

The Roles of Public Libraries in Information Service Provision Towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Kaduna State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is explicitly and directly linked to access to information and knowledge. This paper examines the roles of public libraries towards achieving sustainable development goals in Kaduna state. Three objectives were set out to be accomplished by the study. A survey research design was adopted using a questionnaire as a data collection instrument. A total of 2903 registered users of public libraries in the Kaduna State constituted the study population, while the study sample was collected using a stratified sampling technique. A sample of 2038 was drawn from the user population of 2903, where 30% out of the sample was drawn from the six (6) selected libraries, amounting to 611 for questionnaire administration. A total of 433 (71%) questionnaires were duly completed and returned. The findings arising from the study revealed that current awareness service, library instruction services, selective dissemination of information as well as indexing and abstracting were the services provided by the libraries covered by the study. The study also indicated that public libraries are active in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kaduna State. For example, looking at the findings, Sustainable Development Goal 4: i.e. the provision of a safe and inclusive space for lifelong learning was identified as the leading role played by the public libraries covered by the study with 174 (40.2%) responses. SDGs 3: i.e. the provision of health information and literacy to the community on pregnancy, malaria, cholera and SDGs 8: i.e. the provision of training on the use of ICT as well as assistance on online job application processes, were also identified in the study as fundamental roles played by the libraries with the same response rate of 146 (33.7%). While looking at the challenges faced by the public libraries, the study reported lack of funds, lack of current materials, language barrier, lack of trained personnel and lack of Internet access were complained by the respondents as a hindrance to effective use of information resources. Given the above challenges, the study, therefore, recommended that issues relating to funding, staffing, information resources, innovative services, infrastructure all need to be addressed by taking proper measures. When these issues are resolved, it will go a long way towards achieving the (SDGs) in Nigeria and Africa at large.

Keywords: *Public Libraries, Sustainable Development Goals, Information Service, Library services, Information Service Providers, Kaduna State, Nigeria.*

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Background to the Study

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is explicitly and directly linked to access to information and knowledge. This is why the International Federation of Library Association and Institutes (IFLA) was actively involved to ensure that access to information, universal literacy, safeguarding cultural heritage and access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was included in the United Nation 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda as Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) were revised to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (UN, 2015, IFLA 2019). In an attempt to implement the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) agenda in September 2015, a framework was set up at the global, national and local levels respectively as part of the implementation obligations (UN, 2015). In this regards, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 167 targets spanning across environmental, economic and social development were set up to ensure that "nobody is left behind", this also includes government, businesses, corporations, public and private organizations, as well as individuals, in this process of inclusive and mutual engagement (Pinto & Ochôa, 2017).

Meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) needs a collective effort by government and other stakeholders to ensure that the targets are achieved through a coherent, focused, and coordinated approach (Maepa and Marumo, 2016). In this global quest to achieve SDGs, the Library and Information Providers (LIP) sector will be a central partner and an active member. To be acknowledged by stakeholders as such, the Library and Information Providers (LIP) sector need to promote the role of libraries as development agents in gathering evidence and evaluating their contribution to the implementation of SDGs (Pinto and Ochôa, 2017).

Libraries provide Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities, assist citizens in the efficient use of information and knowledge to guarantee continuous access for future generations (IFLA, 2017). Ironically, libraries of either kind or philosophy serve a vital and fundamental function in community advancement, facilitating access to relevant resources and acting as a platform for delivering cultural and academic services. To ensure sustainable global development, the provision, access and utilization of public library services play a key role. Currently, there are 320,000 public libraries worldwide and over one million federal, state, university, research and academic libraries, schools and specialist libraries which make knowledge and the ability to use it available to all – making it a critical digital institution for all (IFLA, 2019).

In the present era, sustainable development focuses on access and utilization of information and knowledge to as a focal point. A public library is regarded as a local knowledge gateway that offers important services and resources for life-long learning of individual and groups, social interactions, democracy, creativity, decision making, socio-cultural growth and economic growth (IFLA / UNESCO 1995; Jain & Lynn, 2018). In these efforts to promote of SDGs to societal socio-economic development, public libraries are of highly relevance (Kosciejew, 2020). Bradley (2018: 118) contends that:

Libraries have an essential role in helping to meet the grand challenge by providing access to information, public access to ICT (information and communication technology), helping people to develop the capacity to effectively use information, and by preserving information to ensure ongoing access for future generations'. Public libraries are 'motors of change', and their facilitating of information access is a 'driver of development', for both individuals and societies.

