

**ACQUISITION PRACTICES IN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NORTH
CENTRAL ZONE OF NIGERIA**

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APPROVAL PAGE

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research work acquisition practices in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria has been satisfactorily carried out by Bessy, Francisca Abalaka, a postgraduate student in the Department of Library and Information Science with registration number PG/MLS/07/43206. The work embodied in this research report is original and has not been submitted in part or full for any diploma or degree of any other university.

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ABSTRACT

This study is centred on acquisition practices in state university libraries in North Central Zone of Nigeria. The study specifically sought to find out the acquisition policies in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria, ascertain the acquisition pattern, ascertain the sources of acquisition, identify current problems encountered in the acquisition practices and finally determine strategies to enhance acquisition process. The study was guided by five research questions directly drawn from the purpose of the study. Purposive sampling technique was used to select a sample of 196 which comprises of professional librarians, para-professionals and others who are concerned with acquisition of library information resources in all the state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. The instrument for data collection is Acquisition Practice Questionnaire (APQ) was used to collect data from the librarians, library officers and staff in the acquisition and serial sections of the libraries. Other instruments for data collection were interview and observation. The instruments developed were face validated by the researcher's Supervisor and two experts. The researcher personally with the help of one trained research assistant from each university distributed 196 questionnaires to respondents. One Hundred and Seventy-Seven questionnaires were duly filled and returned. Furthermore, simple percentages, frequencies, tables, and mean were used for data presentation and analysis. The research findings show that this important library activity is still fraught with problems which include:- Lack of adequate funds, non-existence of written acquisition policies, lack of skilled acquisition librarians, low level of publishing, lack of book trade, absence of staff motivation. The researcher recommends an increase in government allocation, proper formulation of written acquisition policies, training and re-training of staff, recruitment of skilled professional librarians to enable the state university libraries and similar libraries overcome the problems associated with acquisition practices, among others.

DEDICATION

The work is dedicated to God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

Title page -----	i
Approval Page -----	ii
Certification -----	iii
Abstract -----	iv
Dedication -----	v
Acknowledgement -----	vi
Table of Contents -----	viii
List of Tables -----	x
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION -----	1
Statement of the Problem -----	7
Purpose of the Study -----	8
Significance of the Study -----	9
Scope of the Study -----	10
Research Questions -----	10
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW -----	11
Conceptual Framework -----	11
Review of Empirical Studies -----	28
Summary of Literature Review -----	32
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS -----	34
Research Design -----	34
Area of the Study -----	34
Population of Study -----	33
Sample and Sampling Technique -----	34
Instrument for Data Collection -----	34

Observation Checklist -----	35
Interview Schedule -----	35
Validation of Instrument -----	35
Method of Data Collection -----	36
Method of Data Analysis -----	36
 CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS -----	 38
 CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS -----	 45
Discussion of Findings -----	45
Conclusion -----	48
Implication of Study -----	48
Recommendations -----	49
Suggestions for Further Study -----	51
Limitations of the Study -----	51
Summary -----	52
References -----	54
Appendices -----	58

LIST OF TABLES

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Universities represent major investments in the development of human resources. According to Gelfand (1971), universities whether they are publicly or privately controlled, are presumed to be subjects of major concern of governments. He further stated that universities should be organized, developed and administered in accordance with objectives which reflect the specific needs and aims of the nation, as well as the traditional purposes of the university.

Universities generally, are established primarily to discharge the tripartite functions of teaching, research and community development and inspire the investor-persons who create history. In addition to this function, is to develop completely the human resources for meeting man-power needs and to train the "whole man" for nation building. However, the achievement of these responsibilities therefore depends on a number of factors. One of such factors is the availability of a carefully selected acquired and organized collection of books and other information resources in the libraries. The library is the institution which helps people to get knowledge, and the best agency to actualize the objective of the university. This explains why Nnadozie (2006) defined the library as an institution established for the procurement, organization, presentation, dissemination and utilization of humanity's information and communications productions.

Consequently, Abdullahi as cited by Anafulu (1996) asserts that, the central focus of any educational institution is its library. It is the hub of the system to which both students and staff resort for academic nourishment. Thus an up-to-date library contributes in no small measure to paving the way for academic excellence. In view of this, libraries require information resources in which it is established to achieve its

aims – teaching, research and extension work. University libraries based on this, receives allocations from the parent institution in which they are established. Without adequate financial support, the library cannot satisfactorily play the role of organization and administration of collection, staff maintenance, procurement of equipment, meeting the immediate needs of users and evaluation of services. In addition to this without a well equipped library, the parent institution will not achieve its goals and objectives. The above assertion accounts for the reason why the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASSU) has been stressing on improvement in the funding of education. According to Ifidon (1985), writing on sources of finance for academic libraries posit that the library funds are derived from institution which is funded by government grant, contributions and gifts, endowments, student fees, investments and consultancy. Academic libraries may collect direct funds through overdue book fines, photocopying, publications, charges on loan on special items. Consequently, without adequate provision of funds, acquisition of library information resources becomes difficult.

Acquisition is the act of procuring and obtaining materials. This is the act of acquiring knowledge or books that are relevant to users. The acquisition department or section is the only gateway to any library's collection development. Acquisition can be seen as acquiring of qualitative, relevant information resources to meet the need of users and the objectives of the library. Edelmam (1977) defines acquisition as the process of verifying, ordering, and paying for needed information resources. That is securing resources for library's collection whether by purchase, as gifts or through exchange programme. This then means that the functionality of acquisition can be seen as the sole foundation on which library systems are built.

According to Magrill and Corbin (1989), acquisition is the process that implements selection decisions and collection development plans. On the other hand, Nzotta (1973), sees "Book selection" as a process of choosing books for inclusion in a library while acquisition embraces all the process involved in obtaining a book for a library. These processes include book selection and ordering or obtaining the book by gift or exchange. Book selection is a major aspect of acquisition and demands a great deal of the Librarian professional skills. Thus this explains why the acquisition section needs to be manned by a qualified acquisition librarian. Qualified librarians are important because they are knowledgeable and skillful in the practice of their profession. Without qualified librarians, it becomes difficult to successfully acquire the necessary relevant information resources needed by students and researchers. The presence of a qualified librarian is very crucial to the development of the University library collections as they put in their expertise to formulate acquisition policies, so that information resources acquired in the university library are not chosen at random, but chosen by observing the acquisition policy, selection and other process of acquisition such as purchase, exchange, legal deposit, donation/gift etcetera.

Inflanet (2008), asserts that acquisition and collection development focus on methodical and topical themes pertaining to the acquisition, purchase, selection of print, other traditional format of library materials (by purchase, gift, exchange, legal deposit, and electronic information resources. Other specialized areas include collection development policies, methods, techniques and practices for collection assessment, usage, statistics, and prizing ownership and access issues, open access, format duplication and scholarly communication and librarian relations with publishers and vendors. This relationship with these bodies enables the library to acquire relevant and meaningful information resources needed for university education. This

means that in order to acquire relevant information resources into the library for university education, excellent acquisition practice must be put in place. Both acquisitions, and collection development sections, depend on one another for proper execution of funds in acquiring library information resources that will achieve the goals of the parent institution. However, in the process of developing the collections, university libraries run into some difficulties which include:

Lack of funds: - The library cannot meaningfully support the institution without enough finance. It is with adequate fund that libraries can acquire the various information resources needed for university education. Since finance is the bedrock of any organization, loss of funding will have adverse effect such as staff cuts, less research, closing of research institutes and dearth of information. This can be summed up that academic work will be paralyzed and knowledge limited in all spheres of life, socially, culturally and morally. In a developing country like Nigeria where book budget is meager, care should be taken in selection and acquisition of library resources.

Low Level of Local Book Production: - Another striking problem that affects university libraries when acquiring information resources to include in their collections is the low level of local book production. This has made the country largely dependent on the importation of books, particularly from abroad with respect to advanced texts used by universities, technical and vocational institutions, and required for professional degree students. Anafulu (1996) asserts that lack of money makes it impossible to maintain any form of library operations and services. Also where funds are inadequate, the efficiency of the services is bound to be adversely affected. The source of this problem emanates from an inadequate budgetary allocation on one hand and foreign exchange restrictions on the other. To procure materials published

abroad without obtaining the appropriate foreign currency is possible. Getting foreign exchange in the country poses a lot of problems because, the rate is often very high.

