

A SURVEY OF PUBLISHER COMPLIANCE WITH BIBLIOGRAPHIC PRACTICES IN NIGERIA

Tralagba, Chris Eriye

University Library

Evangel Univerity Akaeze, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

Mobile: +234-802-312-6014, Email: tralagba_eric@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The inability of Nigerian publishers to conform to international standards of publishing has been identified as the bane of publishing in Nigeria. The study investigated publisher compliance with bibliographic codes and standards in Nigeria. Also interrogated were challenges faced by publishers in accessing these codes and standards, those faced by National Library of Nigeria in administering these codes and standards and implementing the legal deposit obligations, as well those affecting the compilation of the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN). The descriptive research adopted the random sampling technique to select 410 publishers, librarians, authors and printers. The targets were reached with questionnaires, interviews, observation of records and interaction for data gathering. Findings show unfounded fears by publishers regarding some perceived difficulties in getting these codes and conventions from the National Library of Nigeria, a general apathy among publishers towards the issue of legal deposit and the attendant difficulties in the compilation of the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN). Recommendations include discouraging all-comers from flooding the publishing business. The National Library of Nigeria needs to reach out to Nigerian publishers in a massive media campaign for training, seminars, conferences and workshops on issues bordering on bibliographic control, legal deposit and other sundry matters in the publishing industry. The National Library Decree No. 29 of 1970 is long overdue for revision. Government needs to introduce import wavers and duty-free importation of essential printing/publishing materials and equipment.

INTRODUCTION

African publishers often find and nurture black writers only to lose out to the bigger mainstream Western publishers because of their inability to secure the financial backing that would guarantee African writers reasonable income. If African writing is to retain its originality and universal values, then African government and the business community must do more to support writers and the publishing industry in Africa. This important task of writing our own history has tended to be left to generous Western donors who often come with their own agenda for publishing those stories (Achebe, 1978).

There is no doubt that when bibliographic standards, codes, methods and instruments are mentioned, they mean different things to different publishers in Nigeria. This certainly does not mean that there are no professional publishers in the country. These codes and standards of practice are accepted by publishers and used all over the world. However, in Nigeria the story is not the same as it was reported that an ISBN was used for other products in a production line. This suggests that the manufacturer assumed ISBN to mean a different thing entirely. Similarly, it was also reported that an ISSN was used for another

product. Besides, records made available to this researcher at the National Library of Nigeria, National Bibliographic Control Department reveals very discouraging response by publishers to their legal deposit obligations to the National Library Decree No 29 of 1970 and the use of the cataloguing in publication (CIP) which is issued free of cost. This is an indication of poor perception of these publishing codes and standards.

It is for these reasons that the study seeks to find out publisher compliance with bibliographic codes and standards in Nigeria and the attendant problems faced by the publishers in accessing these codes viz-a-viz the problems encountered by the National Library in administering these codes, implementing the legal deposit obligations and the compilation of the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN). A discussion of the advantages of having a well-developed indigenous publishing industry follows, along with recommendations for establishing and promoting such an industry.

The significance of this study is based on the fact that so far this seems to be the only comprehensive attempt by an officer who had worked with the Nigerian Publishers for a period of (10) years between 1995-2005 at the National Bibliographic Control Department (NBCD) of the National Library of Nigeria, therefore, this study could be useful to the National Library of Nigeria, Nigerian Publishers

Association (NPA), Policy Makers, librarians, Printers and Authors.

It is therefore my fervent hope that the data derived from this study and the researcher findings would be useful and contribute to the improvement of publishing and bibliographic control vis-à-vis Universal Availability of Publication (UAP) and Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC).

Operational definitions

Bibliographic control comprises every technique of identifying and recording data for making materials available to the public and ensuring universal availability. It is therefore closely tied to the compilation of the National Bibliography by the National Library of Nigeria which is at the epic centre of all the activities. Bibliographic Control is carried out internationally at various levels by the various National Libraries all over the world with the support of International Institutions and Organizations concerned with the standardization of publications. In practical terms it has to do with the conformity of publications to International Standards, Conventions and Ethics. Some of these standards and codes are Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), Universal Availability of Publication (UAP), International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). ISSN is issued to all national centres from Paris, France for all serial publications. Legal deposit refers to material deposited in compliance with the National Library Decree No. 29 of 1970.

REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

The history of books publishing started with the development of writing, and various other inventions such as paper and printing, and continues through the modern day business of book printing. The earliest history of books actually predates what would conventionally be called "books"

today and began with tablets, scrolls, sheets and papyrus. Then hand bound, expensive and elaborate books, called codices appeared. These gave way to press-printed volumes and eventually led to the mass printed tones prevalent today (Wali, 1996).

Clay tablets were used in Mesopotamia in the 3rd Millennium BC. The Calamnus, an instrument in the form of triangle, was used to make characters in moist clay. The tablets were fired to dry them out. At Nineveh, 22,000 tablets were found, dating from the 7th century BC. This was the archive and library of the kings of Assyria, who had workshops of copyist and conservationist at their disposal. This presupposed a degree of organization with respect to books. Consideration was given to conservation, classification, etc. Tablets were used right up until the 19th century in various parts of the world, including Germany, Chile, Philippines and the sub-Saharan region (Ifediba, 1990).

Half a century ago, writing from Africa was unheard-of in the wider world. Though the history of the African Writers' Series is commendable in encapsulating the history of the African struggle to rid itself of Colonial domination and post-colonial oppression, contemporary Africa still needed a voice to tell its own post-modern stories. By presenting to the world stories written by Africans in which Africans were themselves subject of their own history. Contemporary African publishers were positioning themselves as visionaries in the movement to represent an African identity in the modern world.

Book publishing in Nigeria is one of the oldest businesses in the history of the nation. Before the 1914 amalgamation of the diverse peoples into the geographical entity named Nigeria, publishing had been in existence some 68 years earlier. In 1846, the first printing press in Nigeria was established in Calabar, the present Cross River State capital, by Rev. Hope Waddell of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland Mission. The primary aim of this press was to print bible lessons but it was later used to print arithmetical books for schools (Ajibade, 2003).

In 1859, Henry Townsend of the Church Missionary Society (CMS) established another press in Abeokuta, the present capital of Ogun State to print the first newspaper in Nigeria which was known as *Iwe-Iroyin* (a dialect newspaper). From then on, publishing started growing in Nigeria with different objectives defined by the genre of books. Some publishers publish specific books, while others undertake general publishing without bias.

This was followed in 1928 by Oxford University Press (now University Press Plc.) to establish a press in Nigeria. This was followed by Longman in 1961, Heineman Nigeria Publishers in 1962, Macmillan Nigeria Publishers in 1965, Evans Brothers Publishers Ltd. in 1966, among others.

These multinational publishers adhered to bibliographic standards and control to a large extent, except that the microfilm copy of the *Iwe-Iroyin* did not particularly follow any form of bibliographic standard control. For instance, *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe was published by Heineman Publishers of London in 1958 in compliance with international bibliographic standards. The entrance of indigenous authors and publishers in the publishing scene changed the Nigeria publishing landscape dramatically, causing a paradigm shift, thereby making the coast clear for competition. The indigenous entrepreneurs/publishers, like Onibonjo Publishers, Ilesanmi Publishers, Africana Fep, Fourth Dimension Publishers, Sterling Holden Publishers and others have tremendously contributed to publishing in Nigeria.

Considering the long history of publishing in Nigeria, it is expected that the business of publishing should be competing favourably with international standards. Being in business for 168 years (from 1846

to 2014) is enough to have made the business grow and become a major revenue earner for the government and the publishers at all levels. The economic empowerment aside, Nigerians are expected to derive from similar opportunities provided by private operators and stakeholders in the business. This is not so in Nigeria for many reasons, such as lack of technical support to manage and maintain machines for publishing. Many printing presses, including the ones owned and managed by government and parastatals, are littered with out-dated or grounded machines. This naturally puts off any light-hearted comer into the industry. Other closely related issues of publishing in Nigeria are poor production, marketing and maintaining International Standards in publishing.

According to Wali (1991), Nigeria shares with developing countries a variety of problems in providing adequate numbers of high-quality books. Unqualified author-publishers, poor production, inadequate distribution, and lack of capital are all evident. Ajeluorou (2014) found the problems of publishing in Nigeria to some economic policies, starting from the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of 1986 which hit the economy badly, and it appeared that the book publishing industry was worse hit. The foreign publishing houses could not repatriate their invested funds. Local purchasing power became drastically low such that purchase of books dropped drastically. Self-publishing evolved in the Universities as books became scarce.

