DOCUMENTATION SERVICES FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NATIONALLIBRARY OF NIGERIA THE CASE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

ANTHONIA C. ONUOHA NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

The need for planned industrialization in Nigeria, has made investment in research and development of crucial importance. Therefore, while allocation for research has increased in recent times, it is recognized that not merely investment in research and development, is the issue, but utilization of the results of research is important to national productivity and economic growth.

Consequently, the Research and Development Department of the National Library of Nigeria offers documentation services whereby Abstracts and Indexes are compiled and disseminated with a view to fulfilling the functions of both

information retrieval and announcement.

However, in order to achieve these objectives, certain hurdles will have to be overcome. These include development of information and communications infrastructure, 2) human resources development; 3) inadequate finance, 4) promotion of cooperation among all the stakeholders and appropriate government strategies.

INTRODUCTION

According to Aguolu (199\$, development involves economic growth, modernization, and equitable distribution of income, national resources, and socio-cultural, educational, political and social advancement of the

people.

Aguolu (1989)², further maintains that, Libraries are social agencies designed to conserve knowledge, preserve cultural heritage, provide information, support education and research, and serve as fountains of recreation. The National Library of Nigeria, as the apex library of the nation stands at the focal point of the nation's information, bibliographic and documentation

85

system. In this role, it is responsible for providing researchers with the means to carry on the necessary research and development and to provide policy options to the government and society.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

ALSERING TO TRAFID LANCH AND THE WEIL OF A



Document is any kind of record, whatever its data, or form, and whether it is on paper, parchment or film or any other material.³

SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION

DOCUMENT 1660123911

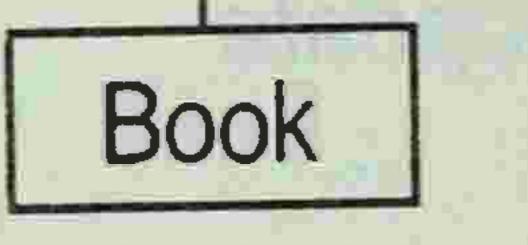
Conventional Meta-Document Neo-conventional (Direct record Unmediated by

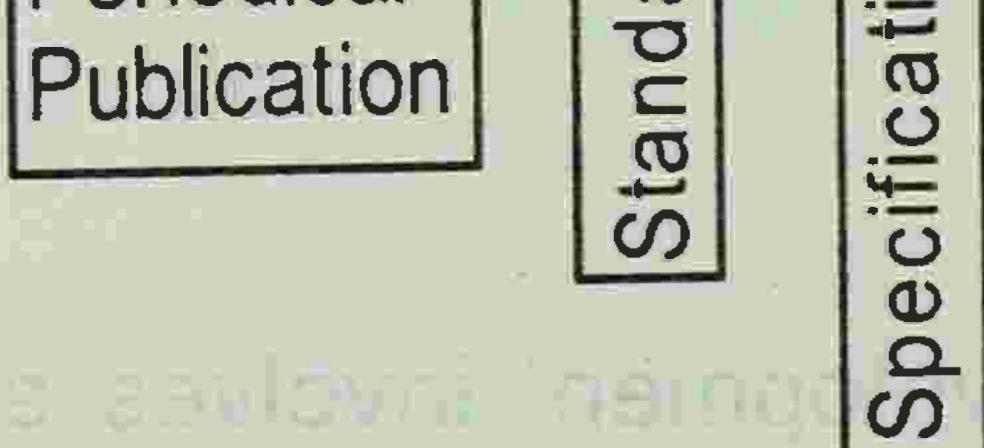
Human mind) 1010

> nt 16173300713 P Periodical ata 10 ate 9 3 ific

> > Non-conventional

100





Dent unit mit nave soos and senerdiu uisr e oultand, nemiare, provide misturituo e B > do S and serve as foundains of sevence. C -oipn 3 te stunde abden af he ynstatt xags ast s C10 S notidinamics bris princtid for hote \geq 4

and socio-currural, educational, political and social adviations of antipological the

Nigerbiblios Vol. 16, Nos. 1 & 2, Jan.-Dec., 2005

10 A

SECTION OF THE FORCE DISTURDED AND TO TOUGHED.

