

THE CHANGING INFORMATION NEEDS OF PATRONS AND IT'S AFFECT IN THE ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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ABSTRACT: This research x-ray the Policy in the Information Resource Acquisition in Academic Libraries in Nasarawa State. To carry out the objectives of the study, five research questions were drawn. Survey research method was adopted for the study while structured questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The instruments collected were statistically analyzed using descriptive method. The respondents were asked the following questions: the extent of coverage in the policy, implementation and evaluation of the policy. The findings revealed that only three out of the five academic libraries studied have a written information resource development policy. Also the finding revealed that the Information Resource Development Policy of the Academic libraries in this libraries contain components of information resource development policy and this components is extensively covered in the development of their resource. However, the study further revealed that not all the acquisition librarians are aware of the year of establishment of the policy and how frequently it is revised. It was also discovered that the information resource development policy of the libraries with written policy is fully guided for resource development and the changing information needs of patrons have to some extent affected the implementation of the policy. The authors recommend that standard, written and functional Information Resource Development Policy be put in place to help the library in the selection, acquisition and management of information resource in order to meet the aims and objectives of the libraries and institutions at large.

Keywords: Academic Libraries, Information Resource, Information Resource Development, Information Resource Development Policy.

1. INTRODUCTION

Library according to [Abdulsalami \(2013\)](#) is a storehouse of collection of books, journal, educational and historical documents including electronic developments and electronic equipment, such as computer internet and other audio visual materials arrange in a systematic order for easy retrieval. Information resources refer to range of books and non-book materials in the library for the clientele use, such as microphones, tapes, computer, diaries and internet.

The library is the nerve center of academic activities in universities and is a bank of knowledge with varied and useful information carried in different kinds of material, each of which has its unique way of handling. The academic library is an important agent in the pursuit of academic excellence in higher institution. Its main goal is to support the objectives of the host institution which has to do with learning, teaching, research and administration. However, these academic libraries in universities are also regarded as research libraries because among their objectives are the provision of materials in support of postgraduate, faculty, external and collaborative researches. This shows that libraries are very important in institutions of higher learning because they assist the institutions to achieve their aims and objectives, by providing information resources to aid clientele satisfaction. How well the institution's library has been supportive depend on, the institutional library provision of essential information resources.

A deficient collection that is built on uninformed decision can have adverse effects on the academic library and subsequently in attainment of the goals of the parent institution. Therefore, every academic library requires a workable information resource development policy to guide its decision on resource development. The academic library is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that academic performance through collection, building, maintenance access and use timely information. Some of the roles of academic libraries are:

- Maintenance of adequate information resources such as books, monographic and serials etc.
- National and international library cooperation, lending and resource sharing.
- Reliable reprographic and document delivery services;
- Well trained and dedicated staff;
- Display and exhibition of reference stock.

Therefore, for academic libraries to achieve its optimum goal, it must stock adequate and relevant collections. Such collections include amongst others books, manuscripts, serials, government publications, pamphlets, catalogue, reports, recordings, microfilms, microfiche etc. implying that it is only with adequate library collection policy that academic libraries could reach the academic goals of their parent institutions. [Abdulsalami et al. \(2014\)](#).

1.1. Information Sources

Information source include data and the processes used to convert this into useful information, the equipment and technology required to use this information and the people involved in making best use of the information. Examples of these resources include computers, computer networks, electronic files and data, people and printed materials and other information bearing media. Information resources, therefore, include everything that is used in providing the required information service to the client. Information resources are necessary because, for libraries to be able to carry out their functions effectively, they must develop their collections to cut across all disciplines and satisfy the information needs of their users. This is because the place of information resources in the library can never be over emphasized. This means that libraries need to do all that it can to ensure the acquisition of the relevant resources required by the library users.

