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Develop Collections as a Panacea to Promote Effective Use of Library Resources in Academic Libraries

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Abstract: Collection development is often employed to serve as an umbrella term covering activities like selection, acquisition and deselection. The article contains a literature review of papers discussing the collection development curriculum in library and information science programs, expected skills required of collection development offices, and library training programs for new librarians. The study also discusses collection development as a panacea for promoting efficient use of library resources in academic libraries. Many factors have to be taken into consideration while developing the quality suite for the benefit of the users. These factors include societal analysis, policy, and acquisition of options, stock evaluation, and disposal of unrelated resources. It is important to evaluate to see how well the materials meet current needs and how likely they are to continue to meet the needs of current and future users. Authors conclude that librarians need to exercise the utmost care in developing a balanced collection that enhances the quality of academic libraries effective use of resources by the client.

Keywords: Develop Collections, Promote Effective Use, Library Resources, Academic Libraries

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Collection development is an essential activity for libraries. Libraries around the world are still acquiring and maintaining huge information resources, in order to ensure the efficient use of these resources that are made available by their clients. The essence of this is to build and maintain a library collection that will serve the needs and desires of its patrons. The objective of any academic library is to meet the needs of the users by providing informational materials to support the purpose and objectives of the organization through the selection, acquisition, organization and storage of materials required by the users. It is amazing that it can be achieved through the appropriate development of the group. "Horava stated that" collections development can be an explanation of methods for building and improving library information sources [12].

"Lamb stated that" the main benefit of a good library collection is that it helps libraries to review the strengths and weaknesses of their collection. [16] When reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of its collection, the Library will make plans to correct weaknesses and maintain or increase the strengths of its collections.

Demonstrating the importance of collection development in libraries, the Fifth Law of Ranganathan states that a library is a growing organism. According to Khurshid, This indicates that the library is expected to build its collections to meet the informational needs of its different users [15]. Horava emphasized the importance of collection development as a vital aspect of library service that enhances libraries [12]. Therefore academic libraries must be alive with their responsibility by providing the most up-to-date materials capable of supporting teaching; Learning and research, by doing so will promote efficient use of library resources. Collection development is the means by which library activities can be measured by users. Nnadozie defined collection development as the planned, continuous, and cost-effective acquisition of quality and relevant materials to meet

user needs and the goals of university libraries [17].

The Library understands that the materials are controversial and that every material has its own user, and every user needs materials. Decisions are not made on the basis of any foreseeable approval or disapproval, but only on the title in relation to building the group and serving the interests of users. Collection development is one of the primary functions of the library which includes the practices of selection and access to information resources in the library. Selection is the process of selecting appropriate library materials to meet a user's needs. Selection is also the process of selecting from vast sources of information those materials that will best meet the information needs of their customers. Selection of information sources is the process of choosing items to be obtained from the publication list in the library. There should be a specific policy regarding the selection of materials which defines the type and scope of items to be selected and acquired. The materials selected should reflect the objectives of the parents of the Foundation. Acquisition as defined by Nnadozie is the process of acquiring library materials, by which books and non-scriptural resources are added to the library [17].

According to Attama and Ezema, Academic libraries obtain their materials through gifts, direct purchase, legal deposit, trust, and exchange. The selection and acquisition of library materials depends on the type of library, with each library primarily concerned with serving its client which can be homogeneous or heterogeneous [7]. Anyanwu et al., identified the channel or methods for obtaining library materials such as purchase, gift and exchange, legal deposit, and professional associations [5]. Imam et al. identified six methods of obtaining materials in the library which include: purchase, exchange, gift, donation, trust, and legal deposit [14]. The higher the quality of the information sources the library obtains, the more the library builds and improves its collection, by doing so promoting the efficient use of library resources by the client.

1.2. Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the development of collections as a panacea to enhance the effective use of library resources in the academic library.

1.3. Objective of Study

The main objective of the study is to access the development of collections as a panacea to promote the effective use of library resources in the academic library. While the specific objectives of this study are:
1) Identifying strategies for promoting the effective development of collections in academic libraries.
2) To examine how to promote effective use of library resources by the client through collection development.
3) Identify the factors that hinder the effective development of collections in academic libraries.
4) Make recommendations to facilitate the effective development of the collection as a panacea to promote

effective use of library resources in academic libraries.

2. Strategies to Promote the Effective Development of Collections in the Academic Library

Collection development refers to the systematic construction of library collections to serve the purposes of study, education, research, and entertainment for library users. The process includes selecting current and retrospective materials, planning strategies for continued acquisition and evaluating collections to determine how best to serve users' needs.

