

specialized sub-systems.

Adequate financial provision should be made to ensure the effective implementation of the plan for the national information system (NATIS).

#### Universal Bibliographic control in relation of NATIS:

The concept of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) presupposes the establishment in each country of National Bibliographic Control with its aim to ensure that a bibliographic record for each new publication is made when it is issued. The aim of UBC is to achieve the universal availability, in an internationally accepted interchange form, of basic bibliographic data on all publications.

National Bibliographic agency should normally be set up in the national library, which receives all types of published materials by legal deposit and hence maintains the complete national collection.

Participation in UBC implies that all the countries involved will be willing to follow and implement international standards of bibliographic description and that they will accept each other's records, which will require a minimum of local modification.

For recording bibliographic data on book production, the International Standard Bibliographic Description for monographs (ISBD) (M) and serials (ISBD) (S) have been accepted by a number of countries, and its use by other countries for preparing their national bibliographies is anticipated in order to achieve UBC.

Other internationally accepted standards for facilitating the identification, ordering and processing of the national book and serial production are the International Standards Book Number (ISBN) and as part of UNISIST programme, the International Standards Serial Number (ISSN).

Some countries of the world have already adopted many of the component national units of UBC systems, what remains to be achieved is their integration into the international communications network.

#### THE ROLES OF A NATIONAL LIBRARY WITHIN NATIS:

The national library has three main roles within NATIS:

- (1) To provide necessary central library services.
- (2) To provide leadership within the library component of NATIS.
- (3) To participate actively in the planning and overall development of NATIS.

The provision of necessary central library services: This role has a universal acceptance and is basic to the definition of a national library adopted for statistical purposes by the 1970 UNESCO General Conference:

"National Libraries: Libraries which irrespective of their title, are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publication published in the country and functioning as a "deposit" library, either by law or under other arrangements. They will also normally perform some of the following functions: produce a national bibliography; hold and keep up to date a large and representative collection of foreign literature including books about the country; act as a national bibliographic information centre, compile union catalogues; publish the retrospective national bibliography. Libraries which may be called "national" but whose functions do not correspond to the above definition should not be placed in the "national library" category."

Leading national libraries of the world have far more functions. They act as central and directing nodes in their countries' interlending, bibliographic service, information service, material collection and material conservation cooperative networks.

They act as nodes in an international library cooperative network. They promote library, bibliographic and communication standards needed to further the above programmes. They also provide or arrange adequate representation of the nation's library interests at the international level, for instance representation on international committees and working groups.

#### Leadership of the library component of NATIS:

National Libraries have long been recognised as having a leadership and planning role with respect to the library services of their respective na-

tions. Dr. K. W. Humphreys, in his article concerning national library functions, described this leadership role in the following terms:

"The national library should be the prime mover in library matters and should be expected to be the leading library in all fields. The national librarian, too, should play a central role in all systematic planning of a country's library services."

National-level leadership and planning have increased considerably in many fields. This is due to the complexity of modern world and increasing emphasis on planning to reconcile economic and other social desiderata. These factors have so much effect on library operations that the leadership and planning roles of national libraries are now at least as important as their role of providing central services.

The emphasis has shifted in recent time from thinking of individual libraries to thinking in terms of complete national and international network or systems of libraries and information services. It is in this context that the influence of the national library on national and international library system development become very significant.

The library world is now under-increasing pressure with costs and user needs increasing considerably faster than library budgets. These pressures increase the need for planning, cooperation and leadership.

#### Active participation in NATIS planning and development

It is important that the national government should provide the needed coordinated national approach to national information problems, systems operations and resources. This is because the national government is better placed to deal effectively with other parts of NATIS when it has adequately coordinated its own information agencies.