Also, the three paper mills at Iwopin, Jebba and Oku Iboku gradually grinded to a halt, as paper import became the norm and still remain so till date with its attendant economic hemorrhage for the country. Foreign publishers had to pull out of Nigeria. Local investors faced the challenge of saving an endangered business. According to Emenanjo (2014), Nigeria

produces less than 1% of her books per year, based on a modest estimate of four-six books per child in primary school for 20.4 million pupils, eight books per secondary school student for 6.4 million students, and eight books per student for close to one million students in tertiary institutions. Yet, imported books and other reading materials have the problems of socio-cultural disconnect which are better addressed by the indigenous authors and publishers.

Publishing in Nigeria faces the challenges of maintenance of bibliographic standards. A good number of books published in Nigeria do not conform to international bibliographic standards and best practices. These standards include the use of International Standard Book Number (ISBN) for (books), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) for Journals, cataloguing in publication (CIP), the submission of the number of copies of publications stipulated by law regulating the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN).

One of the main goals of a national library is the fulfilling of its part of the common international goal of Universal Bibliographic Control, which entails the bibliographic control of all the books or book-like documents published in a particular country or about that country which are made easily available and accessible to information seekers anywhere in the world without hindrance. The first part of the goal is achieved through the means of legal deposit laws (as in the United States of America, USA) by a host of different programmes such as cataloguing and classification services. By this service, the national library gives a complete catalogue entry of a book to any publisher who requests for the service and sends galley proof of a book currently in production. The deposited items are compiled for the publication of the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN). Nicholson

(2015) highlighted the importance of legal deposit as an internationally recognized practice within the global library community which ensures that the documentation of the cultural heritage of a nation is collected, accessioned, stored, protected, preserved and made accessible for the benefit of its citizens and future generations. Earlier, Bazan (2004) stated that the implementation of legal deposit laws and compliance was important for the national bibliography and universal bibliographic control.

Aguolu (2002) stated that many publishers in Nigeria do not comply with legal provision of the National Library Decree because they regard the deposit law as an unnecessary bureaucratic interference in their business, if not an unjustifiable punitive measure to reduce their sales and profit. According to Lariviere (2000), most Commonwealth countries, Nigeria inclusive, patterned British Copyright Act of 1842, even after becoming independent states. Ailwood and Sainsbury (2014) are of the view that adopting this act without any consideration of its impact after independence was not a wise idea. Omekwu (2003) opined that accessing documents published in developing countries (Nigeria inclusive) was always difficult because of lack of bibliographic tools and control framework, low awareness of legal deposit legislation and sub-standard nature of publications.

The second part of the goal is achieved through acquisition programmes and collection development policies which target the book markets in other nations that foster international agreements with other countries' national libraries that have bibliographic control as one of their goals. In this case exchange and access protocols are clearly defined permitting these countries to read through each other catalogues and to standardize catalogue entries thus making it easier for each

National Library to become aware of every published document which might concern that country.

The International Bibliographic Control is one aspect of the main Universal Bibliographic Control. The main goal of any National Library is the "export aspects" and the collaborative sides of the universal bibliographic control of all books published in the world. This is done by the exchanges of accords and also by fostering the creation of standard conceptual tools such as cataloguing and classification systems and rules. The most commonly used of these tools is the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD). It applies to all books and periodicals, but also has variants for other book-like materials such as the ISBD (ER) for electronic resources or digital documents which are published after the birth of printing but before the industrial era of publishing which started in the 1920s.

The Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) is an International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) Programme. The IFLA Universal Availability of Publication (UAP) core activities and the Office for International Lending (OIL), which have been hosted by the British Library at Boston Spa, United Kingdom since the late 1970s, closed on the 31st of March, 2003. The Universal Availability of Publication (UAP) is both an objective and a programme. The objective is the widest possible availability of published materials (that is recorded knowledge issued for public use wherever and whenever needed and in the format requested. Published materials here include not only printed materials, but the so-called grey literature, audio-visual materials and publications in electronic forms. To work towards this objective, the programme aims to improve availability at all levels from the local to the international.

Unlike the UAP, the birth of the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) could be traced to the need for a universally accepted unambiguous, brief and unique identification code for all serial publications. Reasons are that by the very nature of serial publications often pruned to changes in titles, frequency, format and coupled with the unbridled growth in the world of publishing output which makes it increasingly very difficult to identify such titles. As the size and complexity increases, peoples and libraries all over the world that are involved in publishing and distribution of printed materials started turning to computers as solution to managing the ever-increasing growth of serials publications.