1.2. Information Resources Development

Information resource development is another name for collection development which can be used synonymously. Information resource development means the acquisition of relevant titles to the various sections of the library through the process of selection and acquisition of information resources; it requires constant examination and evaluation of information resources as well as constant study of patrons' needs and changes in the community to serve. Information resource development encompasses other library operations ranging from the selection of individual titles for purchase to the withdrawal of expendable materials.

Therefore, information resource development according to [Abdulsalami et al. \(2014\)](#) is a process deliberately and consciously put in place for the continuous identification, selection, acquisition and management of information resources, taking into consideration the information needs of its users. However, whatever the relevance of information resources and the commitment of the library to developing the library's collection, it is not guaranteeing that any library can boost of the financial muscle enough to build all the required resources needed to meet the users' needs. It is in the light of this that it becomes necessary for the library to ensure that only resources that are truly required and which will meet the information need of its clients are acquired and the best way to achieving these effectively in a sustainable manner is by having a defined policy for the development of these collections.

1.3. Collection Resource Development Policy

This can be considered as a statement of intent or a commitment. Policy as a living document can be reviewed and revised regularly to keep it current and meaningful. In essence, policy is a guideline, rules and regulation on how things are to be done to achieve set aims and objectives. In the context of library operations, information resource development policy is therefore a written statement that serves as a guiding principle in building a balanced collection for any standard library and information center. The policy must therefore be very clear, purposive and contain the overall plan of activities for the development of information resources.

The importance of information resource development policy cannot be overemphasized. No matter what, an academic library should have, an information resource development policy, is a policy that expanded version of the mission or purpose of the library. Library policy provides reference point for material selection or rejection by following the guide lines established in the policy, a library can make more consistent and informed decisions about the collection and provide continuity during hard times and can also be used to evaluate and measure the performance of a library and that of the staff performance.

Preparation of information resource development policy involves certain processes. According to Arizona State Library, the collection development policy is a major project when preparing and so can be time consuming and requires a lot of consultation with board members, staffs and patrons. The processes involve establishing the procedure, gathering of relevant data, putting the policy in a written form and getting the policy approved. It also includes utilization of the policy and revision. Apart from the process involved in the preparation of the policy, it also have some components which includes the practical elements of the collection, its development, description of formats and special collection, description and goals for nonfiction classified collection, policy review and record of adoption ([Abdulsalami, 2013](#)).

1.4. Statement of the Problem

The main purpose of an information resource development policy is to establish guidelines for the planned development of a balanced quality selection of institutional materials, a backup guide on how selection and acquisition of information resources materials is to be made, in other words it's a selection policy made flexible to respond to institutional library selection policy in line with range of its objectives. Information resource development policy ensures consistency among members, developing policy statement to respond to selection and acquisition criteria in the areas of the most challenging and frustrating aspect of librarianship. Available researches such as ([Olanlokun and Adekanye, 2005](#)) have shown that Nigerian university libraries are grossly underfunded and that the little resources made available is not enough to meet all the financial requirements of the academic libraries which include both human and material resources let alone providing all the required information resources that will meet the needs of all the departments and faculties. Since it is difficult or almost impossible to curtail this problem of inadequate funds to meet all the required collection needs of the libraries, it is imperative for the libraries to be guided in their resources development in order to utilize efficiently the little resources available to them in meeting the needs of their users.

Information resource development policy is a guiding principle on how selection and acquisition of institutional materials is to be made taking cognizance of priority areas in a backward economy and ensuring quality service delivery in the library. Base on investigation most academic libraries were not operating along that line which indicated inadequacies in the selection and collection of the libraries materials which are rarely used resources, meaning that the libraries may not have been using policies in their information resource development practices taken cognizance of the dwindling funding of education in Nigeria. It is in this regard that this research intends to find out the Implementation of Information Resource Development Policy for Information Resource Development in Academic Libraries in Nasarawa State.

