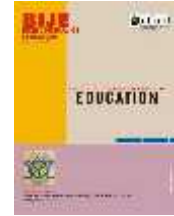


BIJE – Bichi Journal of Education
ISSN(Print): xxxx-xxxx ISSN(Online): 2734-3375
Vol. 10, No. 2, 2010; pp: 13-21.
Publisher: School of Education, F.C.E (T) Bichi.
URL: <https://bijejournal.com/BIJE>



LIBRARIANSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN NIGERIA AND BEYOND

MOHAMMED DANLAMI DARAMAN
&
MOHAMMED SANI GARBA
ISA KAITA LIBRARY, KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

ABSTRACT

The paper examines Librarianship and Entrepreneurship programme especially in the twenty first (21st) century and beyond. The two concepts have been defined. Librarianship as the art of managing books and non-book resources is the profession which encompasses other enterprises among which are publishing; Information and Communication Technology (ICT); Management; Education etc. Librarians in all institutions realized the importance of incorporating entrepreneurship in order to promote the services of their libraries and to be self-reliant. Entrepreneurship is the ability of an entrepreneur (Manager, Librarian, Teacher etc) to put product and services to profitable output. In library schools and most libraries today efforts are geared towards financial contribution to the development of the parent organization by establishing business centers, internet cafes, consultancy, editing.

INTRODUCTION

Librarianship can simply be defined as a branch of knowledge which deals with the acquisition, processing and making available books and non - book resources to the users. Buckland (1988: 17) stated that, the term 'Librarianship' is ambiguous it can refer to a set of techniques or it can refer to the occupational field of those who are known as Librarians. However, in this paper Librarianship is used both as techniques and an occupational field (that is, an avocation) on the other hand the concept of 'Entrepreneurship' can easily be fit to the techniques and occupational field of Librarianship. Entrepreneurship means the ability of a person to use resources available in his disposal to provide services or manufactures products. Mamman (2008: 2) quoting Miami University of Ohio 2003 asserted that Entrepreneurship is the process of identifying, developing and bringing a vision to life. The vision may be an innovative idea, an opportunity or simply a

3LIBRARIANSHIP AND 13
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
EDUCATION
PROGRAMME IN
NIGERIA AND
BEYOND_3F1D16D

better way to do something. The end result of this process is the creation of new venture, formed under conditions of risk and considerable uncertainty.

LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

In the past Librarianship produced scribes in palaces, courts and other related institutions of the state. Similarly, it guided the then literates how to preserve, conserve and run libraries in the Monasteries, Mosques, Churches, Palaces, and such similar places. Gregorian (1998: 12) further shed light on the Libraries of the past, libraries are not only repositories of human Endeavour, and they are instruments of civilization. Then there was not much incorporation of Entrepreneurship in Librarianship or in libraries. However, libraries of ancient Egypt, Assyria, and Mesopotamia were more or less practicing Librarianship in less developed enterprising skills. The Librarianship of the subsequent centuries especially the twentieth (20th) century and twenty first (21st) century excelled in bringing aspects of entrepreneurship to promote and make Librarianship or libraries more enterprising, ground for societal change and a tool for development and growth. Presently, Librarianship has been changing from its hitherto position of neglect to modern concept of a technique and a profession. Salami (2006: 2) lamented that, the revival of learning during the late middle ages and early renaissance inspired scholars to collect ancient manuscripts. In addition, the invention of printing press in the fifteen century gave a tremendous impetus to the making and collection of books and marks the beginning of the modern period of library development. The development which today make librarians more enterprising, by serving their clients and generating substantial income for sustenance. From the foregoing one can easily deduce that librarianship as a technique and profession would be the Ivory towers of learning, businesses, politics and all areas of human Endeavour. Morris (1994: 23) perceived, Librarianship as a profession that plays a key role in modern society.

LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE PRESENT DAY AND ITS ADOPTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Librarianship teaches knowledge and skills, that enables librarians to be self-reliant, and guides the users to the world of learning and entrepreneurship. Ekuoye (2007: 4) maintained that libraries are beyond wall and shelves. They are not the books that stand in rows. They are not about a discipline or a profession. Pick up a classification scheme, and you will begin to appreciate the catholic nature of Librarianship. The author is emphasizing the broadness and the significant of Librarianship in the life of all species in the universe, not man alone. The libraries store books and related print and non - print materials for consultation. Researchers utilize the

