

INTER-LIBRARY LENDING SERVICES IN NIGERIA:

Processes, Procedures, Problems and Prospects

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INTRODUCTION

Inter-Library Lending, by definition, is a procedure of obtaining library materials by a given library from another library or libraries for the use of library clientele. More limpidly defined, inter-library loans are transactions in which library materials are lent by one library to another library for the use of an individual borrower or a group of individuals. Because of its importance in libraries' set-up, it could be best described as the cornerstone of all the co-operative programmes of library services.

It is a necessary feature of modern library activities because there is no single library, no matter how commodious it is in space, that is in a position to buy all the library materials that may be needed some day by its patrons for research, relaxation, aesthetic or general reading.

Since the interests of the information seekers are wider in scope than the subject contents of any given library, it stands to reason, therefore, that libraries within a particular topographical area or within a particular country should have a sort of co-operation amongst themselves.

This co-operative venture is variously referred to as inter-library co-operation, inter-library loan, inter-library request, inter-library lending or inter-library borrowing in Library Science. Whichever name it is called, its main purpose is to supplement a library's resources by making materials, which the borrowing library does not possess available through direct loans for a short period of time with due provisions made by the lending library for the rights of its primary client. In other words, inter-library lending could only be embarked upon when the material sought by the library patron is not available in that particular library.

It is an acceptable fact that while there is no limit to what the clients may need, there is obviously a limit to what any library can acquire. No matter how speedometerily a library expands, there must certainly be an area it does not cover. If a library is lucky to have enough space to store all its materials, it may not be lucky, *ceteris paribus*, to have enough means. If it has enough money and accommodation, it may not be able to buy all the published materials as a result of lack of bibliographic knowledge of the incunabula and current library materials published. Inter-library loan transactions therefore is a necessary instrument of co-operative venture in the bibliographic world.

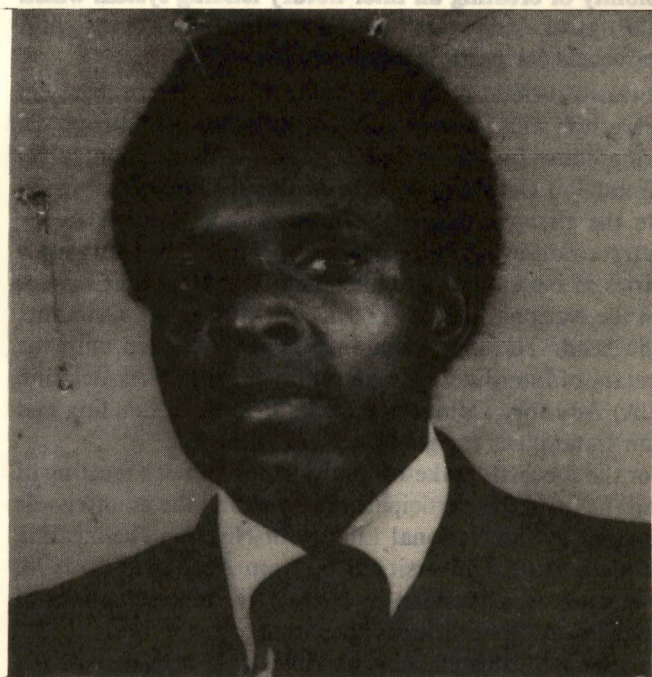
History of inter-library lending services at a glance

Inter-Library Loans dates back to the era of the proliferation of libraries. Since co-operation is one of the fundamental motivations of human society, the information brokers, like all other homo-sapiens, are co-operators. The librarians have displayed an enormous energy in co-operating not only with the publishers, but with each other in the economic acquisition of library materials in storage, in

centralized cataloguing, in exchange of staff members and in the provision of consultants and advisers.