The Academic Library is the fulcrum of support for a full range of academic activities. There is a need for the library to constantly develop its collections in order to maintain its vitality and continued existence. Developing holdings in an academic library is an ongoing process that includes:
1) Community Analysis
2) Policies
3) The choice
4) Acquisition
5) Weeding
6) Evaluation
7. Community analysis

In order to promote effective collection development in an academic library, one need to make a proper analysis to ascertain who their user groups are and what their information needs are. By identifying the collection's weakness, the librarian or bibliographer responsible for developing the collection will know what area of the collection really needs development. The first step is to debate quality versus demand.

An academic library is usually set up for the purpose of providing accurate and up-to-date information to its clients and, therefore, it must contain material considered to be of quality. Ifidon State it this way: a beautiful building, well-trained staff and modern information storage and retrieval systems can only be appreciated if excellent services are provided to users [13]. These services cannot be provided without quality resources. The significance of the above presentation is that effective service in a library is closely related to the availability of good information sources.

Policies

Collection development in most libraries is directed by the collection development policy. A policy is a framework and a set of parameters within which employees and users operate. The policy document provides a sound basis for future planning, by helping to set priorities, especially when financial resources are limited. It also provides an official publication for reference to ensure continuity and avoid confusion. Policies define the boundaries within which a decision is made. The policy should be consistent with organizational objectives.

When libraries are involved in collection development, the goals are to retain library collection materials that are

appropriately suited to the needs of the user community. Library policy is a living document, regularly review, which organizes and directs the processes of obtaining and making information sources available, integrating their growth and deciding on preservation, withdrawal and cancellation. Public policies facilitate consistency and communication between libraries and are information tools for working with the library community.

The written collection development policy statement is intended to clarify objectives and facilitate coordination and collaboration, both within the library and cooperating libraries. If done well, it should serve as a day-to-day working tool that provides the instructions needed to carry out the majority of tasks in the field of group development.

The essence of policy as a strategy in the development of a high-quality library collection.

The main reason for writing a collection development policy is to prevent the library from being driven by events or individual enthusiasm resources, which may not support the library's mission.

The first element of the collection development policy will be a statement of the library's mission, the purpose of the policy, and the audience to whom it is directed. It should provide a description of the types of software the library collection serves.

The policy statement helps the librarian to exercise general control over selection. The policy statement will help determine what type of material is acceptable for the group, and thus control the rate of growth. A policy statement is an attempt to bring order, logic and common sense to influence the views of selection and evaluation.

Among these reasons, the policy will:

1) Help to develop methods for reviewing materials before purchasing.
2) Help determine the best method of acquisition, either directly from the publisher or through the employer.
3) Offer some help against censorship by clearly stating the type of materials to be purchased, and indicating that the policy has the library's governing body.
4) Suggest the type of material to be disposed of or stored.
5) In academic libraries, these policies are developed to ensure that the following objectives are achieved. Group development goals, whether written or unwritten, are:
   i. Ensure that the book collection contains scientific materials on a regular basis.
   ii. Develop collection and acquisition procedures to obtain high-quality resources.
   iii. Give the collection development librarian a document to refer to in case of any doubt.
   iv. Coordination of all acquisition activities, so as to eliminate unnecessary duplication.

Critical observation of the above objectives of group development indicates the need for a clear policy statement as far as building a high quality library collection is concerned.

2.1. The Importance of Holdings Development Policy in Academic Libraries

Ideally, policy is so vital in academic libraries that it serves a myriad of purposes. Among these purposes:

1) The policy statement compels staff to think about and commit to the library's goals, and helps them identify the long and short-term needs of users and set priorities for allocating funds.
2) Library policy helps establish criteria for material selection and disposal.
3) Informs users, administrators, and other libraries of the range of collection and facilities available in the library; by doing so, it promotes effective library consortia.
4) Help reduce personal bias through determinants and highlight imbalance in selection criteria. Ensuring that the academic library chooses the basis of quality and not on demand.ϖ
5) As an in-service training tool for new employees.
6) Library policies ensure continuity in collections of any size and provide a pattern and framework to facilitate the transition from one librarian to another.
7) Provides information to help with budget allocations.
8) Contributes to operational efficiency in terms of routine decisions.
9) Users change, need change and resource availability changes, but the policy can bring awareness to these changes by serving as a basic data set for current operations and as a starting point for future development.

2.2. Selection

The library is a trinity of administration, users and resources. In order to ensure that the three groups work together as one, balanced resources are needed. A source of balance is when a library contains the best quality sources of information that meet the needs of its users. This can be achieved through a written collection development policy, selection, acquisition, weeding and appropriate assessment of resources. After the library management wrote a policy.

The function of the written group development policy is to provide guidance to employees when selecting and de-selecting resources (print and electronic) for the local group. The document serves as a guideline for each stage of material handling. This reduces personal bias by setting individual choice decisions in the context of the goals of group building practice, and identifies gaps in group development responsibilities.