materials for research in Education, Economy, Medicine, Sciences and Technology which invariably touch everyone and everything existing in different time. In its wider form Librarianship includes not only libraries but the course - Library science and techniques of running a library. As stated earlier whatever meaning one attaches to Librarianship the adoption of Entrepreneurship programme is important and somehow compulsory. Morris (1994: 131) reported, that the Library and Information science schools (LIS) must continue to cater for their traditional library markets, but recognize that the needs of those markets are changing at the same time, as the number of job opportunities in the traditional market declines; they have to consider the possibilities offered by the emerging market. The market is ready to absorb any product (graduate) of library and Information science school that was taught the traditional Library science courses and the modern accredited courses in Science, Management and other useful disciplines. The libraries are not left behind in the changing trend from the traditional functions of acquisition, cataloguing, classification, reference services, bindery and sitting without read-ling the clients. Abosede (July, 2007: 23) enumerated the significance of entrepreneurship as follows:

- Small- Business accounting;
- Human and Public relations;
- Law about business;
- Effective utilization of profession
- Personal administration etc

These are the basic entrepreneurship rudiments that can be adopted and use for the promotion of entrepreneurship program in libraries or library schools. Small business accounting entails the record keeping functions in businesses and it can be used to assist libraries in recording statistics of fines, charges for services and products. Human and public relations gear librarians and students of library and information science to publicity roles in receiving clients, inquiries, sales, marketing. While, Law about business guides in the setting up business, running it and maintaining it. Personal administration, teaches the librarians and students the administrative procedure in terms of managing resources both human and material resources. This will further make entrepreneurship fare well with Librarianship. Ajagu (2005: 7) stated that, an entrepreneur conceptualizes an idea and brings it to reality via systematic and well- articulated planning. Babakarewa (2009 : 6 and 44) stated Entrepreneurs are promoters because they can scan the environment, identify opportunities, marshal resources and implement the business idea, he explained the roles entrepreneurship provides to society, as itemized below:

- Nurture potential innovators for new services, new processes, new product - for the good of the society;
- Serve as suppliers, customers and subcontractors of larger organizations - a big market in the society;
- Provide competition throughout the economy among small and large firms alike, Leading to improved products, services and efficiency in society - for the good of society.

The innovation for new services enhances creation of new products and services for the benefits of society and libraries. The librarians can extend their brains and hands to innovate enterprising services to sustain libraries. Imagine a library branch becoming a big market in the society. This of course will be possible through innovation and effective entrepreneurship programme.

RELEVANT AREAS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP BY LIBRARIANS

There are areas in Librarianship that easily go with entrepreneurship program; there are other areas that need careful thinking and innovation to make them march with different kinds of Entrepreneurship program. As Ekuoye (2008: 91) put it, librarians can excel either as librarians or entrepreneurs or even both. This is in term of personal ground and corporate existence, that is, library as a whole. Areas such as: acquisition, cataloguing, classification, and indexing, abstracting, labeling, bindery can be easily march with entrepreneurship program to make them serve the client with speed, precision and effectiveness. While library reading rooms or sections, circulation desk, media section, library equipment such as computers and accessories, chairs, cushions, desks are specific areas that need careful organization and planning before commercializing them. As far as individual practice is concern a librarian or group of librarians can practice Librarianship combine with entrepreneurship to excel and take their organization to a greater height Ekuoye (2007 : 91) quoting, Occupational outlook handbook, bulletin 2470, 1996 which stated: Entrepreneurial Librarians may start their own consulting practices. They act as free - lance (self - employed or casual) or information brokers and provide services to other libraries, businesses, or government agencies. The practices open the librarian to other professionals who in turn will join with him to develop software for library use book records accounting for libraries, database for librarians and research students and many other related products and services. According to Ekuoye (2007 : 99) the following businesses one can do with his library skills.

Telephone / GSM Library

This service is vital in the dissemination of information all over the world within a short period of time. With it according to Ekuoye (2007:99) librarian needs to submit well packaged proposal to any Telephone/GSM company. The mode of client's payment can be arranged easily. You need to start with a GSM line and a good handset, put adverts in the dailies to inform the world of your services. However, getting your fee from clients may not be easy. A good thing about this business is that you do not necessary need an office to start with and potential clients initiate calls. Some telephone/GSM calls are: reference services, directional questions, readers' guidance, dial a story.

Photocopying Services

Photocopy machines are available in different types from the modern type which are connected with the computers to the old types. They simplified the task of libraries, information centre different kind of offices, and different type of client's needs of the documents. Whether, based on individual capacity or in the library photocopying thrives very well. In the manual on University management, (2001) by the national universities Commission (NUC), librarians are expected: to plan strategies for revenue generation to upgrade and maintain their services beyond institutional financial resources and provision.