DOCUMENTATION

This is the act of collecting, classifying and making readily accessible the record of all kinds of intellectual activity. It is the act of facilitating the use of recorded, specialized knowledge through its presentation, reproduction, publication, dissemination, collection, storage, subject analysis, organization and retrieval.

Documentation is a copy of library activity. Therefore, the five laws of library science govern documentation. These laws originally formulated by Ranganathan (1931) are:

- Documents are for use; (1)
- Every reader his document; (2)
- Every document its reader; (3)(4)
 - Save the time of the reader; and
- A library is a growing organism. (5)

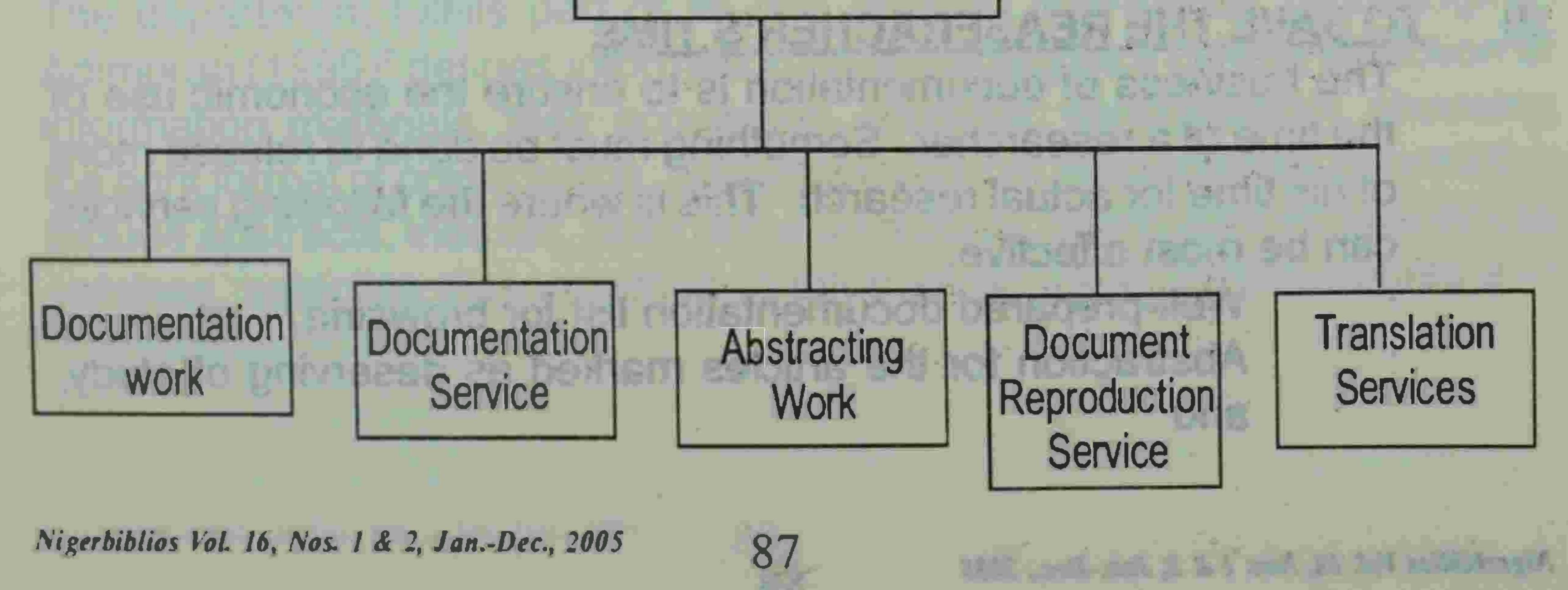
Document is used to replace book.