Following the United Nations 2030 agenda, the purpose of this study is to explore the potential roles of public libraries, services and challenges faced in meeting sustainable development goals in Kaduna State. The results of this study will improve societal and professional awareness of their basic positions to promote the implementation of the SDGs.

Statement of the Problem

The public library assumes a significant role in social advancement by providing the essential facilities to society to give information, training and entertainment (Sharma, 2013). Bradley (2017) proposes to foster sustainable development and enhance people's living conditions around the world by promoting access to information and communications technology (ITCs). Whereas, the Public Library provides exposure to learning, instills ideas and increases consciousness that is necessary for today's information and knowledge-based society (African Civil Society Circle, 2016). Which means libraries' position in the provision of information for sustainable development is unavoidable. It could be argued that, if all the necessary infrastructures, including information services, are given the required attention to contribute their quota in this direction, the realization of the SDGs would be attainable (Onah, Urom, and Unagha, 2015).

Lack of socio-economic growth in poverty-stricken countries remains a major problem. However, the UN periodically establishes projects, priorities and objectives targeting member states to enhance the quality of life for people. The target date for achieving predecessor MDGs in the UN member states was 2015. Provision of government information being a legal right is a key towards actualizing the recently launched SDGs (Dapo-Asaju and Bamgbose, 2016). Even though the SDGs are all inclusive objectives, as noted by IFLA (2017), every nation will be liable for creating and actualizing national techniques to accomplish and will be expected to monitor and report on progress. In this regards, the library network in every nation needs to prepare to demonstrate how libraries serve as partners to help meet the priorities and needs for local growth. However, the deplorable status of the public library in Nigeria, given the significance of public libraries in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, is of concern, for example, Emojoroh, (2005); Idiegbeyan-Ose, Owolabi, Segun Adeniran, Aregbesola, Owolabi and Eyiolorunshe, (2019), indicated that most of these libraries overlook the necessities for a standard library hence are performing poorly due to appalling funding.

Public libraries being one of the most significant institutions that contribute to building and educating society, yet, little studies have been conducted about their importance towards achieving SDG's societal development in general (Abu, Grace, Carroll, 2011; IFLA, 2017).

Therefore, this study will Endeavour to investigate the potential roles of public libraries toward accomplishing Sustainable Development Goals in Kaduna State as well as challenges faced.

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives are set out to be achieved by the study;

1. To examine the types of information service accessed that impacted on transforming community in achieving sustainable development goals in the public library in Kaduna State, Nigeria
2. To examine the role of public libraries geared toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Kaduna State, Nigeria
3. To find out the challenges encountered by users in accessing information resources and services targeted toward achieving sustainable development goals in public libraries in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Literature Review

The most frequently quoted definition of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG'S) emphasizes meeting needs and puts strong focus, alongside accountability, on intergenerational equity in a broad sense (Pinto and Ochôa, 2017). The definition of Cheever (2013), on sustainable development, is focused on a policy approach to fostering economic prosperity while preserving the environmental standard for future generations. The SDGs were introduced by the United Nations in September 2015 as the extension and enhancement of MDGs at the UN Headquarters in New York (Dodds et al., 2017; UNESCO, 2017). The United Nations has also formulated proposals on the Sustainable Development Plan, which replace the MDG. Bradley (2016: 1–2) said:

The new United Nations 2030 Agenda is an inclusive, integrated framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a total of 169 Targets spanning economic, environmental and social development. They lay out a plan for all countries to actively engage in making our world better for its people and the planet. The UN 2030 Agenda will help all UN Member States focus their attention on poverty eradication, climate change, and the development of people. By achieving this Agenda, no one will be left behind. All countries in the world must achieve the Goals. The goals are universal and indivisible – all Goals and targets must be achieved in their totality.

"The goal of the 17 SDGs is to ensure for everyone now and in the future a healthy, safe, productive, and equitable life on earth. The goals address global threats critical to humanity's survival "(UNESCO 2017: 6). In line with this, equitable access to information is essential for people to engage effectively in any sphere of life (Sigler, Jaeger, Bertot, McDermott, DeCoster and Langa, 2015; Stilwell 2016). Public libraries tried their best to support access to information, help to create awareness and assist the government to achieve its goals for growth. Public libraries today are also regarded as one of the biggest educational centres in society (Mansour, 2019). Scott (2011) outlines five ways in which the public libraries help in community building:

Libraries serve as a conduit to access information and to learn 2. Libraries encourage social inclusion and equity 3. Libraries foster civic engagement 4. Libraries create a bridge to resources and community involvement 5. Libraries promote economic vitality within the community (p. 197).

