# RELEVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LIBRARIANSHIP IN LIBRARY COOPERATION

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#### Abstract

Libraries must redefine their identity and roles in the dynamic changing environment of 21st century in order to continue in the fundamental vision and mission of the organisation. In order to achieve the main objective of each organisation, library inclusive quality and positive comparism on information and the best service delivery to information users' needs is important. Comparative librarianship is a systematic study of two or more libraries in term of their development, practices and relative maters and demerits of the various practices; and general aspects of librarianship, library development in terms of the historical, geographical, social, cultural, political, and economic and other factors. While international librarianship consist of series of activities carried out between government or non-governmental institutions, organisations, groups, or individuals of two or more nations to promote, maintain and evaluate library, documentation, services and library profession around the globe which are influenced by library cooperation and its benefits. According to the purpose of the study, the research adopted fundamental research method, aims to say how things can be changed, explore the area of study and not to draw a final conclusion to the research.

Keywords: Comparative Librarianship, International Librarianship, Library Cooperation.

#### Introduction

International and comparative librarianship has perhaps been in practice since the beginning of the profession simply by the pure nature of the discipline. Collaboration between libraries across borders has occurred before it was identified as such. Peculiarly, it was not until the mid-twentieth century that librarians began to publish and define international and comparative librarianship, and demand for more rigorous and useful structures, systems, and processes in furtherance of cultivating relationships, mutual understanding, communication, and establishing formal networks.

Library cooperation includes both the sharing of bibliographic data, the sharing of library materials and other professional services, ethics and standards, thus arose the need of international librarianship around the world, (Hermina 2017). According to Bawden and Rowlands(1999)International librarianship consists of activities carried out among or between governmental or non-governmental institutions, organizations, groups or individuals of two or more nations, to promote, establish, develop, maintain and evaluate library, documentation and allied services, and librarianship and the library profession generally, in any part of the world; Susmita and Anup (2017) defined comparison of libraries functions and services in two or more countries or in one country. Chih Wang (2010)defined library cooperation as unique value is to

provide a forum and a platform for research library associations to explore and benefit from cooperation and their shared strength. Timothy (2018) also sees library cooperation as intent to share resources, knowledge, bibliographic data, services and even computer facilities to provide some or all aspects of library service. Since libraries have always had as a philosophic base the provision of information, first through books and later through electronic means, the concept of cooperation among libraries is by no means a fresh and new idea, as one of the fundamental motivations of human society. To keep and promote international librarianship there is a need for comparative librarianship and due to information explosion, automation of library services is imperative for efficiency and effective working of library and information centre (Singh, 2010).

# Purpose of International and Comparative Cooperation in Librarianship

The followings are some of the purposes of comparative librarianship:

- 1. Comparative librarianship offers a suitable technique for investigating not just libraries abroad, but also the libraries and reading of the minority cultures within a country's boundary. (Conference.infla.org/past/ifla78/in). It brings about in the individual's attitudes to the world around them. People are made to see the relativity of their own values and of the institutions they have used from childhood. Exchanging of ideas information and knowledge Promotion of peace and understanding among the nations in the world. To seek full understanding and correct interpretation of the library system or problem under review (Aliwi, 2013).
- 2. It helps in stepping out of one's experience. To develop useful policy principles or laws and to understand them thoroughly (Conference.infla.org/past/ifla78/int) Exploring the Concept of International and Comparative Librarianship'. Dr. ChipoMutongi Provides guidelines for a proposed new library programme in one's own country or in foreign country.
- 3. (Aliwi, 2013) To understand the development in a country and many countries and to discover what developments have been successful and can be copied elsewhere. It can uncover, in our professional discipline, neglected and hidden approaches to important technical library problems, but even more important comparative suggests a new and critical role for librarianship (Simsova and Markee, 1975).
- 4. To formulate meta librarianship, the philosophy and theory underlying the practice of librarianship throughout the world (Conference.infla.org/past/ifla78/int) Contributes to the critical thinking, analysis and solution of widely found library problems (Conference.infla.org/past/ifla78/int) enables libraries to source materials or labour at reasonable prices. Results is cloud-sourcing and cloud-funding Exposure to foreign competition will encourage increased efficiency and effectiveness thereby improving quality on products and services.

