CATALOGUING AND CLASSIFICATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS IN 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES FACING FESTUS AGHAGBO NWAKO LIBRARY AWKA.

Roseline Nkechi Obiozor-Ekeze

Abstract

After the introduction of MARC in the 60's a lot of improvement was noticed in cataloguing practices. ICT made the tedious task in cataloguing simpler. Cataloguer snow do the cataloguing with less stress.

The introduction of OPAC popularized the library's operation. Users of the library need not visit the library to know what is in the collection. As long as they are connected to the library, they stay in their different locations to know what is in the library's collection. The introduction of metadata also helped libraries to provide electronic resources for their users.

Festus Aghagbo Nwako library is facing a lot of challenges for not being automated. Manual cataloguing has become a thing of past. The paper made a recommendation on the way forward.

Keyword*:* Cataloguing and Classification, AACR2, MARC, RDA, OPAC, Festus Aghagbo Nwako Library.

Introduction

Cataloguing and classification are methods of describing, organizing and providing access to all information materials available in a library or group of libraries. Aina (2012) described cataloguing as a complex process used in providing access tools to materials in a collection, so users can access the materials. It is concerned with the correct and accurate physical description of a document (print and non print). The catalogue leads to a particular title in the collection showing the user the location of the book, its physical description and its subject content.

The two types of cataloguing are descriptive and subject cataloguing. Descriptive cataloguing is that aspect of cataloguing process which is concerned with the identification and description of a book and the recording of this information in the form of a cataloguing entry. The cataloguer tries to identify the author, title, edition of a work, publisher etc for the convenience of the users. There were tools prepared earlier for describing items. These earlier codes were prepared by individuals in the 19th century. The individuals were Panizzi, Jewett, Cutter, Sears and Lubertzky. With time, the codes were seen not to solve the problems of describing items because information resources started appearing in different formats. As a result of this, Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (AACR) was developed by librarians from different countries. Its second edition became the standard tool used for descriptive cataloguing. Presently RDA became the acceptable tools for its advantage over electronic resources.

The second type of cataloguing is the subject cataloguing. It brings out the subject content of a document being catalogued. Subject catalogue consists of two elements: selection of entries and

selection of a classification number. The subject entry in a catalogue gives the library user another point of access to locate materials in addition to the main entry. One of the most common modifications made to subject headings is the addition of a sub-division. Wynar (1976) defined subject heading as a word or a group of words indicating a subject under which all materials dealing with the same theme is entered in a catalogue or bibliography or is arranged in a file. The most popularly used tools for subject headings are the *Library of Congress Subject Heading* (LCSH) and Sear Lists Of Subject Heading (SLSH).

The books in the library of any appreciable size are arranged according to some system and arrangement. This is generally referred to as classification. Classification can be described as the methodology adopted by librarians for bringing together information materials that are of the same subject. Olajide and Yusuf (2010) observed that the main reason for classifying information materials in libraries is to create access to information materials. Madukom *et al* (2013) identified accessibility as one of the prerequisites of information used because the more accessible information sources are, the more likely they are used. In library classification, each work can only be placed in one class. The two most widely used classification scheme are the *Library of Congress Classification Scheme* and *Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme.* The essence of classification of library material is to enhance easy identification and access.

The introduction of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in the library has brought tremendous changes to cataloguing process. Yapa (2003) observed how automation changed the face of cataloguing. He stated that the success of a library could be measured by the extent of its ICT use. Ajibero (2006), also said that cataloguing and classification was one of the key area that is impacted by (ICT) because of the large amount of cataloguing data available, the cataloguing of the same publications in thousand of libraries, the repetitive nature of cataloguing and the desirability of having consistent cataloguing information in all libraries. Tenant (2004) reported also that the practice of using original cataloguing sometimes causes multiple records to be created for item with identical content.

Challenges of Cataloguing and Classifying Library Materials Using ICTs

The 21st century is characterized by rapid technological and information explosion. This has changed the way and manner information has resources are packaged, processed and used. Most of the information available today in electronic format and can be accessed through the Internet, online databases, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and the World Wide Web (WWW). Atinmo (2007) observed that the interconnection of the world through the use of the Internet and the web has changed the way information resources are catalogued and classified by librarians, particularly cataloguers. Fatoki (2011) stated that the Internet has expanded the concept of catalogues with the advent of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) which has increased the search capabilities and accessibility of any computer connected to the Internet.