Lack of Formulation of Acquisition Policy: Furthermore, lack of formulation of acquisition policy is also a major problem as some libraries do not have a written or articulated acquisition policy. They take decisions on the improvement of the library collection as the need arises. It is vital for every library to have a written acquisition policy for effective and efficient development of the library collection. Organizing the selection process in an orderly manner is another problem university libraries face in acquiring information resources. The absence of selection policy statements and non-availability of selection aids further makes it the more difficult. Coupled with this, acquisition librarians are faced with the issues that arise from the fact that no organized book trade exists in the country. Consequently, the state universities in the North Central Zone are no exception of these problems aforementioned as they all run into hitches here and there in the process of acquiring library information resources to include in their collections.

Acquisition of information resources in libraries is dependent on the type of library and the users it is meant to serve. Collections in libraries vary from one library to another such as: National libraries, academic libraries, public libraries, private libraries, school libraries and special libraries. Academic libraries acquire information resources that are adequate, relevant to the teaching, learning and research work of the parent institution.

Edoka (2000) posited that there are two categories of information resources that are acquired by libraries, whatever type of library. These include print and non-print information resources. He stated further that the print category includes: text books, periodicals, newspapers and magazines. The non-print materials according to

him are the traditional component of the library stock such as maps, charts, illustration and posters. Included in the non-print media are resources that require machine for use such as: film, slides, film strips slides, film hoops, transparencies, video tapes and audio-tapes. He further classified the last group as three dimensional subjects such as acted specimen sometimes termed as reeler or models. He went on to mention the multimedia kits which he asserts are a combination of more of the non-book media where the computer is associated with this in regard to the capacities as it cuts across the various divisions.

Bakari (1984) and Edoka (2000) noted that the types of information resources libraries acquire included government publication, technical reports, committee reports, publications on seminars, statistics, theses or dissertations, serials and students' research work. In addition, Ifidon (2006), on his part classified information resources into certain groups which include;

- Books which he describes as publication in printed form with a distinctive title which appears as monograph, Reference books, Text books, Light reading materials, Periodicals, Special materials, Documents, Microforms, Audio-visual materials, Vertical files, Machine readable materials. From the various types of information resources acquired by the library, it can be seen that all libraries especially University Libraries acquire this information resources as quickly as possible to meet the need of users. Magrill and Corbin (1989) opined that a university should give priority to the needs of students, faculty and other academic staff of the university, who may be said to constitute the library primary clientele. State University libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria are not exceptional in terms of acquisition practices as they also acquire relevant information resources as quickly as possible to meet the needs of its users.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Libraries play crucial role in national development, particularly in educational institutions. No university education can achieve any progress without adequate provision of library services. Academic libraries feed the intellect of the students; it also encourages the researches of the faculty through acquisition of current, relevant information resources such as textbooks, reference materials and academic journals etc. Academic libraries fundamental aim is to acquire information resources that will help to support teaching, learning and research activities. Collection development serves as the foundation upon which other library services are built. It is a planned systematic development of collections based on the objectives of the library. Acquisition is the only gateway to assemble information resources into the libraries collection for adequate services to be rendered to its users.

The importance of collection development cannot be underestimated as it is the aspect of the practice that is responsible for selecting, and acquiring information resource that will enable librarians and information scientists to perform their various functions to users effectively. Collection development occupies the most vital position in the functions of the librarian. The need for a well evaluated and adequately selected collection has become all the more crucial in view of several factors, such as proliferation in the range of subjects, complex and varied information needs of users. With the collection development in place, building irrelevant collections will be minimized if not completely controlled. The consequences of building irrelevant collections are enormous as it leads to thwarting the overall objectives of the parent institution, the use of such haphazard collections will be low as they will be unread information resources which may lead to the strong urge to purge from the shelves. This in itself is financial wastage.

Consequently, from the observation of collection development and acquisition process of most state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria, it is yet to be appreciated as most of them do not operate on a well articulated written and collection department policy, no up-to-date selection Aid, nonexistence of acquisition policy statement in some cases and absence of qualified professional librarians.

Considering the enormous importance of acquisition practices to library services, it has become pertinent to investigate how acquisition practices are carried out in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. Hence the need for the study, as not much has been done on the acquisition practices in the state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. This study therefore seeks to bridge this gap.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The broad purpose of this study is to examine the acquisition practices in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

The specific purposes are:

1. To find out the acquisition policy in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria
2. To ascertain the acquisition pattern in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.
3. To ascertain the sources of acquisition of information resources in state universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.
4. To identify the current problems encountered in the acquisition practices in the state universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.
5. To determine strategies to enhance acquisition processes

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions will guide the study:

1. What are the acquisition policies/practices in state university libraries in the North Central Zone?
2. What are the acquisition patterns in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?
3. What are the sources of acquisition of information resources in the state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?
4. What are the current problems encountered in the acquisition practice in state University libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?
5. What are the strategies adopted in enhancing acquisition processes in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The result of this study will help university administrators and librarians in particular in understanding acquisition practices and problems encountered in the acquisition of information resources in the university libraries, and help them make quality decisions on future acquisition management of the university libraries. Library administrators, librarians will benefit by the revealing of the possible shortcomings of the acquisition practices in state university libraries with a view to improving their practices in building adequate collections that will meet the needs of their clientele.

This work will add to the growing body of knowledge in the literature of library and information science and also provide reading resources for students and researchers.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study will cover state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria, namely, Benue State University - Makurdi, Kaduna State University, Kogi state University, Nasarawa State University, Niger state University and Plateau State University. However, Plateau State University was omitted from the study because as at the time of this report, it was not in operation. The study is restricted to acquisition practices such as selection, ordering, purchase, gift, exchange, legal deposits.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature relevant to the study has been organized and presented under the following headings:

Conceptual Frame Work

- Acquisition policy/practice in libraries
- Acquisition pattern in libraries
- Sources of Acquisition of library resources in state university libraries
- Problems encountered in acquisition of library resources
- Strategies adopted in enhancing acquisition processes.

Empirical studies on Acquisition practice in university libraries

Summary of Review of Literature

An Overview of Acquisition practice in university libraries

Collection development is possessing the information resources that enables the library to meet its goals. Addition of information sources to any library is the function of its collection development process. According to Ifidon (1997), excellent library and information services cannot be given without life collections. The assemblage of book and non-book information services in the required quantity and quality purely depends on collection development activities. It can be argued that without collection development, there will be no library resources. Pryterch (2000), defined collection development as a process of planning a stock acquisition programme, not simply to cater for immediate needs, but to build a coherent and reliable collection over a number of years, to meet the objectives of the services. Without collection development therefore, it will certainly be difficult for assemblage

of adequate information resources to support the institutions curriculum and research activities.

Corroborating Aina (2004), Olajo and Akewukere (2006), averred that collection development includes everything that goes into acquiring materials which includes selection, ordering and payment. Collection development service is a foundation upon which other library services are built. It is a planned systematic development of a collection based on the objective of the library. According to Ifidon (2008), collection development is one of the fundamental functions of the library professions. It involves selection and acquisition of information practitioners to perform their diverse functions to the users effectively. Singh (2004), posits that collection development involves the selection and acquisition of library materials that is considering users current needs and future requirements of these information resources.

Selection is choosing information resources for inclusion in the library's collection. The selection of the library stock should reflect the needs of the users be it public, academic, institutions, or the professional body which also support curriculum and its academic programmes. The library's primary task is to select, maintain, and provide access to the relevant and representative information resources. Selection is a major aspect of acquisition. Nzotta (1973), defines "book selection" as a process of choosing a book for inclusion in a library, while "acquisition" embraces all the processes involved in obtaining a book for the library. These processes include book selection and ordering or obtaining the book by gift or exchange. Evans (1979), and Faruqu (2003), observed that selection and acquisition are closely related but distinctly different activities. This is so because selection is mainly choosing the relevant materials while acquisition deals with purchase, gift and exchange.

Haider (1996), posits that two main groups are identified as being responsible for book selection in Pakistan University libraries. They are faculty members and library staff who are specialists. In another related study, Eze and Eze (2006), stressed the need to set up library committees comprising of librarians, lecturers, and student body from each of the departments and they should be responsible for suitable titles of their departmental interests. This will augur well for the users as their adequate and immediate needs will be met.