## Significant of the Study

Areas of International and Comparative Cooperation can be discussed as :

An examination of the activities carried out under the heading of international librarianship reveals the existence of three main functional areas, which often overlap or merge, but whose distinctive characteristics may usefully be isolated and identified, (Parker J.S 2016)

- I. The first of these areas is that which may be termed Service Provision. Service Provision, in this context, means the provision, through international action, of common or mutual library, documentation and allied services operating across national boundaries or at the international level. 'Common library services' are those services provided by a group of nations for common use, and include the libraries of international organizations, international programmes and institutions for the provision of library and related services such as international bibliographical services, regional schools of librarianship,IT services, interlibrary loan and Library Consortium and so on. 'Mutual library services' are reciprocal activities such as international interlibrary loans and the international exchange of publications. International librarianship activity is in fact rather remote from the point of contact with the reader, and only in the field of Service Provision may the reader frequently be said to be the immediate or direct beneficiary. Service Provision may, therefore, be considered to be, in a sense, the most 'pure' form of international librarianship.
- The second main functional area in the field of international librarianship is that which may be called Service Promotion. By Service Promotion, the promotion, through international action, of library, documentation and allied services operating either at the international, or at the national or local level. Activities in this area fall into two main categories, namely, aid and technical assistance, and propaganda and planning. Aid and technical assistance may be subdivided into that provided in the recipient country or location, such as gifts of books, the provision of professional skills and expertise through consultancy and advisory work, and so forth, and that provided in the donor country, such as professional education for overseas librarians. Propaganda and planning includes. for example, meetings of librarians to recommend government action on library development, the publication of articles advocating libraries, or the preparation of long-term programmes for library development. Service Promotion probably accounts for a much greater proportion of all international librarianship activity than Service Provision, and may be of much greater importance for world library development. To the extent, however, that the benefit to the reader comes from the services promoted rather than from the promotional activities themselves, the reader may be said to be the secondary or indirect beneficiary, and Service Promotion considered to be that much less 'pure' a form of international librarianship than Service Provision.
- III. The third major area to be considered, and one on which the effectiveness of activities in the other two areas does, to a large extent, depend, is that of Information Transfer. A large part of all the activities in the field of international librarianship is concerned with the international transfer of information on activities in the field of librarianship at international, national and local levels. Through the media of conferences, meetings, publications, study tours, staff exchanges and so forth, the dissemination takes place of information, not only on the two main areas of international librarianship already described above, but also on national and local library activity in any part of

the world, and, indeed, on the international information transfer process itself. An important element in the field of international librarianship which essentially forms part of the Information Transfer process is that of research and evaluation, under which heading is included comparative librarianship.

## Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is based on the type of libraries and its activities. literature review covered and technology advancement as at the year the research was conducted.

#### Literature Review

The concepts of international librarianship and comparative librarianship first appeared under their respective titles in the 1950s, when their literatures were overlapping. During the 1960s, and continuing through the 1980s, much energy was devoted to defining each of them and attempting to distinguish between them. Although clearer definitions were developed during the mid-1970s by J. Stephen Parker and J. Periam Danton respectively, some confusion has persisted. In practice the two fields are often grouped together as "international and comparative librarianship" or "international and comparative library science. Then there is need for cooperation and collaboration between International and national bodies, governmental and non-governmental institutions, organizations, and groups in order to promote, develop, and maintain librarianship and the library cooperation around the world,

Chowdhury. (2009) defines librarianship as profession in which members are engaged in the application of appropriate theories, principles, tools and techniques in implementing information service. These techniques involves around these contributions which emphasize three essential aspects of comparative librarianship:

- (a) There has to be a "cross-societal or cross-cultural element. Often this is cross-country or international, but the comparison can be conducted within a single country, provided that the societal, cultural or ideological differences are such that they can give rise to differences in the nature of the library as an institution. Hence a comparison of public libraries in the German, French and Italian speaking cantons of Switzerland can legitimately be classified as comparative librarianship.
- (b) There have to be "actual comparisons," which go beyond mere descriptions or juxtaposition of data. Comparison implies the analysis of the similarities and differences in the sets of data collected.
- (c) An attempt should be made to explain the observed similarities and differences with a view to building theory. Thus comparative librarianship is described as a discipline which employs a rigorous scientific methodology, on the pattern of other, older comparative disciplines such as comparative education.

Lor (2008) reflects on the motives of those who wrote about topics that are referenced in the literature in the field, and how they relate to the results, and concluded that "not all the work in International Librarianship has scientific goals". This discussion results in a cluster of motivations by which to assess what motivates professionals and international entities to cooperation with and assistance to libraries that face consequences of external forces, such as disasters or wars. The cluster of motivations is: Exoticism, Philanthropy. Therefore globalization of any profession encourages professional collaboration and cooperation at the global stage and enhances possibilities of collaborative development of professional standards, best practices, and public policies.

