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- Students and Faculties Searching Behaviour and the Internet: Use of Search Engines
- The Contribution of Philanthropic Organizations to Collection Development in Nigerian Academic Libraries
- Information Environment in Rural India: Impediments to Free Flow of Information

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The Contribution of Philanthropic Organizations to Collection Development in Nigerian Academic Libraries

A B OSHINAIKE*
O M BANKOLE*
A A OYELUDE**

Discusses the contribution of philanthropic organizations to collection development in libraries in South Western Nigeria. Questionnaires, structured interview, and observation methods were used in gathering the required data. Using random sampling techniques, five tertiary institutions were selected from the seventeen in the Southwest. The study reveals that book donations from philanthropic organization have positive impact on collection development by increasing the volumes of books in their collection. It was also discovered that the major donor to the libraries was Book Aid International and that the books donated sometimes do not cut across all disciplines. Acquisition by purchase is not seriously affected by the donations as the libraries continue to acquire in spite of outside help. It is recommended that the donors in a way involve the receiving or benefiting universities in the selection exercise so as to meet the desired needs of the institutions.

0 INTRODUCTION

Collection Development is a fundamental process in establishing and maintaining any library and information system without which no effective services can be rendered to the users. According to Scott-Emuakpor,¹ "collection development is an act of selection and acquisition of materials for an expanding collection and decisions on the material to be included in that collection." It is described as the process of acquiring books and non-print media needed to satisfy request for the information and to attain the systems objective. Due to exponential growth in publications in all disciplines, effective book selection is becoming more and more important in libraries in order to tailor acquisitions to available funds and to render

* Olabisi Onabanjo University Library, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State.

** Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State.

collections more cost effective and balanced. Collection development, if done systematically, is meant to enrich library collections. Individuals, institutions or corporate bodies can attain this enrichment process through purchase, receipts of gifts and exchanges from other libraries, or through donations.² The development of the collection of academic libraries through donations by philanthropic organizations is the focus of this paper. The contribution of the libraries to the enrichment of the collection, adequacy of the donation, and the impact the donations have on the collection are examined.

1 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives are to study the participation of philanthropic organizations towards library collection development. In specific terms, the study aims at:

- (a) Finding out the type of contribution of such organizations which contribute in collection development of individual libraries.
- (b) Examining the relationship between non-governmental organizations and libraries.
- (c) Finding out the types of books donated with respect to formats, disciplines and number of copies to the libraries.
- (d) Finding out whatever the libraries really benefited from such donations.
- (e) Recommending the measures for increasing such assistance to other non participating philanthropic organizations.

2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

It has been keenly observed that the contribution of philanthropic organizations towards the improvement of library collections leaves little to write home about, although it is on record that in the past the contributions and participation of the philanthropic organizations namely Ford Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, Books Aid International and British Council to mention a few have immensely contributed in Nigeria. The researchers however believe that the organizations could still do more to assist in building collections to match that of developed countries.

3 METHODOLOGY

The study is limited to academic libraries in the South west geopolitical

region of the country. Using random sampling techniques, five tertiary institutions were selected from the seventeen institutions in the Southwest. They are Olabisi Onabanjo University Library, Ago-Iwoye (OOU), Kenneth Dike Library University of Ibadan (UNIBADAN), University of Lagos Library (UNILAG), Hezekiah Oluwasanmi University Library, Ife-ife (HOU) and Adeyemi College of Education Library, Ondo (ACE).

Interview and observation methods were used to gather initial data. Where access was permitted, the researchers went through the records and registers of gifts and donations to the libraries for the period 1999-2003. Efforts were made to get the collection development policy of the selected institutions' library and find out the number of written policies. Thereafter, a questionnaire was designed and used as the major instrument of the research. The questionnaire was made of 20 items divided into three sections eliciting information on background information on the institution; donation by organization to the institution, and evaluation of donation by collection development staff.

The questionnaire was pre-tested to determine if the questions asked were relevant. After correction, it was administered to librarians in charge of collection development, acquisitions, gifts and exchanges in the selected Universities and College of Education. In all, 25 questionnaires were administered but 15 were returned constituting 60% response rate. The returned copies were analyzed.

4 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

None of the libraries has a written collection development policy. They however follow general guidelines on the mandate or policy of the library. This non availability of a written policy may be part of the problem with collection development in academic libraries, as, if a policy was in place, collection development may have moved faster, and unsolicited donations could even be avoided. This could be an area for further research.