From time immemorial, two or more libraries have come together for the purpose of exchanging library materials for the clientele on mutual understanding. For example, inter-library loan services became known in the Western world as early as eighth century. In the seventeenth century Mr. Nicols Claude Fabri de Pieresc¹ made an effort to establish a regular international system of inter-library lending transactions. Inter-library loan service was established in Germany as far back as 1893² between the then Royal Library in Berlin and Prussian University Libraries.

History has it that inter-library loan was first suggested in United States of America (U.S.A.) by a man called Samuel S. Green in an article published in the first issue of the Library journal, in 1876³. In 1909 Dr. Richardson suggested a central lending library with branches in various parts of the country to handle loans. This suggestion was reviewed at the American Library Association (ALA) Conference in 1910 and it was decided, there and then that the matter be left to the Library of Congress which was a national centre for such a plan. In 1917 the American Library Association (ALA) set up a code with a view to systematizing inter-library loans.



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From all available evidence, Regional Library Bureaux (RLBx), whose function was to facilitate the loan materials amongst their members, were set up in Britain in the late 1920.s⁴ Beside this, majority of the universities and colleges in Great Britain were reported to have struck a compromise, as far back as 1925, to lend library materials to each other. To this end, a joint standing committee on library co-operation was founded by the Association of the University Lecturers to organise inter-university inter-library lending requests.

The British Lending Library Division of the Central Library of the United Kingdom, whose main function is inter-

library lending, functions as a clearing house of library materials for the nation. It handles all national requests from libraries for materials that they do not have, but which other libraries may possess. Among the tools they use to effectively carry out this herculean task are the National Union List of Serials (NULOS) and the National Union Catalogue (NUC).

The British Lending Division loans its materials to libraries and other recognized organizations in and outside Britain and not to individuals. Anybody who wants to lend a document therefrom must do so through a library. Individuals are, however, allowed to visit the reading room of the Lending Division to consult whatever materials they want.

Coming back home, inter-library lending scheme is not a new thing amongst the libraries in the country. For example, there have been mutual exchanges of library materials between the academic libraries in the country on one hand, and other libraries like Central Medical Library on the other. There have also been courier services between the respective **libraries of the Universities of Ibadan and Benin which were later extended to the Bendel State Library and University of Lagos Library.**⁵

History has it that Professor John Harris, the Librarian of the University College, Ibadan, as it was then called, was the brain behind the introduction of inter-library lending services in the country. In 1973 the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) Conference was held in Grenoble, France. It deliberated, among other things, on the possibility of creating an inter-library lending system which would have adequate guarantees of certainty and effectiveness for participating libraries.

Towards the end of the same year the National Library of Nigeria was charged with the responsibility of being the clearing house for all the existing libraries in the country. By the middle of October, 1973 the National Library of Nigeria made the first contact with all the major libraries in the country. Following the re-actions received from some libraries in the country, an inter-library lending unit was set up in the National Library of Nigeria with Mr. O. Osundina as the head. The unit maintained constant touch with the Secretary of International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) Advisory Committee on Inter-Library Lending and Union Catalogues for guidance.

For the successful take-off of the programme, a meeting of librarians from the participating libraries in the country was sponsored by the National Library of Nigeria. The meeting took place at the University of Ife from April to 25th, 1974. The meeting was attended by twenty five representatives of the participating libraries in the country.

At the end of this meeting, an Advisory Committee on the scheme was appointed; it consisted of eleven librarians drawn from all over the Federation. The Committee reached a consensus on the addition of a network of courier service which would supplement the postal system, the production of a National Union Catalogue of books and periodicals and the inclusion of International Standard Book Number (ISBN) on all the cards sent to the National Union Catalogue's (NUC) pool.

Perhaps, it would be of interest to quickly submit at this juncture that the National Union Catalogue had been introduced into the library services system in Nigeria as far back as 1963 with only five Libraries participating along with the National Library of Nigeria. The number of the participating libraries has, however, increased.

Out of the two hundred and sixty three (263) academic,

Ministry/Special, Public/State and National Library we have in the country only seventy libraries are participating, an equivalence of 26.61%, made up of thirty three academic libraries, thirty one Ministry/Special libraries, five public/State libraries and one National library.