Ranganathan⁵ has also identified 5 facets of documentation as follows: Documentation work (the Work of preparing a documentation

list or bibliography especially subject bibliography) Documentation service (Intensified reference service or long range reference services) Abstracting work Document Reproductive Service (Making copies of a document for a specialist reader) **Translation Service**

SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION





REASON FOR DOCUMENTATION

a) <u>NEED FOR PLANNED RESEARCH</u>

About a century ago, research was largely spontaneous and application of the results to economic ends and social problems was casual. Today, as in many countries, there is need for planned industrialization in Nigeria, and this calls for planned research in the sciences, technology, transport, management etc. Results of these research works need to be documented, preserved and packaged and made available to relevant bodies for application to economic ends and social well being of the nation.

b) <u>EXPONENTIALGROWTH OF LITERATURE</u>

Increase in planned research has given rise to huge quantity of research output both in the country and universally. The numbers of learned articles published annually have increased, likewise the periodicals. This rapid rate of growth in research output and documents by itself created problems in storage, retrieval and service. Researchers need to keep abreast of work done by others. Therefore, the Documentalist needs to keep tract of what is

published by paying attention to bibliographic control devices.

c) <u>LITERATURE SCATTER</u>

According to Aguolu (1989)⁶, bibliographic studies have shown the scatter of relevant literature in various disciplines. While most of the relevant information on a certain subject may be found in a small number of core journals, other relevant information is scattered in numerous other journals, not necessarily within the known discipline of the literature searcher. The researcher finds it difficult to keep up-to-date in his field, since he may have to read not only journals or other materials devoted to his own specialized discipline but others outside it.

d) TO SAVE THE REASERACH BR'S TIME

The business of documentation is to ensure the economic use of the time of a researcher. Something must be done to release more of his time for actual research. This is where the following services can be most effective.

> Well-prepared documentation list for browsing, Abstraction for the articles marked as deserving of study, and

Producing the articles marked for detailed study after perusal of the abstract.
 For instance, if a chemist is furnished with a well-classified, well featured, periodicals documentation list of articles published in all the periodicals – including those in the fringe of chemistry but carrying articles of chemical interests – he would be able to cover a wider number of periodicals in his search.

e) TO PREVENT DUPLICATION OF RESEARCH WORK

- Conducting a research is very costly and consumes time. Documentation is a necessary tool for preventing duplication thereby saving time and scarce resources. For instance, if a researcher knows what grounds have been covered in his field, he will be able to channel his energy to areas that require new break.
- RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPART MENT R D D) OF NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA
- A National Information and Documentation center (NIIDOC) was established in 1991 as a department in the National Library of Nigeria to serve as a national focal point of excellence for the storage, retrieva I and dissemination of information related to the national development efforts of Nigeria.
- Consequently, NIDOC was expected to contribute to national development by providing the government, ministers, parliamentarians, and researchers etc with better access to scientific, technical and other information.

In 2001, NIDOC was renamed Research and Development Department. Currently, the department is made up of three divisions. Research and Publication Division; Documentation Services Division and Development Services Division. Research and Publicatioⁿ Divisioⁿ is located in Lagos while the Documentation Services and Development Services Divisions are in Abuja.

The department fulfills part of its role through information repackaging. Adimorah (1999)⁷ defines information repackaging as a careful selection of information materials, their acquisition, analysis, consolidation, choosing the right format of presentation, and dissemination. Repackaged information include abstracts, indexes, state of the art reports, briefs, current awareness services, selective dissemination of information (SDI), bibliographies and newsletters.

89

ABSTRACTING SERVICES

An abstract can be defined as abbreviated accurate representation of the contents of a document without added interpretation or criticism and without distinction as to who wrote the abstract. Thus, a well-prepared abstract enables readers to identify the basic content of a document quickly and accurately, to determine its relevance to their interests, and to decide whether they need to read the document in its entirety. Readers for whom

Producing the articles marked for detarled study oft.