To facilitate the easy exchange of information about serials between computers networks of different organizations possess the requirement for a standard code that should be numeric as a single number alphabet can be commonly used by most of these organizations. Care has been taken to ensure that the ISSN should not in any way attempt to incorporate any significance other than the unique identification of a serial title. In pursuance of this objective, 1971 witnessed a draft International Standard Organization (ISO). Standard for the creation of the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) was, therefore, drawn up. The control for the registration of serials and assignment of ISSN is vested in the International Serials Data System (ISDS) established with the framework of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Science Information Programme (UNISIST). The ISDS is an international network of operational centres jointly responsible for the creation and maintenance of computer-based data banks which contain essential information for the network with an international centre in Paris, France and national centres in individual member states.

To facilitate the participation of Nigeria in the scheme, the National Library of Nigeria in 1976 accepted UNESCO's request through the Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO and established the National Centre for Nigeria which is now known as Nigerian ISSN Centre. The centre is responsible for registering and numbering serials published in Nigeria and fulfilling requests for ISSN for any serial.

The National Library of Nigeria, in its capacity as the Bibliographic Control Centre for Nigeria, started arrangement to set up an ISBN Agency in 1974. An application was sent to the International ISBN Agency in Berlin Germany and a group identifier "978" was allocated to Nigeria. Contacts were made with the Nigerian Standard Organisation (NSO) and the Nigerian Publishers through the secretariat of the Nigerian Publishers Association (NPA). Several Publishers have since applied and obtained ISBN. A comprehensive list of the publishers can be obtained in the Nigerian ISBN Publishers Directory and users manual.

The establishment of the National Library of Nigeria was muted at the Nigerian division of the West African Library Association in 1962 which gave birth to the Library Advisory Committee established in the late 1950s. This committee had the assignment of working out plans for Library services in the country and to persuade the government to agree to set up a National Library as proposed by the Association.

Ford Foundation of America stepped into the matter and agreed to finance and provide the necessary expertise for a feasibility study. The report was fully accepted by the Federal Government and action was taken for its implementation. Ford Foundation recruited a number of technical personnel from America to assist in the groundwork of setting up the national

library. The Federal Government provided indigenous support staff. Within two years, a basic collection for a growing library was set up and schedule of duties for foundation staff was laid down. The government also enacted the first legislation in September, 1964 (cited as the National Library Act 1964), which provided for the establishment of the National Library of Nigeria, but its activities were limited to the federal capital territory. The Act did not make the Library a national depository nor make it mandatory for it to publish a National Bibliography. The University of Ibadan Library continues to perform some of the functions which the National Library was supposed to perform. The partnership between the Federal Government and the Ford Foundation spanned over a period of nine years (1962-1971).

The first Board of the National Library of Nigeria was inaugurated in 1966. The Act was repealed and substituted with the National Library Decree No 29 of 1970. There have been amendments in minor areas in 1976 and 1978. The National Library was formerly a department of the Federal Ministry of Information, but now a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Education. The Headquarter was accordingly moved to Abuja as requested in section 2(2) of the National Library Decree No 29 of 1970. Currently, the National Library of Nigeria has twenty-two (22) functional state branches spread across the six geo-political zones, viz, Cross River, Imo, Enugu, Edo, Ondo, Kwara, Ogun, Oyo, Plateau, Bauchi, Taraba, Adamawa, Niger, Osun, Kano, Sokoto, Benue, Lagos, Abia, Gombe, Katsina and Kaduna. The 23rd branch is in Abuja.

IFLA (2012) International Congress on National Bibliography (ICNBS) recommended that all bibliographic records should be based on internationally recognized standards. It further directed

National Bibliographic Agencies of participating countries to adopt national and international standards and principles for cataloguing identification system such as ISBN and ISSN, character encoding, authority control, classification schemes, metadata and persistent naming of digital object. National bibliographic agencies should be encouraged to work on the harmonization of bibliographic standards established in respect of all forms of publications.

Fourie and Burger (2007) observed that countries like South Africa have made efforts currently unmatched by any African country. Bibliographic control activities have generally developed randomly in Africa over the years. A few African countries are likely to have gotten retrospective national bibliographies before 1940, and it was individuals who made personal efforts to compile national bibliographies for these countries. According to Musikers (2005), Mende Isohn's South Africa Bibliography was published in 1910 making South Africa the first to have a national bibliography. This was a concerted effort made by South African librarians towards the attainment of Universal Bibliographic Control (NBC). According to Aje (1977), Sierra Leone was the next African country to have a national bibliography in 1925, followed by Ghana's retrospective bibliography created in 1932.

