

Benefit of Library, Information and Reading Culture

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Abstract

This paper examines the benefit of library, information and reading culture. It reviews how library contribute effectively to the development of society despite the security challenges. As collective social consciousness of our community's progress, library are deeply involve in our communities as trusted partners; in proving social, educational, informational and environmental support. This is the part of the work that libraries do, as needs grow and involve, we adopt to meet those needs by continuing to challenge the status call. Library is a great centre for learning, future development, storehouse of information and intellectuals, integral and unifying zone. This paper recommend that the libraries should put more effort to enlighten reading culture, security challenges, solutions and enhance service delivery to the directions that future may take to address these gaps.

Keywords: *Rentier Economy,*

I. Introduction

The fundamental foundation of any library is to identify, organize, collect, preserve and disseminate information by selecting, processing and managing different information resources which could be in the form of print and non-print(e-book) or digital material. There are different types of library for instance, public libraries serve all members of the general public; school libraries serve pupil and students in primary and secondary schools; academic libraries assist students and faculty in higher education; research libraries take care of the needs of advanced scholars and special libraries are found in various organizations, industries & governmental agencies. Each type of library develops its mission statement or rules, collections, services and facilities to satisfy the needs of its particular clientele.

Libraries are social agencies designed to conserve knowledge; preserve the cultural heritage; provide information; undergird and underpin education, research and to serve as fountains of recreation. For centuries, they have functioned as instruments of political and social change and as guardians of intellectual freedom. If we living in this age, tend to forget the power of libraries, kings, queens, emperors, generals, individual scholars and professionals of ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and of medieval West African did not. They built up outstanding private libraries not only for research and study but also as symbols of affluence and prestige. The library's role in society is poly-dimensional in nature, it recognizes the needs for information requirements of various sectors – agricultural, cultural, educational, business, industrial, health or administrative. It also stresses the library's educational role, especially in regard to its intellectual and cultural upliftment of the rural and urban poor, most often illiterate and underprivileged that form the bulk of the population.

If Nigeria is to become united, strong, self-reliant, egalitarian, free or democratic, it must ensure equal opportunities of access to knowledge. Access to knowledge is access to power-intellectual, economic or political. A democratic society that believes that political and economic power belongs to the people must open up knowledge equally to all its members. Equal access to knowledge is of course, not the same as equal utilization of the equal political access. But it is a precondition to equal political and economic opportunity and to a free democratic government. A tyrannical government would like to keep the masses ignorant and illiterate for exploitative purposes.

Information is power. Information has the potential ability to prevent and stabilized any form of insecurity, violent or conflict such as; Threat, instability, danger, distrust, ignorance, intolerance, biased, diverse perspectives, language barriers, assumption, social tension, civic disengagement etc. In defining the term “information”, one is immediately confronted with semantic and conceptual difficulties. Is one referring to information systems or to objective and cognitive documentary information? Information is always related to time, other situational dimensions and its value is zero if it is not available at the right time. Data *per-se* do not constitute information but have a potentiality for doing so. A data bank is not necessarily an information bank.

Data usually in a numerical or statistical form have a potential for constituting information, provided their selection and use are related to solving a particular problem at a specified time and place. We could view information as embodying interrelated or structured data which are required to enable one to react knowledgeably as well as to take appropriate decisions. For data to become information, they must be specifically selected or prepared for a specified user or groups of users at a specified time and place for the explicit purpose of achieving a definite goal or for conveying a definite message needed for definite decision or action.

Information constitutes messages of human experience that is, what is transmitted, a signal or stimulus. It assumes a response in the receiver and therefore possesses a response potential. Thus information should be understood from two perspective – *first*, from the viewpoint of its content, its intellectual essences and *second*, from the point of view of its processing and transfer that is, the means we use to produce, publish, organize, store, retrieve and communicate information. It is essentially a neutral entity that denotes removal of uncertainty. It can be transferred physically or electronically, evaluated or raw, accurate or inaccurate but always sought in an evaluated accurate sense. It could be in any medium, in any language or on any subject. How the receivers of any information react to its content is conditioned by their intellectual and social needs, level of literacy, education, motivations, cultural attitudes and value systems.

II. Library Challenges

Library is a place where people belonging to various communities, religions, cultures, languages and tradition step on to have knowledge. If there is no effective services, the object of it cannot be achieved. There must be qualified, skilled, honest, disciplined, dedicated and responsible librarians to achieve a certain goal. Most importantly environment, the environment must be congenial for effective reading. If

there is no congenial, peaceful, democratic environment, reading and learning don't happen in a right way. In course of library services, various kinds of barrier arise which hamper the system such as;