Acquisition is getting a book or information resources in a library's collection. Acquisition as used in this context is the procedure of selecting, acquiring required information for use of library clientele. This spells out three activities of library, namely acquiring, processing and information supply. It can therefore be argued that acquisition of books and other library resources is the most fundamental activity of all libraries. According to Welch (2003), acquisition is the general term applied to the function of obtaining the library resources that make up a library's collections coordinating of the selection of resources, administration of funds for buying them,; gathering of operational statistics, acquisition procedures of other units of the library; and attention to productive relations with book trade, donors and other sources of materials for the library collection. Ifidon (2006), opined that acquisition is the implementation of selection decision; ordering, receipt and payment. These must be done according to the procedure that is guided by the collection development policy. This means that a collection development policy is a vital instrument to the library. Olajojo and Akewukereke, (2006) assert that acquisition forms a vital link in the circle of publishing, selection, request and providing materials for use. The core thing for acquisition staff is to acquire information resources as quickly and inexpensively as possible while offering efficient responsive service. Ford (1981) defined acquisition as

a process of obtaining books and other library materials for a library or group of libraries. In addition to books, the acquisition work includes library resources by purchase, gift or exchange, paying for or acknowledging receipt, maintaining appropriate records. The acquisition department is a resource for the library and its community for information about publishing, publications and book dealers. Griender (1978), provides a detailed description of the task of acquisition work in a University setting. The duties of the acquisition librarian are to receive requests for purchase of titles from all parts of the University Community (he will almost inevitable generate a number of request himself), he will also need to ascertain that such requests are not for titles already in the library, to verify that such titles actually exist, to determine if library of congress resources have catalogued the title or failing which to determine if the title appears in other national or trade bibliographies, to determine the prize and the availability of the given title, to order requested titles that have passed through procedures above, to send all titles along with all possible bibliographical information to the catalogue department.

Acquisition Policy

A policy statement is a framework and set of parameters within which staff and users work. An acquisition policy forces the staff involved to reconsider the aims and objectives of the institution both long and short term, and the priorities to attach to different activities. Acquisition policy assists with budgeting, serves as communication channel within a library and between the library and outside constituents. Generally, acquisition policies are designed to facilitate ordering and receiving of library resources and monitoring expenditure of these resources. According to Nzotta (1973), a written acquisition policy gives a sense of direction, it makes the objectives of library more concrete and meaningful, it is also a means of evaluating the attainment of the

library's objectives. Acquisition policy serves as a guide to the librarian whose duty it is to acquire information resources for the library.

Broadus (1981), defined acquisition policy statement as "theoretical document which stresses the intellectual reasoning used to select materials for inclusion of fiscal community and space limitation which control the purchasing of items" agreeing with the above, Aina (2004) posited that any library, no matter how simple or complex, there has to be laid down policy that will guide the acquisition of information resources.

According to Aina, (2004, and Ozuluoye (2006) policy states the vision and mission of the parent institution, the goals and objectives of the library. It also states clearly among other things, the types of information resources to be acquired in the library, the balance of allocation among books, journals and other types of information resources, the balance among discipline, proportion and budget allocations on monographs, journals, reference books, equipment and audio-visual resources. Included is the mode of acquisition – that is either purchase, exchange, gifts et cetera.

A good acquisition policy according to Aina (2004) is that which the process involves all the stakeholders of the library, due to the complex nature of the documents. He further posits that it is not only the librarian that would formulate the policy; but also other interested individuals will also be involved. This process he says further needs to have a planning committee that will produce a policy document, which he suggested should be made up of professionals and users. Supporting the suggestion of the above, Nzotta, (1973), Ozuluonye (2006), outline the importance of acquisition policy which includes among others:

- Saving the time of the librarian

- Giving the librarian a sense of direction.
- Acting as a guide to the librarian
- Facilitating decision making
- Enhancing inter-library cooperation
- Helping in collection, development in evaluation of collections. Saves the librarian from censorship
- Consistency

In another related study, Magril and Corbin (1989), argued that acquisition policy will function as training tool for those who participate in collections decisions, especially for those who are new to the process. They further stated that it will provide a more rational guide for budget allocation, and serve the purpose of making the best use of limited resources by indicating who will be served, for what purpose and with what type of materials. This indicates that acquisition policy provides for structured development of the library collection in accordance with defined goals. As such, it can have an impact on the future of the library, its research capabilities, and its reference services. It can also assist in the budget and space planning process.

Bakare (2004) opined that the policy is considered desirable because it affords selectors to work with great consistency toward defined goals, thus shaping stronger collections and sink limited funds more wisely. It informs users, administrators, trustees and others as to the scope and nature of existing collections and plans for continuing development of resources. It also provides information, which brings order, logic and common sense to bear on selection and evaluation viewpoints. He further stated that it helps in long-range budget planning by stating priorities and outlining growth and development goals. It offers suggestions for what type of materials are to be needed, stored or discarded. It assists in establishing methods of reviewing materials before they

are purchased. It curbs censoring by providing clear statement of the type of materials to be purchased, a clear indication that the policy has the support of the body of the library. It can then be said that the quality and adequacy of the collection depends on the acquisition policy. Looking at the various views of the various writers, it is quite clear that acquisition policy is a vital instrument that serves as a guide to the librarian, but also as a director to the library management in taking crucial decisions on issues that hinge on acquisition of library resources. Generally, acquisition policies are designed to facilitate ordering and receiving of library resources and monitoring expenditures of funds for those resources.

Sources of Library Information Resources

The commonest source of acquiring library resources is by purchase. According to Ifidon (2006), acquisition by purchase accounts for about 95% of the total annual additions to the university library collections of twenty-five African universities. He categorized this method into three namely,

- Title by title procedure,
- Purchase of whole collections
- On-approval purchase.

Individual titles recommended by faculty members, librarians, administrators and students are acquired by purchase. He opined that a complementary effective method of building the collection is the on-approval system.

Other sources of acquiring library information resources are gift, exchange and legal deposits. Gifts/donations: it can be either of books or in cash specifically meant to be spent on library books. Gifts usually take the form of memorial gifts, honor gifts, wills, funds, bequeaths. It could come as solicited or unsolicited either in form of gift

subscriptions or gifts of individual issues. This is because both groups and individuals donate information resources to the library to enrich their collections. Those that donate include international/national donors. International donors are Book Aid International, Book for Africa etcetera while National donors are ETF, PTF, Organizations and individuals. However, gifts can contain too many irrelevant materials especially in Science and Technology and so calls for careful selection of title worth adding to collections

Bywater (1997), posits that Cambodian librarians do not yet have the skills and experience to assess donated materials and know which to accept, which to reject and which to pass to other more suitable library collections. According to Macgrill and Corbin (1989), librarians limit themselves to accepting, acknowledging and processing gifts offered, while some make efforts to encourage donors, publicized needs and solicit desirable gifts and gifts of money. This means that there is crucial need for well trained acquisition librarians and a separate section to consider donated items for acquisition.

Exchange as a source of acquisition is recognized as an aspect of library activity right from onset. When a library has significant publications of its own to offer, or when it can readily draw on other publications (for example, government document or publication of university press), it is in a strategic position to acquire many worthwhile serials and monographs on an exchange basis. The routines for handling exchanges have so much in common with gifts that the two functions are commonly the responsibility of a single individual or units. Wulfekoetter (1961), Momoh (1985), categorized exchange materials into two groups: duplicate books and periodicals sent by a library with the understanding that other duplicates will eventually be sent in return, and publications of libraries, or of institutions to which the sending library belong, given with a provision that other publications of approximately the same monetary value be sent in exchange.

Ifidon (2006), recorded that materials used for exchange transactions includes university publications, learned journals of serious or academic interest and duplicates. He further stated that a library as a matter of policy should aim at a value for value or piece for piece exchange but either condition may be imposed by the reciprocating library and put more or less into effect, he asserts that in almost all cases, exchanges start with current volume of numbers. Materials acquired through exchange are not usually available through regular trade channels hence would be missed in normal book selection routines. It is the type of material which goes out of print almost immediately and may be difficult to secure by purchase by the time its existence becomes known. In academic and research libraries particularly, exchange materials are available additions as they include publications of stature or equal to or greater than that distributed by the library. This means that with the economic situations of Nigerian libraries, and the resource needs, acquisition by exchange becomes pertinent to prosecute.