1.5. Research Questions

1. Are there written Information Resource Development Policy Available in Academic Libraries in Nasarawa State.
2. What are the level of Awareness of Information Resource Development Policy by Staff of Academic Libraries in Nasarawa State
3. What are the Criteria for Evaluation of Information Resource Development policy in Academic Libraries?
4. What are the Challenges Encounters in Information Resource Development Policy need of Patrons in the Implementation?

1.6. Objectives of the Study

1. To ascertain the written Information Resource Development Policy Availability in Academic Libraries in Nasarawa State.
2. To determine the extent of the Awareness of Information Resource Development Policy
3. To determine the Criteria for Evaluation of Information Resource Development policy in Academic Libraries.
4. To examine the Challenges Encounters in Information Resource Development Policy need of Patrons in the Implementation?

1.7. Concept of Information Resources

Information resources are theme, events, date, number, places or even words. However, [Keith \(2004\)](#) notes that information resource is anything that user consult and obtain relevant information.

Information resources refer to the various information materials put together by the librarian in order to meet the information needs of the clientele. Information resource development is a process of planning and building a useful and balanced collection of information resources over a period of years, based on an ongoing assessment of the information needs of the library's clientele, analysis of usage statistics and demographic projections. Aina (2004) see information resource development as that aspect of the practice that is responsible for selecting and acquiring information materials that will enable librarians and information specialists to perform their myriad functions to the users effectively. Information resource development can be said to be a universal process whereby the information specialists (Librarian) brings together different variety of information resources to meet the clientele's information needs. This process consists of seven definable elements:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.) Patron's Community | 2) Community analysis | 3) Selection policies |
| 4.) Selection | 5) Acquisition | 6) Weeding |
| 7.) Evaluation | | |

The development of the problems in the field of Information-resource, sums up the development of modern organizational methodical and technological scientific research, and considers the theoretical aspects of the study of new phenomena: the creation of scientific definitions; identification of the essence, properties, and functions of information resources; definition of the meta-system of their functioning; and the establishment of the forms of relationships between information resources and major concepts of related studies.

1.8. The Development of Information Resource Policy

Resources development policy is a formal document; it articulates the history, current practices and further goals of the resources and states the principles governing a wide range of resources management activities.

The purpose of information resource development policy in academic libraries is to see that there are rules governing the acquisition and management of information materials (Jones 2002), states that resources policy provides guidelines within which the library selects and manage its resources of information resources. These guidelines are a contract between the library and its community, supplying a framework within which complex decisions are made.

The purpose of the Development of Information Resource Policy is to guide collection development and management decisions and to ensure that information resources accurately and effectively support the mission and goals of the parent intuition. The goals of the Information Resource Development Policy (IRDP) are as follows

Mission

- Purpose of the Policy
- Goals of the Policy
- Scope and Guidelines
- Electronic Collections
- Historical Collections
- Decisions and Selection etc.

1.9. Content of Information Resource Development Policy

Information policy is a law that is made to regulate the policies that encourage, discourage, or regulate the creation, use, storage, access, and the communication and dissemination of information. It thus encompasses any other decision-making practice with organization or society-wide constitutive efforts that involve the flow of information and how it is processed. In the development of information resources, a policy is needed to cover certain areas. With regards to this, certain elements that should be covered in a written policy and these elements are: introduction, mission and vision statement that is the purpose of the library, clients and users of the library, library resources, evaluation of replacements, gifts to the library, retention, selection and storage, cooperative resources development agreements and so also the future goals of the library that is where the library sees itself in 5 or 10 years.

Carter (2007), however summarized the above into three elements which are: general overview, which is the introduction and general resources; detailed analysis of subject resources; and miscellaneous sections. In line with this, six elements are identified which are: philosophy, needs, assessments, goals and objectives, implementation, administrative control and evaluation. To this effect, University of Chicago Library Information Resource Development Policy outlined selection, acquisition, donations and permanent loan, duplication, retention and disposal as the areas of coverage of information resource development policy. From the above definitions of what a resource development policy should cover, the definition of Carter, Cassell, Taminuo are more elaborative, but Aina and University of Chicago library summarized theirs, even though they did not include evaluation as content.