Stationery Store

The store can be used to sale notebooks, writing papers, pens, drawing sets, cards and related items. According, to Ekuoye (2007: 102) if a proposal regarding the running of a stationery store in a tertiary institution library is well packaged, the librarian will permit it. Similarly, librarians on their own can open stationery stores in markets places and other community centers and educational institutions taking notes of the needs of customers.

Newspaper Vendor/ Distributor

The venture is easy and lucrative. Librarians can go into newspaper selling. As a distributor you can double as a vendor raking in what would have gone to the vendors. This type of entrepreneurship is more or less practice on individual capacity, however libraries can open an information section were magazines and other romance and entertainment dailies can be read on a fee and can be sold as well to their clients. To go into the newspaper business, find out the state branch of the national association in your state. Meet the state chairman who on your behalf relate with the national executives to establish you. In the same vein you can go alone after starting you can meet the officials of newspaper association to be recognized and do lawful business.

Newspaperman

One can publish his own newspaper in as much as there is financial backing to do so, this can be done by a librarian, group of librarians or library or group of libraries. It generates money to one or institutions since newspaper comprises of many columns that no matter how it will attract reader to buy. And its distribution should be extended to include schools, markets, parks, conferences, hospitals, stations etc. However, you should be a crack journalist with flair for gathering and disseminating news. you also need brain and leg to work as a starter. Examples of some newspaper: The Afemai voices, Afemai express, Afemai celebrity in Auchi. The Idemili voice in Anambra, Village news in Ogun state. The Punch newspaper of Friday, September 1, 2006 itemized the following ingredients for a successful newspaper business:

- Avoid unnecessary overhead cost;
- Operate from your house, write the stories yourself;
- Get your close relations and friends to support you with advertisements;
- Keep a slim staff at the outset;
- Use target marketing;
- Give incisive coverage to your environment and celebrate the people;
- Explore marketing the newspaper to your target audience outside the immediate community.

Service to the visually impaired

The services for these categories of clients include reference services, study materials, spiritual and psychological needs. Thus, Ekuoye (2007: 105) opined you can propose to some authors whose books are making good sale or whose materials are a must for some courses to have it on tape. Once the agreement is made and production is done properly you can begin to sell to the visually impaired clients. Which eventually would lead to the Visually Impaired Library (VIL) and Visual Impaired bookshop (VIB)?

Bindery and Lamination Services

These services are done usually separately but a determine librarian and entrepreneur can join them and discharge effective services. Bindery is a technical work of binding papers to give it cover and protection, also a worn out bounded book, journal, magazine can be rebounded. Lamination is simply using thin plastics films and heat pressure to protect and preserve a document. Some laminate certificates, letters of contract, pictures and other valuable documents.

Bindery and lamination business is flourishing especially with the invention of modern machines.

Printing and Publishing

In fact, a printer cannot survive without a publisher, it is a vice versa sort of relationship. A librarian can practice as a printer printing library materials such as: library cards, labels, registers, and non-library materials such as wedding invitation cards, other ceremonial cards, school registers, cash invoices etc. The library can establish the press house or lease with printing press to have the printing for profit purposes. Publishing can also be done by a librarian practicing on his own or to be done by library as an institution. The sourcing for manuscripts is more or less easy by a librarian since he usually comes into contact with them either in his personal practice or in the library if working under a library. Having the editors to edit would not be so difficult for him. Since we are in a place where reading is not value one wants to go into publishing has to take an option to publish for the target audience demands in order to make gain.

Compilation

As a librarian practicing privately or as a librarian working under a library of a giving body, it is necessary for one to decide to make an impact. Lasisi, in *The Punch*, Wednesday, March 7th (2007 : 3) History has it that of the compilers of the ancient seven (7) wonders was Callimachus, the librarian of the defunct Royal Library of Alexandria. Compilation is now even a very lucrative venture as printers and publishers come off with different version of reference materials such as who's who, Directories of different issues, diaries, almanacs, calendars among others and they are being patronized by clients in libraries, schools, motor parks, hospitals, stores etc. A library can get contract to compile list of schools in Nigeria and be paid for by the Ministry that give the contract for instance.

Bookselling

Bookselling business is another type of lucrative business but only when done with knowledge of the market and clients. It is done more or less in shops within institution premises and mobile shops. Similarly, librarian can on his own goes from one client to the other in order to sale his stocks. Ekuoye (2007: 110) suggests as a librarian, you stand a better chance than many in the bookselling business you are a professional. This gives you an edge over others who are in the business. One has to observe the market, customer needs and the trend or the seasons even the key points for examination purposes have their target customers and season so are the other resources.