As maintained by Scott (2011), the public libraries roles in a community are achieved by making information available to all and by acting as an open meeting place. Therefore, for well-functioning socio-economic development and good governance, the position of the public library as an information provider is critical.

Many studies have assessed the position of public libraries in meeting Sustainable Development Goals. Hancks (2012), in his study in five rural areas of the United States suggested that public libraries had a constructive position to play in regional economic growth. Bishop Mehra and Partee (2016), have also reported the result of their studies on the operation of rural public libraries in Tennessee, USA. Jain and Jibril (2018) also discussed their experience in Botswana / Malesia to seek to reach the SDGs. Mansour (2019), while reports on the commitment of public libraries towards achieving SDGs in Egypt, they somehow responded positively. His findings revealed that while the Egyptian rural public libraries are battling to reach the SDGs in the light of economic, financial, and political influences yet, they contribute toward meeting the SDG. Likewise, Nigerian libraries create consciousness for all stakeholders of the SDGs. To receive feedback on how libraries can contribute to achieving SDGs in media, including radio, tweets as well as posters, Nigerian librarians have created a Facebook SDG Action Group. Libraries are also collaborating with governmental and NGOs. Public Libraries have a task to of accomplishing this gap in knowledge by providing access to information on health, education, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and other issues of civic and social importance as well as the capacity building that vital for national development (Igbinovia 2016; Dzandza 2017).

The public library Manifesto of IFLA / UNESCO in 1994 (IFLA / UNESCO 2016) proclaimed UNESCO's confidence in the library as a living power in education, culture and information as well as a significant player for fostering harmony and emotional wellbeing in men's and women 's minds. The public library is, therefore, seen by UNESCO as an instrument to carry out any kind of social and economic change. Therefore, every public library in the world aims to achieve SDGs and commit to making the planet safer. IFLA argues that libraries should assist in providing access to content, fostering digital inclusion through ICT access, to boost the SDG's outcomes (IFLA, 2016). Information access is a cross-cutting issue supporting most SDGs. Library programs, through the implementation of broader training including media and information literacy and digital literacy skills, lead to better results towards achieving DGs (UN, 2016).

Increasing the participation of library groups and public library members in advocacy work at the national and regional level is crucial for achieving SDGs to ensure equitable public access to information through library resources and programs. Amodeo and Carter (1999), argued that the services offered by public libraries are important to individual and collective growth

since public libraries are the only libraries that make their services accessible to all members of the community, without discrimination of any sort. Public library services can differ concerning roles, which include individual support and growth, commerce, and social and cultural advancement (Uzuegbu and Onyekweodiri, 2011). Library services are critical areas for achieving sustainable development goals. Igbinovia (2016), stated that information literacy programs are one of the library services that should be improved to ensure that those goals were met. Ifidon (2006), states that information-free planning is a restriction on national development and most national development plans and programs lack sufficient details. Libraries have the mandate to fill this void by providing access to basic information on education, health, agriculture, other social and civic issues and building capacities that will be needed for national development. Adeniyi and Subair (2013), suggest that public library services should be repackaged and disseminated in public libraries across the community by rural information dissemination programs, to be open to the rural populace.

Focusing on the current state of public libraries in Africa, it is worth throwing light on the challenges they face, looking at the challenges of public libraries within the context of Nigeria, the growth of public libraries is related to the history of education and colonial settlement, with the first public library system established in 1952 in northern Nigeria. After the establishment of the first public library in Nigeria, many problems have been faced, such as insufficient reading materials, inadequately trained staff and their fear of being held responsible for missing items, high illiteracy levels and the absence of a culture of reading – all of which have hindered the proper use of the facilities available (Harris 1970: 49; Salman 2006:13). Anunobi, Ogbonna and Osuchukwu, (2014), pointed out that most public libraries in rural areas are facing infrastructural and services related problems due to poor funding from the government, and their inability to provide efficient library and information facilities to serve rural people. In another related study, Aptiade (2002), laments the inadequacy of funds which have a negative effect on public libraries, as well as the dedication of the librarian in delivering information services. Opara (2008); (2012) also lamented on the funding of public libraries in Nigeria by the government which has not been favourable since the 1980s. For example, in the South-South region particularly, Delta and the Edo States respectively, the libraries are presently in terrible condition due to poor funding coupled with high inflation, outdated information resources which crippled their patronage by the user community.

