

CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH PRACTISING OF LIBRARY COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AMONG THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *The paper investigated the challenges associated with the activities of library cooperation among the federal university libraries in Nigeria. Cross sectional survey design was used for the study. This study was carried out in the Forty (40) federal university libraries in Nigeria. Considering the complexity of the population, the federal universities were divided according to six (6) geopolitical zones and stratified sampling technique was applied and 50% of the federal universities were selected from each stratum as sample. This gave a total population of eighteen (18) federal universities and four hundred and eighty (480) academic librarians which serve as a population of the study. The instrument used for the data collection was questionnaire in which four hundred and eighty (480) copies of questionnaire were administered and four hundred and thirty three (433) were successfully completed, returned. To determine the validity of the instrument, a draft copy of the questionnaire was given to an expert for scrutiny. To ensure reliability, the researcher administered the questionnaire with the help of staff in each of the institution libraries giving no room for fake collation. The Data collected were coded into Microsoft excel, Statistical Packages of Social Science (SPSS) and descriptive statistics was also used in analyzing the data collected from the respondents. The findings revealed that there are some challenges associated with the activities. The following recommendations were made for the study, there is a need for proper budget allocation and implementation, there should be training and retraining for librarians among others.*

Key Words:

Introduction

Libraries cannot acquire all the resources and services produced in both print and electronic formats for their patrons community needs. As such, those libraries cannot be stand alone, in simple way, no libraries all over the world cannot attain self-sufficiency. This can be due to the tremendous growth of human knowledge, literature explosion, poor funding, limited budgetary allocation, increase in literature and the dire need of those resources and services from their teeming library users for teaching, learning and other research activities.

The status of engineering college libraries in Kerala with respect to their collection, financial position, Information Technology infrastructure, staff, etc. was analyzed by Azeez (2012). Out of the 76 Colleges in the State, a random sample of fourteen 14 Engineering College Libraries under government, aided, self-financing sectors were selected and the data collected by means of structured questionnaires, interviews and observations. One thousand eight hundred (1800) questionnaires were distributed among library users and received response rate of 80%. The analysis showed that most of government and self-financing colleges lacked a considerable subscription of foreign journals. A few libraries had a subscription of online journals and CD-ROM databases and most were in aided and self-financing sectors. About 50% of the librarians opined that their information resources were inadequate owing to the lack of sufficient budgets, adequate library personnel and modern infrastructure. Majority of library users were satisfied with their collection of books and journals irrespective of the type of college. Whereas they were not satisfied with the provision of inter library loan, internet facilities and other e-resources, good majority of the users and librarians preferred electronic documents to print. Only a few colleges had membership in consortia and a huge majority of them supported the formation of a consortium of engineering colleges in the state. Finally, the investigator proposed a model for the consortium of engineering college libraries in Kerala. In another development, Shuva (2010) put forward some challenges associated with activities of library cooperation in libraries as follows: lack of awareness and understanding, poor budgeting implementation, lack of technological compatibility and security, fear from local identity, type of agreements, lack of complete library automation and poor consortia as a legal entity. In a related work, Zachary (2013) indicated a

number of factors affecting the activities of library cooperation among libraries in Zambia. These include the following

i) Funding: Inadequate funding has been ranked as the greatest impediment to resource sharing among libraries in Zambia. The results indicated that 72.2 % of the respondents attributed lack of funding to be the major challenge to resource sharing among libraries there, (Zachary, 2013) Issa and Oyeleke (2010) also identified gross under funding as one of the challenges of resource sharing. Being concerned for libraries, Jahan, Mannan and Kabir (2013) warned that a network may fail if adequate funds are not available. This result also agrees with Taole and Dick (2009) in their study to establish how libraries in southern Africa could encounter the challenges in terms of ICT facilities they faced in resource sharing through collaborating. The findings revealed that financial constraints influenced levels of computerization in the majority of libraries and, in turn, affected negatively on the levels of participation in the consortium activities.