Both the National Union Catalogue (NUC) and the National Union List of Serials (NULOS) are intended to facilitate the location of materials and the strength of their collections in the country, and eventually promote inter-library lending activities.

Processes and Procedures

For the sake of recapitulation, our main tools for the inter-library transactions are the National Union Catalog (NUC) and the National Union List of Serials (NULOS).

Requests can be made in various forms e.g. by filling the requests on the prescribed order forms, by writing ordinary letter indicating the type of document one wants, by telephone, by telex, by computer, by close circuit television, by teletypes or by personal call at the library where the reader wants to lend the material.

Of all the systems of communications mentioned above, filling the prescribed order forms is the most ideal thing, and that is what we are trying to encourage, if not for anything, at least, for the sake of adequate and reliable record of the statistics of our loaning activities, and for completing the international Federation of Library Association's (IFLA) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) questionnaires.

The use of inter-library lending forms was unanimously agreed upon in the 1980 Kaduna Conference of librarians on Co-operative Acquisition.⁶ It was resolved that any request that is not made on the prescribed multiple or der form should be sent back to the requesting library to enter the bibliographical description of the material on the form.

It was also agreed upon that the returns of any inter-library lending activities, both national and international, should be made to the National Library of Nigeria, being the proxy for both borrowing and lending libraries in the country and beyond. This was considered necessary in order to enable it make adequate statistical collation of the inter-library transactions in the country.

Consequence to this resolution, the National Library of Nigeria, being the only library in the country charged with the responsibility of overseeing the overall activities of inter-library lending, printed the inter-library lending request forms in 1977 which it subsequently sold to the participating libraries in the country.

I wish to add here that this form is meant for the local requests within the libraries in the country only, and not for the international requests. I hope it would not be out of point to add here that the international request forms have not been published by the National Library of Nigeria up till now.

The creation of the National Inter-Library Lending Centre (NILC) did not come up until 1982. It was intended to be a clearing house for both national and international inter-library activities. With its establishment, a start began for formal and co-ordinated inter-library lending activities in Nigeria. In this light, the use of inter-library lending forms became significant.

May I quickly add here that the prescribed form for inter-library lending is produced in a carbonized paper. It is produced in triplicate, and it carries data for a variety of

purpose, such as name and address of borrowing library, author of book or title, volume, number, year of serial, title, edition, place and date of book or author of article and name and address of lending library.

In each pack of the request form, there are twenty five (25) forms offered at the rate of ten Naira (N10.00) only per pack. The payment for any number of packs is accepted in crossed cheques or money orders, made payable to the National Library of Nigeria, Lagos. The forms can also be purchased at any of the State Branches of the National Library of Nigeria.

As I mentioned earlier on, the inter-library lending form consists of three copies. The first copy is the request form which, when filled, the requesting library sends to the lending library, if it knows the library where it could get the document, or otherwise to the National Library of Nigeria. If the requesting library does not know the library that possesses the document, both sheets one and two should be sent to the National Library of Nigeria. The second sheet is the report form which should be sent along with the request form by the requesting library to the lending library, or otherwise to the National Library of Nigeria.

On receiving sheets one and two, the lending library will return sheet two with the item to the borrowing library or a report on the position of the request. The borrowing library will receive the item or note the report and send sheet two to the National Library of Nigeria for record purposes.

If sheets one and two are sent to the National Library of Nigeria, it would, having checked the National Union Catalog (NUC) or National Union List of Serials (NULOS) as the case may be, and having ascertained the library where the document could be found, send sheet one to that library for necessary action, while it retains the second sheet for record purposes.

The third sheet is the renewal sheet which should be retained by the requesting library for future use if the renewal of the document is required. If the third sheet is not used for renewal purpose, it could be retained, all things being equal, by the requesting library for its own record purposes.