Initially resources need to be reviewed and evaluated for selection from a content perspective against the same policies, guidelines and criteria that apply to print resources. Typically such criteria might state that the resource should:

- Support the main research aims and goals of the organization.
- Complement or add depth or breadth to the existing collection supported by subject profiles.
- Be of a certain quality, e.g., peer reviewed, or have a reputable producer.
- Support the requirements of the/a key audience.
- Generate an acceptable level of use.

Once the main selections criteria have been met, then a number of additional content criteria, unique to resources, need to be considered. These criteria are particularly important in helping to determine the preferred format in which to acquire an item where there is both a print and electronic equivalent. These include the consistency of the electronic publication with any print equivalent, the currency of the online content and frequency of updates, the availability of back issues, archiving, and the added value of the e-resource over other formats, and pricing.

1.10. Implementation of Information Resource Development Policy in Academic Libraries

Resources development is very essential in libraries because resources have to be developed before they can be made available to users. According to Olajo and Akewukekere (2006), resource development policy establishes ground rules for planning, budgeting, selecting and acquiring library resources. Information resource development policy provides a frame work for coordinated resource development programme throughout the university libraries. In addition, these policies help the libraries serve the academic community.

Whenever they want to acquire resource materials for the library, they ask each department to submit their request and some cases the University management do acquire materials for the library which is affecting their information resource development because some resources are not relevant and there is usually duplicate. Information needs to be well designed in other to be efficiently and effectively managed. Information resource development policy is regarded as the library constitution. It defines the library's goal in terms of its information resource (resources). This policy provides guideline in building balanced resources, choosing items for inclusion or exclusion, and serve as tool for library staff to provide efficient and effective library service to its diverse users.

1.11. Evaluation of Information Resource Development Policy

It is natural for human beings to evaluate and develop things, around them especially when it comes to selection of information resources. Librarians indulge in this practice in other to measure up to their expectation and to serve their patrons well. They have the need to periodically measure the resources and services of their library as a way of ensuring that they are meeting the set objectives of the library. Library evaluation began with the evaluation of retrieval systems in libraries, with parameters based on answerable questions revolving around recall and precision ratios of retrieval system. The quest to evaluate and develop library resources and services in recent times has led to the design of information resources development policy. Consequently, libraries, including faculty's libraries, have been faced with challenges of justifying their contributions to the achievement of their parent organizations' goals.

Evaluation and development of information resources is carried out to justify and quantify benefits of research library resources and services to users' information utilization for research.

Academic libraries need to evaluate their policy to determine if the policy being implemented meets the objectives of the academic institution. To evaluating a policy, includes: Effectiveness, efficiency, flexibility, institutional constraints and community acceptance.

The researchers are of the opinion that, academic libraries can adopt these criteria in the evaluation of their policy. Thus, improved efficiency is associated with cost saving to library in terms of improvement in quality information resources. For example increase in the purchase of hardcover book to paper cover and the purchase of electronic resources. An important consideration in assessing policy instruments is the issues of equity or fairness. Equity has to do with the distribution of the cost and benefits among different information resources, while an institutional constraint looks at how policy instrument can fit in with the existing or proposed legislation. There must also be necessary administrative support to make policies work. For certain types of policies, difficulties may arise with respect to coordination, monitoring and evaluation functions. The success of a policy critically depends on the degree to which the community accepts it. Often, this depends on the extent to which the community understands how the policy works and the extent to which the objectives that the policy is trying to achieve. Information resource development policies need to be updated regularly for planning in other to evaluation the resources of the library.

Information resource development policies are important and have been one of the tools for resources development in which libraries define resources parameters relevant to the clientele needs for curriculum and research. However, Portland University Information Resource Development Policy (2009), states that an academic library's reputation is no longer primarily base on the quantity and number of volumes held but rather on quality of the resources along with access capabilities. Information resource development policy should not be static. It should be frequently reviewed and changed to reflect changes in the library's goal and in the resources itself.