Amosu (1964) explained the issue of availability of bibliographies of all types on African subjects and national bibliographies produced on Africa. The first national Bibliography of Nigeria was published in 1973. Obasi (2006) dealt with current efforts to control the amorphous range of newsprint, ephemeral documents that have dominated the Nigerian literary market for nearly thirty years. The materials which are of inestimable value to various subject specialists originate from various sources.

Some of the major sources are identified and the lack of any conscious and adequate attempts by their producers to bibliographically control these publications.

Adesanya (1988) see book publishing as a profession, occupation or trade and as an academic discipline, which seems to share a number of characteristics with education and medicine that should have maintained standards and control. This position was first presented by Okwilagwe (1984), who submitted that books are medium of mass information and communication. Like other mass communication medium, it plays the roles of patterning the society's human activities to conform to the world for the individual members of the society, defines the individual's own position in relation to other members of the society which calls for publishing standards and control. Wali (1989) and Tralagba (2003) averred that the average Nigerian publisher is not too mindful of standards of publishing and bibliographic control.

Egbuchulam (2004) reported that the average Nigerian publisher is ignorant of the benefits deriveable from co-operating with bibliographic control activities of the National Library of Nigeria. This has made difficult the implementation of the legal deposit provisions of the National Library Decree No. 29 of 1970. Tralagba (2003) also submitted that some publishers in Nigeria could do anything possible to obtain ISBN, ISSN or CIP without putting it to use. They would rather laminate the letter of assignment as certificate of registration. The National Library Decree No. 29 of 1970 provides a weak penalty for not depositing publications with the National Library of Nigeria. Igboiswah (1998) and Nwosu (2002) shared the same view, that the use of ISSN, ISBN and CIP does not translate to mean bibliographic control except such publications are deposited at the expense of

the publisher and published in the National Bibliographic of Nigeria.

IFLA (1997) and Tindey (2004) gave summary of the principles of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and Universal Availability of Publication (UAP) as the contribution to ensure a world-wide system by accepting responsibility for making bibliographic records of publications emanating from that country in accordance with set international standards, available and accessible universally to information seekers and researchers. To achieve this objective, national libraries and other depository organisations all over the world have to perform the functions of collection of mandatory deposits (legal deposits), adopting set standards and norms of publishing and documentations, compilation of National Bibliography, National Union Catalogue, and National Union List of Serials.

Non-compliance by publishers and printers with Legal Deposit Law is a common phenomenon in many African countries. According to Fourie and Burger (2007), in the spirit of legal Deposit Committee and the creation of Official publications, failure to comply with Legal Deposit Laws in many African countries has been noted as big problem, and Nigeria is no exception. The Publication Ordinance of 1950 and the National Library Act of 1970 made similar stipulations which have been adhered to with levity. There is no set machinery for enforcing the laws. These have created a gap in the comprehensive compilation of the National Bibliography of Nigeria.

Libraries in African countries such as Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa, had formed a consortium within their countries for producing the National Union Catalogue (NUC). The most successful of these projects appeared to be that of South Africa. National Library of Nigeria handles the

project in Nigeria with main aim as a central collection of all the catalogue entries for every book acquired by all libraries in the country. The project ran into hitches as many of the member libraries did not comply or co-operate due to poor funding, among other reasons.

According to Fourie and Burger (2007), the coalition of South Africa Library Consortia (COSALC) was established in July, 1999. Its main focus was to gain access to electronic information through establishment of the National Site Licensing Initiative (SASLI). It should be noted that no library or information centre performs bibliographic functions alone but combines with many other activities to achieve its organizational goals of bibliographic control.

One other way of realizing bibliographic control of publications in Africa and Nigeria in particular is the establishment of the Virtual Library Project. According to Daniel (2002), Nancy Schillar was the first writer to use the term virtual library in defining library without walls, that is, libraries through the Internet with the potentials of gaining access to other libraries using Wide Area Network (WAN) which bridges the gap between the local, national and the international publications. Nigeria has begun the Virtual Library Project which is sited in Abuja and run by National Library of Nigeria. The project is expected to deliver bibliographic control to the nation by co-ordinating the activities of all libraries in Nigeria. The achievement of this goal depends on the strength of the National Library to network libraries and universities in various states.