The response from the 15 questionnaires indicated that all the libraries received aid from philanthropic organizations as well as individuals. The numbers of materials received for the period 1999-2003 in all of them show an increased concentration of collection development during the period.

Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, Ile-Ife (HOU) received 2723 books, Olabisi Onabanjo Library, Ago-Iwoye (OOU) received 1056 books,

Adeyemi College of Education Library (ACE) received 1138 books and University of Lagos Library (UNILAG) received 1742 books from the Book Aid International in the 5-year period. The number of books received from Book Aid could not be ascertained for the University of Ibadan, as their acquisitions records did not demarcate (Fig 1). The bar chart below presents the total volumes of books donated International.

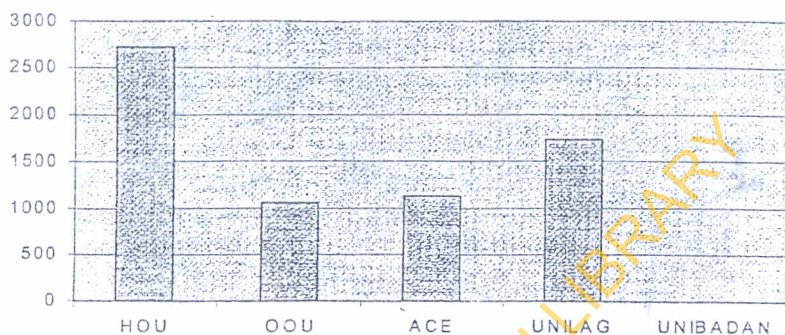


Fig 1 Books donated by Book Aid International to the institution

In 1999, Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library received 970 books; Olabisi Onabanjo Library received 200 books, while Adeyemi College Library received 61 books. This reduced drastically as indicated in the chart in the year 2000. It is interesting to note that in the year 2001 ACE received the highest volume of books followed by HOU then OOU. Similarly, the trend was witnessed in 2002 HOU received 248 books, OOU received 180, while ACE 35 books. In 2002, HOU received 368, OOU 230 ACE respectively. This indicates that the total volume of books donated by the donors to various institutions has been inconsistent and fluctuating. Perhaps this might be ascribed to financial constraints on the part of the donor, or change in policies (Fig 2).

The bar shows the acquired materials by volumes in the sampled institutions libraries, The University of Lagos Library acquired the highest number of books with a total figure of 344820. Next to it, Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library acquired 38,484 and ACE 28105, while the University of Ibadan acquired 12560 and Olabisi Onabanjo acquired 6430 books. From the chart in Fig 2 it is seen that the Olabisi Onabanjo University acquired the least followed by ACE compared to other institutions.

From the data gathered, there are notable differences between the

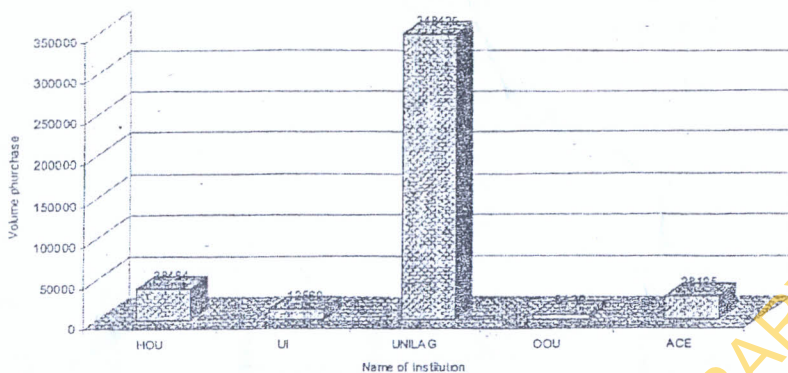


Fig 2. Books acquired by the institutions between 1999 and 2003

number of books acquired in the libraries and the portion of them that are donations. These donations are not necessarily Book Aid International alone, but from all sources. The significance of this is that the percentage of donations usually should not be more than those acquired by purchase. This is because if a library relies too much on donations the collection may eventually veer off focus of the aims and objectives of the library. To this end, the researchers did a comparison of books acquired by purchase and those acquired through donations in the libraries under study for the stated period 1999-2003.

Figure 3 presents the comparison between the total numbers of books purchased and donated at Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library. In this library for the period, the total volume of books purchased is always higher than that of volumes of books given as donation each year. These points to the fact HOU can survive without book donations from local or international bodies. This is because of its continued purchase of books without banking on books donated to the institution.