ii). ICT Infrastructure: The results indicated that 72% reported that ICT infrastructure was not adequate to support the activities of library cooperation. The responses from the interviews also indicated that Internet connectivity was another impediment to activities of library cooperation. From the interviews, it further revealed that, the attitudes of library staff towards ICT's were another factor affecting resource sharing. It is worth noting that inconsequence of the unprecedented development in ICT, information explosion has been taking place with the ever rising proliferation in the amount of information. Due to information explosion, automation of library services is imperative for efficiency and effective working of the library (Zachary, 2013). Therefore, there is the urgent need for libraries to invest in ICT's, so that they can effectively participate in resource sharing arrangements. For instance, the Internet can be used as the carrier network by all member libraries of the resource-sharing network. ZALICO should also consider working closely with institutions, such as the Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN). It is the researcher's view that this institution could be a strategic partner to mitigate the inadequacies attributed to inadequate ICT infrastructure and Internet connectivity among libraries there. An Interview with the Director at ZAMREN revealed that ZAMREN was a specialized Internet service provider dedicated to supporting the needs of the research and education communities in Zambia. The purpose of ZAMREN was to provide the inter-institutional connectivity in terms of a National Research and Education Network (NREN) and connect it to the Regional Research and Education Network (RREN) in Eastern and Southern Africa, thereby extending ZAMREN to other National Research and Education Networks in Africa and in the rest of the World.

3. Resources adequacy: also the results from the study by Zachary (2013) indicated that almost two-thirds of the libraries were notable to effectively engage in resource sharing because of inadequate resources. The results from the respondents indicated that they did not have adequate resources to share. Essential books were outdated and not found in most public funded libraries. Print periodicals were inconsistent and unsubscribed, making it difficult to participate in any meaningful activities of library cooperation with other libraries. It can also be inferred from the interviews that the libraries' status regarding the collection of materials was very poor and needed some effective strategies, such as an increase in library budget to buy resources for future improvement. Prospects of resource sharing among libraries in Zambia were very high, as responses from the interviews indicated. However, most of the interviewees bemoaned that the factors that hindered effective activities of library cooperation included a lack of skilled librarians, power outages, an absence of web-accessible OPAC, the uneven development of libraries and the slow progress of library automation. Furthermore, it was revealed that majority of libraries were not subscribing to the current titles of journals. All these factors were attributed to lack of adequate funding to libraries. Therefore, there is the need to increase funding them similarly; Akinmadu and Aboh (2014) conducted a study to identify the barriers in collection sharing among the libraries of Pakistan. In which their findings revealed number of technical, procedural and psychological barriers in developing formal resource sharing strategies. This was in agreement with Harrasi and Jabur (2014) observation that lack of skilled work force was one of the factors which hindered effective activities of library cooperation among university libraries in Nigeria. Therefore, staff exchange programs and training for professionals through attachment indifferent libraries could be organized. It is the researcher's views that that the aforementioned challenges are due to the inadequate funding of libraries. In the same vein, about resource sharing barriers, Anderson (2012) pointed out that "in spite of the benefits of international resource sharing, the actual act of collaboration is sometimes easier said than done because of a number of barriers. These include: the simple problems of distance and multiple time zones among libraries, which can hinder communication; inadequate human resources to carry out international projects; insufficient funding, inadequate technology, incompatible computer systems, or poor telecommunications infrastructure; lack of international standards for bibliographic description, record format and exchange of data are all limiting factors.

Statement of the Problem

Library cooperation activities is an avenue by libraries of the same or different types will come together to share and exchange their resources and services. The activities are practiced with the sole aim of the libraries to form a forum for better provision of resources and services provision Tanko (2012). In view of the above assertions, it is evident that library cooperation activities are very essential to the existing of any library. However, evidence from the review of related literature, such as Obasola (2015), Adam and Usman (2013), Heloisa (2013), Nwegbu, Howard (2014) has shown that there is little empirical evidence ascertaining the challenges that are associated with library cooperation activities, because every day-to-day activities has challenges. Therefore It is against the aforementioned situation that this study investigated the challenges associated with library cooperation activities in the federal university libraries in Nigeria.

Research Objectives

The objectives of the study include:

1. To find out the educational qualification of the academic librarians studied
2. To find out the working experiences of the academic librarians
3. Determine the challenges associated with library cooperation activities.
4. To propose a possible solution to the challenges.

Literature Review

No library can acquire all the resources and services that are universally produced in both print and electronic formats for their patrons to undertake their academic activities. As such, libraries all over the world cannot attain self-sufficiency due to the tremendous growth of human knowledge, literature explosion, poor funding, limited budgetary allocation, increase in literature and the dire need of those resources and services from their users for teaching, learning and other research activities. Though the following are the challenges that are associated with the practising the activities of library cooperation.