According to Momoh (1985), acquisition by exchange seems the most worthwhile policy to implement so as to bring in overseas publications especially now that trade operating with outside Nigeria is restricted by foreign exchange control and other government policies. In another related study, East (1978), lists the factors that make cooperative acquisition inevitable, according to him, it includes increased quantity and cost of current publications, increased demand by users for materials, difficult and expensive to locate, lack of storage space for containing collection growth at the present rate, and recognition of the fact that valuable materials already in the libraries cannot be preserved without special effort. This can be summed up to be as a result of limited budget.

Legal deposits:- This is a method of acquiring library resources in a developing country like Nigeria. According to Ifidon (2006), building library collection by means of

legal deposit is as old as publishing, and that full advantage has not been taken of this method. He further asserts that some of the library administrators have not realized the value of depositary status or the responsibility attached to it. He further posited that under the legal deposit law, the publisher of every book in the country shall within specified time deliver at his own expense to the depository library, specified number of copies of books published. Looking at this method of acquisition, it helps a great deal in building library collection and should be encouraged.

Problems encountered in Acquisition of Library Resources

The acquisition of all types of resources are the vital component of library services. It is pertinent to know that without them, library services cannot be rendered. Consequently, in the process of acquiring these resources, the librarian runs into some difficulties. According to Ifidon (2006), the problem that confronts the librarian is the inadequacy of financial support. He further reported that in the 1950s and 1960s, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proposed 5% of the approved recurrent budget for library development 1993, this percentage was raised to 10% in Nigeria but was short lived by 2001, the National University Commission (NUC) tactically withdrew the approval. Consequently, the annual budget for many libraries have been epileptic or ceased to come. This is not a healthy situation for libraries as they cannot be adequately stocked to meet the needs of users and there will be no meaningful collection to render quality services. Furthermore, Edoka (1992), Ugbona (1994), IFLA (1994), Ifidon (1996), and book aid international (2005), an international donor agency have shown great concern over this problem. Complete or partial loss of funding has profound implications: less of

research will be carried out, closing of research institutions or severe staff cuts, and overall information crisis.

Edoka (1996), observed that the financial difficulties of the university libraries can largely be explained in the context of Nigeria's economic situation. As a result of the massive foreign debts and repayment schedules, the value of the naira is most unstable, prices of goods and services continue to soar upwards and this has caused a decline in overall living standards. According to Egwim (2006), and Nnadozie (2006), both agreed that the problem of acquisition of library resources are due to insufficient book vote, high cost of materials and incompetent vendors respectively, other impediments are distance and high import duties. All these are due to lack of government intervention in terms of provision of adequate funds, establishment of paper producing factories, incompetent vendors and high import duties.

Another problem of acquisition of library resources as reported by Jegede (1987), is the "selection of library materials within the policy in academic and research libraries which needs the cooperation of the users most especially the teaching staff, researches and professional librarians". It is a big problem to solicit the cooperation of the teaching staff and a still bigger problem to recommend titles to the library for purchase. They said it is not part of their academic obligations. In a related study, Haider (1996), asserts that to organize the selection process in a judicious manner is another problem encountered by libraries in their procurement of library resources. The absence of selection policy statements non-availability of selection aids further complicates the problem. Haider (1996), further posited that acquisition process is marred by a number of problems such as non-existence of acquisition policy statements; he further laments that most libraries in Pakistan have no written acquisition policy statements. This is not a healthy situation as acquisition policy

serves as a reference for the library staff to follow when assessing potential acquisition for library collection including print, and non-print materials, electronic and other resources.

Another problem of acquisition of library resources as posited by Jegede (1977), is the proliferation of printed materials in all subjects, which make it imperative for librarians working in academic research libraries to select materials that are needed by all levels of users ranging from indigent undergraduates to post-doctoral researchers, in a most judicious manner within the limited fund: the most important thing is to tailor the selection of materials within library policy. Nzotta (1973), in line with this view advocates that each library should have whether it is a written policy or not, a clear position on what type of materials to be acquired, sources and methods of acquisition, and modes of payment. This therefore reveals the importance of a written acquisition policy so as to guide the acquisition librarian on what should be acquired or not so as not to chose materials at random or haphazardly.

Jegede (1987), Ombu (1987), Ifidon (2006), all agreed and identified another problem of acquisition that has constantly engaged attention of librarians in developing countries as lack of an adequate infrastructure in the economy to support the development of indigenous publishing activities and the consequent lack of an organized book trade. This low level of local book production according to them inevitably makes developing countries largely dependent on book imports from the advanced countries, particularly in the case of advanced texts badly needed by universities, technical and vocational institutions and professional people in the scientific and technical fields. Due to lack of active publishing, libraries within the area now resort to the use of agents overseas, through whom books and other materials

required outside the country are purchased, since local books sellers do not possess the expertise and financial backing to meet the needs of various libraries particularly academic libraries. The use of foreign agents therefore creates problems such as delay in getting the materials required at the right time, due to the distance of the location and the difficulties posed by posted system.

Ifidon (2006), raised another problem of foreign materials or imported books as being alien or above the comprehension of students in developing countries and of foreign exchange. According to him, this is due to the fact that developing countries are mostly concerned with their foreign reserve that they place all sorts of barriers on foreign exchange which is in a high demand to pay for imported books. This therefore is a serious impediment to the acquisition of library resources and calls for government intervention in the removal of all these barriers to make libraries meet the needs of its users. In buttressing the above point in terms of suitability of information sources from foreign countries, Egwim (2006), asserted that sourcing materials from foreign countries presents challenges in terms of unsuitability to local application and curricular needs, distance, incompetent vendors and high import duties. In another related study, Nnadozie (2006), identified the problem of acquisition as incompetent vendors, which he says often leads to wastages. He further stated that competent publishers are found mostly in North America, Europe, India and South East Asia, all of which are far flung places. This perhaps buttresses Ogunrobi's (1997), assertion that the collection of Nigerian academic libraries is replete with information resources published in foreign countries.

Ombu (1987), reported that among the many problems that face librarians in developing countries, problems relating to acquisition of foreign materials seems to be most acute. According to him, these problems exists mainly for three reasons; firstly,

the relatively underdeveloped economic circumstances of the developing countries within which their libraries have to function, secondly, the fact that book publishing is in its infancy throughout most of the areas, and therefore, the necessity to buy almost entirely from foreign countries and thirdly, the fact that developing countries are far removed from the metropolitan areas of the world where the bulk of publishing is done. These have adversely affected the acquisition of library resources in developing countries and Nigeria in particular.

In a related study, Oyeoku (1989), reported that because of the unsatisfactory nature of book trade, most Nigerian libraries rely on book sellers for most, if not all, their requirement for books and journals. This also is as a result of the fact that book fair is not encouraged through seminars and workshops adequately. These therefore calls for all librarians hands to be on deck to organize book fair in their various libraries/institutions for full participation of all professionals. Aguolu (1990) identified another problem of acquisition of library resources as time for arrival of foreign orders, which he asserted is too long. He reported that orders are sent by sea as air freight is expensive. He further stated that when the orders eventually arrive, Nigerian librarians would have paid more than their counterparts in Europe and America. This is due to the general defray of insurance, postal and handling expenses.

In another related study, Ifidon (2006) also pointed out another problem of acquisition in third world countries as poor bibliographic control. According to him, by Western standards, African book publishing output is small, and that even the small quantity is not easy to identify and locate. He quoted African countries such as Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria and Sierra-leon as having current national bibliography, but have a number of inadequacies; they are published years behind schedule; since they are annual publications, there is considerable time before they

are published. In general, they are no legal deposit which is invariably evaded by publishers. Ejiko (1977), in a related study posits another problem of collection development in Nigeria as "lack of bibliographic control". He asserted that there are no national bibliographies for current and retrospective materials published in Nigeria. He further reported that the National Bibliography of Nigeria published by the National library is very irregular in its frequencies and therefore not very useful for selection or for necessary pre-order searching. This poses a great problem to acquisition practice in university libraries as it becomes difficult to access and acquire relevant current materials for its users. It is also vital that all hands should be on deck to publish research work at the right time to avoid being obsolete.

Strategies adopted in enhancing acquisition processes

Strategies adopted in enhancing acquisition processes involves formulation of an acquisition policy which guides the librarian in making the right choice on effective use of limited financial resources. According to Kiando (2004), and Adomi (2008), collection development policy guides libraries on issues and processes of selecting information materials to satisfy users needs, provision of criteria for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of a developed collection, in meeting the needs of the library patron.