The response of the participating libraries to this has been pathetically discouraging. Another disgusting aspect is that many of the requests received from the libraries in the country are not made on the prescribed multiple order form designed for inter-library lending request. They came in ordinary letters.

The irony of the matter is that we feel reluctant to adhere rigidly to the agreement reached in the 1980 Kaduna Conference because we thought that many things may happen if we sent the request back to the requesting library to use the prescribed form; for example, it may get lost in transit; it may keep so long a time that the purpose for which the document is to be used may be over taken by events; the requesting library may not have the prescribed order form or it may feel that the trouble it entails is not worth the candle.

For any of these to happen is to dissuade the people from patronising the libraries, given the fact that ours is a developing country where people are yet to know the significance of library services. We staunchly believe that the requests of the clients for the library materials must not be toyed with; they have to be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

Although we usually attend to such requests, we normally write to the sender that any request made in form of letter and not on the prescribed multiple order form would not be attended to in future, having the consolation that, that would prompt them to buy the forms.

The librarian, who is making the request, has to supply all the bibliographical details of the material sought which should be sufficient for its identification. The most needed bibliographical data are statement of responsibility - that is, the name of the author, the names of the co-authors or the name of the body or organization that was responsible for writing the document or invented the material the main entry or the title of the material and, if possible, the subject headings and perhaps the classification number. He may go a step further by supplying the information about the imprint - that is the place of publication, the name of the publisher, the edition, the date of publication et cetera.

All these pieces of information should be punctiliously and legibly written on a catalogue card. For the sake of explanation, a catalogue card is where the entries of a document are made; it is a card of 3 by 5 inches in size; these cards are filed in a catalogue drawer or tray in the catalogue cabinet. It is these cards that we turn to, when a request is made, to feed us with the necessary bibliographic information of the material sought.

Having received the request, it is our responsibility to check the bibliographic information filled in the form in the library's Catalogue box, fill in the call-number and send the request through the usual channels for obtaining the document; this may entail our going to the stack in an open shelf library or send the request through the loan desk for a closed stack one. Afterwards, the material is delivered to the library requesting the item either by mail, by hand or through courier services.

The unloanable materials

The following materials may not be loaned out of the library to the library clientele on inter-library loan request basis:

- (a) Reference materials like Encyclopaedia, Dictionaries, year book etc.
- (b) Serials, magazines and periodicals.
- (c) Nigerian. In a lay-man's language, Nigerian are the printed materials about Nigeria or Nigerians, written by either Nigerians or non-Nigerians and published in Nigeria or outside Nigeria.
- (d) Monographs or books that have volumes.
- (e) Fragile materials or audio-visual aids that can easily break in transmission.
- (f) Library materials that are in constant demand by the library patrons.
- (g) Rare materials.
- (h) Manuscripts and diaries.
- (i) Materials that are cheaper to copy than to lend.

However, there is no hard and fast rule about the loanability or otherwise of the library materials. The condition may vary from one library to the other.

Rules and conditions

- (a) All the inter-library lending materials should be tagged "inter-library loan"
- (b) Participants are expected to keep the appropriate statistical data of transactions.
- (c) The borrowing library should ensure safe return of the library materials loaned out to it.
- (d) All materials must be returned promptly.
- (e) The borrowing library shall bear the cost of repairs of any damage arising from transactions.

- (f) Loans should be made available only to the libraries rather than to the individuals.
- (g) The period of loan shall be as specific as possible, subject of course, to the right of recall by the lending library.

Problems and Prospects

National Union List of Serials (NULOS)

One of the teething problems that is confronting the National Inter-Library Lending Centre is the obsolescence of the National Union List of Serials (NULOS). For the sake of elucidation, the one we are using now was compiled in 1976 and published in 1977; since then, it has not been reviewed or, at best, the review has not seen the light of day. What this means in effect is that, the Centre is in the dark as regards the serials published and acquired by the libraries in the country between 1977 and now.