Documentation, Libraries and Archives (DLA) agencies at national level also offer the greatest scope for coordination for a variety of reasons. There is considerable similarity in the services offered by the different agencies and they share many of the same procedures and problems viz acquisition, recording, indexing, organisation and storage operations.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. The fourth National Conference on State Library Development is scheduled to take place in Owerri from 22nd to 26th October, this year. The theme of the conference is "Towards effective public library service". Many papers will be presented and discussed by participants who are expected from all over the federation.
- ii. This year's General Meeting of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA) has been fixed for 3rd - 7th December, 1978 at Ilorin, capital of Kwara State.
- iii. The Second Africa Regional Seminar on UBC will take place in Dakar, Senegal from 19th to 23rd March, 1979. The proceedings of the seminar will focus problems of bibliographic control in Africa. The first seminar was held in Lagos from January, 30th to February, 3rd 1978 and was sponsored by UNESCO.
- iv. The 45th Congress and Council meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) has been fixed for 27th August, to 1st September, 1979 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Congress, which is being organized by the Danish Library Association in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the University of Copenhagen, has as its theme "Library Legislation and Management".

The Congress fee is D.Kr.500:, ₦1.00 = 8.6938 Kr.

Further enquiries should be addressed to the IFLA Congress Secretariat - IFLA Congress. c/o DIS CONGRESS SERVICE, 3 Knabrostraede, DK 1210 Copenhagen K. Denmark.

All have forms of reference/information service; libraries and documentation agencies have substantial bibliographic and lending services and libraries and archives have substantial conservation functions.

The national library is the organization best suited to initiate liaison and planning work oriented towards achieving the necessary degree of coordination in a nation's information systems. A number of factors combine to give the national library its key position in relation to DLA area and NATIS planning.

These factors include the size and importance of national library in comparison with other government agencies in the information area; the library's leadership of the library components of NATIS, and the size and comprehensive nature of the services and resources of this component of NATIS.

## NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA AND NATIS

I think we have now reached a convenient stage to examine the functions of National Library of Nigeria in the light of NATIS requirements. The National Library of Nigeria was established by law in 1964 and charged with the following functions:

- i) A primary function of the National Library Board is to stimulate library development efforts throughout the country, co-ordinate these efforts and channel them along the right direction. In pursuance of this

function the Decree specifically charged the Board to establish and maintain a National Library of Nigeria and also to "provide such services as in the opinion of the Board are usually provided by National Libraries of the highest standing".

- (ii) A second important broad function is to serve as the "giant memory" of the nation, its intellectual store-house, and data bank for its learning and remembering processes.
- iii) Legal Deposit - The National Library is to acquire, assemble and preserve for use of all citizens of the country, all the intellectual output of the nation in all phases of human endeavours. In pursuance of this function, the decree empowers the National Library Board to receive specified number of copies of all published materials in the countries: twenty-five copies of all Federal Government (publications), ten of state governments and three copies of commercial publications.

The National Library is also the legal depository in the country for all United Nations as well as O.A.U. publications. The privilege also enables the National Library to keep abreast of international information so that it would be made available to all seekers after knowledge and enlightenment

- iv) National bibliographic activities linked with international network is a corollary of the legal deposit function. Thus the National Library of Nigeria enables the country fulfil its own role in the scheme of universal bibliographic control and the universal access to recorded knowledge.

The National Library of Nigeria has done a great deal since its inception in stimulating library development in the country. This has been achieved in a number of ways. It has offered advise to individuals and corporate bodies in the country on library services through conferences on matters of general application, technical assistance and dialogues with some organizations.

Workshops have also been organized on certain library procedures viz ISBD (M) workshop held in Ibadan in 1974. Staff training by formal group courses and individual attachment to National Library of Nigeria are other methods used to stimulate library development.

The National Library of Nigeria in its leadership role within the library component of NATIS has in recent years initiated a number of conferences which aimed at coordination, standardization and stimulation of library services in Nigeria.

Chief among these was the conference of State Librarians initiated by National Library of Nigeria in 1975. It

was primarily to consider the third National Development plan as it affected State Library services and also to adopt a blue-print on public library services at state level.

The meeting is to be an annual event and the second conference took place in 1976. Another is the conference on Library Statistics which took place in Lagos 1973. It was attended by librarians from all over the country and from different types of libraries.

The conference which laid standards for the collection of library statistics throughout the country designated the National Library of Nigeria the collection centre for this country.

The National Library of Nigeria also in its position and role as the National Bibliographic and Inter-lending Centre, has organised workshops to enable libraries in the country each agreement, on clearly defined operational guidelines, procedures, finance and other matters related to the adoption and implementation of an inter-lending service.