Clearly the unique characteristics of Internet resources in terms of location, document version, instability etc reveals some inappropriateness in using traditional schemes such as cataloguing rules. Miller (2011) stated that there is a logical flaw in the way materials are categorized in AACR2. Some materials are based on content (cartographic materials, graphic materials and three dimensional artifact), while others are based on carrier, that is the motion pictures, video recordings, computer files and microforms. Mehagafar (2004) opined that the proliferation of Internet formats introduced the perception that the available cataloguing standards could not be satisfactorily adapted for document. Descriptive cataloguing had to be modified, refined and renamed in conformity with changes in the information seeking behavior of library patrons. AACR2 was replaced by the Resource Description and Access (RDA) which was released in June 2010. It was built on the foundation established by AACR2. RDA provides a comprehensive set of guidelines and instructions on resource description and access covering all types of content and media. Oliver (2009) explained that the strength of RDA is that it is built on the theoretical framework expressed in the model as Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) which is based on a detailed analysis of bibliographic data. A lot of benefits accrue from using RDA. Miller (2007) listed them as follows:

1. It was designed with users in mind
2. It is based on the theoretical framework expressed in the functional requirements for bibliographic records (FRBR). The conceptual model collocate different versions and editions of the same work.
3. It was designed to create records that will co-exist with AACR2 records in library catalogues.
4. RDA has potential for enabling information to be understood not just by computers.
5. It is flexible and will accommodate non library groups that create metadata, such as archives, museums and publishing companies.
6. It project the library collection from the confines of the library to the web.

Another thing that happened in cataloguing practice is the introduction of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). By the early 1990, catalogue cards were abandoned for electronic databases with the advent of computer in libraries. Instead of card catalogues, Online Catalogue or Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs) was introduced. Coyle (2007) informed that online catalogues radically changed the way users accessed the catalogue. OPAC became very popular in libraries. It enable users to search the catalogues by any word in a heading. With time users started having problems with OPAC, which necessitated the introduction of metadata. EI-Sherbini (2004) explained that metadata is the Internet term for information that librarians have put into catalogue. They can be in printed format or they can be electronically available on the network.

Challenges Faced by Cataloguers in Festus Aghagbo Nwako Library.

The rapid development in ICT especially in universal access to information has brought a lot of challenges to librarians and

cataloguers in particular. Cataloguers in Nigeria are also caught up in this new development. Information is packed up in the Internet, waiting to be accessed. It is the duty of cataloguers to organize the information and make them available for users to access them. Cataloguers in Festus Aghagbo Nwako library face a lot of challenges regarding using ICT in cataloguing practices. The library has not been automated. Festus Aghagbo Nwako library started when Nnamdi Azikiwe University was established in 1992. The library was named after the first Vice-chancellor of the university. It is the main university library. There are departmental libraries at the Medical library, Nnewi, Pharmaceutical Sciences library at Agulu and the Faculty of Law Library. There are ten librarians in the main library. Each section of the library is headed by a librarian. Obviously Festus Aghagbo Nwako library is under staffed. This slows down the pace of working at the various department of the library.

Secondly, lack of knowledge of current trends in cataloguing practices affect the cataloguers. Nwalo (2007) stated that cataloguers can only remain relevant in the scheme of things if they have or acquire ICT skills and the knowledge of the innovation in library services that technologies have brought about.

Thirdly is lack of competent typists? Many of the catalogued materials are not typed. This means that the catalogue boxes can not tell the users what the library has in its collection. This does not show the true picture of what the library has. Similarly the catalogue cards are still produced manually. The problem of irregular power supply hinder library services. The library does not have a separate generator to supply power to the library.

Strategies To Enhance Cataloguing Practices In Festus Aghagbo Nwako Library Awka

Automating the library is no more a new phenomenon in Nigeria. A lot of valuable information materials are in electronic formats presently. University library that is not automated does not have much to give to its community in this era of ICT. The present university librarian is doing his best to see that the library is automated. He is persuading the university management to employ more librarians in the library. Librarians should be sponsored to attend workshops and conferences on current trends in cataloguing. Cataloguers should be sponsored to Annual General Meetings by the Nigerian Library Association and Cataloguing and Classification Section for cataloguers. New trends in cataloguing are discussed at forum. Adome and Nwalo (2003) had earlier warned that the efficiency of any library and information centr depend on the caliber of its staff. Omekwu (2008) recommended that with appropriate research, training and retraining, cataloguers will define the future, design new functions and delineate the pathway of the information forest.

More typists are needed in the cataloguing department to produce the cards, for the catalogued materials. When employing librarians, cataloguing department should be taken into consideration. When more cataloguers are employed, more books will be moved out of this department for users to utilize them. Also the para professional librarians are

needed for filling the typed cards.

Even in libraries in developed countries cards catalogues are still maintained. Festus Aghagbo Nwako library will be one of the best university libraries in Nigeria if these recommendations are implemented.

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