1. Financial Challenges: Funding is one of the factors militating against activities of library cooperation among member libraries. Even with the positive attitude and the willingness of libraries and librarians, financial problems, as mentioned earlier, are the major problems of organizations and their libraries or information centres in developing countries like Nigeria. Inadequate funding has a direct effect on their budget as well as implementations, which in turn affect the preparation of libraries and librarians towards activities of library cooperation. As a result of this, libraries, especially those attached to tertiary institutions, are mostly constrained by financial problems because they have the highest demand of resources and services (Bourlakis and Bourlakis, 2013). Activities of library cooperation are effective tools for providing extensive access to resources and services among serving clientele with limited financial resources, especially as users' demands and expectations have arisen with the speedy growth of knowledge resources. Because of budgetary cuts, libraries are unable to purchase the needed material, so they should aim for mutual co-operation. At present, professionals are sharing their resources and services as professional and personal courtesies. There is a dire need for mutual formal co-operative activities among different libraries at different levels, which need to be backed up with proper financial allocation to them.

2 Political Challenges: It is observed that both the authority and the public, in a developing country like Nigeria and others, are often not aware of the importance of the library and the services it offers by libraries in social, education and economic progress. The implementation of activities of library cooperation among academic libraries is also affected in Nigerian libraries by the kind of leadership style in the country. Excellent library leadership begins with the notion of enabling everyone who works in the library to grow in knowledge, ability and commitment and to carry out his or her duties effectively. This is part of the primary task, which can be encouraged internally and externally for domestic and outside libraries, which will also make the authorities to collaborate in the libraries to increase their library collection for the benefits of their users. As such, resource sharing must go hand in hand with the equality of the libraries in as much as their activities will run successfully, because manipulation and domination definitely affect activities of library cooperation.

As such, library users' access to resources and services are critical to present day librarianship; as such, library collaboration, library co-operation and activities of library cooperation are also affected. The performance and effectiveness of the activities in providing those shared resources and services to the library clientele by those with the responsibility of rendering effective support and services are very essential to the existence of co-operation and sharing resources and services among all the libraries of any type. It is also possible that leadership characteristics will affect the level of exchange and sharing activities

through creating knowledge sharing norms (Lean and Kress, 2012). Library professionals from both public and private university libraries equally agreed with this barrier to knowledge sharing activities. It is also essential for a successful experience in co-operation activities that participating members feel they are getting a proper level of benefit.

3 Professional Challenges: Librarians are afraid of losing materials during the partnership for the sharing process; as such, their attitude and their readiness differ because of their professional status. The respondents indicated that the management of some universities considers book losses to be not a routine occurrence but the outcome of librarians' negligence. Consequently, librarians prefer to avoid taking part in such plans and having to deal with the consequences. As mentioned by some librarians, they could not initiate a formal co-operative plan because it would add to their workload and they were faced with a shortage of staff. The behaviour of librarians is not a barrier to co-operation. They are already cooperating, informally, by lending their collection to colleagues while personally taking the responsibility for any loss. The careless attitude of library users is also a barrier to collection sharing and exchange activities in the library. Libraries are engaged in activities of library cooperation. Under these circumstances, librarians cannot proceed towards formal co-operation programmes. They lack the needed written and communication skills for the documentation of such plans. No "how-to-do-it" training in this regard is available from educational institutions and professional associations. For instance, Etebu (2010) in his studies demonstrated that Library and Information Science professionals demonstrate poor communication skills among themselves. This is a serious setback in the process of exchanging and sharing resources and services among individuals and groups.

Seeing the importance and benefits of training and continuing professional development provided by the organization, especially in the library sector, IFLA and UNESCO have produced the guideline for the development of public library services in which they emphasize the importance of staff training. The guidelines require every library to make a planned and continuous program of training for its staff. Moreover, large libraries should have a training officer responsible for the organization and implementation of training and it is recommended that 5-10% of the library budget should be allocated to the training of personnel (IFLA/UNESCO, 2014). But nowadays not all libraries have good budgetary allocation for staff training and retraining development.

4 Technical Challenges: This has to do with the technical skills acquired by professional librarians for effective operation towards the activities of activities of library cooperation among libraries. In the same vein, Bourlakis and Bourlakis (2013) explored the barriers to collection sharing among the university libraries situated in the major cities of Pakistan. Their study revealed that various technical, procedural, psychological and behavioural barriers in achieving planned and meaningful collection-sharing programs prevailed. Lack of effective communication at all levels within the partnership, co-operation and within partner organizations, sharing and accessing all knowledge and resources and services will not exist. Therefore, it means that all the parties in any partnership and co-operation need to be open and willing to communicate honestly with one another for activities of library cooperation, partnership programmes and exchange among individuals and groups (Mark and Gasen, 2013). As such, for libraries to survive there must be a good channel of communication among librarians and information professionals to make them support their teeming library users by increasing their resources and services. This is possible through library co-operation activities, which can be enhancing through good and reliable communication.