Professional Education:- Collaborations between libraries bring training of staff/library schools possible through international cooperation and sponsor of education of staff in librarianship some areas of specialization. For example: Education and training for digital librarians: A Slovenia/UK comparison – in general terms, rather than specifically.

Library Technology, Automated Systems and Network: Libraries have grasped the opportunities presented by the application of new technologies to revolutionize the technical processes required to deliver services. Software packages benefit programs like update and download, retention, and enables librarians to access library users information through databanks. Cloud computing also allows storage of large information, sharing and access which enables international cooperation.

Library management encompasses normal managerial tasks like planning, communication, decision-making, delegation, problem-solving, motivation, control and leadership, can yield more result through library cooperation and resource sharing at a reduce cost.

Much of the data collected is available only to members of the organizations responsible for the collection, although access may be available at a price, and in some cases summary figures are made freely available.

we must not overlook another important and essentially supportive, activity, that promote international librarianship cooperation-:

- i. WIPO International Classifications: The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the global forum for intellectual property policy, services, information and cooperation. A specialized agency of the United Nations, WIPO assists its 192 member states in developing a balanced international Intellectual Property (IP) legal framework to meet society's evolving needs. It delivers capacity-building programmes to help developing countries benefit from using IP. It provide classification prototype, that help to browsing, filtering and retrieval of bibliographic information in online systems like Nice Classification, Vienna Classification, International Patent, and Classification Locarno Classification etc.
- ii. Online Computer Library Centre(OCLC): An Organization dedicated to public furthering access to world information, OCLC's team of expert cataloguers and data quality specialists constantly enrich WorldCat records with new and corrected information to ensure that WorldCat contains the highest quality records possible. WorldCat is the manifestation of the creativity and innovation of the staff of OCLC and thousands of librarians. Unique in scale and unparalleled in data quality, WorldCat makes library collections findable and accessible around the world Library,

staff members also enhance records through the OCLC Cataloguing and Metadata Subscription (previously the OCLC Cataloguing Subscription), making these records the industry standard for quality.

- opportunities for library & Information Scientists to deliver the information to the desktops of their users. Web offices significant advantage by integrating different library & information services with a common user interface offered by Web browsers.
- iv. Preservation Planning: Considers the place of preservation in library management and looking to its future development. The primary goal of preservation is to prolong the existence of information resources. Preservative measures are collected through comparative studies and library cooperation of suitable measures to perverse materials, getting international guidelines to assist libraries with preservations, and to develop cooperative preservation programmes .i.e. cloud computing, databank and digital material preservation.

# Challenges of International and Comparative Librarianship

- The danger of including comparisons that are not cross-societal or cross-cultural in scope is that, it can defeat the purpose of international and comparative librarianship.
- The World Wide Web is evolving into an interactive, multipolar social space, referred to as Web 2.0. Libraries are urged to follow suit, as implied by the term Library 2.0, brief exploration of the evolving environment precedes a discussion of a number of trends which affect the library profession and which require attention at the international level.
- · Some developing countries do not value activities of library, therefore no plans was made for development of the library physically and financially.
- Most comparativists in Library Information Science fail to link their work to that of colleagues, so that no body theory is built up.

# Types of Libraries and International Library Cooperation

- I. National Libraries
- II. Academic Libraries:
- a. Public University
- b. Private University
- c. International University
- III. Research / Special Libraries:
- a. Government Libraries
- b. International/Online libraries
- c. Public Libraries
- d. Special Libraries

#### Examples of International Library Cooperation

1. Example of Library consortium cooperation is the project of protecting the Common European Heritage by making microfilm copies of old prints and journals from the cultural border

lands. Since 2008 the Wroclaw University Library has cooperated with the Library of Friedrich Ebert's Foundation. Its main goal was to digitize and publish in internet German sources available in Wroclaw University Library and in Library of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

- 2. Examples of integrated systems, Ohio (USA), comprising 88 academic libraries in Ohio; TexShare, Northern Lights Library Network of Minnesota, which incorporates over 300 libraries within the state to Participate in Resource Sharing.
- 3. WIPO: World intellectual Property Organisation, 308 record(s) shared in Nigeria National WIPO through Webinar proving opportunities for Improved Access Intellectual Property sharing between Nigeria's Higher Institutions.
- 4. The University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt and the Wiener Neustadt public library combined their collections and library systems to form a single public-science library. By partnering with OCLC, the libraries overcame the inherent challenges of bringing together two very different libraries, and they look forward to collaborating for the long term.
- 5. The California Digital Library maintains bibliographic records for consortial collections held by University of California libraries. Beyond this, catalogers enhance records that global libraries can use, and they receive automatic updates to their records when others have enhanced them.