I am aware of the efforts of the Bibliographic Division to up-date the NULOS; I am also conscious of the fact that the division has written many libraries in the country to supply the lists of all the serial holdings in their libraries, including the ones they had supplied in our first edition of NULOS for the purpose of up-dating it. I am also reliably informed that some libraries have responded to our clarion call, while others have ignored it.

I was made to understand that members of staff had started going round the libraries in Lagos State to persuade those which have not submitted their lists of serials to do so, and that efforts have been geared towards getting in touch with those which are outside Lagos State to do likewise.

One would have thought that the division would have asked those which had participated in the past to send the lists of serials they acquired between 1977 and now, since our aim is to up-date and not to start afresh and not all the serials they have in their depositories.

This done, it would lessen their problems in compiling the lists, and it would also accelerate the whole process from our own end here. I can optimistically predict that, until we change our stand on the matter, there would never be a favourable response from libraries in the country because the job is rather cumbersome.

For the smooth operation of inter-library lending services in the country, especially in the sphere of periodicals, I would love to suggest that we publish the lists of serials of libraries we have in the interim, while a supplement is published annually. By waiting ad infinitum for a particular library to partake in the scheme is to advertently deprive those that have sent us their lists the opportunity of using the new edition of NULOS in the shortest possible time; it is to wittingly tell the interested libraries that they are less important.

In that respect too, we would have contributed to making the libraries we are waiting for swollen-headed creating the impression that the NULOS could not be published without the participation of so and so libraries in the country, which should not be the case. In the light of this, may I suggest that the National Union List of Serials (NULOS) be, henceforth, reviewed, if not annually, it could be bi-annually.

National Union Catalogue (NUC)

The National Union Catalogue (NUC) is another important tool for the inter-library lending services. So far,

the National Library of Nigeria has not produced it in a book form, unlike the National Union List of Serials (NULOS), thereby depriving other participating libraries the opportunity of knowing the locations of the libraries' holdings in the country.

Mr. O. Osundina, the representative of the National Library of Nigeria in the meeting of the Co-operative Acquisition in Nigeria held in Kaduna in 1980, said, among other things, in the paper he delivered in the meeting:

At the National Library, the National Union Catalogue which had suffered serious setbacks since 1964 was reactivated with fifty one libraries participating. Cards were also received from a couple of libraries for the National Union List of Serials. An average of ten thousand Cards were received every month in respect of the National Union Catalogue. It is clear that the response has been greater than anticipated and the effect has been that it has not been possible to keep pace in the filing and elimination. It was therefore planned to issue the N.U.C. and N.U.L.O.S. in book forms and in parts, and it was hoped that the first part will be issued before the middle of 1976. The enormity of the exercise of publishing the N.U.C. is describable only in terms of the number of cards that are received. *The National Library believes that an N.U.C. in book form is the ideal thing for a country like Nigeria and it is putting every effort behind the project.*⁷

In the paper presented by the former Director of the National Library of Nigeria, Mr. S.B. Aje, in the meeting of the working group on inter-library programme, he defined, inter alia, the duty of the National Bibliographic and Lending Centre thus:

My definition of the National Bibliographic and Lending Centre is that agency which is charged with the responsibility of producing National Bibliographic tools and serving as a clearing house for national and international lending services. *In a more precise language, the National Bibliographic and Lending Centre is that Central agency which will keep and provide the records of Nigerian libraries' bibliographic resources by maintaining and publishing a National Union Catalogue, a National Bibliography, a Union List of Serials and make such records available for other libraries to use as location guides.*⁸

In the references cited above, both speakers maintained that the National Union Catalogue should be published in form of a book, because it is the ideal thing for a country like Nigeria both economically and technologically, and be made available to the libraries as a location guide; but, unfortunately, it is yet to achieve this status.

I wish to submit that it is high time the National Union Catalogue was produced in a book form, and copies distributed to all the existing libraries in the country having paid a token amount to cover its printing cost. If this is done, not only would it minimise the time lag between the loaning period and the receiving period, it would also enable the borrowing library to send its requests direct to the libraries which possess the documents it wants instead of sending them to the National Library of Nigeria, regardless of whether it possesses the material or not.