In the sector of Information Technology (IT), the introduction of its courses into Library Science in the various institutions has been suffering a huge set-back due to the influence of a slim budget allocated for library administration and enough IT managers training. Historically, the introduction to computers and the basics of computing introduced into librarianship in some library schools has left many librarians having some basic skills that are not enough to engineer high performance in terms of service provision. Lack of adequate resources to purchase digital equipment was a constraint; however, academic libraries that have ICT equipment were not practicing the activities of library cooperation (Abubakar, 2007). This then becomes a problem that assumed to be ingrained in the Nigerian library system. However, the efforts were not expatiating on, though his findings showed that the modern technologies needed for collaboration were lacking in some libraries studied.

5 Legal Challenge: In another work Hales, (2012) reviewed partnership activities and the work gave a brief description of the growth of co-operation around the world. It stated that after over a century of work by library professionals and technological developments, inter-library loan has now become a prevalent and essential library service. Further, the paper discussed the legal barriers of sharing e-resources, especially the licensed content. The author pointed out those libraries were discouraged or even prohibited from sharing their e-resources unless they had negotiated for inter-library loan in their license agreement. The

case of purchased e-books was also discussed, where the author highlights that most of the license agreements of e-book purchases imposed restrictions in the exchange and sharing of the document in electronic format. The author remarked that the growing prevalence of electronic resources and services in the libraries and their copyright restrictions by law would create a great threat to the partnership and inter-library loan activities in the future. The paper suggested that library professionals should adopt new resource sharing models like demand driven acquisition and consortium short-term-leases to overcome this barrier.

It becomes a major source of worry for libraries, especially with the advent of ICT facilities and other electronic devices as partnership, inter-library loan, co-operation and resources availability now have a new set of guidelines and restrictions. Ignorance of these laws and guidelines, along with the complexity of the rules, regulation and legal issues, can slow down or even prevent library co-operation activities (Singh, 2010). In line with the above, Shin (2012) highlighted some of the problems militating against the formation of effective collaboration or partnership programmes among libraries in Nigeria, Africa and other part of the world. In addition, the problems associated to the resource activities include the following: Lack of awareness and understanding on the part of most heads of libraries and policy makers, a slim budget, which resulted in the poor funding of libraries, compatibility, egos and a lackadaisical style and inadequate resources and services. In a related submission on the challenges of the activities of library cooperation, Tanloet and Tuamsuk (2010) highlighted the problems facing the development of activities of library cooperation, including the lack of enough resource sharing, inadequate security of materials uncooperative parent bodies and lack of policies. Edoka (2010) comments that resource sharing is lagging behind in developing countries because of poor funding and the non-existence of the spirit of give and take.

Methodology

This paper adopted cross sectional survey design as a guide in collecting data for the study. There are One Hundred and Fifty Two (152) academic libraries attached to universities in Nigeria according to National Universities Commission (NUC, 2017) this comprises of Sixty Eight (68) private, Forty Four (44) states and Forty (40) federal universities. This study was carried out in academic libraries of Forty (40) federal universities in Nigeria. Thirty Six (36) federal universities were found appropriate for the research as far the preliminary survey conducted. Therefore, the population of the study comprises of thirty six (36) federal universities in Nigeria. Considering the complexity of the study's population, the federal universities were divided into strata according to six (6) geopolitical zones. Stratified sampling technique was used in selecting of 50% of the federal universities from each stratum as sample, this gave a total population of eighteen (18) federal universities and there are four hundred and eighty (480) academic librarians working in those eighteen (18) federal universities as academic librarians which serve as a subject/primary population of the study (Ibrahim, 2018).

Discussion of findings:

Based on the questionnaire distributed to the academic librarians in the federal universities, the following results are obtained for discussion.

1. Response Rate

Four hundred and eighty (480) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents..

Table 1: Response Rate of the Respondents

Questionnaires Administered	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Distributed	480	100
Returned	433	90.2
Unreturned	47	9.8

Table 1 indicated that four hundred and thirty-three (433) were returned and found usable, representing 90.2% and only 47(9.8%) were not returned.