Figure 4 shows that for UNILAG, the total number of books acquired and that donated were not significantly different in the year 1999 & 2000. On the other hand between 2001-2003 the total number of books acquired was much greater than that of books donated.

Figure 5 shows that in the Adeyemi College of Education, as the total number of books purchased decreases, the total number of books donated also decreases. When the books purchased increased in number, the donations also increased.

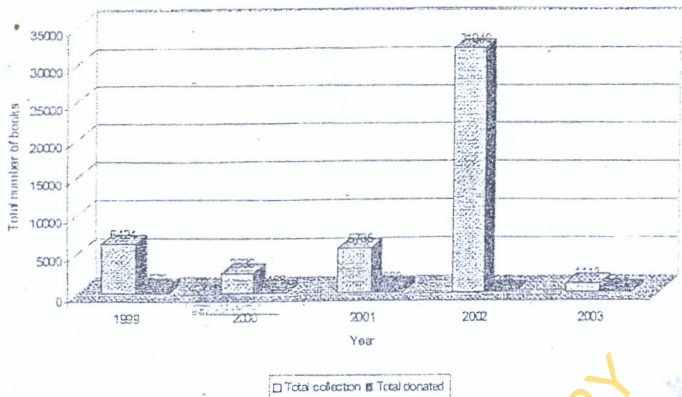


Fig 3 Comparison between books acquired and donated at Hezekiah Oluwasanm Library from 1999 to 2003

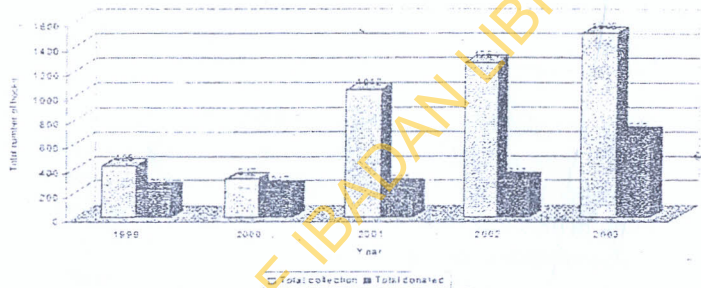


Fig 4 Comparison between books acquired and donated to University of Lagos 1999-2003

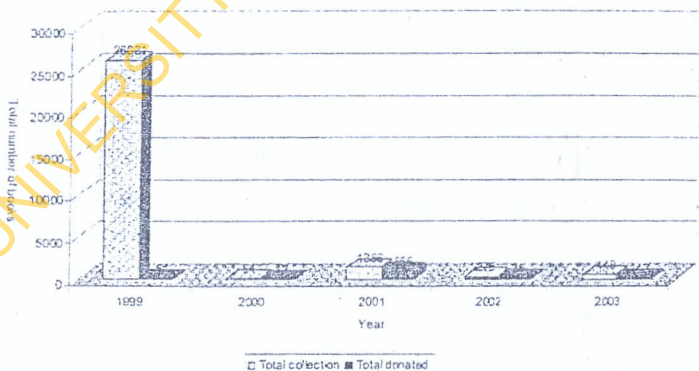


Fig 5. Comparison between books acquired and donated at Adeyemi College of Education 1999-2003.

Figure 6 shows that at Olabisi Onabanjo University the total number of books acquired is actually increasing with the decrease in the total number of books donated. This shows that Olabisi Onabanjo University Library continues to purchase despite the fact of donations given both by local and foreign agencies. The university library from this seems to have a consistent approach to collection development.

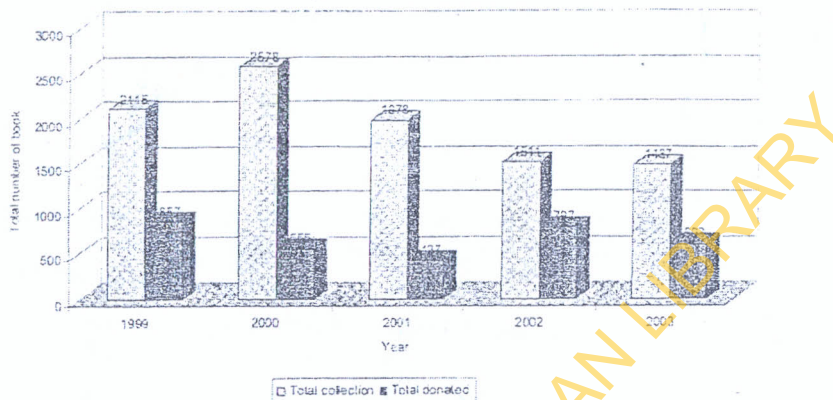


Fig 6 Comparison of books donated at the Olabisi Onabanjo University library from 1999-2003

Books donated by the philanthropic organizations are noted to follow a certain pattern, which has some implications for collection development. Their efforts were seen to target making as many multiple copies of each publication available as possible, and also, to cover as many, if not all disciplines. On the question of whether the institutions receive books in all the disciplines offered, the respondents indicated thus.