Nzotta (1973), recorded that an acquisition policy gives a library a sense of direction. It makes the objective of the library more concrete and meaningful. Its purpose is to serve as a guide in the effort to develop an excellent collection for the university library which is responsive to the needs of the college community. To enhance acquisition processes according to Magril and Corbin (1989), Richard (1990), Nzelum (1997), and Utor (2004), all recommended proper funding by way of appropriate budgeting allocation for library collection development.

In a related study, Ejiko (1977), asserts that it is with adequate fund that the library can hire the necessary staff that will be involved in the selection of library materials to be added to the stock. It is also with adequate fund that one can buy all the necessary materials needed for teaching and research in the library. He further reported that books are very important as no meaningful teaching or research can be done in a university library without the provision of adequate books, journals and other library materials.

According to Magril and Corbin (1989), and Utor (2004), in order to enhance acquisition of resources, they recommended training of librarians who will be in a better position to make better contribution towards the acquisition of library resources, Donald (1991), further suggested that acquisition librarian must be well educated to the level of a university degree and masters in library and information science and must have a deep knowledge of budgeting, statistics, accounting and management. Since the knowledge of budgeting, statistics, accounting and management are vital to the acquisition of library resources, these courses should be embedded in the curriculum as core separate subjects to enable the student librarian to have a wider knowledge of the course. To enhance acquisition process, according to Bakare (1984), and Champman (1986), they emphasized that donation and gifts should be accepted in library collection only when they add to the library collection and do not carry unreasonable restriction, since most of the gifts are not worth collecting in libraries.

Consequently, Amadi, Anyanwu, Zander and Ifidon (2006), posit that exchange of publications, donations, bequeaths and photocopying are the most popular strategies adopted by Nigerian libraries to enhance their collection. Aina (2004), however, advised that proper planning should be done so as to ensure proper

acquisition of resources in the library, this he asserts should involve the librarian to a great extent. This therefore means that a qualified librarian is vital in the acquisition of information resources.

Review of Empirical Studies:

In a study, acquisition and collection development in Pakistan, Haider (1996), examined the factors that determine acquisition policies and practices. The purpose of the study was to provide a systematic and current treatment of the subject, to identify the factors that lead libraries to import library materials from abroad, to evaluate the present acquisition practices, with respect to reading materials; to identify constraints encountered by libraries in this regard, and to suggest measures likely to facilitate the acquisition of library materials. Questionnaire was developed for collecting information on current acquisition practices with regard to foreign publications. The study found out among others; the absence of meaningful knowledge and boarder concept of acquisition work, dearth of competent acquisition staff, inadequate training facilities for librarians, non-existence of acquisition policy, no set patterns for selection, lack of selection aids. No specific norms are followed in allocating funds to libraries. The author recommended that there should be independent acquisition departments under the supervision of a professionally qualified person. All acquisitions departments should be equipped with up-to-date bibliographical sources and that the university grants commission should provide special grant of at least 500,000 rupees/US . 15 625 to each university for this purpose. Special training programs relating to acquisitions, both long and short term, should be introduced, the library schools need to strengthen the contents of their courses relating to acquisitions process, such as selecting materials, weeding the collection, evaluating the collection, writing collection

development policies etc. Special units of problems associated with procurement of materials from abroad should be added to the existing courses. The formulation of a collection development policy should be given full consideration. Such a policy should be developed by each university library with the support and advice of faculty Advisory Committee and Academic Staff Association. The book selection process should be streamlined to facilitate this, the Chief Librarian, following consultation with an advice from appropriate academic groups and Senior Faculty members should prepare a statement stating the complete procedure, emphasizing the need for individual faculty member selection.

This means that in order to have effective and efficient acquisition practices, the acquisition process must be properly managed by formulation of acquisition policy selection aids and a well set pattern for selection, meaningful knowledge of the work is also vital. The implication of this is that there will be no meaningful and coherent assemblage of resources.

In another study, Ehirim (2006) examined acquisition of library resources in Enugu State University of Science and Technology library and Nnamdi Azikiwe library, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The purpose of the study was to determine the acquisition method and processes in these university libraries. The study adopted interview and observation methods. The result from the findings showed that one of the libraries has no library acquisition policy. Further more, library materials are acquired through purchase, gifts and exchange. The author proffered the following recommendations: That libraries should be connected to internet as it helps in reducing the work of the acquisition librarian, more funds should be released to the acquisition department. Adequate training for staff in acquisition department should be provided, more selection tools should be made available, proper acquisition policy

should be made for the library and strictly adhered to as it serves as a guide for acquisition process. The implication of the findings is that those methods of acquisition are however not the best since donations constitute a major source of the collections. This is because donated materials may not tally with the needs of the accepting library.

In another study, collection development policy: the case of University of Ilorin library conducted by Adedibu (2006), the purpose of the study was to examine the acquisition policy. The study adopted the administration of structured interview, examination of some records and personal interview. Findings reveal that there were no written acquisition/written collection development policy but librarians make use of alternative guidelines. The author recommended urgent need for a written acquisition/collection development policy; the university should have an acquisition and collection development consisting of university librarians, acquisition/collection development librarians, reference librarians, librarians of branch libraries, faculties' representatives from each faculty, students' representatives. From this review, it is obvious that acquisition practice cannot be successfully carried out without a well written acquisition policy in place.

In the same vein, in a study of collection development at Federal University of Technology, Owerri conducted by Egwim (2006), the purpose of the study was to identify the persons who participate in the selection of materials in the library, to identify the staff, or other individuals, who acquire materials, to highlight the methods adopted for collection development, to document the types of information sources available at F.U.T. library, Owerri. The study adopted a combination of questionnaire and personal observation. The result of the findings showed that selection of materials at FUT O library is open to interest groups, and therefore not monopolized by either

the library, faculty or management, which allows for active participation of the university librarian, Acquisitions librarian, and course lecturers. The findings further showed that students and subject specialists do not take part in the selection of information resources for the library. The following recommendations were proffered based on the findings:-

- There is need for increase in the book-vote of academic libraries to enable libraries acquire materials to support teaching, learning and research which are the major objectives of the tertiary education.
- Students should be integrated into the collection development process of academic libraries because they are the main users and major sources of damage to library collections through scribbling, mutilation, or outright theft of such materials. Their participation in the selection and acquisition of materials will enable them appreciate the difficulties associated with procurement of materials. This will eventually lead to a reduction.
- Academic library should not depend solely on purchases and gifts in other to improve their stock rather they should identify and exploit such other sources as requests, exchange and legal deposit. The author further recommended out-of-print but valuable materials that can be photocopied for inclusion into library collection.
- Managers of service and technology based academic libraries should continue to emphasize currency of materials for inclusion in their collection as it helps to disseminate latest research findings.
- Academic libraries should reach out to donors (local and international) in order to attract materials for their collections.

The implication of the finding is that without adequate fund, there will be no meaningful collection for learning, teaching and research in academic libraries with

students integration into the collection development, they will appreciate the difficulties associated with acquisition of materials and will lead to reduction, and elimination of mishandling of library materials. Other areas should be exploited as means of acquisition for inclusion into library collection such as bequeaths photocopies. Donor should be wooed both local and international to attract materials.

The findings of Haider (1996) and Ehirim (2006), might have serious implication on the acquisition practices. In other words, having a written acquisition policy, selection policy, selection aids, qualified acquisition librarians and provision of adequate funds tend to improve the efficiency of acquisition practices and effective services. While on the other hand, non-existence of written acquisition policy, lack of qualified acquisition librarians, inadequate funds, lack of selection aids will affect effective acquisition practices.

Summary of Literature Review

The related literature was reviewed under three major headings. The conceptual frame work described the general principles or concepts on which acquisition practice were hinged. The review further revealed that there are various acquisition practices in university libraries namely, purchase, gift, exchange and legal deposit. The acquisition policy reviewed, revealed that an acquisition policy is an important tool as it enhances the effective use of limited resources and serves as a guide to the acquisitions librarians.

Further more, methods/sources of acquisition of library resources were also reviewed such as purchase, gifts, exchange and legal deposit. This revealed that the greater percentage of library resources are acquired by purchase. Problems encountered in acquisition practice was also reviewed to ascertain which factor

impinge on acquisition of library resources. Also literature on strategies adopted in enhancing acquisition processes were reviewed to determine how acquisition processes can be enhanced for effective services to be rendered.