## Research Methodology

The research method is qualitative in nature, the studies is design only to explore the research area and do not attempt to offer final and conclusion to research questions, but to investigate previous write up by researches, the benefits and relevant.

Investigation shows most of the Libraries that are into International Comparative librarianship and Library Cooperation benefit from-:

- Resource Sharing Participation
- Network Participation in Library Consortium
- Library Cooperation Agreement
- Online cataloguing of manuscripts.
- Technique for investigating libraries home and abroad,
- Exchanging of values, ideas, information and knowledge.
- Larger formative world for professional development.
- To appreciate the operations of different libraries.
- Helps in benchmarking and facilitates innovation.

Relevance of International and Comparative Librarianship in Library Cooperation

- 1. The developing countries can learn from the developed countries and vice versa, which stimulates and assists in possible adaptation of promising practises and solution to library problems from one area to other creating new market opportunities.
- 2. The development of a global intellectual property regime has a major impact on the ability of librarians and information workers to serve their users, these international bodies such as IFLA and EBLIDA (European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations) and other Associations are now actively involved as part of global or transnational civil society in advocacy at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and elsewhere for proper transmission of information and embracing Sustainable Development Goals.
- 3. The education of librarians is also affected. While 'internationalization' of LIS education is nothing new, there are more far-reaching trans-border programmes, which go well beyond the traditional methods but contemporary or modern LIS, open university are extension and expanding of studies in which all are connected to, use of internet and ICT have upgraded library education.
- 4. Comparative librarianship influence Information systems and services operations in the library, creating information access tools, selecting, organizing, and preserving information in all formats, enables libraries to source materials or labour at reasonable prices, i.e. cloud-sourcing and crowd sourcing exposures to foreign competition encourage increased efficiency and effectiveness thereby improving quality on products and services.
- 5. National Development Plans is to increase libraries strongly, support broader in areas of funding, architectural buildings and infrastructures, equipment's, ICT, fittings and furniture, for growth of libraries in an evolving information and cultural environment.
- 6. Library cooperation promotes professionalism, integrity, transparency, accountability, innovation, access to information and library advocacy.
- 7. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IF LA), Africa Library Information Association and Institutions (AFLIA), National Library Association (NLA) and Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) are international and National bodies representing the interests of library and information science in resource sharing, planning, organizing, and dissemination.
- 8. Library cooperation includes both the sharing of bibliographic data and the sharing of library materials. It is a means by which libraries in developing countries can provide users access to information when resources are scarce.

#### Recommendation

- i. The development of a global intellectual property regime has a major impact on the ability of librarians and information workers to serve their users. It is therefore appropriate for our international bodies such as IFLA and EBLIDA (European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations) to be actively involved as part of global or transnational civil society in advocacy at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and elsewhere. IFLA's advocacy in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.
- ii. The education of librarians is also affected. While 'internationalization' of LIS education is nothing new, we are seeing more far-reaching trans-border programmes, especially in Europe (Abdullahi, Kajberg&Virkus, 2007; Johnson, 2013) which go well beyond the traditional 'semester abroad' or the earning of a few credits at a foreign university.
- iii. International LIS practitioners in academic, research and public libraries, as well as international professional organisations, provide useful reference material for anyone wanting to know more about international librarianship.
- iv. Keeping in view the global character of the subject coverage of the book, include representation from as many countries as possible. Publishers and authors should be well represented globally.
- v. The international library associations and professional societies have significant roles in developing and nurturing international librarianship through library cooperation is expected to bring capability development and capacity building of LIS professionals in developing countries, transitional economies, library and information service facilities. Philanthropic foundations supporting ICT integration in libraries. They also help in massive restructuring of library systems and community information services in developing countries around the globe.

#### Conclusion

International and Comparative librarianship play a pivotal role in literature searches, while Library cooperation is considered sharing of resources, knowledge, bibliographic data, services and even computer facilities to provide some or all aspects of library service. Libraries have always had as a philosophic base on the provision of information, first through books and later through electronic means, the concept of cooperation among libraries is by no means a fresh and new idea, it is extension of cooperation as one of the fundamental motivations of human society, therefore international comparative cooperation in librarianship bring realisation of strength in international comparative cooperation between libraries, provide future storage of information with no loss, and libraries are more confident in information retrieved globally and disseminated locally. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) intended to promote information sharing and mutual cooperation among libraries from different countries while the National Diet Library (NDL) work closely with (IFLA) to bring cooperations with national libraries abroad. Also works with international library organizations and domestic groups engaged in global exchange activities in a variety of fields, to discuss their common tasks, define and promote common standards and carry out projects helping them to fulfill their duties.

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