I am not oblivious of the fact that the Bibliographic Services Division is currently trying to micro-film the cards in the National Union Catalogue's pool instead of publishing

the NUC in a book form. But I would like to submit that micro-filming of (NUC) cards in Nigeria at this level of our technological development is nothing but a white elephant project.

Before kicking against this observation, I would like us to ask ourselves the following questions and be sincere and objective in answering them: how many libraries in the country would benefit from the project when it is microfilmed? How many libraries possess micro-filming machine in the country? When the machines develop mechanical faults, how many libraries can afford the cost of repair?

A cursory look at the advantages and disadvantages of a book form of NUC and a microfilmed NUC would show that apart from the latter's economic unviability and technological **unreliability, the microfilmed NUC cannot be utilized without electricity, neither can it be read without the aid of a microfilm reader** - all of which are not applicable to a book-form of NUC. The microfilm machine is not as portable as a book-form of NUC.

Without adequate preservation tools, which many libraries lack, the microfilmed NUC can easily deteriorate in quality. It is my ardent belief that a useful project is the one that benefits a large proportion of the populace if not all the masses, and not a section of the people.

The Bibliographic Services Division should endeavour to collect the catalogue cards of the newly established university and recognized libraries in the country and also write to **acquaint them with the existence of the N.U.C. in the National Library of Nigeria, the purpose it serves and the advantages they would derive therefrom if they could participate.**

My contacts with people have shown that many librarians are not aware of the existence of such a section in the National Library of Nigeria, talk less of their knowing its roles and advantages. They, of course, have the proclivity of being members only if they are properly briefed about the N.U.C.

Reprographic Services

The inter-library loans service cannot function very well without the reprographic machine, a facility that is conspicuously lacking in our centre. May I request that a *functional photostat machine* be provided for the centre as a matter of urgency.

Advisory Committee on Inter-Library Lending Services

The Advisory Committee on inter-library lending scheme is due for re-activation as a way to resuscitate the programme and keep pace with the current situations and latest happenings in and outside the country. This is considered paramount in view of the fact that some of the members have left their previous places of work which they represented.

Requests not made on prescribed multiple order form

In order to maintain homogeneity in the interlibrary lending request services, and in order to facilitate an adequate statistical data collection of the scheme, I suggest a religious adherence, to the resolutions of the 1980 Kaduna Conference on inter-library lending transactions which stipulate that any request that is not made on the prescribed multiple order form should not be entertained.

Lack of sending reporting forms of activities

The normal procedure is that the National Library of Nigeria should be informed by the lending libraries in the country whether a request is satisfied or not. Few libraries, if any, stick to this principle. The meeting of the working Group on Inter-Library Lending, held in Ile-Ife in 1974, made this binding on all participating libraries. It states:

Because of the fact that most of international library lending between Nigerian and foreign libraries take place direct between these libraries, and since it is necessary for the National Lending Centre to know the volume of information and materials supplied by Nigeria and to determine the degree of Nigeria's reciprocity in international library co-operation, all participating libraries dealing direct with foreign libraries should report regularly such transactions to the National Lending Centre.⁹

In view of the problems encountered by the centre in the collection of statistical data for the inter-library lending activities, the librarians in charge of inter-library lending services should be made to know the importance of reporting forms of activities, and be persuaded to return the same to the National Inter-Library Lending Centre in the National Library of Nigeria, both satisfied and unsatisfied, for statistical purposes.

Lack of Policy Statement

A clear-cut policy should be made on the following issues:

- (a) improvement of courier services for prompt transmission of requests.
- (b) mode of payment for postage of materials loaned to local as well as foreign libraries.
- (c) method of payment for reprographic services rendered for both local and foreign libraries.
- (d) problem of foreign exchange where international loans are concerned.
- (e) and mode of settlement of materials mutilated or lost either in transit or while on loan.

