharing, and accessing information emerged. Although these new approaches and tools can be wonderful for information users, they bring challenges for librarians trying to provide access. The major problems faced by majority of the libraries in collection development are Information explosion; Literature scatter; Rising price of documents; Widening gap and cost between hard bound and paperback editions; Inelastic budget; Rising cost of binding; Book selection; weeding out; Delay in release of book grants and Technological revolution (Agbanu, Nwankwo, Ogalue, & Olorunfemi, 2019). &Hareshkumar, 2012). Also involves many challenges, such as budget constraints, space limitations, and changing user preferences.

### **Strategies for Enhancing Collection Development in Academic Libraries**

In order to improve the collection development of academic libraries in this technological era and to gain expedient access to that is readily available everywhere on the internet, the following factors should be bore in mind and considered as a remedy to the problems of collection development.

**Familiarization with your library:** Be familiar with the type of users you have, their age, level of education and subject's specialization, information behavior and format of information

retrieval that is most acceptable to them. It is very possible that you understand their leisure and even places of hangouts to be able to affect them in every way. Be conversant with faculty members; know their departments and area of research interest

**Liaison activities:** Liaison work is the process by which library's clientele are involved in the assessment and satisfaction of collection needs by librarians. Liaison work includes identifying user needs, evaluating existing collections, removing extraneous materials, and locating resources that will enhance the collections. Barry, (2022) stated that it enables the library to communicate its collection policies, services and needs to its clientele and to enhance the library's public relations. It helps the library's clientele to communicate its library needs and preferences to the library staff and governing body. Changes to the liaison role have been sparked by the trend in academic disciplines toward interdisciplinary research and teaching. The library liaison role has also been influenced by various academic librarianship trends making it deserving on librarians to reach out to users to maintain relevance in this increasingly digital age. (Sumaira, and Shabir, 2019).

**Development of subject expertise:** A subject librarian can be seen as 'a librarian with special knowledge and responsibility for a particular subject or subjects. Subject Librarian was first introduced at first Oxford and Cambridge Universities and followed by University College, London in 1940s. Mashroofa, (2013) said libraries be staffed with librarians who really have a firm grip of their discipline. They understand and follow the rudiments of the subject matter. The staff could be trained to cover as wide area of specialization, performing the following functions

1. Know personally the teaching staff and their scholarly interest.
2. Know as many

research students as possible 3.Be aware of ongoing courses and plan for new courses 4.Develop collection with full cooperation of staff.5. Assist in bibliographical search and handle all reference enquiries of users:

**Appropriate budget allocation:** A budget is a financial statement of the estimated revenues and expenditures of an institution for a definite period of time. In the words of Barry (2022), budget allocation represents a logical, comprehensive, and forward-looking financial program for coordinating the activities of the various financial divisions of the library or organization. Libraries are essential community resources, Felix (2023), providing information, education, and entertainment access. However, maintaining a library requires a significant budget. Firstly, library budgets are critical for purchasing and maintaining the library's collections, including books, e-books, audiobooks, and other materials. Libraries must also invest in technology and equipment, such as computers, scanners, and printers, to support patrons' needs. These items can be costly, and libraries cannot provide the necessary resources for their users without adequate funding (Parmer, (2012), Okogwu and Achebe,( 2018) and Maitin,(2023).

Library budgets also play a crucial role in providing community programming. Libraries are often community hubs, offering a wide range of programs and events, such as book clubs, author readings, and educational workshops. Funding is necessary to provide quality programming and to bring in guest speakers and performers. However, Harbor and Hansen, (2023) averred that, allocating a budget for libraries can be challenging, as they offer a diverse range of services and materials. The budget must be balanced to meet the needs of patrons and the library's mission while also addressing any financial constraints (Sumaira and Shabir, 2019).

Many libraries rely on public funding to support their operations. Government grants, local taxes, and fundraising events are all common sources of revenue. However, libraries also face challenges securing funding, particularly during economic downturns or when competing with other public services.

**Users' needs identification:** There is need for academic libraries to improve their services, if only the amounts of resources spent on library services and the need to ensure value for money is ensured. Libraries must take conscious actions to ensure that the services offered are the services needed. Users' needs may change undetectably over time and libraries must relentlessly take such changes into account. (Moorttimatee & Pravakar, 2014) For example, today's students may still need guidance in using the enormous amount of e-based literature, but at the same time they are, beyond dispute, advanced users of the latest information technology which library institutions, often conservative by nature, are only beginning to experiment. (Agbanu, N. A. Nwankwo, N. G., Ogalue, I.R. & Olorunfemi, E. A. 2019).

## Conclusion

The introduction of information communication technologies and its use in library and information sciences has dramatically changed the process of collection development management in libraries. Now libraries are not just the store houses of print and non print media but a combination of various formats for both storage and retrieval. So, the collection development policy and processes has changed. It is also fact that the advent, acquisition and use of e-materials cannot replace the library collection totally. It can be treated as a new form of

collection to server users in a better way. Therefore new policies and methods of collection development should be introduced by libraries to meet the users demand satisfactorily.

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