Soyinka (2004) also found access to national collections by way of union list in need of central co-ordination to eliminate duplication of efforts and to enable utilization of already existing machine readable files. This co-ordination is a

responsibility of the National Library, being the national bibliographic centre, but the planning and implementation can be shared with other libraries in the country. Chukwudozie (1977) referred to the publication laws in Nigeria and noted that the existing one is not properly enforced. Government printers, private and quasi-government printing and publishing organisations all share in the publication of Nigerian government document. Some ministries handle their own publishing alone.

According to Ifeduba (2004), there had been archeological discoveries in parts of Nigeria suggesting that some kind of writing existed as far back as the 10th century AD. One of the ancient forms of writing discovered somewhere in the present Anambra State was called "Nsibidi", and linguists, archeologists and historians have battled for years to interpret the writing.

The major instruments used for bibliographic control all over the world are the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). Both use numerals that are differently structured. Besides these numbers, there is the documentation of the sum total publishing output known as the national bibliography. Each participating country publishes its own national bibliography. Without the compilation and publication of the national bibliography and the same sent to the International ISBN Centre in Berlin, Germany the process is not complete. For this reason, the National Library of Nigeria compiles and publishes the national Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN). The materials listed in the National Bibliography are those publications deposited (Legal Deposit) with the national Library in compliance with the national Library Decree no. 4 of 1970.

The compilation and publication of the National Bibliography of Nigeria

requires meticulous processing of received materials. The administration of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) has a very complex structure and procedure from the international centres to the national centres. For instance, an ISBN used to consist of ten digits, but now thirteen (13) digits preceded by the letter ISBN. The ten digits number is divided into four parts of variable length which must be separated clearly by an hyphen or spaces.

978 – International Centre Identifier
 978 – Group identifier
 5428 – Publisher’s prefix (identifier)
 10 – Title identifier
 7 – Check digit

The number of digits in the group number and in the publishers prefix is determined by the quantity title planned to be produced by the publishers or publisher group with larger title outputs suggested by fewer digits.

The first part of the ISBN identifies the country area or language participating in the ISBN system. Some members from language areas (e.g. group number 3 is German language group) or regional units (e.g. South Pacific is group number 982). A group identifier may consist of up to five (5) digits. The group identifiers are allocated by the international ISBN Agency in Berlin.

The group identifier for Nigeria is 978. The second part of the ISBN identifies a particular publisher within a group. The publisher prefix usually indicated the exact identification of the publishing house and its address. If a publisher exhausts its initial contingent of title numbers, they may be allocated an additional publisher prefix. The publisher prefix may comprise up to seven digits. Publisher prefix are assigned by the ISBN Agency responsible for the management of the ISBN system within the

Example: Before ISBN 978 900002-5-7 or ISBN 978 90000257.

Example: Now ISBN 978-978-900002-5-7

The numbers in the first part of the digits is known as group identifier (-978-) International Centre. The second part is group identifier. The third part is publisher’s prefix or identifier and the last part is the title identifier and check digit. e.g. ISBN 978-978-5428 01-7. From this imaginary number:

country, area or language where the publisher is officially based.

Unlike the ISBN, an ISSN consists of eight (8) digits, made up of seven digits acting as a unique and unambiguous title number plus one check digit. ISSN should always be quoted in two parts of four digits separated by an hyphen preceded by the letter ISSN, example, ISSN 4567-8910. The check digit is located at the extreme right positions to guard against errors caused by the incorrect transcription of an ISSN. Unlike the ISBN, the ISSN does not incorporate any significance other than the unique identification of a serial. When ISSN is assigned to a serial, a corresponding bibliographic record is simultaneously created.

The ISSN is inseparably linked to the serial title in order to avoid duplication. The ISSN and the key title are equivalent; they both identify without ambiguity the same serial title. The bibliographic record contains, in addition to the ISSN and the key title, some thirty (30) data elements enabling the unambiguous identification of a serial title. ISSN and ISBN serve a very unique

purpose for the universal bibliographic control masterplan and universal availability of publications. It is the belief of the originators of these programmes that with the ISSN and ISBN firmly entrenched in global publishing order, publications could not only be easily controlled by easily tracking down from an established network of registry. For instance, with the assignment of ISSN and ISBN to specific titles the following can be achieved.