- the document is of fringe interest often obtain enough information from the abstract to make their reading of the whole document unnecessary.
 - Abstracting services are principally for providing versions of publications, which have been produced in a particular subject, over a period. The services provide a current awareness function of keeping users, researchers, scholars, policy makers, up-to-date with new development and discoveries in their field. Several abstracting services have been developed in recent years by government institutions, commercial concern and international organizations. Some of these are listed below:
 - Education Abstracts (UNESCO) Λ Geological Abstracts (American Geological Institute, Washington, A DC) Abstracts of "701" Planning Reports (US Department of Housing Λ 1 and Urban Development, Washington): Abstracts of Soviet Medicine (Excerpts Medical Foundation, Λ Amsterdam and New York), Abstracts of Swiss Patents (US Business and Defense /services Λ Administration, Washington D.C.) Abstracts by Nigerian Institutions Include: Thesis and Dissertation Abstracts 1962-1978 (Ahmadu Bello Λ University) Symposia of Abstracts, PhD Thesis 1993-1995 (University of Ibadan) Λ

Abstracts of thesis accepted by O.A.U. 1985 '88,'89,90 (Obafemi Awolowo University)
 A PhD & M.phil Thesis/Dissertation Abstracts 1970-1995 (University of Lagos 1997)
 RESEAR CH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTRDDSYSTEM
 When NIDOC was established, the vision of its first director (Mr. E.N.O. Adimorah) was to involve other libraries in Nigeria who would be co-operating as nodal points. These individual nodal points would become

90

part of the NIDOC system as collection centers and would additionally prepare abstract and indexes of materials in the possession of project officers in national organizations and government ministries in their locality. Even though this vision could not materialize, it could still be considered relevant today. Presently, the work of documentation in RDD is carried out by the few documentalists in the department. Therefore, meaningful and timely coverage of all national research and information outputs is impossible. Also the cost of keeping track of these materials is much since they include both published and unpublished materials, and the main means of acquiring them is through visiting. The RDD span of work encompasses primary endogenous literature of all subject areas (Agriculture, Science and Technology, Social Sciences, Humanities, Health science, Education etc.)

These materials were collected by the documentalists from libraries, government ministries, parastatals, and technological gatekeepers, Universities, etc, throughout the country by means of Visitation. However, when finance was not available to visit these institutions and for making photocopies of relevant documents, the department resorted to using national newspapers. The materials collected were then evaluated to determine their research and information value before they were abstracted or indexed as the case may be and entered into the appropriate databases.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (RDD) DATABASES The database of each of the subjects was designated using the micro CDS/ ISIS (Computerised Documentation Service/Integrated Sets of Information System) 3.07 software developed by UNESCO. Thus in the RDD system are the following databases:

Nigerian Education Abstracts, 1992, 1995, 1998 1) Nigerian Banking, Fianance, Auditing and Actuarial Science 2) Abstracts, 1992 Nigerian Social Science Abstracts – 1995 3) Nigerian Political Science Abstracts 4) Nigerian Rural Development Bibliography, 1995 5) Nigerian Economic Development Abstracts 6) Nigerian Herbal Remedy Abstracts Nigerian Information Technology Abstracts HINT FOR DONALS HOWER 8) Nigerian Editorial Opinion Abstracts 9) Nigerian Dissertation Abstracts 10) Laws of Nigeria, Acts and Decrees 11) Nigerian Policies and Politics 12) Compendium of Library Legislation 13)

91

Among the shortcomings of these publications are lack of continuity and currency, which is caused by delays in production.

A worksheet is the electronic form used for entering data in a database. In RDD, the worksheet used in the data capturing process are created by the system analysts in consultation with the documentalists to ensure full bibliographic description of entries and to avoid garbage in the system. While the documentalists use the worksheet to record their entries, the data entry staff enter the records into the appropriate databases. The documentalists handing specific databases edit the entries.

INFORMATION ABSTRACT The RDD system uses the informative type of abstract. The informative abstract summarizes the major arguments and principal data and conclusions which the abstractor considers valuable contributions to knowledge or which is considered to be of use to readers interested in the reported study. It is intended to obviate the necessity of consulting the original work. This no doubt enables users to identify the leading subject of the document; objective of the study, experiment, etc. nature of the problem investigated; methodology; results of the findings; conclusions rearched; recommendations for future action; points of view from which the document was written and the period covered. ISIS (Contraction Software Software Sectore Releases) and a set of the rest of the sector of the sec System 3.07 solityare dere bere he oper ty UNESCO AFRE in the INDEXING Indexing is a detailed subject analysis of a document, identification of the concepts and the translation of these concepts into a special pre-designed vocabulary. The purpose of indexing is to facilitate retrieval and to lead to required information as outlined in queries or requests. Therefore, to exploit abstracts fully, their indexing needs to be of a very high standard. For RDD system, the structure of the micro CDSISIS permits indexing for key words in all the fields that have been made searchable. This makes retrieval of

records relatively easy.