Selection is the process of deciding which materials to add to the library's collection. Selection is the process of choosing from a wide range of information resources, the ones that best meet the information needs of their customers. It involves researching the strengths and weaknesses of an element and how it may or may not fit the needs of users. Information resources are selected on the basis of their perceived usefulness to a group of readers. This is because the amount of satisfaction a reader finds in the library

directly depends on the materials available to the librarian for use. Hence, the rationale for selection is to enter into the collection, which is as many desirable titles as possible from a large number of titles published each year.

It is clear that many of the publications cannot be selected for a particular library because they fall outside the scope of the library's collection. A library's scope is appropriately equal to its area of interest, determined by the perceived interest of clientele. Client interest-directed selections will doubtless result to higher library patronage and the user satisfaction. It is for this reason that Nwaigwe and Onwuama, opines that selection of materials in the library should be preceded by a necessary prelude to provision of materials relevant to these needs [18]. Gregory shared the following general rule of selection:

1) Library materials are best selected on the basis of suitability for inclusion in the collection.
2) The collection should be an unbiased source of information that represents as many points of view as possible.
3) Subjects should be covered in a manner appropriate to the library's anticipated users" need.
4) No materials should be excluded from the collection because of race, religion, gender, sexual preference, or political view of the materials or the user [11].

2.3. Criteria in Selection

In addition to establishing collection policy guidelines, the selector should also consider the following criteria when making purchase decision about specific items.

2.3.1. Purpose and Scope

The selector needs to establish the purpose for which the materials were issued and to determine the level of coverage.

2.3.2. Subject Content

How well is the subject covered? Are staff and outside professional reviews favorable? This is probably the most important consideration. The contents must match the fields of the library users.

Compares/Duplication of Other Works

How does this item compare with materials already in the collection? Does it add new information or does it supplement or duplicate existing information.

Level and Audience for Which the Material is Written

Is the book popular in tone or is it technical or scholarly. What is the reading level of your audience? Authority of Author.

What is known about the author? Is the author qualified to write on the subject?

2.3.3. Publisher

What is known about the publisher? What type of materials is generally issued by the publisher? Is it a popular or scholarly organization? If an association or network published an item, what is known about the association/ network and its objectives?

2.3.4. Timeliness

Is the information up-to-date? Does the author include recent developments or current thinking about the topic? If the work is a new edition, has the previous edition been rewritten or updated.

2.3.5. Cost

This will influence whether the selector acquires book in paper or hardcover editions and whether a popular title is acquired in quantity. It may also influence whether particular expensive items will be rejected.

2.3.6. Format

Each type of materials must be considered in terms of quality for its format in such matter as binding, illustrations, quality of paper, size of types, audio or visual reproduction.

2.3.7. Bibliographic Control

In the case of serials, an important consideration is determining which indexing services cover them and whether these services are in print, on-line, or CD-ROM.

2.3.8. Demand of Users Need

Has the subject been requested? Will the material fill a stated user need? How much can be allocated to this interest or need.

All these criteria if carefully followed by a bibliographer or librarian in-charge of selection, the library will build a balance collection that will provide the right information to the user at the right time.

2.4. Acquisition

Collection development is considered as one of the primary task for any library and information centre. It is a dynamic and continuous activity. In order to develop a balanced, user-oriented and active collection, a well-planned and thought out system has to be evolved by the library and information managers in close association with the representatives of various users" constituencies. Such a system will not only develop need based collection but also save money, time and space that would, otherwise, be wasted on developing irrelevant, out-dated, and passive collection. Ojebode, was of the opinion that collection development is not viewed from the angle of growth in volumes and titles, but in the quality of acquired materials in enhancing effective information delivery and the usage of such to reduce user frustration [19]. Thus, acquisition is very essential in collection development.

Acquisition is the process of selecting, ordering, and receiving materials for library or archival collections by purchase, exchange, or gift, which may include budgeting and negotiating with outside agencies, such as publishers, dealers, and vendors, to obtain resources to meet the needs of the institution's clientele in the most economical and expeditious manner. Acquisition involves the process of budgeting, ordering, receiving, processing materials for the library collection. Adewuyi, view acquisition as the bed rock upon which stock development is based [2]. Acquisition

procedure usually begins with stock checking and ends when the material ordered for are received and certified by the acquisition staff. It also refers to the department within a library responsible for selecting, ordering, receiving new materials and maintaining accurate records of such transaction, usually managed by an acquisitions librarian.

In small libraries, the acquisition librarian may also be responsible for collection development, but in academic libraries, this responsibility is shared by all the librarians who have an active interest in collection building, usually on the basis of expertise and subject specialization.