A single ISSN or ISBN assigned to a title in whatever part of the world or in whatever language can be identified by that number. This is made possible because all publications will be assigned a very unique number which distinguishes it from any other. An ISSN or ISBN can be used in libraries for identifying titles for ordering and checking in a publication for the purpose of claiming missing issues. ISSN and ISBN simplify inter-library loan system

- i Collecting the materials that need identification
- ii Assigning the ISSN and the key title to a detail for an unambiguous identification.
- iii Creating the bibliographic records in ISSN format.
- iv Making available the bibliographic records and promote the application and wariness of the ISSN.

The network consists of national centres and international centres in Paris.

National centres

ISSN national centres are mainly located within the national libraries spread across the globe. The main criteria for determining the choice are that the centres should have access to all new serials published in that country either through legal deposit or through connections with the national bibliography.

National centres perform the function of identification of serials published in their countries and the assignment of ISSN. They also maintain local ISSN data bases together with

and union cataloguing operations, reporting and listing. The numbers can be employed as standard numeric identification code, can be used in computers for updating and linking of files, reviewing and transmitting data. ISSN and ISBN provide a useful and economical method of communication between publishers and suppliers, making trade and distribution system faster and more efficient. The numbers can be employed as instruments for accurate citing of journals and books by scholars, researchers, arbitrators and librarians. The registers for these numbers can serve as a bibliographic utility which may be used as a major source of information about the world or serials and book publications all over the world.

The ISSN network is the operational structure and its main functions cut across the following:

advertisement and promotion of the system. Records created by the national centres are transmitted to the international centres.

International Centre, Paris

The International Centre is based in Paris which co-ordinates the network by controlling the activities of the ISSN national centres. It is also in-charge of ISSN assignment for serials published by international organizations, institutions and by countries without national centres. All national centres obtain their ISSN from the International Centre in Paris, which collects and checks all bibliographic records to update in a consistent way the ISSN registers in order to avoid duplication.

ISSN in Nigeria

The ISSN System was started by R. R. Browker Company which assigned ISSN in large quantity to a number of serials published throughout the world and listed in the Ulrich International Periodical Directory and New serial title cumulation 1950-1970. In 1971, the registration and assignment of ISSN was vested in the International Serial

Data System (ISDS) established within the framework of UNESCO's world Scientific Information Programme (UNISIST) in 1976. National Library of Nigeria joined the system on behalf of Nigeria in 1976. The Nigeria ISSN Centre started registering and numbering all new serials publications in Nigeria. The basic functions of the centre include:

- i The assignment of ISSN to serials published in Nigeria.
- ii Generating information profile on serials publications in Nigeria and sending same to the International centre towards the establishment and maintenance of the International file.
- iii Promoting the use of ISSN in Nigeria and providing the link between serial publishers and the ISSN Network.

ISBN network – Group administration

The administration of ISBN is carried out on three levels; international, group or national and publishers level.

INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

International ISBN Agency
Staatsbibliothek Zuiturubesitz
D – 10772 Berlin, Germany
Tel: (+4930266-2496-2338)
Fax: (4930266-2378)
Email ISBN @sbb spk brelin.de
URL: itttp-11 ISBN spk-berlin.de

The International ISBN Agency is assisted by an advisory panel consisting of representatives from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Publishers Association (IPA) the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) and individual ISBN group agencies.

The International ISBN Agency organizes an annual International ISBN

Agency Advisory Panel meeting at which representatives of the group agencies and standards experts discuss current issues of the ISBN System. The Advisory panel has created an executive committee consisting of representatives of five agencies in order to bridge the gap in-between the annual meeting. The International Agency performs the following functions:

- i To promote, co-ordinate and supervise the world-wide use of ISBN.
- ii To approve the definition and structure of group agencies.
- iii To advise group agencies on the allocation.
- iv To allocate group agencies identifiers.
- v To advise group agencies on allocation of international publishers' identifiers.

vi To publish the assigned group numbers and publishers prefix in an up-to-date form.

ISBN network - Group administration

The administration of the ISBN system within a publisher group agency, which may operate on a national or regional basis, or within a linguistic group according to local rules and needs. Within a group there may be several, national agencies.