1.12. Changing Information Needs of Patrons

As the community changes, the library will need to reassess and adapts its collection to reflect new and differing areas of interest and concern. Information Resource Development Policy is a written policy designated to periodically evaluated and review policy to provide guide for any implementing changes that may arise in the need for new collection. It is obvious that information resource development is necessary to identify the needs of the user rather than build abstract collection. [University of Chicago Library Collection Development Policy \(2013\)](#). The present era is called information era. Information has become the most important element for progress in society. It is to this effect that [Kadil and Kumar \(2013\)](#) stresses that a thorough understanding of users information needs and seeking behavior is fundamental to the provision of successful information services.

According to [Tahir and Mahmood \(2008\)](#) for academic libraries to adequately address the changing information needs of its students, they need to know about the information searching, obtaining and use. However, [Nicholas and Herman \(2009\)](#) are of the opinion that building collections which fails to satisfy the information needs of users would be a futile exercise. For the purpose of developing information resources development policy, standard and guideline need to be followed, it is necessary to study the primary users before embarking on collection and to ascertain which information will routinely sought the collection on a particular topic. From the literatures reviewed above, the changing information needs of patrons will have an effect on the policy because the quest for information is not static, the information needs of users changes especially in this modern era of technology which has resulted to information explosion. The information needs of patrons may tend to be shifting from print to electronic resources and so libraries need to adjust their policies to meet the changing information needs of their patrons.

2. METHODOLOGY

Survey method was used to collect data on the Implementation of Information Resource Development Policy in Academic Libraries in Nasarawa State. This method was found appropriate for this study because the research work used sample of the population to find out the implementation of collection development policy in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

The Population of the study consisted of some of higher institutions of learning such as Federal University libraries Lafia (5), Nasarawa State Colleges of Education libraries Akwanga (4), Nasarawa State Polytechnic libraries Lafia (4) Nasarawa State University Keffi (7), Nasarawa State College of Agriculture Library Lafia (4). All Heads of acquisition librarians and other professional librarians directly

involved in resource development in the libraries were target audience. Twenty four librarians were used while purposive sampling technique was adopted. This is because the study area had 5 academic libraries with a total of 24 targeted populations. The researcher, therefore, made use of the entire population as subject of the study, since the population was very small. Benard (2012) opine that when a population is less than 200, all population should be used as sample. The instruments used for this study were questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered directly to the target respondents by the researchers in collaboration with a research assistant from each of the institutions. Descriptive statistical technique was used. For the purpose of accuracy, percentage distribution was used in describing the data which were presented in tables.

2.1. Response Rate

Twenty four (24) questionnaires were administered 24 (100%) were returned duly completed. This is realistic enough to base any analysis on.

Table 1. Availability of Written Information Resource Development Policy in Academic Libraries in Nasarawa State

S/N O	LIBRARIES	Available	Not available	Date of formulation	Date of Modification
1	Federal University libraries Lafia	–	Not available	–	–
2	Nasarawa State University Keffi	–	Not available	–	–
3	Nasarawa State Polytechnic libraries Lafia	–	Not available	–	–
4	Nasarawa State College of Agriculture Library Lafia	–	Not available	–	–
5	Nasarawa State Colleges of Education libraries Akwanga	available	–	–	–

Source: Field work

The findings as revealed in Table 1 above clearly indicate that, out of the five academic libraries studied in Nasarawa State, only Nasarawa State Colleges of Education libraries Akwanga have a written Information Resource Development Policy.. This implies that those academic libraries that don't have a written Information Resource Development Policy have been developing their resources without any guidelines or standard; and this could lead to bias on the part of the acquisition librarian and acquiring of irrelevant materials that would not meet the information needs of the clientele. Every academic library needs a well-coordinated, written and functional development policy to guide her selection.