Similarly, some empirical works cited on the acquisition practice showed that librarians do not adopt proper acquisition procedure. It further reveals that there was absence of meaningful knowledge and broader concept of acquisition work, dearth of competent acquisition staff, inadequate training facilities for librarians, non-existence of acquisition policy, no set patterns for selection and lack of selection methods. This means that without proper acquisition procedure, knowledge of the work, existence of meaningful resources that will meet the goals of the institution will be difficult and learning teaching and research work will be jeopardized.

However, the researcher discovered that no survey research work has been carried out on acquisition practices in these state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. This lack of empirical works on acquisition practices necessitated this study on acquisition practices in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria which before now seemed to have been neglected. This study is intended to bridge the knowledge and information gap that could affect proper acquisition practice/planning in this area.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODS

This study presents the research design, area of the study, the population of the study, sample and sampling techniques, method of data collection, the instrument for data collection, the validation of the instrument the method of data analysis.

Research Design:

The research design employed for the study was survey method. This is because according to Aina and Ajiferuka (2002), it is the systematic and comprehensive collection of data about opinions, attitudes, feelings, beliefs, and behaviours of people. This data collection was achieved through observation, administration of questionnaire to a relatively large and representative sample of the population of interest. This method is useful to the study as Osuala (2001) asserts that it focuses on people, the vital facts of people and their beliefs, opinions, attitudes, motivation and behaviour.

Area of the Study

The area of the study covers only state university libraries in the north central zone of Nigerian. This zone is one of the geo-political zones in Nigeria, The state universities in this zone are namely, Benue, Kaduna Kogi Nassarawa Niger and Plateau state

Population of the Study

The population of this study consists of all professional librarians, para-professionals and others in the Serials and Acquisition sections of the state university libraries. From the above, the total targeted population was 196 staff.

Table 1

Population distribution of all professional librarians, para-professionals and others in the state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

S/No	States	No. of Professionals	No. of paraprofessionals	Others	Total
1	Benue	9	12	56	77
2	Kaduna	4	2	14	20
3	Kogi	16	6	34	56
4	Nasarawa	5	6	12	23
5	Niger	5	1	14	20
6	Plateau	-	-	-	-
	Grand Total				196

Source: University library Department of Benue, Kaduna, Kogi, Nasarawa and Niger

Sample and Sampling Technique:

The entire population was sampled using purposive sampling techniques. All professional librarians, para-professionals and others in the libraries were used as sample size for the study. This was due to the fact that the targeted population was small.

Instruments for Data Collection

The instruments for data collection include questionnaire, interview, observation checklist and document examination.

QUESTIONNAIRE:

The instrument for administration developed by the researcher was titled: "Acquisition Practice Questionnaire (APQ). It was made up of five sections and contains items on the whole. Section A was on Biodata containing four (4) items and five (5) items on Factors that determine acquisition policies/practices in state

university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. Section B. was on acquisition patterns in state university libraries in the North Central Zone and has five (5) items. Section C. was on sources of acquisition of library resources in state universities in the North Central Zone and has four (items). Section D. was on current problems encountered in acquisition of library resources with six (items) while section E. was on strategies adopted in enhancing acquisition processes in state university libraries in North Central Zone of Nigeria, it also has five (5) items. (See Appendix A)

Observation Checklist:

Observation checklist of acquisition, acquisition pattern, processes, kinds of resources acquired will be examined.

Interview schedule:

Interview will be conducted with key library staffs who are concerned with acquisition of library information resources in the state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. It is structured and has five items. (See Appendix B)

Validation of instruments:

The instruments were subjected to face validation by the supervisor and two experts in the department of Library and Information Science. Face validation was applied to determine suitability of the instruments in eliciting information from the respondents. This was in accordance with Uzoagulu (1998), who stated that face validation judges the appropriateness of the instrument for data collection. The instrument was subjected to face validation by the supervisor and two (2) experts. Their observation, criticisms, comments and suggestions were strictly adhered to and incorporated in the final copy of the instrument.

Method of data collection:

Data for the study were collected using questionnaires, interview and observation made through some examination of some records. The researcher with one trained research assistant from each of the states university library under study who is trained how to administer the instruments distributed one hundred and ninety-six (196) copies in all the state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria and waited to collect the completed questionnaire. This is to ensure high return rate.

Method of Data Analysis

The research work was analyzed using the simple percentage method and the four point likert rating scaling in finding the mean. The formula for finding the percentage is $R/N \times 100/1$

Where R = number of response

N = Total respondents

This was used for section A, B and C of the questionnaire. The Likert scaling which are:

Strongly agree (SA) 4 points

Agreed (A) 3 points

Disagreed (D) 2 points

Strongly Disagree (SD) 1 point

This was used to find the mean. The formula is $X = \frac{\sum fx}{N}$

Where F = frequency of respondents

X = the point of scale

N = the total respondents

This was used to analyze questions in section D and E. it therefore follows that any factor with a mean of 2.50 and above indicated agreement while those with mean less 2.50 indicated disagreement.

The mean was calculated as $\frac{4 + 3 + 2 + 1}{4} = \frac{10}{4} = 2.50$

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of data from the questionnaires, interview and observation obtained from the field. One hundred and ninety-six (196) questionnaires were distributed among State Universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. Out of the one hundred and ninety-six questionnaires, one hundred and seventy-seven were duly filled and returned. The data presentation and analysis will be based on this number.

Section A, B and C of the questionnaire will be analyzed based on simple percentage while section D and E will use the mean.

Research Question 1:

What are the acquisition policies/practice in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?

Table 2: Acquisition policies/practices

S/No	Items	Yes		No		Total	
1	Does the library have an acquisition policy?	171	96.6%	67	3.38%	177	100%
2	Is the selection of library information resources guided by a selection policy?	24	13.5%	153	86.45 %	177	100%
3	Acquisition of library information resources is guided by a written policy?	40	23.1%	136	76.8%	177	100%
4	Is the acquisition policy strictly adhered to?	61	34.4%	116	65.5%	177	100%
5	Is the choice of supplier made by the central library?	114	64.4%	42	35.5%	177	100%

To ascertain acquisition policies/practices in state university libraries in the North central Zone of Nigeria, table 2 above shows that having acquisition policy is key to its

practice, others are selection policies, written policies, adhering strictly to acquisition policies and choice of supplier made by the central university library. From the table, 96.6% shows that there are acquisition policies while 3.38% indicated that it does not exist. Most of the state university libraries are not guided by a selection policy as 86.45% of the respondents indicated disagreement while 13.5% agreed there is selection policy. It also revealed that 76.8% of the respondents indicated that library resources are not guided by a written acquisition policy whereas 23.1% most universities do not have written policy as 23.1% agreed to its existence. Sixty five point five percent {65.5%} of the respondents indicated that acquisition is not strictly adhered to while 34.4% agreed that it is strictly adhered to. Finally, 64.4% agreed that the choice of supply was made by the central library in most state university libraries, while 35.5% indicated disagreement.

Research Question 2:

What are the acquisition patterns in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?

Table 3: Acquisition Pattern in University libraries

S/No	Items	Yes		No		Total	
1	In the selection of library information resources, are all faculties consulted?	170	96.0%	7	4.0%	177	100%
2	In the selection of library information resources are students properly consulted?	11	6.2%	156	93.7%	177	100%
3	Are catalogues consulted in the selection of library information resources?	160	90.3%	17	9.6%	177	100%
4	Are selection aids available and current?	34	19.2%	143	80.7%	177	100%

The analysis of data on table 3 above shows that in the acquisition pattern, selection of library information resources, faculties are consulted was rated highest with 96%. As to whether student are properly consulted, it was rated 93.7%. The table also depicts that

catalogues are consulted in the process of selecting information resources with 90.39%, while currency and availability of selection aids came least with 19.2%.

Research question 3:

What are the sources of acquisition of library information resources in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?

Table 4: Sources of acquisition of information resources

S/No	Items	Yes		No		Total	
1	The greater percentage of library information resources are purchased	177	100%	0	0%	177	100%
2	Are gifts/donations one of the ways you source information resources for your library?	165	93.2%	12	6.79%	177	100%
3	Does your library indulge in exchange programmed?	40	22.5%	137	77.4%	177	100%
4	Does your library operate on photocopies and legal deposit as a way of sourcing for inclusion in the library collection?	119	67.2%	58	32.7%	177	100%

From the above table, the ways in which library acquire/source information resources are through purchase which was highly rated 100%, followed with gifts/donations 93.2%, the table however, indicates that state university libraries in the north central zone of Nigeria do not source through exchange programmes which was also rated 77.4% while those that operate on photocopies and legal deposits as sources of acquisition was rated 67.2%..