Gregory, identified three types of information items that must be considered in acquisitions.

1) Those that are owned by the library.
2) Those that are leased by the library.
3) Those that are accessed electronically by the library users [11].

2.4.1. Mode of Acquisition

1) Direct purchase
2) Solicitation of free items
3) Gifts and exchange
4) Rent

Acquisition involves a number of tasks. First develop knowledge of the suppliers and select a jobber. A positive relationship with your vendors can be very important. Next, process request and monitor the expenditures. Finally, maintain clear records of your purchases.

2.4.2. Types of Acquisition

There are eight types of acquisition methods followed by librarians, which include:

a). Firm orders

Orders that are determined by name specifically. For example, a specific book, text book, or journal that the library want.

b). Standing Orders

Open orders for all titles that fit a particular category or subject. For example, these are usually developed for serials and the library knows that it will want anything published in that series. A benefit to this style of ordering is that it is automatic. The acquisition department does not have to order the next in series

c). Approval Plans

Similar to standing orders except they cover quite a few topic area, are sent from the vendor, and the library is only charged for the specific titles that they accept into their collection. Under these circumstances the library is free to return anything it does not wish to add to its collections. A benefit to this style of ordering is that the acquisition department can sometimes make better decision with the materials in hand versus an order firm.

d). Blanket Orders

Largely a combination of both a firm order and an approval plan. Blanket orders are the library making a commitment to purchase all of its resources. For example, a library makes a contract with a certain publisher or vendor and will purchase everything that this publisher or vendor has

available in regards to a topic.

A benefit to this style of ordering is an automatic acquisition of materials for a particular field, which can be especially beneficial to specialized or academic libraries.

e). Subscriptions

Generally utilized for journals, newspapers, or other serials that a library will acquire. Like standing and blanket orders, a library only has to develop a contract once with a vendor or publisher and the items are automatically delivered when printed. Often, subscriptions are for a specific length of time and must be renewed at the end of the contract.

f). Leases

Contract that allow access to a particular resources for a period of time. Leases are the most commonly utilized with electronic resources such as databases, journals, and web-based materials. The library is paying ford in ownership of materials.

g). Gift

In some cases libraries may allow gifts that people give to the library. It is the job of the acquisitions department to determine whether or not the gift will be kept and incorporated into library's collection.

This method is typically used by large academic institution, and the persons giving the gift are mostly alumni of that institution. A library's collection development policy usually states whether the library accepts gifts.

h). Exchange

This can be broken into two subcategories: exchange of unwanted duplication/gift materials and exchange of new materials between libraries. Again, the institutions that usually have a process for this type of acquiring are larger academic or research libraries.

The librarian needs the help of the vendor to assist in acquiring the necessary information resources. The vendor is a wholesaler or middle man through which library materials are purchased. So the vendor buys from publisher. Vendors can also be considered as an intermediary who connects the library's need with the materials or products to meet that need. The vendor can also be called variety of other names including agent, bookseller, distributor, jobber, supplier, or wholesaler.

2.5. Weeding

This is the systematic removal of resources from a library based on selected criteria? It is the opposite of selection and de-selection of material often involve some thoughtful process. Weeding is a vital process for an active collection because it ensures the collection stays current, relevant, and in good condition. Unwedded resources tend to be cluttered, unattractive, and contain unreliable information.

As the curriculum evolves, some programs are phased out and new programs implemented. The library collection will change based on the curriculum. It is a "growing organism" (Ranganathan 5th law of library science).

Many people have difficulty throwing anything away. Librarians are no exception. Most librarians will agree that it is sometime necessary to remove items form a collection, but

that does not make the task any easier. Weeding is an essential but often overlooked aspect of collection development. It is essential because it helps to improve access to a library's resources that are relevant. Every library has a finite amount of space that can be used to house its resources. Library collections should always be evolving to reflect changes in the information needs of its users and changes in the information itself.

Weeding is sometime thought of as selection in reverse because it removes resources from the collection when they are no longer useful. It involves evaluation of the collection in order to determine which resources need to be removed from the collection when they are no longer useful. This process has been described as retirement, pruning, reverse selection, de-selection, relegation, and discarding.

Since all of these terms have negative connotations. It is sometime difficult to convince administrators and users that this is an important function, especially since some collection evaluation standards are based on the total number of items in the library rather than quality or relevancy. We need a more positive term to describe this process because it is an essential aspect of collection development. One suggestion is to try the term used by the Washington Library Media Association. They call it renewal. Another suggestion is the term collection re-evaluation. Both of these are more proactive and positive concepts. They imply management, professional, and decision making.

Further, as collections grow and new resources become interspersed with older ones, the ability of the users to locate the best source possible becomes increasingly limited. Many users do not have the patience to wade through too many inaccurate or out-dated materials to locate the one valuable resource. Removal of the obsolete material makes it easier and quicker for the user to locate what they need.