2. Working Experience of the Respondents

The respondents from the university libraries under study were asked to indicate their years of working experiences as librarians, as shown in the Table 4.2:

Table 2 Working Experiences of the Respondents

S/N	Years of Experiences	Freq/Percentage
1	1-10 years	48(11.1%)
2	11-29 years	86(19.9%)
3	21-30 years	120(27.7%)

4	31-40 years	101(23.3%)
5	41-50 years	58(13.4%)
6	51 years and above	20(4.6%)
TOTAL		433(100%)

Table 2 shows the work experience of the respondents in the libraries. Less than half 120(27.7%) had between 21-30 years of experience, followed by 103(23.3%) with 31-40 years, next is 86(19.9%) with 11-29 years. Others are 58(13.4%) with 41-50 years, 48(11.1%) 1-10 years and lastly 20(4.6%) with 51 and above years of work experience.

3. The Educational Qualification of the Respondents

The respondents were asked to indicate their highest educational qualifications as academic librarians in the libraries under study.

Table 3 Educational Qualification of the Respondents

S/N	Qualification	Percentage
1	BLIS	217(50.1%)
2	MLIS	196(45.3%)
3	Mphil	8(1.8%)
4	PhD	12(2.8%)
TOTAL		433(100%)

Table 3 shows that exactly half 217(50.1%) of the respondents have Bachelor Degree in Library Science/Studies followed by 196(45.3%) with a Masters, while 12(2.8%) had PhD and only 8(1.8%) had Phil.

4. Respondents Gender

The respondents were asked to indicate their gender status as academic librarians.

Table 4 Respondents Gender Information

Gender	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	254	58.7
Female	179	41.3
Total	433	100

Table 4 shows that more than half 254(58.7%) were male and only 179 (41.3%) were female. This shows that there were more male academic librarians in the library under study than their female counterparts.

5. Respondents' Ages

The respondents were asked to indicate their age as academic librarians.

Table 5 Age Group of the Respondents

S/N	Age Group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	23- 30 years	109	25.2
2	31 - 38years	116	26.8
3	39 - 46years	176	40.6
4	47 years and above	32	7.4
TOTAL		433	100

Table 5 reveals that less than half 176(40.6%) are between 39-46 years of age followed by 116(26.8%), 31-38 years of age, 109(25.2%), 23-30 years of age and lastly, 32(7.4%), 47 and above years of age. This shows that majority 401(92.6%) were between 23-46 years of age. Therefore, majority were middle-aged academic librarians.

1. Challenges and Solution Associated with library cooperation Activities

Table 13, 14, 15 and 16 show the challenges associated with the partnership activities, the possible solution to the challenges and their summaries for agreement.

Table 6 Challenges Associated with library cooperation Activities

Challenges	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Mean	SD
Inadequate financial support for the partnership activities	198(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4.49	0.89
Devaluation of currency and poor budgetary allocation	198(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4.56	0.91
No standard financial requirement for joining the activities	184(93%)	0(0%)	14(7%)	4.74	0.95
Fear of partner dominating or manipulating others	188(95%)	0(0%)	10(5%)	4.72	0.94
Inability of the library heads to adopt	184(93%)	0(0%)	14(7%)	4.85	0.97

strategies for the partnership activities						
Poor support for library from the management	174(88%)	0(0%)	24(12%)	4.60	0.92	
Shortage of qualifies personnel	130(66%)	0(0%)	68(34%)	4.65	0.93	
Lack of understanding and role to be play	41(21%)	0(0%)	157(79%)	4.50	0.90	
Negative attitude of the librarians towards partnership activities	63(32%)	0(0%)	135(68%)	4.57	0.91	
Poor training among the librarians	198(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4.61	0.92	
Poor ICTs knowledge, its compliance and inadequate internet.	99(50%)	0(0%)	99(50%)	4.72	0.95	
Incompatibility of the equipment in accessing digital resources	99(50%)	0(0%)	99(50%)	4.85	0.97	
Absent of standard policy for partnership activities	184(93%)	0(0%)	14(7%)	4.71	0.94	
Different in philosophy and manner of operations	21(11%)	0(0%)	177(89%)	4.57	0.91	
Lack of space to accommodate resources and services	27(14%)	0(0%)	171(86%)	4.61	0.92	
Poor postal services and multiple distance among libraries	171(86%)	0(0%)	27(14%)	4.72	0.95	
Instability in some areas/lack of security	196(99%)	0(0%)	2(1%)	4.85	0.97	
Different attitude and culture among library members	177(89%)	0(0%)	21(11%)	4.71	0.94	