In the same vein, Cramer, (2012) indicated that the construction of public libraries is challenging, if not impossible, owing to a shortage of government funds, the exorbitant prices of books, the underdeveloped publishing sector and the scarcity of appropriate and fascinating resources, which are mostly collected from abroad as donations, and as well shortage of an existing reading community in Africa. Also, Salman, Mugwisi and Mostert, (2017), described as obstacles were the lack of e-library services, bad working conditions and work equipment and intermittent electricity supply. In the same vein, Salman and Mostert (2018) identified insufficient funding, lack of IT expertise for employees, lack of staff morale, unreliable energy supply, unsafe working conditions, inadequate working resources and shortage of qualified manpower as the major obstacles bedevilling information services delivery in Nigeria.

Focusing on the present situation of the public library in Africa, it is worth throwing light on the challenges they face, Issak (2000) sums up the current condition of public libraries in Africa "as quite bad, with various financial restrictions, shortage of human capital, inadequate materials and limited utilization" (p. 3). In summing up a literature review on public library challenges, Issak (2000) maintained that the state of public libraries in African continent declining as a consequence of economic decline and a lack of competent individuals eligible for library service.

Methodology

The study used a survey research design. The study population is composed of 2903 registered public library users in Kaduna State. While stratified sampling technique was adopted for the purpose of the sample for the study. Stratified sampling involves dividing the population into strata that emerge from the different sub-populations and are more homogeneous than the overall population. Here, items are selected from each stratum to shape the sample for the study. Each stratum has similar attributes, which explains its homogeneity, whereas the strata together have heterogeneous attributes (Salman, 2015). The three geographical areas within the state of Kaduna were considered as strata. Thus 2 libraries were randomly chosen from each stratum to act as population representation. Because the population is relatively high, 30 per cent has been taken from each public library to shape the sample size for the research as endorsed by Nwana (1981), who suggests 30 per cent where the population runs into thousands of individuals.

The instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire. For questionnaire administration, out of **2038** population, 30% was drawn from each library amounting to **611**. A total of **611** copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents where **433** (71%) were duly completed and returned. The response rate was high because the research assistants used were highly committed and were familiar with the areas so, they were able to follow up the respondents to retrieve most of the questionnaires distributed. The breakdown of the sample of the study is presented in table 1.

Table 1: Sample of the Study

| S/N | List of Public Libraries in Kaduna State | Location | Sample of the Study (Registered Users) | 30% Sample of Registered (Users) |
|----------|--|---------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| A | Zone 1 | | | |
| 1 | Zaria Public Libray Library | Zaria | (304) | 91 |
| 2 | Abdullahi Mohammed Public Libray | Samaru | (384) | 115 |
| B | Zone 2 | | | |
| 1 | Birnin Public Gwari Library | Birnin Gwari | (240) | 72 |
| 2 | Kaduna Kaduna State Library Board | Kaduna Headquarters | (600) | 180 |
| C | Zone 3 | | | |
| 1 | Kafanchan Public Library | Kafanchan | (250) | 75 |
| 2 | Zonkwa Public Library | Zonkwa | (260) | 78 |
| | Total | | 2038 | 611 |

Finding/Result

Types of information service accessed in public library

The researchers sought to find out the types of information service accessed in the public library in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Table 2 shows the analysis of data on the types of services provided by the public libraries in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Table 2: Types of information service accessed in public library in Kaduna State, Nigeria

| Types of Library and Information Services access by user community | Frequency | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Library instruction service | 200 | (46.2) |
| Current Awareness Service (CAS) | 257 | (59.4) |
| Selective Dissemination of Information service (SDI) | 167 | (38.6) |
| Exhibition service | 28 | (6.5) |
| Quiz services for reading culture | 32 | (7.4) |
| Indexing and abstracting | 134 | (30.9) |
| Community's information switchboard | 82 | (18.9) |
| On-line information search | 134 | (30.9) |
| Translation services | 11 | (2.5) |
| Interlibrary Loan Services | 11 | (2.5) |
| Mobile Library services | 11 | (2.5) |
| Computer literacy and training | 28 | (6.5) |

From the analysis of findings on the types of library and information service in table 2: it is evident that current awareness service recorded the highest responses with 257 (59.4%). The second most used service provided is library instruction with 200 (46.2%), next to this is selective dissemination of information services with 167 (38.6%). Also, the respondents indicated indexing and abstracting, and On-line information search to be the fourth-ranked services with 134 (30.9). In the same vein, 82 i.e. respondents (18.9%) affirmed that the community information switchboard service was equally provided. Similarly, exhibition service and computer literacy and training have the same responses with 28 (6.5%). The least services opted for by the respondents are mobile library services, interlibrary loan services and translation services with the same response rate of 11 (2.5%).