Most people take the path of least resistance and do not expend a lot of energy searching for resources. Library users and their needs changes and technology have rendered some formats, such as filmstrips, obsolete. Therefore, a library collection must also change to meet the needs of users. And these can be accomplished by continues collection development.

Weeding can be cost-effective. There are continuing costs associated with maintaining library collections. Beside the ordinary costs of heating, cooling, and so forth, there are specific activities associated with the collection. Shelves must be read to keep materials in proper order. Items must be dusted and kept clean. All materials should be inventoried regularly. The Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and an inventory must be maintained. It is a drain on library resources to perform these activities for items that no longer belong to the collection.

As technology improves and becomes more affordable, most libraries have converted to online catalogue and circulation systems. It is not efficient to spend time and money entering materials into the new system when those items no longer relevant to users. Therefore weeding should be done before automating the library.

2.6. Evaluation

Your libraries strategic plan, its mission, and policies will lay the basis for collection development practice and also an understanding of your community (which require community analysis), policies related to selection and de-selection of materials, acceptance of gifts, and related topics, procedures for regular selection of materials based on your library mission, goals, and policies, a process for actually acquiring the materials selected and getting the processed use, procedures for regular weeding (de-selection) of materials that are no longer useful, and evaluation or analysis to determine the quality of the collection.

Collection analysis is an important component of the collection development. The library collection can be analyzing based on quality. Quality can be measured in a variety of ways, including numbers. However, while size does matter, a larger collection is not necessarily a quality collection, currency, turn-over rates, and other statistical data can provide clues as to the quality of the collection, as well. The central concept in the process of analyzing a collection is that collections are created, developed, and maintained to meet the needs of the community they serve. This means that the collection evaluation must also include an analysis of how well the materials are currently meeting needs and how likely the materials are to continue meeting the needs of current and future users. It is impossible to ever have a "perfect" collection; however we do have standards (voluntary or imposed) that can help libraries create a picture of an ideal collection.

The Reason for Collection Evaluation

As librarians most of us want to know if the collection is relevant to the needs of our community but we can also use the information gathered through analysis and evaluation to support request for additional (or even level) funding. If we know that the collection has an average copyright date that is 15 years old, we can determine how much funding is needed to improve that average age to within state standards. Analysis also provides valuable insight into the collections strengths and weaknesses so that we can re-allocate available funds to improve specific areas. We may also want to bench mark the collection against other area collections or standard bibliographic tools to ensure that our selection practices are appropriate.

For most libraries, analysis will happen in small chunks and each of the evaluation methods can be targeted to specific areas of the collection. However, if you are new to a library with a collection that has been neglected or has stagnated or there have been major demographic changes in the community, a full analysis may be warranted. You may wish to use a mixture of techniques or contract with a library service to conduct a more thorough analysis. OCLC"s collection analysis service, for example, will compare your collection to others in Worldcat to determine your unique holdings, compare the collection with peer libraries, determining gaps, and access usage.

3. Method of Collection Evaluation or Analysis

Libraries can use a variety of methods to analyze its collection. Each has its own strength and limitations. There is no single "best" method and generally libraries find that they will use a combination of techniques to ensure that the collection continues to meet patron needs.

(i). Peer Group Comparisons

About half of public libraries have a "peer group" of libraries of similar size and funding to which they compare themselves. In some cases city or country has established a short list of peer often related to factor other than comparable size and demographics but in other instances you will develop your own list. If you have an established peer group, you may also develop some statistical comparisons through a tool available from the national centre for education statistics.

(ii). Comparison to Standard Bibliographies

Many libraries compare their collections, or part of collection, against standard bibliographies and lists of recommended or award-winning titles. This can be a valuable exercise, especially for a library that has recently changed its mission or expanded rapidly in size. Provides a decent qualitative analysis of the collection.

By comparing the collection with core lists and standard bibliographies you can get a sense of whether your collection holds items that are considered useful based on specific criteria. Keep in mind, however, that these tools may be a bit out of date the librarian must still make decisions regarding their usefulness to the immediate community.

In many ways, they serve more to tell how good a job you have done in selecting and replacing quality items, but tell you little about how useful these specific items are to your specific clientele.

(iii). Recommended Lists and Best of the Year Lists

The American Library Association and journals such as library journal and best-list release notable and "best of the year" lists annually check the current lists to determine whether your collection is missing top quality or popular titles. For example:

Notable Books for Adults

http://www.org/ala/rusa/protools/notablebooks.cfm. The Reference and Users Services Division of the American Library Association issues an annual list of 25 important and highly readable books of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry for adult readers.