MARKETING OF RDD INFORMATION PRODUCTS

Once production of the abstracts has been completed, they are sent to the National Bibliographic Control Department which will assist in creating awareness through displays at conferences, workshops, seminars, etc. Another method of marketing the products could be through the Internet, World Wide Web, CR-ROM, Digital Audio, Video and other forms of new media. Writing on "Libraries and the Development of an Information Society

92

in Nigeria:" Brigid O Connor (1998)⁸ maintains that the role of Libraries is by providing content and developing and deepening the market for the product and services of the Internet, National Library would be providing the much-needed Nigerian specific content on Agriculture, Banking, Economy, Medicine, Ecology, Wild Life Behaviour and Traditional Healing Methods. However, competitive distribution of content will require technical and creative staff, direct marketing position, and marketable website.

FACTORS THAT AFFECT DOCUMENTATION SERVICES DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA.

ADEQUATE FUNDING

1)

Finance plays a big part in documentation services development. The financial backing for the services is crucial owing to high cost of equipment, qualified manpower and production. For instance, because the National Library of Nigeria lacks the finance to shoulder the enormous expenses, information and documentation projects would require, foreign grants were sought and promises of sponsorship and support were received from some agencies such as United States Information Service (USIS). However, the department could not meet initial conditions such as adequate

infrastructure, trained computer system staff etc. Failure to meet these conditions discouraged potential sponsoring agencies. When sponsorship was not forthcoming, the department embarked on projects like organizing National Training Workshop on Indexing and Abstracting, Standardization in Information Handling, Consultancy Services and Sale of Abstract Journals to become self-supporting. These efforts however, did not yield much fruit due to funds to execute the projects and poor patronage. Lack of adequate financial backing made the department to abandon most of its projects.

2) <u>SHORTAGE OF DOCUMENTALISTS</u>

Availability of good documentalists to prepare abstracts is a major factor in documentation service development. For instance, a good Documentalist should be something of a subject specialist. Thus if a qualified scientist is recruited for this work, he needs to be given additional training as a Documentalist. If a Librarian/Documentalist is recruited, he needs to be encouraged to increase his basic knowledge in relevant subject areas so that he is fully familiar with the practices, jargon and technical language of those fields. The department had few experienced and qualified documentalists, and many learned while on the job. Besides many people are not



interested in abstracting work due to its tedious nature. There is the need to educate staff on this aspect of library work and to provide incentives such as more training conducive environment and monetary benefits to attract people to documentation work. NEED FOR SUBSCRIBERS Subscribers are needed to ensure the use of abstracts, indexes, bibliographies and other products that emanate from documentation work. Because of few individual subscribers, access to the abstract journals is mainly through Libraries. In this case, high subscription rate will militate against full exploitation. Possible solutions could be offering special discounts to non-profit making or educational organizations, voluntary cooperation of neighboring libraries, and provision of access. The cost of preparing and issuing abstracts and indexes is so high that 100% use is essential if efficient organization of information sources is to be realized.

4) NEED FOR MORE USERS AND USER STUDIES

Even if the documentation services are made fully accessible, it is up to those benefitted to use them. It can be observed that many people who could benefit from documentation services are initially not aware of their exsistence. Even when their attention is finally drawn to the services, they still have little idea of its full capabilities or even of its coverage and arrangement.