The National Library of Nigeria maintains a comprehensive collection of standard materials on all subject fields which are made accessible to the general public. It is also a depositary library for all UN. and O.A.U. publications, which are extensively used under an efficient Reference Service.

The National Library of Nigeria enjoys a legal deposit right, which enables it possess at least one copy of materials published in this country. These intellectual output of the nation are to be preserved for use of all citizens of this country and for all times;

The National Bibliography of Nigeria is published from the materials so deposited. The ISBN (M) was adopted for this purpose in January 1975. The National Library of Nigeria also performs other National Bibliographic activities linked with international network.

These include the International Standard Book Numbering (ISBN); International Standard Serial Number (ISSN); the National Union Catalogue, inaugurated in 1963, which have since extended its scope under the new inter-lending cooperation scheme being prepared for publication and finally the Nigerian Union List of Serials held in a number of major libraries in Nigeria, is also under preparation.

Thus the National Library of Nigeria enables the country to fulfil its

own role in the scheme of Universal Bibliographic Control and the universal access to recorded knowledge.

The National Library of Nigeria through its Director has participated actively in many international conferences and actually attended the UNESCO Intergovernment conference on Documentation, Library and Archive Infrastructures in 1974.

It is on record that as a result of the decisions reached at this conference, proposals had been put before the Federal Government of Nigeria, to set up a National Advisory Council on Library and Information Services in the context of NATIS. The Government it is understood, had clear responded that the National Library of Nigeria is designated to perform the functions of the proposed body for the time being.

It appears Nigeria is quite ready in launching out a programme for the implementation of a national information systems along the lines agreed by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Conference on Documentation, Library and Archive Infrastructures. "The National Library is a definite instrument for implementing the documentation and library aspects of the programme.

On the basis of the final report of the UNESCO conference which evolved the concept of NATIS, a working committee comprising the Nigerian delegates to the conference is preparing a programme of action relevant to the current status of development in the country for the government to consider and adopt". It appears we have to wait a little longer to see what will eventually emerge as NATIS programme for this country.

#### CONCLUSION

At the present level of our development, Nigeria appears to have taken bold and encouraging strides in the field of information service. But there are still formidable tasks to accomplish in this field. Public library service in the country, for instance, has to be improved and extended in order to reach our citizens in the villages. Librarians should take advantage of the U.P.E scheme in the country to promote reading habit amongst our children.

In planning the organizational structure of NATIS in the country, supply of manpower to meet the gigantic programme of National Information System should be looked into more seriously. It appears at the moment

that demand for professional librarians far outstretch supply.

To meet this challenge the working committee on NATIS in Nigeria should plan for further expansion in the educational facilities for training qualified personnel in the information service.

The National Library of Nigeria should not relent in its leading role of stimulating library development in the country and should also strive to achieve the desired co-ordination and standardization in Documentation Libraries and Archive infrastructure of the country.

*Contd. from P. 15*

#### LIBRARY COOPERATION

Library consciousness is restricted to the highly educated elites, and those struggling to further their education by means of sitting for external examinations of the various examining bodies.

The publishing industry is still so young that most of our library stocks are purchased from abroad. Perhaps, the most important factor is the fact ours is a society that is largely illiterate.

It is therefore suggested that academic and special libraries be highly motivated to co-operate in reference and inter-loan services. The function being performed by the National Library by providing advisory and card services to other libraries should be pursued.

It is also suggested that a Research and Development Department be established within the Library. This department will not only monitor operations of the library itself, but, will also liaise with other libraries in the country, and Departments of Librarianship in the institutions of higher learning in the country.

It should conduct surveys and offer suggestions to improve services of the library and its services to other libraries as well.

On inter-loans, it is suggested that the National Library should increase its stock both qualitatively and quantitatively. One way of achieving this is by increasing the number of legal deposit copies most especially from private publishers.

Multiple copies of monographs and serials should be purchased for loan services. The Reprographic Department should be adequately provided with men and machines to cater for loan services.

Lastly, it is suggested that since the actual library resources of the country are meagre, the National Library should pursue an aggressive policy in library development generally.

Thus, it should show others, by example rather than precept by the establishment, and adequate staffing of its State Branches to cover most of the country within a short period of time. The possibility of subventions to the school and public library systems should be considered.