(iv). Outstanding Reference Source

http://www.ala.org/ala/rusa/protools/outstandingref/outstandingreference.cfm. The Reference and users service division of the American Library Association issues an annual list of outstanding reference resources, emphasizing those of most value to small and medium-sized public libraries.

(v). Notable Videos

http://www.ala.org/ala/vrt/notablevideos/notablevideos.cfm. Video Round Table, a group within the American Library Association, provides an annual list of fifteen notable non-feature how-to and educational films.

(vi). Use Analysis

The library own many books, of course, but surprisingly few are actually used on a regular basis. We must first start with a definition of "use" and decide whether it is limited to circulation (fairly easy to determine) or include in-house use. We could determine whether a book that is borrowed is actually read and whether that borrowed book is read by more than one person while it is out. Because it is difficult to get data about in-house use, or their possibilities mentioned here, most use analysis data is based on circulation. Someone felt strongly enough about the item to actually take it out of the library and this is an indicator that there was interest in the material. In addition to using your automated circulation system to run reports on last use (to weed out shelf and items that have passed the usefulness) and the turnover rate (average number of uses), you can use Excel to set up customized spread in the collection. Step-by-step directions for this process are provided in Analyzing Library Collection use with Excel by Tony Greiner and Bob Cooper. This is also a useful tool for weeding library resources.

(vii). Patron Satisfaction

One of the best ways to determine how well your collection is meeting the needs of users is to ask them. Surveys can be conducted as patrons enter and exit the library, asking them to report what they are looking for and whether the found it. Often surveys will be distributed as a patron enters the library and asks them to identify specific books or topics they are seeking for. The patron then indicates whether they found what they were looking for. When collection satisfaction surveys are repeated over time, usually two or three times a year, it is possible to compare satisfaction rate to determine whether the collection is getting better or worse at meeting patron expectations. Feedback also allows the librarian to know what areas need work.

3.1. Collection Development as a Factor of Enhancing Effective Utilization of Library Resources

The library serves as repositories of accumulated knowledge and can be regarded as a reservoir of information where a large fact of knowledge is being supplied to information seekers. Libraries always have low patronage when they are not adequately equipped to effectively provide the range of services entrusted on them. Library user is regarded as the most logical source to determine whether the library is playing its role satisfactorily or not. Adewuyi was of the opinion that collection development is not only viewed from the angle of growth in volumes and titles, but in the quality of acquired materials in enhancing effective information delivery and the usage of such to reduce user frustration [2]. The aim of collection development is to carry out a library's mission to create a repository or gateway to information for scholars today and to capture the intellectual heritage of the prevailing culture in order to benefit future learners and thinkers. These concepts of creating a repository and a gateway to information are indeed important to the process of collection development and effective use of its

resources by it client.

When it comes to collection development in particular, one could say that the goal is to add value to specific information source so that they can be used more effectively to meet user needs. Thus the importance of collection development is to make the resources more useful and accessible to users.

3.2. Determined Factors of Collection Development

Factors to Consider When Developing the Library Collection In order to promote the development of quality library resources and enhance effective utilization of the resources by its client, the following factors should be considered:

3.2.1. Determining User Needs

Building collections which fails to satisfy the information needs of users would be a futile exercise. It is essential to ascertain such needs continuously and to anticipate future user needs. User analysis is the first step to collection development. It is not only the stated needs that are important, but it is important to investigate the normative needs as well, especially in a culturally diverse group. These needs must then be weighed up against an understanding of what would be realistic expectations for resources to meet these needs. It is important to remember that library users are interested in a collection at a micro level, not at the macro level which is the bibliographer's primary interest. The user wants a particular book, article, picture or piece of information and is not interested in the collection as a balanced whole. This is why access must be provided as much as possible to information sources not owned by the library, in order to promote effective utilization of these resources its client.

3.2.2. Study the Primary User of the Material

In order to build a quality collection and promote effective utilization of library collection by users, it is necessary to study the primary users of the collection. Finding out if there is information routinely sought on a particular topic by researchers and academics. Then it is necessary to ensure that these topics are adequately covered in the collection. It is not always imperative to carry out user analysis project and surveys. Much information can also be gleaned by studying syllabi, scholarly sites, departmental websites, curriculum vitae of academics and researchers, current research projects, research reports and even minutes of academic meetings. It is also valuable to evaluate circulation statistics, interlibrary loans requests, and perceptions of patrons and to analyze the size, depth, breadth and growth of the library collection. There should constant interaction with academic and students in order to keep up with new courses and programs offered. By so doing, the library will be able to develop a collation that will meet the information need of the user's community.