The five libraries were physically inspected with a view to finding out the extent of their coverage in terms of contents. Ten broad content sub- headings were identified from most of the literature reviewed which include among others; mission/vision, objectives, core values, sources of fund, weeding and selection of materials. The written policies were checked to find out which among them has all the ten sub- headings covered. Table 2 below shows the findings.

Table 2. The level of Awareness of Information Resource Development Policy by Staff of Academic Libraries in Nasarawa State.

S/NO	LIBRARY	AWARE	NOT AWARE	TOTAL
1	Nasarawa State Colleges of Education libraries Akwanga	6(25%)	2(8.33%)	8(33.33%)
2	Nasarawa State University Keffi	2(8.33%)	5(20.83%)	7(29.17%)
3	Nasarawa State Polytechnic libraries Lafia	2(8.33%)	7(29.17%)	9(37.5%)
4	Nasarawa State College of Agriculture Library Lafia			
5	Federal University libraries Lafia			
Total		10(41.67%)	14(58.33%)	24(100%)

Source: Field work

From Table 2 above, 10 of the respondents, representing (41.67%) of the sample populations are aware of the information resource development policy of the library. This call for the need for libraries to develop a functional written and functional information resource development policy.

Table 3. Criteria for Evaluation of Information Resource Development policy in Academic Libraries.

S/NO	Libraries	Effectiveness		Efficiency		Flexibility		Institutional Constraints		Community Acceptance	
		E	NE	E	NE	F	NF	IC	NIC	CA	NCA
1	NSCE	4(16.67%)	3(12.5%)	2(8.33%)	2(8.33%)	3(12.5%)	3(12.5%)	3(12.5%)	1(4.17%)	2(8.33%)	1(4.17%)
2	NASU	—	2(8.33%)	—	4(16.67%)	—	5(20.83%)	6(25%)	—	—	7(29.17%)
3	NSP	6(25%)	—	4(16.67%)	—	3(12.5%)	—	9(37.5%)	—	2(8.33%)	—
4	NSCA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	FUL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Note: E- Effectiveness NE- Not Effectiveness E- Efficiency NE-Not Efficiency F- Flexibility NF- Not Flexibility IC- Institutional Constraints NIC-No Institutional Constraints CA- Community Acceptance NCA- No Community Acceptance Information Resource Development policy (**IRDP**)

Source: Field work

Table 3 revealed that the 3 academic libraries: Nasarawa State College of Education, respondents 4(16.67%) effectively evaluate IRDP, in Nasarawa State University Library respondents 2(8.33%) opine that IRDP was efficient and in Nasarawa State Polytechnic Library 6(25%) express that, they use written policy to effect and use the criteria listed in the evaluation of their information resource development policy. This implies that the libraries will be able to tell if their policy meets the aims and objectives of the library and the institution as a whole. Based on this also, the researchers found out through the questionnaire that 4(16.67%) of the library staff from Nasarawa State College of Education and Nasarawa State Polytechnics Library with frequency of 6(25%) have the written policy known and evaluated by staff at the interval mandated for the policy reviewed. Library Information resource development policy was established in 1976 but its policy was only reviewed in 2014 and even in the reviewed policy it was not stated at what interval it will be reviewed next. Although most University Library information resource development policy are normally reviewed at the interval of every 3-5 years, but this has not been visible because the policy was formulated in 2003 and only reviewed in 2012 which is an interval of nine years. A regularly updated policy provides a valuable tool for resource planning, development and evaluation of the resources in the library. With regards to this, the resource policy in any library should be reviewed after 5 years, because things and people do change likewise information needs of users.