The present educational system could be blamed for not giving initial training to students in this field. The right time to acquire knowledge of the resources and methods of using Library and documentation services is while attending university. But the effect of such training even where they exist loses part of its force if the companies among whom the graduate works make little use of these aids. Collison (1971)⁹ has noted that the mere increase or initiation of bibliographical instruction at universities and technical colleges will not remedy the situation completely, since many employers and employees remain unconvinced of the value of abstracting and indexing services. To achieve better understanding more needs to be done to reach established scientists, technologists and scholars, through professional journals, conferences, meetings etc.

94

Nigerbiblios Vol. 16, Nos. 1 & 2, Jan.-Dec., 2005

the same needs without resource to segmentation. This view often leads to mass information failure. There is thus need to segment out user types and offer services that are needed by the various segments according to needs. Thus, for the researcher to be fully convinced of the value of documentation service, more studies in depth must be done to ascertain their needs.

COOPERATION IN DOCUMENTATION SERVICES 5) In order to achieve comprehensive service, specific requirements of groups and ensure effective organization of information sources, cooperation on national and international bases is needed. This can be in form of interchange system ranging from permission to copy each other's products to full-scale exchange of tapes. Cooperation is also needed from government institutions, university and research institutions, private enterprises, etc, in the area of access to information. The attitude of these institutions tends to inhibit maximum information diffusion. For instance, when RDD staff embarked on preparing the dissertation abstracts of Nigerian universities, most of the university workers were reluctant to allow documentalists access to the documents due to fears of loosing autonomy in terms of copying matters as has been reported by Sonaike (1999¹. However, national welfare requires full exploitation of all information derived from the expenditure of public funds. NETWORKING 2022 dates also of the organ prublind voe off 6) A computer network consists of computers connected together in such a way that these computers communicate with one another, durante sector that is, the user of one of the computers can access data/information In the state serve in any of the others if permitted. Onyekwelu¹² identifies types of networks to include: Local Area Network (a configuration in which the network covers a small geographic area e.g. a school building, Metropolitan Area Network

(the computers are located in a city) and Wide Area Network (the computers are located several kilometers apart, covering a large geographic area).
 Adimorah (1999)¹³ observes that there is need for the National Library of Nigeria to be fully computerized and be interconnected so as to pool our resources and be able to embark on collaborative activities with other libraries and librarians.
 Major constraints to computerization include: poor physical facilities and human resources; poor or non-existent procedures for

95

equipment procurement; inadequate maintenance of hardware; and lack of established centres dedicated to developing software in Nigeria. The way forward is for the government to provide an enabling environment such as good governance, rule of law, and the respect for human rights; to ensure transparency and accountability in public administration. Also government policy

should focus on reducing import duties and sales taxes on computer hardware and software for the benefit of end users.

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

The main network at the international level is the Internet. According to Akhigbe (1995)¹⁴ Internet is a global computer network that links together thousands of universities, government and corporate networks, as well as large computer communications networks such as CompuServe, American online etc. There is an urgent need to link the National Library, her branches, and other libraries in the country through modern data communication equipment so as to provide speedy access to local, regional, and international information sources.

Odusote (1995)¹⁵ has noted that creating appropriate national databases is a necessary ingredient in Internet participation. This is because free flow of information is an essential part of the Internet; participants get involved in retrieving and supplying information thereby building appropriate databases. If effectively carried out, the government, for effective decision-making, could access such databases. However, the poor telecommunications networks in the country accounts for its low usage of Internet facilities. Massive investment is required in telecommunications alone and may exceed public sector capacity. Thus, private sector intervention is needed in meaningfully by ensuring access to the Internet.

<u>CONCLUSION</u>

The problem of documentation services development is a national one. There is need for us to participate fully in the global exchange of information for socio-economic development and the best way to start is by developing our own content and disseminating it to the global community.

96

Therefore, a change of attitude on the part of the government, business organizations, research and university institutions, technological providers, and libraries, is a sine qua non of effective documentation service. Also, fairer distribution of the cost of documentation projects among all the stakeholders in a way that all could share the burden of cost should be

State of the second second

considered.