Non-availability of international inter-library lending forms

The National Library of Nigeria should make a requisition for international inter-library lending forms in compliance with the recommendation of the Working Group on Inter-Library Lending, which inter alia, states:

In order to ensure uniformity of practice, the National Bibliographic and Lending Centre should design and distribute standardized inter-library loan forms to be used both for the national and international services.¹⁰

As a matter of fact, we do receive requests from abroad, and these requests are always placed on the prescribed order form for international requests. There is no such form for the National Library of Nigeria to use in case it wants to request for documents internationally. It will be very disparaging and highly ludicrous for an establishment like the National Library of Nigeria to write ordinary letters to overseas libraries requesting for documents.

It is my candid opinion that what is worth doing at all, is worth doing well. I would like to suggest that the specimen of the local inter-library lending form be used, *mutatis mutandis*, for the international inter-library lending form.

Ignorance of inter-library services

Perhaps, the most loathsome and disturbing aspect of it all is that many libraries in the country do not know what is meant by inter-library lending request services, how much less of partaking in the scheme. This was revealed by a pilot survey conducted by the National Inter-Library Lending Centre recently. I therefore suggest that seminars should be organized for librarians in the country, especially those who are in charge of this scheme, to enlighten them on the importance of the programme. Emphasis should, however be concentrated heavily on those who have not been participating in the scheme.

Acquisition of theses and dissertations

I would like to suggest that the National Library of Nigeria should, without further delay, acquire in form of legal deposit, the theses and dissertations in our higher institutions in conformity with the recommendation of the Working Group on Inter-Library Lending which states:

The working Group recommended that NBLC should build a collection (in the original or in microfilm) of all theses for which higher degrees have been awarded by Nigerian Universities and of theses by Nigerians and theses on Africa held in Nigerian libraries for the purpose of reference, loan or purchases and to facilitate this, Nigerian Universities should be asked by the National Library to require students to increase the number of mandatory copies by one for presentation to the country's first legal depository library. The author of a thesis should be asked to sign a formal statement of the conditions of consultation and use of the thesis bearing in mind the copyright Decree 1970 allowing theses to be consulted and used for teaching and research. The National Library should regularly publish catalogue of such theses, indicating their availability and the cost of microfilming copies.¹¹

If this suggestion is accepted, and meticulously implemented, it would obviously go a long way to enrich our library stock on one hand, and enhance the

inter-library loan services on the other, not only within the country, but internationally

Non-availability of telephone services

I mentioned, though in passing, that requests can be made by telephone, by telex, by computer and the like. Accepting the fact that we have not developed technologically as to have telex, computer and television circuit in our library system in Nigeria, we have developed enough to have telephone services. Since the inception of the National Inter-Library Lending Centre in 1982, no telephone service has been attached to it up to the present time. I wish to request that a functional telephone should be installed in the National Inter-Library Lending Centre for effective performance of the Scheme.

And lastly but by no means the least, I would like to suggest that the National Inter-Library Lending Centre be made an autonomous Division. When created, the Sections of the National Union Catalogue (NUC) should be brought under it.

CONCLUSION

It is my contention that an out-dated National Union List of Serials (NULOS) is as good as having no (NULOS) at all; it is my belief that a book form of the National Union Catalogue (NUC) is more economical to the National Library of Nigeria in particular and to other libraries in the country in general than the microfilm form of NUC. I would also suggest that lack of international loan request forms for inter-library lending requests in the National Library of Nigeria should be looked into and something positive done to correct the anomaly.

It is my strong feeling that it is because people do not know the importance of the statistical collation of the inter-library lending activities that make them not to send in their returns to the National Inter-library Lending Centre (NILC); it is also because people are unenlightened about what the scheme stands for that is responsible for their lukewarm attitude and apathy to the scheme.

It is my conviction that if all the points earlier highlighted are painstakingly considered and implemented, a solid base would have been made for the effective operation of the inter-library loan service in Nigeria and beyond.

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