1. Lack of Adaptation and Reading culture
 2. Lack of Enlightenment
 3. Lack of Communication
 4. Lack of Professional Motivation and Confidence
 5. Lack of Co-operative learning
1. **Adaptation and Reading Culture:** They had never read before, only asked to recite after the sentence and copy what is on the blackboard, while reading yield results by reading itself, learning and also learnt to love books, listen to the sounds of words, funny rhymes and take a book with them wherever they went. The library will become naturally to them anywhere they find themselves. They should also learnt the discipline of borrowing books from the library and returning them on time, if that is done, then perhaps they had been given the golden key to discover the world which is advantageous to them. As a result of the reading culture, they can write extremely well and equipped to navigate their way through the world.
 2. **Lack of Enlightenment:** They is no enlightenment talk-less of creativity among the community members, which gives dissatisfaction and creates the situation worst. Once the community notices that they people cannot read, write and speak then, their dissatisfaction becomes real.
 3. **Lack of Communication:** Effective and proper communication, makes the system faster and advance. If there is no communication, nothing worthwhile can be achieved. Communication maintain and coordinate mutual relationship in pasting information, conducting regular meeting with community leaders and stakeholders, cultural programs, drama, dancing, entertainment and interaction.
 4. **Lack of Professional Motivation and Confidence:** Librarians should volunteer to read and motivate rural and urban communities. If a librarian is not qualified enough he may have lost professional motivation, lack of confidence and discouragement to the community. Some people might not pronounce well or maybe incorrect when reading, certainly because it's a strange words to them, motivate them and build confidence in them. Librarians had to be oriented. It was observed that due to lack of professionalism, motivation and confidence the profession has been devalued and un-utilized.
 5. **Lack of Co-operative learning:** There is need for proper orientation for librarians so as to change the moral behaviour and responsibilities towards their work. Librarian most build/have self-confidence, respect, encourage, motivate and interact with the community members to change the traditional concept and help each other learn.

III. Impact and Role of Library, Information and Reading Culture

In any society library plays a vital role in its education, religion, social, political, economy, productivity, and intellect involving community and stakeholders needs & expectation. There are three areas that library impact such as:

Agility: Agility allows library leaders to take quick and innovative action in respond to changing circumstances and expectation. Librarians needs to provide more vestal skill sense through cross training,

staff will be able to move more easily between tasks & responsibilities and improve communication in coordination by developing additional skill. They will be in a better position to adopt library operations and services to make community needs. To accomplish this, leaders have to plan and priorities learning opportunities with staffs to communicate exceptions, maintain a curriculum and ensure the time resources are dedicated and protected.

Collaboration: Is about working with stakeholders to leads change within the libraries, institutions and communities.

Virtualization: It involves expanding online library experience for staff & community. For instance, library closes and restrictions, physical gatherings push many communities engagement experience online during the pandemic and insecurity.

IV. Strategies for Promoting Reading Culture and Development.

Library coordinate resources that provide more value, impact and integral full service solution to their communities by communication. Communication is the sharing of information from one person to another and this can be verbal or non-verbal, formal or informal, written or unwritten. While effective communication in reading culture is a situation whereby the message sent is properly understood by the person or group of persons which the information or message is meant for. Effective communication in reading culture is a situation whereby the learner understands the message sent to him/them. To have an effective reading culture. Therefore the following strategies have to be followed: -

Visualization Strategy: Visual are things you are able to see. They refer to a variety of materials such as; Photograph, poster, painting, charts, films, books slide, newspaper etc. The significance of visualization in reading culture include the following: -

- a. It makes message clearer.
- b. It breaks the monotony.
- c. It motives the learner.
- d. It helps remember message or information.
- e. It makes the painted material more attractive.
- f. It communicate to them in all languages.

Audio Strategy: For effective reading culture to take place, it must include the use of radios, telephone calls, tape recording and records. These are materials that provide sound to the learner or learners. A radio programmes can be used to mobilize and motivate learners. Programmes may include drama talks such as debate, commentaries, traditional music. The following guide-lines are information implementing audio strategy for effective reading culture:

- a. Support librarians.
- b. Improve previous lesson.
- c. Support writing materials.
- d. Create means of participation.

Environment: A librarian puts his best when his environment is conducive. In other words, his environment is clear, neat and tidy. People will learn faster and in this kind of environment. It motivates and makes them very attractive. It also increases attention of the learner.

- 1. Fund:** Fund should be made available because inadequate funding may cause a lot of problems, undeveloped. The effectiveness of any organisation depends on the financial resources allocated to it by the government/company. Also the success of any development depends on the maintenance of staff and equipment's. These could not be achieved unless fund is made available. Hence, the most important factor is fund.
- 2. Face to Face:** This is the type of reading culture that is done normally in a classroom, library discussion area between librarian and students, client or people facing each other. This can be verbal or non-verbal. In other words, it is known as an instructional education.

V. Conclusion and Recommendation

A library is like the collective memory of mankind and it provides the communities with knowledge and wisdom of all times and climes. Even the direct contact between teacher and student which is essential, in the process of instruction, cannot be a substitute for the printed page by which the reader gains access to the knowledge and wisdom of the greatest human minds.

Librarians are specialists and there are different career opportunities such as; library technician, information scientist, information manager, knowledge manager, information technician, archivist, document specialist, bibliographer, cataloguer, indexer, special librarian, network administrator, database administrator, information officer, computer scientist, computer specialist, editor, technology officer etc.

Information literacy is a set of skills and concepts essential to functioning in today's information based society. These skills and concepts include the ability to locate, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and use information from a variety of sources.

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