The findings of the study supported those of Anyalebechi and Udo-Anyanwu, (2016); Hamisu, et al. (2016) where they all reported: reference and information service; current awareness service, selective dissemination of information, referral services, internet services, circulation services as well as photocopying services. In the same vein, IFLA (2001) reported among other the services of the public library to include; adult literacy education, storytelling, lending services, entertainment activities, provision of reading spaces, community information services, career information services, reference and information services.

Public Library Roles Toward Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

An attempt was made to examine the role of the public library in achieving sustainable development goals. To achieve these objective respondents were provided with options in table 3:

Table 3.

| S/N | Sustainable Development Goals | Role of Public Library in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----|--|---|-----------|------------|
| 1 | No poverty | Provision of opportunities for people to improve their own lives and support informed decision-making | 113 | (26.1%) |
| 2 | Zero Hunger | liaise with the rural farmers and find out their challenges and then communicate these issues to the appropriate government agency for a solution | 47 | (10.9%) |
| 3 | Good Health and wellbeing | Provision of health information and literacy to the community on pregnancy, malaria, cholera etc. | 146 | (33.7%) |
| 4 | Quality education | provide a safe and inclusive space for lifelong learning | 174 | (40.2%) |
| 5 | Gender Equality | Provide a safe environment for women to read, pursue learning activities, access computers and the internet, undertake technology and entrepreneurship training | 93 | (21.5%) |
| 6 | Clean and Sanitation | Libraries provide public access to information on water, energy usage and sanitation | 48 | (11.1%) |
| 7 | Affordable and Clean energy | Provide access to light and electricity to read study and apply for a job and Internet access which is sometimes powered by solar panels or generators. | 54 | (12.5%) |
| 8 | Decent work and Economic Growth | Provision of training on the use of ICT and assistance on online job application processes | 146 | (33.7%) |
| 9 | Industrial Work and Economic Growth | Provide access to research infrastructure, data and quality information to foster innovation and competitiveness. | 10 | (2.5%) |
| 10 | Reduce inequality | Help to reduce inequality by providing safe, civic spaces open to all, in both urban and rural areas and foster community engagement and citizen participation through local programmes and partnerships with other civil society organizations | 124 | (28.6%) |
| 11 | Sustainable Cities and Communities | Safeguarding and preserving invaluable documentary heritage, in all forms, for future generations. | 10 | (2.5%) |
| 12 | Responsible Consumption and Production | Offering access to 3D printers and digital manufacturing skills to allow people to develop their own creativity using recycled materials. | 1 | (0.23%) |
| 13 | Climate Action | raise awareness among younger generations about the critical and urgent need to protect our environment and to work together to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change | 1 | (0.23%) |
| 14 | Life Below Water | support decision-making by preserving and giving access to data and information related to the sustainable use of oceans, seas and other water bodies, appropriate fishing practices, and effective water management | 0 | (0%) |
| 15 | Life on Land | Fostering research and help protect the earth's ecosystems by offering open access to biodiversity data and literature | 0 | (0%) |
| 16 | Peace, Justice and Strong Institution | Help individuals, institutions and governments to communicate, organize, structure and use information in a meaningful way to promote development | 47 | (10.9%) |
| 17 | Partnership for the Goals | partner at all levels with local, regional and national civil society institutions, governments and organizations from private sectors to offer community-based programmes and services that engage and empower citizens, | 10 | (2.5%) |

Source: Author's Field Work, 2020

Analysis of findings on the activities of public libraries in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) by the respondents in table 3: shows SDG 4 has the highest response where the majority of the respondents indicated that providing a safe and inclusive space for lifelong learning as the major role played by public libraries with 174 (40.2%). North worthy is the fact that the respondents indicated SDG 3 and 8 i.e. provision of health information and literacy to the community on pregnancy, malaria, cholera, and provision of training on the use of ICT and assistance on online job application processes have the same response rate of 146 (33.7%). In the same vein, 124 (28.6) respondents opted for SDG 10 i.e. reduction of inequality by providing safe, civic spaces open to all, in both urban and rural areas. Also, 113 (26.1%) respondents revealed that provision of opportunities for people to improve their own lives and support informed decision-making which is SDG 1 as another important role played by the public libraries covered by the study. The least role opted for by the respondents are SDG 14 and 15 i.e. supporting decision-making by preserving and giving access to data and information related to the sustainable use of oceans, seas and other water bodies, appropriate fishing practices, and effective water management, as well as fostering research and help to protect the earth's ecosystems by offering open access to biodiversity data and literature with 0 (0) response rate.