3.2.3. Standard for Collection Size

It is impossible to evaluate just the size of collections, without considering the quality as well. Obviously a large collection of inappropriate material would be of little or no use to library patron's emphasis should be on the wise selection of materials instead of how much material is included. There is a firm relationship between size of collection and its ability to meet user needs. This relationship is even more clearly defined when the collection has been thoughtfully selected by competent librarians.

Library size and rate of growth cannot be correlated with quality of service to user. Generally, a collection must meet a certain minimum requirement or standard to be able to meet the needs of researchers and academics. Hence, librarians should consider the standard of the resources when acquiring it, in order to enhance more utilization of these resources by patrons.

3.2.4. Collaborative Collection Development

One mechanism that is slowly coming into use is called Collaborative Collection Development (CCD). The practice is manifested in several different ways and it ensure that users of all participating libraries have easy access and make effective use of a collection which is much larger than just that of a single academic library. The term "collaborative" implies that participating libraries enter into an agreement with one another regarding collection development.

This means that each library agrees to concentrate their collection development activities to specified subject field. This is done because each library cannot strive for comprehensiveness in all subject fields due to financial limitations, it can do so for selected field which are of particular interest to the institution concerned.

Cooperative Collection Development (CCD) involves a proactive agreement between libraries over the major collection development functions. Participating libraries must be willing to act within the confines of the agreement and so help to build a more comprehensive collection across all the member libraries than they would have been capable of doing on their own. Each institution, however, has different collection development objectives, which means that no member is likely to use scarce resources to buy material that does not support its own mission. They are also unlikely to collect material that is not expected to circulate, except in those subject areas in which it is striving for a research or comprehensive level collection.

3.2.5. Content-Based Versus Format-Based Collections

Some authors also divide collections up into content-based or format-based collections. These criteria, bibliographers would make decision based either on the content of the information sources or on the format in which the information is presented. The greatest challenges in managing collections and inter-webbed information is to discover how to merge the information sources to provide the content that satisfies the information seeker by way of textual information, hypertext, raw data or whatever it is that is required. In this view, the format must be that which is best suited to deliver the required information, data or knowledge, thus it is the content that drives the format. Decisions regarding content involve the intellectual importance,

authority, uniqueness and timeliness of the information.

Those relating to the format include such matters as the fidelity to the original, utility, longevity, security and portability of the information. As users of academic information are interested in the required information in the most convenient format. It is impossible to allow the format to be the decisive factor in selection of material. Researchers are much more interested in the information than in the way it is packaged. Academic librarians must base their decisions on collection management on the content of the information resource.

One must first look at user needs and then decide what content is required to meet the needs. It is only at this stage that the format or packaging can be considered. The library is a vehicle for content rather than a repository for package.

3.2.6. Collection Development Should Be Based on Quality and Not Quantity

The extent, to which a library collection is utilized, depends upon the quality and relevance of the collection itself. The quality and value of library collection is the outcome of collection development activity. The collection in the library determines to a large extent, the usability of the resources. The size, nature and contents of the library collection depend upon the objective of the institution and needs of the community it serves. The major indicator of a good library is the quality and not quantity of its collections. This is why it is necessary for librarians to acquire current and relevant information resources necessary for sustaining teaching, learning and research activities that academic libraries are known for.

According to Adebimpe, collection development is the aspect of the library and information work that is responsible for selecting and acquiring information resources that will enable library and information practitioners to perform their myriad function to the users effectively [1].

Fombad and Murtala, noted that collection development is one of the most discussed but least understood areas of librarianship [9]. To them, collection development is a specialization that was borne out of professional need to hire a specialist to identify and locate needed resources and make sure that the library was effective in getting the materials it needed. This is why collection development has always been the basic concern of all types of libraries with approaches in each library reflecting institutional goals, users needs and the library's role within the institution. Anyakaho, reveals that access to information is vital if an individual is to function effectively in the information age [5].

3.3. Factors That Impede Effective Collection Development in Academic Library

There are certain factors that hinder effective collection development in academic libraries, and these factors include:

a). Insufficient Fund

Academic and research libraries have had difficulty keeping up with users and institutional expectations and demands in the past few decades. In the first place, they are striving to continue to do what they did in the past and even to do more with no additional resources and support. According to Fourie, amongst the greatest problems facing these libraries is that collection development programs for published materials cannot be brought to fruition due to high inflation, the escalating costs of serials and books, declining funding from parent institutions and the vast range of formats needed by users and researchers [10].

There is also an increasing demand for material and information, which cannot be met at the present level of funding. In order to support graduate and research programs in academic libraries, the library must acquire enough materials to meet user need and also strive for comprehensiveness in some subjects. This cannot be achieved without a budget large enough to support this.