Table 4. The Challenges Encounters in Information Resource Development Policy need of Patrons in the Implementation

S/ NO	LIBRARIES	Available	Not available	Date of formulation	Date of modification
1	Federal University libraries Lafia	—	Not available	—	—
2	Nasarawa State University Libraries Keffi	Available	—	—	—
3	Nasarawa State Polytechnic Libraries Lafia	Available	Not available	—	—
4	Nasarawa State College of Agriculture Libraries Lafia	—	Not available	—	—
5	Nasarawa State Colleges of Education Libraries Akwanga	Available	—	—	—

Source: Field work

In Table 4, enormous challenges abound in the information resources development policy, amongst the five higher institutions visited, only Nasarawa State College of Education Library has functional Information Resource Development Policy while Nasarawa State polytechnic and Nasarawa State University Libraries Keffi sometimes take into cognizance Information Resource Development Policy need of Patrons in the Implementation. This call for an urgent written developmental policy.

3. FINDINGS

1. The findings of this study revealed that 4(16.67%) from Nasarawa State College of Education and 6(25%) from Nasarawa State Polytechnic academic libraries studied have written information resource development policy. And the Information resource development policies

of these academic libraries contained all the components of information resource development policy. The findings revealed that all the components of information resource development policies are extensively considered when developing information resources in the academic libraries that have a written policy.

2. Similarly, it was established by this study that the libraries with written policy do implement their resource development policies in their resource development. The implementation of these policies proved to be effective in the libraries since they guide them in developing rich and useful collections.
3. It was also discovered that information resource development in these libraries are extensively guided by the policy, in the sense that, whenever information resource is been developed, the policy is always used as a guide.
4. It was found out that the libraries with written information resource development policy do make use of all the criteria which include effectiveness, efficiency, flexibility, institutional constraints and community acceptance in evaluating their policy.
5. It was further discovered that changing information needs of patrons have extensively affected the implementation of information resource development policy in the academic libraries with written policy because patrons now have more interest in electronic resources than print hence their policy needs to be reviewed.
6. The study also discovered that many staff of the libraries studied; including some of the information resource development divisions are neither aware nor, not aware of the existence of information resource development policy in their respective libraries.

4. CONCLUSION

The goal of information resource development policy is to ensure consistency among those who have the responsibility for developing the collection and provide a tool for evaluating and improving collections for all relevant subject disciplines. If Academic libraries view their information resource development policy as a living document, its continual review and revision will keep it current with the changing universe of electronic resources. The importance and value of information resource development policy lies in the context it provides for every decision made in a library. It will define the issues, identify the questions that need to be asked and guide answers that respond to institutional priorities and library mission.

From the findings of the analysis carried out on the implementation of information resource development policy in academic libraries in Nasarawa State, it showed that most of the libraries are not having the written information resource development policy, those libraries without information resource development policy are bound to acquire information resources that are not relevant to the educational curriculum of their institution. The libraries that are particularly with written policy are guided by the policy in their information resource development. This has encouraged the provision of acquiring relevant and current information resources in line with the educational curriculum of their parent institution and their users' information needs

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Academic libraries in Nasarawa State without the policy should form a committee that will help in formulating information resource development policy which will serve as a guide in information resource development and also serve as assistance to the new staff.
2. Academic libraries in Nasarawa State should try and compare their policy with that of UCD library in Dublin because of its standard, this will help them strengthen their policy implementation and make adjustments where necessary.
3. Having information resource development policy is one thing and implementing it is another. Academic libraries without a written policy should make sure that after formulating the information resource development policy, the policy should be fully guided for information resource development. It should not be done haphazardly; otherwise the aims and objectives of the institutions will not be achieved and it will help them utilize the little fund made available to them.
4. All acquisition librarians should be involved in the formulation and evaluation of information resource development policy in order to keep them current on issues affecting the policy. Information resource development policy should be reviewed at least after every five (5) years to give room for new changes.

5. Libraries should ensure that all staff is not only aware of the information resource development policy but also conversant about the contents. Libraries should periodically organize seminar for staff where the contents and implementation of information resource development policy will be discussed.

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