This indicated that the libraries covered by the many libraries are involved in providing a safe and inclusive space for lifelong learning, provision of health information and literacy to the community on pregnancy, malaria, cholera, as well as the provision of training on the use of ICT and assistance on online job application processes. However, there is a great deal of difficulty involved in carrying out these tasks and duties, which are becoming more complicated considering the problems confronting public libraries today; yet public libraries have no option rather than providing services that will meet up with public expectations, this is not possible without adequate support from the government.

The findings arising from this study support that of, Obinyan, Aidenojie (2011), (Kilbat 1990); who emphasized that public libraries lead to inspiring people in the education, orientation and growth of citizens in the inculcation of national identity and a clear sense of national culture, having exposure to knowledge through different ways and methods in public libraries is an important part of national environmental, social and economic advancement and the overall enhancement quality life and well-being.

Challenges encountered in accessing Information Resources and Services in Public Libraries in Kaduna State

This segment sought to describe the problems that public library users are facing when using information resources and services. To accomplish this aim, choices were given using four points Likert scale for the respondents to choose in table 4: using “strongly agree”, “agree”, “disagree”, and “strongly disagree

Table 4: Challenges encountered in accessing Information Resources and Services in Public Libraries in Kaduna State

| S/N | Problem of Access To Information | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-----|---|----------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1 | lack of current information resources | 173 (40.0) | 83 (19.2) | 79 (18.2) | 98 (22.6) |
| 2 | lack of trained personnel | 69 (15.9) | 81 (18.7) | 159 (36.7) | 124 (28.6) |
| 3 | inadequate funding | 123 (28.4) | 26 (6.0) | 76 (17.6) | 208 (48.0) |
| 4 | Language barrier | 134 (30.9) | 120 (27.7) | 25 (5.8) | 154 (35.6) |
| 5 | Poor Internet connectivity | 72 (16.6) | 78 (18.0) | 46 (10.6) | 237 (54.7) |
| 6 | Lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) | 126 (29.1) | 81 (18.7) | 52 (12.0) | 174 (40.1) |
| 7 | High cost of information resources | 24 (5.5) | 93 (21.5) | 161 (37.2) | 316 (72.9) |
| 8 | lack of knowledge of current information resources and services | 28 (6.5) | 66 (15.2) | 132 (30.5) | 207 (47.8) |
| 9 | Poor electricity supply | | | | |

Findings arising from table 3: revealed that the most challenging factor experience by public library users when accessing information resources and services is lack of current materials with 256 (59.1%) responses, followed by a language barrier with 254 (58.6%) responses. Also, the poor ICT was considered as a challenge with 174 (40.1%). Similarly, lack of trained personnel and poor Internet connectivity have complained as a hindrance to effective use of information resources provided with the same responses of 150 (34.6%) respectively. The least challenge complained of is lack of awareness of about the existing information resources and services with 94 (21.7%).

Consequently, it can be inferred that insufficient funding that lack of current information resources, language barrier, inadequate ICT facilities, lack of qualified personnel, poor Internet connectivity, traditional library practice and lack of knowledge of current information resources and services are the key obstacles that impede the proper utilization of library and information resources and services for the socio-economic wellbeing of the patrons. This is in line with the study of Abdulkarim, (2010), and Adebayo (2013), who confirmed the above mention challenges in their study.

Conclusion

This research concluded that public libraries in Nigeria had struggled to become part of the plan of the UN to adopt the SDG. They have attempted, beyond what many would consider possible, to incorporate and adjust to the encompassing network in the light of common monetary, political and social factors and conditions despite the shortcoming in terms of funding, infrastructure, material resources, staffing to mention only but a few. Given that public libraries are important places that encourage and engage their users to take responsibility for their socio-economic development through access and proper utilization of

information as a key component of socio-economic development, therefore the study recommended, adjustment, reconfiguration and transformation within the public library system in order to extend their services, to help Nigeria achieve a cohort of SDGs by providing the needed information resources and services to their clientele. However, for this to be revitalized support from community leaders, government and non-governmental organizations are of paramount importance. Issues relating to funding, staffing, information resources, innovative services, infrastructure all need to be tackled. When this is fixed, it will go a long way towards achieving the SDGs in Nigeria and the African at large.

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