Research Question 4:

What are the current problems encountered in acquisition practices in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?

Table 5: Current problems encountered in the acquisition practice.

S/No	Items/Problems	SA	A	D	SD	N	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
1	Reduced funding	100	67	10	0	177	3.50	A
2	Dearth of competent acquisition librarians affect proper acquisition of library information resources	72	64	20	20	177	3.16	R
3	Dearth of book publishing hamper acquisition of library information resources	60	72	38	7	177	3.0	A
4	Distance where books are published is a core problem to acquisition of library information resources	59	33	64	20	177	2.72	A
5	Non-existence of acquisition policy has adverse effect on acquisition of library information resources	59	24	50	44	177	2.55	A
6	Bibliographic tools for selection of information resources are adequate and current	40	32	67	38	177	2.41	R

Table 5 above shows reduced funding is the major problem faced in acquisition practices with the mean of 3.50. Dearth of competent acquisition librarians 3.16, Dearth of publishing 3.0, Distance from where books are published with a mean of 2.77. Bibliographic tools for selecting information 2.41. The table depicts that all the problems are contributory factors.

Research Question 5:

What are the strategies adopted in enhancing acquisition process?

Table 6: Strategies adopted in enhancing acquisition process

S/No	Items/Strategies	SA	A	D	SD	N	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
1	The provision of enough funds for acquisition of library resources will enhance acquisition process	133	37	0	7	177	3.67	A
2	The training of the acquisition librarians in the knowledge of budgeting, statistics, accounting and management will enhance acquisition process	104	73	0	0	177	3.58	A
3	Gifts/donations, exchange and legal deposits add to the library collections and are suitable for learning and research work?	94	72	11	0	177	3.46	A
4	Resource sharing with university libraries will improve acquisition process.	82	88	7	0	177	3.42	A
5	Inclusion of students into acquisition committee will enhance acquisition process.	48	81	37	11	177	2.92	A

The above analysis revealed that the provision of adequate funds will enhance acquisition process this was rated highest with a mean of 3.67, training of acquisition librarians 3.58, Gifts/donations, exchange and legal deposits 3.46, resource sharing with university libraries 3.42, and inclusion of students into acquisition committee 2.92. From this therefore, it is obvious that majority of the respondents saw provision of enough funding as a potent measure for enhancing acquisition process. This is due to the fact that no organization can function effectively without enough funds.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The major findings of this study based on the analysis of data are hereby summarized as follows:

- i. Unwritten acquisition policies
 - ii. No current bibliographic tools for selection
 - iii. Lack of adequate funds
 - iv. Lack of qualified acquisition librarian
 - v. Lack of training and retraining of staff
2.
 - i. Various faculties are consulted in acquisition of library information resources
 - ii. Catalogues are consulted in the selection process
 - iii. Choice of suppliers are made by the university central library
 - iv. Students are not involved in selection process
3.
 - i. Purchase was seen as the major source of acquisition
 - ii. Other sources are gifts/donations, exchanges, legal deposits and photocopies
 - iii. Also discovered is students are not involved in acquisition committee.
4.
 - i. Reduced funding was discovered to be a serious problem to acquisition practice
 - ii. Dearth of competent librarians
 - iii. Dearth of publishing
 - iv. Distance from where books are published. All these have been discovered to be the current problems encountered in acquisition practices.
5. Also discovered are the strategies to enhance acquisition process.
 - i. Provision of enough funds
 - ii. Training of acquisition librarians
 - iii. Gifts/donations, legal deposits
 - iv. Resource sharing among universities.

- v. Inclusion of students into acquisition committee
- vi. Provision of current bibliographic tools for selection

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter presents the discussion of findings, conclusion, implications of the study, recommendations and suggestions for further research as well as the summary.

Discussion of Findings

The discussion is based on the objectives of the study and research questions.

Acquisition Policies/Practices in State University Libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria

The acquisition practices as shown in the analysis on table 2 are acquisition policies, selection policy, written acquisition policy, choice of supplier and selection aids. The findings agree with Aina (2004), who posits that in any library, no matter how simple or complex, there has to be laid down policy that will guide the acquisition of library information resources. This is because acquisition policy is a set of parameters within which staff and workers work. This means that without an acquisition policy, acquisition practice will not be balanced for effective services to be rendered.

Acquisition patterns in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria

The findings indicate that consultation of all faculties in the selection of library resources was ranked highest mean in the analysis of data on table 3. This was followed by consultation of catalogues. It was indicated that students were not properly consulted in the selection of library information resources. This agrees with Eze and Eze (2006), who stressed that the need to set up library committees comprising of librarians, lecturers, and students body from each departments and they should be responsible for suitable titles of their

departmental interests. Consultation with faculties ranked highest because it is the only key way of choosing relevant information resources to meet the needs of users. However, without due consultation with the various faculties, the goals the parent institutions will jeopardized as information resources will be acquired haphazardly.

Sources of library information resources.

The major sources of acquisition are purchase, gifts/donations, photocopies and legal deposits, as these items attracts strongly agree from the responses of the respondents of these state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. This also agrees with the opinions of Aguolu (1983), Ifidon (1985) and Anafulu (1996). A study carried out by Ifidon (2006), on the annual acquisition of fifteen university libraries revealed that 95% of the total annual acquisition is through purchase. Other sources of acquisition which includes gifts/donations, exchange, legal deposits was agreed to be the way libraries source information resources to include in their collections. This agrees with Carter (1996), and Ifidon (2006), who asserts that gifts/donations are valuable means of enriching the library collections. Ifidon (2006) further asserts that building library collection by legal deposit is as old as publishing and that full advantage has not been taken of this method.

Current problems encountered in acquisition practices.

From the study, one of the major problems identified was reduced funding as indicated on table 5. This study agrees with the views of Ugbona (1994), IFLA (1994), Edeka (1996), Book Aid International (2005) and International Donor Agency, Ifidon (2006) who have shown great concern over inadequacy of financial support for university libraries. The study further revealed lack of qualified acquisition librarians, dearth of book publishing, non-existence of written articulate acquisition policy, distance from where books are published, poor condition of service of library staff, lack of training and retraining of staff to meet

current challenges. These agree with Jegede (1987), and Ifidon (2006), who indicated that the problem of acquisition that has constantly engaged attention of the librarians in developing countries are lack of an adequate infrastructure in the economy to support the development of indigenous publishing activities and the consequent lack of an organized book trade. These invariably have some implications on acquisition practices in state university libraries in Nigeria.

However, the study further indicated that bibliographic tools for selection of information resources also constitute a problem as they are not current for selection process.

Strategies adopted in enhancing Acquisition Process

From the study, the provision of enough funds, training of acquisition librarians, gifts/donations, exchange, legal deposits, resource sharing with university libraries and students inclusion in acquisition committee were the items that received the greatest mean score on the table. This finding agree with Utor (2004), who said that proper funding by way of budgeting allocation should be made for library collection development. Also Magrill and Corbin (1989), and Utor (2004), indicated that in order to enhance acquisition process, training of librarians, who will make better contribution towards acquisition of library information resources is crucial.

CONCLUSION:

It is essential to note that acquisition practices in the library remains the core responsibilities of the libraries. For this reason, due attention should be given to this institution of great importance. The study focused on the acquisition practices, the pattern of acquisition, sources of acquisition, problems encountered in the course of acquiring library information resources and how it had affected the acquisition practice of the library and finally, strategies adopted to enhance acquisition process.

However, there is need for government to increase funding and resources such as recruitment of professionals, provision of facilities while the libraries should brace up and have written acquisition policies, current selection aids, selection policies, training of staff to help curb problems of acquisition practices. The current technological use for information storage and retrieval system tends to be reliable than the traditional method of acquisition practice and should be embraced by all university libraries.

IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

The objective of this study was to examine the acquisition practices in the state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria, and how best these methods have been helping to achieve the acquisition objectives. The study identified some problems encountered in acquiring library information resources. Finally, strategies adopted to enhance acquisition process were proffered, that can be used to enhance their services.

Findings were identified making it necessary to consider their implications on university administrators, librarians and other similar studies.

One of the findings shows that faculty members are consulted and their recommendations are considered by implications this is to ensure that information resources purchased tailor to the needs of the users. This will in no doubt boost the quality of teaching, learning and research work.