Table 1 shows that among the five selected institutions, 2 (40%) (UNIBADAN & UNILAG) indicated that the donated materials covered all the spectrum of disciplines offered in their institutions. 2 (40%) Hezekiah

Table 1: Are all areas of Disciplines Covered?

Institutions	Responses
1. HOU Library OAU, Ile-Ife	Sometimes
2. University of Ibadan	Virtually all areas covered
3. University of Lagos	Yes all areas covered
4. Olabisi Onabanjo	University sometimes
5. Adeyemi College of Education	No

Oluwasanmi Library and Olabisi Onabanjo University Library) are covered only sometimes, while 1 (20%) indicated that not all the areas of disciplines are covered. This issue concerned the Adeyemi College of Education, because it has a special mandate to produce professional teachers for the country. This implies that the scope is not as wide as that of materials donated to the universities.

Table 2: Identification of copies donated

Institutions	Multiple	Single	Both
1. HOU Library OAU, Ile-Ife			✓
2. University of Ibadan	✓		
3. University of Lagos			✓
4. Olabisi Onabanjo University	✓		
5. Adeyemi College of Education			✓

On the issue of whether multiple, single or both multiple and single copies of books are donated, the University of Ibadan and Olabisi University Libraries indicated that multiple copies were always donated to them. On the other hand the others (ACE & UNILAG) said both multiple and single are donated. It is noteworthy that in none of the institutions did it happen that only single copies of each volume were donated.

The following views were gathered from direct interactions at interviews with the librarians in charge of acquisition and collection development. Reacting to the issue of the impact of philanthropic organizations on their libraries collection.

- (i) The librarians are of the view that the donated materials have formed part and parcel of their collections.
- (ii) By and large the donations complement the materials their various universities are acquiring.
- (iii) The donated materials have a great positive impact on their acquisition and definitely increase the volume and quantity of their collections.
- (iv) The donated materials have greatly made the readers horizon wider and cut across various disciplines
- (v) The donated materials have given readers the privilege of reading

books produced in other countries. In actual fact, the major opinion among them is that of currency of the materials.

The Collection Development, Acquisition and Gift and Exchange Librarians that have the responsibility of quality and quality acquisition drive of their respective Universities are of these opinions and offered the following recommendations to the Donors/philanthropic organizations.

- (a) The philanthropic organization should concentrate on core subject areas or disciplines when making their donations.
- (b) The donors should enquire about the general area of needs from recipients so as to guide them in making appropriate donations.
- (c) They should consider the users by sending relevant materials for tertiary institutions, and send them in good time to meet research requirements.
- (d) The donors should endeavor that donated books cover all spectrum of knowledge taught.
- (e) The donors should try to give out hard cover editions to the libraries.
- (f) The donors should donate along with books, information in other formats, *i.e.* electronic media.
- (g) The donations should come regularly.
- (h) The organizations could request for list of needed publications from the Universities concerned before sending in their donations.
- (i) The organizations should involve the librarian during the time of distribution of materials based on recommendation lists earlier sent.

5 CONCLUSION

The effect of donations by philanthropic organizations on library collection development is seen to be quite impressive in the libraries under survey. The importance of having a library collection development policy is particularly noted as the collection development policy ensures that there are guidelines in developing the collection.

Philanthropic organizations are encouraged to donate multiple copies of books to libraries but that they should preferably consult the libraries before, so that the areas of need are addressed. Donors are also encouraged to contribute library materials in other formats *e.g.*, electronic resources.

In addition, the contribution of philanthropic organizations can be in form of training for library and information workers. If they help train in ICT resources, they still provide access for users to non book resources, which are also a part of librarian's collections.

In all, collection development through donations, gifts and exchange is a worthwhile venture if properly managed and monitored. The effort should be coordinated from the outset at the selection stage so that libraries do not end up stocking unnecessary materials, which are outdated and probably will never be consulted.

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