Although research grants and contracts are valuable sources of revenue to academic institutions, it has been found that very little of this funding is transferred to the library. This is a problem because universities that attract increasing income from research grant place a heavy burden on their libraries to provide research literature and information. Institutions should acknowledge the library's contribution to the research outputs and allocate some of the research funding to their libraries.

b). Lack of Proper Evaluation of the Library Resources

Evaluation is the process of analyzing the present library resources, in order to ascertain its strength and limitation. When the resources are not well evaluated to know its strength and weaknesses, and the subject area that really needs development. The librarian may develop the wrong subject area, leaving the area that need development obsolesce and inaccessible by users. This is one factor that hinders effective collection development in academic libraries. Inappropriate.

c). Selection of Library Resources

Selection is the process of choosing from the large information resources, the resources that best meet the information need of its clientele. While selecting the librarian should bear in mind the information needs of its client and select base on their interest.

But when the librarian is selecting base on his/her own personal interest, the resources selected may not be attractive to the users. When the librarian also select base on quantity (to increase the stock) and not on quality (the resources that best meet the need of its client). The users need may not be met, thus frustrating the aim of collection development.

d). Acquisition of Wrong Information Resources

When the acquisition librarian order for information resources from the vendor or bookseller, he/she should cross-check to know if the resources demanded for is what is being sent to library. Failure to do so may lead to acquiring the wrong information resources, which may cause a serious problem on the library collection development.

e). Inconsistency in Reviewing the Library Policy

Library policy is a written statement that guides the collection development process in the library. For a policy to be effective and valuable, it must be reviewed consistently. And it must be in-line with the institution objective and

mission statement. When the policy is not reviewed regularly, it is no longer effective. If the librarians try to implement it, it may cause a great harm to the library collection.

f). Inadequate Maintenance and Preservation

What used to be called weeding, replacement, bindery, repair and duplication is now termed as maintenance and preservation. Weeding is the removal of an item that is no longer relevant from the library's active collection for the purpose of either discarding or sending it to storage. When the out-dated, worn-out and mutilated resource is not weeded and the new once is mixed with them. They will be no beauty or sign that there is a new development in the library resources.

The users may not value the resources, treating it the same way the treated it when it was not developed. But when the out-dated resources are renewed, the users will find the resources more physically attractive. As its appearance improves, users will begin to have more respect and value for the items in the collection, and therefore treat them more carefully.

4. Recommendations

More funds should be approved for the university library. The National University Commission's directive of commitment of 5% of the university's annual budget to the library should be implemented. Libraries should also participate in collaborative collection development (CCD). The essence of these is because each library cannot strive for comprehensiveness in all subject fields due to some financial constraint.

In order to promote access to a larger collection, libraries collaborate with each other to encourage users have easy access and make effective use of collections much larger than just that of a single academic library. The academic libraries should create a collection development department with the mandate to coordinate all collection development activities of selecting, acquisition, and stock evaluation.

This department should do a proper analysis to know which subject field needs development and work towards creating, developing and maintaining such area to meet the information needs of its users.

Selection should be done base on the client interest and the selector should select based on quality and not on quantity. The number of items in a collection by itself is not a good indicator of its quality.

Other factor such as subject content, the audience for which the material is written for, authority of the author, and timeliness should be considered. The essence is to ensure that the resources selected is of quality and relevant to the library users.

Acquisition is an important aspect of the collection development, therefore the acquisition librarian should be careful when acquiring.

He/she should carefully cross-checked what he demanded for with the vendors invoice to see if it corresponds and if it doesn't he should notify the vendor immediately. The reason is to avoid acquiring the wrong information resources.

The library policy should be reviewed regularly and it must be in-line with institutional objectives and mission statement.

This is to ensure that the resource that is being developed meet the information need of the parent organization it is serving. Weeding should be a periodic exercise in academic libraries to rid the shelves of irrelevant or unusable materials and increase access to usable ones. Weeding will create more space in the library and make the resources more physically attractive.

As its appearance improves, users will have more respect and value for the items in the collections, and therefore treat them more carefully. Weeding can relieve overcrowding and make space available for new acquisition. Access to the remaining materials can be greatly improved.

5. Conclusion

The quality of the collection remains the litmus test of effective utilization of library resources in academic library. It is the functional domain of collection development department, to peg collection quality high so that the library will continue to maintain its vitality, honor and continues existence. Well-conceived collection development encompasses a range of activities such as community analysis, policies, selection, acquisition, stock evaluation and weeding out of obsolesce resources.

None of these activities is inconsequential in the bid to achieve high quality collection as they all work in synergy. The study identified certain lapses affecting the functioning of collection development in academic libraries, such as insufficient fund, acquisition of wrong resources, and inconsistency in reviewing the library policies and inadequate maintenance and preservation.

Addressing these lapses by implementing the recommendation above is the way forward in enhancing collection development as a panacea for promoting effective use of resources in academic library.

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