A second second is R <u>Midelus des reconstract si des costanos</u>, <u>si des costanos (second</u>), a costanos destructores a Symposynem of generally parents in the third weather costanes, addentice S.R. Raganateur, Lapping Alters Maters Mithurschouts

(2) Complete Site 2 is 0. Presidents, the frateorie 5 bears of 2 is transfered.
(3) Complete Site 2 is 0. Presidents, the frateory of 0. President is the second base of the frateory of 0. President is the second of 0. President is the s

Schleininger (999, P7
G. GETHNOR, BRIGID Laterne and the "Enhormon" of the Internation Society in Niggris. Paper presented at and Natural Contenting, Abage 4-5 (1998, p5).
C.O.L.ISON, ROBERT 1: Abstrade and Spatrate Contentions.
C.O.L.ISON, ROBERT 1: Abstrade and Spatrate 1 and Apper Confermations, England: ABC (NC; 1971 p8).
C.O.L.ISONARE S.E.A. The Higgerian Distortation abstract. The bibliognetic viscous of tapulational research presentation. Paper Deservation (Contention) of the Miggins of the Spatra transfer and the Miggins of the Spatra of the Confermation of the Miggins of the Miggins of the Distortation abstract. The hibliognetic viscous of tapulational research Information. Paper Atmedu Ballo university, Zuna Iran 9, 1999, p7.

and the big alignet denote a contractor. If a part of the terminate and the second second second second second I second framework, Advis, Index 4-8, 12388, 1659

<u>REFERENCES</u>

 AGUOLU, C. C. <u>Libraries</u>, <u>knowledge</u> and <u>National</u> <u>development</u> University of Benin (inaugural lecture series No 45 March 1989) p.16

- 2. Ibid
- 3. HARROD, Leonard Montague
 - The librarian's Glossary and reference book 4th Ed. Andre Deussch, 1976, p28.
- 4. Ibid p285.

• •

- RAGANATHAN, S.R. <u>What is documentation? In documentation</u> <u>and its facets</u>: being a Symposium of seventy papers by thirty-two authors, edited by S.R. Raganathan, London: Asia publishing House, 1963, P43.
- 6. AGUOLU op. cit p15.
- ADIMORAH E.N.O. Positioning the National Library of Nigeria for the new millennium: the role of computerization in library poductivity. Paper presented at the workshop on repositioning the National Library for effective performance in the next millennium, 6th - 10th September 1999, P7.
 O. CONNOR, BRIGID Libraries and the development of an information Society in Nigeria. Paper presented at the Nigerian Library Association, National conference and Annual General meeting, Abuja, 4-8 1998. p5.
 COLLISON, ROBERT L. Abstracts and abstracting services California; England: ABC 1NC; 1971 p9.
 ADIMORAH. Op. cit p.12
- SONAIK E S.E.A. <u>The Nigerian Dissertation abstract: The bibliographic window of unpublished research information</u>. Paper presented at the 2nd Annual National Library of Nigeria Day at Ahmadu Bello university, Zaria June 9, 1999, p9
 ONYEKVELU D. C. <u>Information technology revolution challenges</u>

and opportunities for library services in Nigeria. Paper presented at the Nigerian Library Association, National conference and Annual General Meeting Abuja, May 4-8, 1998, p5-6
13.ADIMORAHOP. Cit. P13
14. AKHIGBE, FUNMI Using the Internet in your library. A paper

98

presented at the Nigerian Library Association (Lagos State Chapter) one day seminar on the Internet held on October 31, 1995 at the USIS, Lagos, p1 15. ODUSOTE, IBUKUN A. Present State of Internet connectivity in Nigeria. A. Paper presented at the Nigerian Library Association (Lagos State Chapter) one-day seminar on Information Services (USIS), Lagos. P.10 In terms i apprending of the contempter to stream to the light of the stream of the stream of the stream of the Trailing the Astronomy of the Post of the Astronomy State and the State of the State of the Astronomy State of the -as in the transmission of the growing and the to be a first the second second to be a second to be a second to the reaction that the provide state of the cells and the setter and the setter of the setter of the Enspired of collecture over the particulation of the second

100 C

A finiting 2 http://doi.org/second-comparation is to manipulation and the maximum and the and the index of the index of

99