Table 6 presents the challenges associated with partnership activities in the libraries under study. The respondents agreed that: Inadequate financial support to cater for the partnership activities, Devaluation of currency, poor budgetary allocation and implementation and Poor training on the partnership activities were the challenges faced by the libraries as they engaged in partnership activities. Similarly, also some of the respondents agreed with the statements that: fear of partner dominating or manipulating other partners, lack of standard financial requirement for joining the partnership activities, Inability of the library heads to adopt strategies for the partnership activities, absent of policy for partnership activities and shortage of qualifies personnel. That the mean score is greater than the mean index of 3 (Mean Score>Index) this indicates that the above named problems are affecting the activities.

Table 7 Summary of the Agreement on Challenges Associated with Library Cooperation

Total			Mean		Std. Dev	Decision Remark	Decision
Responses	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree			
3564	2532	1032	4.62	1.30	0.91	4.42>3.00	Agree

Table 7 show that the means score of the data is 4.42, with a standard deviation of 0.91. This further shows that the means score of the agreement is greater than the index means score of 3 (4.42>3.0). Thus, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents agreed that inadequate financial support to cater for the partnership activities, Devaluation of currency, poor budgetary allocation and implementation and Poor training are the challenges.

2. Solution to the Problems Associated with library cooperation Activities

The following solutions suggested minimizing the challenges associated with the activities.

Table 8 Solution to the Problems Associated with library cooperation Activities

Solution to the challenges	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Mean	SD
Providing adequate finance for the university libraries	198(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4.67	0.93
Proper budget implementation to the libraries	198(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4.67	0.93
Recruiting adequate and qualified personnel.	198(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4.67	0.93
Offer training to have knowledge and understanding of partnership	184(93%)	0(0%)	14(7%)	4.56	0.91
Providing enough ICT facilities and good personnel to handle them	180(91%)	0(0%)	18(9%)	4.44	0.89

Providing equipped libraries that will handle users needs	198(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4.67	0.93
To have policy/guideline for partnership activities	198(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4.67	0.93

Table 8 indicated that Providing adequate finance to the libraries, proper budget implementation for libraries, recruiting adequate and qualified personnel to handle the libraries job, providing equipped libraries that will handle users community needs and having standard policy for partnership activities that will spelt out the roles and functions of the library members. This is followed by majority Offer them training as required so as to have knowledge and understanding of partnership activities, using ICT facilities and personnel to handle it for better utilization in the activities, that the mean score is greater than the mean index of 3 (Mean Score>Index). By implication, provision of adequate and qualified personnel, regular training and observing a standard guideline for partnership activities. This is in agreement with American Library Association’s Standards for Libraries in Higher Education (2018).

Table 9 Summary of the Agreement with the Solution to the Challenges

Total			Mean		Std. Dev	Decision Remark	Decision
Responses	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree			
1386	1354	32	4.42	1.30	0.91	4.42>3.00	Agree

Table 9 show that the means score of the data is 4.42, with a standard deviation of 0.91. This further shows that the means score of the agreement is greater than the index means score of 3 (4.42>3.0). Thus, it can be concluded that all of the respondents agreed that Providing adequate finance to the libraries, proper budget implementation for university libraries, recruiting adequate and qualified personnel to handle the libraries job, providing equipped libraries that will handle users community needs and having standard policy for partnership activities that will spelt out the roles and functions of the library members

Findings of the Study:

The study found that:

1. The academic Librarians studied are computer literate
2. There are some Challenges Associated with the activities of library cooperation Among the Federal University Libraries in northern Nigeria
3. Some possible solution was propose to the Challenges Associated with Activties of library cooperation Among the Federal University Libraries in northern Nigeria

Conclusion

Activities of library cooperation are very essential to the existence of any library the world over, in as much as they want to meet the endless demands of their patron community. Even though there are so many benefits for engaging in the activities of library cooperation, they were associated with financial, political, professional, technical and legal challenges.

Recommendations

Based on the finding of the study the following recommendations were made:

1. .there should be training and retraining for the librarians in the area of ICT so as to be corposant with them in discharging their duties.
2. The authority concern should focus on the proposed solution so as to curtail the challenges associated with the activities.
3. They should be provided with adequate funding in order to enable them to overcome the challenges associated to the activities of library cooperation.

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