The study also reveals acute shortage of professional staff in these state university libraries as a result of non-recruitment of skilled professionals. This calls for urgent attention if acquisition work is to be carried out successfully to meet the goals of the parent institution and for effective teaching, learning and research. It is clear from the study that the state university libraries do not have a written acquisition policy. This by implication leads to lopsidedness by which information resources for some subjects are amply provided for. It

was established from the study that a greater percentage of library resources are acquired by purchase. Since some of the information resources are ordered from abroad, it then implies that foreign exchange rates for buying these information resources will affect the number of information resources bought at any point in time. If most of the information resources are published locally, the library will be able to purchase more information resources at a cheaper price in the local currency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been proffered in the light of the findings, the discussion that followed and various implications that were highlighted.

1. Funding

Finance is the bedrock of every organization, including university libraries. For libraries to achieve the objectives, for which they were established, it is very important that money should be made available. This is because it is through money that procurement, processing of library information resources, hiring of personnel, purchase and maintenance of equipment are made. This by implication means that government as a matter of urgency should increase the allocation of state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

2. Formulation of Policy:

The formulation of written acquisition policy should be given full consideration. The policy should be developed and written by each university library.

3. Book Selection

The book selection process should be streamlined. To facilitate this, the university librarians, following consultation with and advice from academic staff and faculty members, should prepare a statement indicating the procedure, stating categorically the need for

individual faculty member selection. The role of students in the selection process must also be recognized.

4. Training

Training programmes relating to acquisitions should be emphasized. Long and short term should be introduced; training and re-training of staff to keep them abreast with current technological challenges of acquisition process, such as selection of information resources on internet, writing the acquisition policies and evaluating the collection.

5. Recruitment

Recruitment of skilled professionals is inevitable as this can guarantee reliability and consistency in using modern techniques.

6. Workshops, Seminars

Workshops and seminars and bookfairs should be organized by administrators on regular basis to keep staff abreast with current trends in acquisition practice.

7. Exchange of Information Resources

State university libraries should fully embrace exchange programme as source of acquisition as this enrich the collection of the library.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

This study has focused on the acquisition practices in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

1. This work could be replicated using other categories of state university libraries such as state university libraries in the South-South zone, South-East zone, South-West zone and North-East zone.
2. In particular, a comparative study could be carried out on the acquisition practices of all state university libraries and private university libraries in Nigeria.

This may yield results that will help in formulation of generally acceptable standard of acquisition practice for university libraries in Nigeria.

LIMITATIONS OF STUDY:

The study like any other is faced with some limitations such as time constraints, distance, strike action and finance. It was not possible for the researcher to study all the state universities in the defunct Northern state of Nigeria.

In addition, the study only took cognizance of an aspect out of the several library services rendered. As a result, other researchers can study acquisition practice in other state university libraries in the North-West, North-East and South-South zones of Nigeria.

SUMMARY

The cardinal objective of this study was to examine the acquisition practices in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. The specific objectives included five areas. These are to find out the acquisition practices in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. To ascertain the acquisition pattern in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. To ascertain the sources of acquisition of information resources in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. The study also identified the current problems encountered in the acquisition practices in the state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria and to determine strategies to enhance acquisition process.

Five research questions were raised to guide the study. Literature reviewed in line with the purpose of the study and research questions, the research study adopted was purposive sampling technique which had a total population of 196. In order to elicit responses the acquisition practice questionnaire (APQ) was developed by the researcher which was face validated by the researcher's supervisor and two experts from the

department of Library and Information Science. The researcher personally distributed the 196 questionnaires to the respondents.

Simple percentages and average mean of four points Likert scale were used to answer the research question. Some of the findings of the study were that most of the state university libraries in the North Central Zone agreed that there was no written acquisition policy statements, selection aids, acute shortage of funds and lack of skilled manpower, they equally agreed with practices on table 5. The analysis indicated that there operational problems which were eminent such as inadequate resources/equipment, lack of trained acquisition librarians.

The study further revealed some constraints inhibiting acquisition process in state university libraries which were listed and finally, solutions were proffered to these problems. The implications of the study based on the findings were stated and these included enough fund to be made available to state university libraries to purchase the necessary information resources, recruiting of skilled acquisition librarians, training and retraining of staff, formulation of written acquisition policy, motivation of staff should be considered important as it might have adverse effect on university library policy and its expected performance. Similarly, based on the findings conclusions were drawn that main prevalent acquisition practices were purchase, gifts/donation, photocopies and legal deposits. Also based on this findings, some problems were revealed, these are non-motivation of staff, non-recruitment of staff and inadequate qualified staff, non-existence of current selection aids.

The research work recommended that enough funds be granted to state university libraries for procurement of information resources, training and maintenance of library, recruitment of skilled qualified personnel and digitization of library. Training of staff should be addressed and emphasized. This will improve the acquisition process in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LIBRARIANS, PARA-PROFESSIONALS AND OTHERS IN THE ACQUISITION AND SERIAL SECTIONS OF THE LIBRARY

Department of Library and Information Science
University of Nigeria
Nsukka

20th November, 2009

Sir/Madam,

The purpose of this questionnaire is to elicit information on Acquisition practice in state university libraries in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

You are please requested to be honest in your responses as information provided will be treated confidentially for academic purposes.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully
Abalaka, Bessy F.
Reg. No. PG/MLS/07/43206

Acquisition Practice questionnaire for Librarians

SECTION A

General Information

1. Name of Library-----
2. Year Established -----
3. Designation/Rank -----
4. Educational qualification -----
 - a. Diploma ☐
 - b. BLIS, BLS/B.Sc ☐
 - c. MLS ☐
 - d. Ph.D ☐
 - e. Others (specify) ☐
5. Who funds your library? -----

Factors that determine acquisition policies/practices

S/No	Items	Yes	No
6	Does the library have an acquisition policy?		
7	Acquisition of library resources is guided by a written acquisition policy?		
8	Is the acquisition policy strictly adhered to?		
9	Is the selection of information resources guided by a selection policy?		
10	Is the choice of supplier made by the university central library?		

	SECTION B Acquisition pattern in university libraries		
11	In the selection of library information resources, are all faculties consulted?		
12	In the selection of library information resources, are all students properly consulted?		
13	Are selection aids available and current?		
14	Are catalogues consulted in the selection of information resources?		

	SECTION C Sources of Acquisition of library information resources		
15	The greater percentages of library resources are purchased?		
16	Does your library indulge in exchange programme?		
17	Are gifts/donations one of the ways you source Information resources for Your library?		
18	Does Your library operate on photocopies and legal deposits as a way of sourcing information resources for inclusion in the library collections?		

	SECTION D Current problems encountered in acquisition of library resources	Strongly agree	agree	disagree	Strongly disagree
19	reduced funding of Nigerian University Libraries affects the acquisition of library information resources				
20	Bibliographic tools for selection of information resources are adequate and current				
21	Death of book publishing hamper acquisition of library resources				
22	Dearth of competent acquisition librarians affects proper acquisition of library resources?				
↑ 3	Non-existence of acquisition policy has no adverse effect on acquisition of library resources.				
64	Distance from where books are published is a core problem to acquisition of library resources?				
	SECTION E Strategies adopted to enhance acquisition process				
25	Will the training of Acquisition librarians in the knowledge of budgeting, statistics, accounting And management benefit the acquisition process?				
26	Will the provision of enough funds for acquisition of library resources improve acquisition process?				
27	Gifts/donations, exchange, and legal deposits adds to the library collections and are suitable for learning and research work?				
28	Inclusion of students into acquisition committee will enhance acquisition process?				
29	Resource sharing with university libraries will improve acquisition process?				

APPENDIX 'B'

Interview Questions with Key Library Staff who are concerned with the Acquisition of Information Resources

1. What are the acquisition policy/practice in state universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?
2. What are the Acquisition patterns in state universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?
3. What are the sources of Acquisition of library resources in your library?
4. What are the current problems encountered in the acquisition of library resources?
5. What are the strategies adopted to enhance acquisition process in your library?

APPENDIX 'C'

OBSERVATION CHECKLIST ON ACQUISITION PRACTICES

ACQUISITION PRACTICES

Collection Development Policy	Available	Not available
Acquisition policy		
Selection policy		
Selection aid		
Gift		
Purchase		
Gifts/donation		
Exchange		
Legal deposits		
Choice of suppliers		