Babakarewa (2009: 6) gave similar areas where entrepreneurship can make an infiltration in librarianship. Librarian can be on his own, that is, where a librarian decides to practice one of the above business listed. Invention, a librarian can invent product or service either in term of software or other learning aid product for sale. Manufacturing, products such as: chairs, desk, ladders etc. Librarian can go for services, such as: motion pictures both educative, entertainment and religious, art galleries, ICT equipment and services.

LIBRARIANSHIP AND THE FUTURE

The future is very bright, the entrepreneurship program is expanding daily, the librarians are changing their perceptions are embracing the modern trends. It is just like companies diversifying so are the librarians and the libraries. We are seeing today medical doctors studying librarianship, those who read engineering go for second degree in librarianship. This development makes the profession more marketable and recognizable. Librarianship has come of age and is ready to move with time by adopting not only entrepreneurship program in its acquisition, abstracting, indexing, circulation, cataloguing, classification, reference services, database, bindery but it has gone far in Information and communication technology (ICT) so far there are many library software such as: TINLIB, X - LIB. Oyinloye (2004 45) stated, library application software such as X - LIB, TINLIB, INMAGIC, CDS/ISIS, DATA- TREK etc. All these and more open up access to librarians and non - librarians to produce products that are marketable and beneficial. The library of Congress catalogues online provides subscribers with easy access to catalogues, class numbers, subject headings, and other information. When log to <http://www.loc.gov/cds>. While logging to <http://Berkeley.worldcat.org/oclc> allows for free access to the University collection of University of California collections. Tomorrow it would probably be libraries for all accessing it in handsets (GSM sets), library services such as references available in all networks at affordable prices and book publishing becoming easier at affordable fees with librarians becoming more enterprising. The government present and past perception of libraries will go as the bureaucrats are seeing the changing roles and enterprising nature of the librarians and the libraries. Today and in the future libraries have halls where they hire for conferences and other activities, they have cafe and computer centers for commercial purposes, media facilities for hiring, CDs and other relevant information carriers for sale, bookstores for sale of different items. In the Academic, Public, National, Private, Research, Special and school libraries they are all adopting entrepreneurship program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Libraries should be effectively funded by it mother organization right from inception.
- Librarians should wake up and face the challenges of Information age.

- The librarians should enlighten the community about the activities of libraries and should specifically emphasize roles of libraries in education, politics, religion, business and economy.
- The libraries should be steered to the direction of enterprising by getting capital to establish publishing house, bookshop, café, and information centres etc.
- The librarians should inform the world that librarianship is as old as history and a mother of all professions; therefore, they should seize any opportunity to combine the profession with entrepreneurship.

CONCLUSION

Librarianship and Entrepreneurship are alike as the libraries are the centers of inculcating reading, knowledge, and entrepreneurship. They are now manifesting their true colors in the position of vocations or professions. In the past they remain more or less reading centers and custodians of print and non-print materials. Today and the future libraries and the librarians are diversifying by extending Librarianship to Management of business, Consultancy, and manufacturing. All these give librarians and libraries another bright future we are witnessing today. And the librarians especially are finding new ways of practicing the profession and new ways of informing the public of their existence and enterprising.

REFERENCES

- Abosedo, A. T. (July, 2004) Business Education as a pre - requisite for successful small-scale businesses: A case study of Odede L.G.A. Ogun state.-Zaria journal of Educational studies (ZAJES) Vol. 9, NO.1 P23
- Ajagu, A. (2005) The Entrepreneur. - Lagos: Betsy- media
- Babakarewa, A. (2009) Entrepreneurship Development Skills in Nigeria .- Kaduna: Ideal morning Star
- Buckland, M.K. (1988) Library services in theory and context .- 2nd ed .-Oxford: Pergamon press
- Ekwoye, O. (2007) Choosing Area of Interest in Library and Information Science .- Benin- city. Justice Jeco press & publishers
- Gregorian, V. (1998) Libraries and Andrew Carnegie challenges Report of the president Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Mamman, A. (2008) Entrepreneurship Development and Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria. - Kaduna Joyce
- Manual on University management (2001) National Universities Commission, Nigeria.
- Morris, B. (1994) A future for Education in Librarianship and Information science.- Report On Librarianship and Information studies .- Transbinary group
- Oyinloye, A.M. (2004) Software packages for Libraries in Nigeria in technology for Information management and service. - Edited by Everest C. Madu.- Ibadan: Evi - Coleman
- Salami, K.A. (2006) A textbook on library and Information science. - Zaria:

Micsons press

3LIBRARIANSHIP AND 23
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
EDUCATION
PROGRAMME IN
NIGERIA AND
BEYOND_3F1D16D