Summary of literature review and literature gaps

The review of the literature revealed that there is a dearth of empirical research on publisher compliance to bibliographic control practices in Nigeria. Available research works concentrated mainly on legal deposits and legal deposit provision. These studies dealt mainly on legal deposit

provision, legal deposit collections and the attitude of the publishers. Other studies were on the access points of these legal deposit materials, the need for cataloguing and classification. And a large chunk of literatures was found on IFLA conferences and congress on universal bibliographic control and universal availability of publications and universal bibliographic control. Most of these studies were centered on the historical background of bibliographic control and not the current dynamics of compliance to national and international standards of control in this ICT driven world order. Therefore, this study focused on publisher compliance to bibliographic control practices in Nigeria.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopted descriptive research design. The random sampling technique was used to select 400 publishers from the ISBN User Manual and Publishers' Directory and the ISSN issuance records. Although the International Publishers Directory online has only 26 registered publishers, the ISBN User's Manual has over 10,000 publishers. At the second stage the researcher adopted random sampling to select the 410 from the 36 states of the federation and the federal capital territory, Abuja. Thereafter, a total of 410 publishers, librarians, authors and printers formed the sample size for the

study. This was done in accordance with Aliand (2000) and Kalinge (2004) who averred that there are no single rules that can be applied to cases regarding the size of a sample but that reasonable size should be considered between 2%-5% when a population runs into hundreds and thousands. The research instrument used for data collection for this study was a questionnaire developed by the researcher and tagged "Survey on Publishers Compliance with Bibliographic Control Practices in Nigeria Questionnaire (QSPCBCPN)"

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

There is an unfounded fear by publishers of some perceived difficulties in getting these codes and conventions from the National Library of Nigeria. Publishers complain of difficulties in obtaining these codes and standards. In addition, it was also observed that there is a general apathy among publishers towards the issue of legal deposit which may not be unconnected with the

poor returns of publications for legal deposit and the attendant difficulties in the compilation of the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN). Publishers also claim to have difficulties to deposit their publications with the National Library due to logistic problems. Finally, an assessment of the National Library of Nigeria in terms of human resources, technology and its

capacity to meet with publishers' needs and maintenance of minimum acceptable standards was found not to be adequate. The combination of these factors has imparted negatively on the administration of these code.

Results also showed a very worrisome development in publishing in Nigeria. Apart from some of these established publishers, the study showed that in almost all the cities and tertiary institutions and corners of every street in Nigeria, there are omnibus publishers without any regard to publishing standards and bibliographic control.

Findings further revealed that the publishing industry in Nigeria lacked the appropriate technology, qualified and trained man-power and suffers from inadequate funding. This indeed is the bane of publishing in Nigeria. The study also showed that the bibliographic control agency, National Library of Nigeria, has

tried in its over three decades of bibliographic control activities with just little to show for all its efforts. This is not the fault of its own, but can be attributed to the Nigerian factor. For instance, in spite of the popularity of ISSN/ISBN/CIP, not many publishers understand the purpose and meaning of these bibliographic control instruments. For now less than 60% of what is published in Nigeria is received as legal deposit. This indeed is rather low and a far cry from meeting the Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and Universal Availability of Publications (UAP). Publishers in Nigeria claimed lack of awareness of the benefits of these programmes to the Nigeria publishers and implored the National Library of Nigeria to organize training programmes for the Nigerian publishers in addition to regular stakeholders meetings. These measures require funding, increased manpower and logistics.

CONCLUSION

Not many Nigerian publishers really understand the use of ISSN/ISBN/CIP and legal deposit. Some publishers source for these services from other publishers and unwittingly fall prey to fraudsters. Publishers in Nigeria are not even willing to deposit the required legal deposit copies with the national library. A greater number of the respondents want the legal deposit copies to be paid for.

On the issue of the publication of the National Bibliography of Nigeria, the

National Library of Nigeria has made tremendous improvement. The 2014 edition is in advance stage of completion. The hard copy is now simultaneously published with the CD-ROM version. Publishing and bibliographic control in Nigeria need to observe and respect national and international bibliographic control standards, instruments and conventions to which Nigeria is a signatory.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the developed world publishing is not a business for all-comers, who pay little or no attention to bibliographic standards and control. Most of the bibliographic control materials are easy to obtain at the ISSN/ISBN Centre/Agency. The issuance of the ISSN has been decentralized as all the

twenty-two (22) state and Abuja branches now issue ISSN/ISBN in order to bring their services to the doorsteps of the Nigerian publishers. And, publishers can deposit their publications in the state or Abuja branch nearest to them.

The National Library needs to reach out to the Nigerian publishers in a massive media campaign, training, seminars, conferences and workshops on issues bordering on bibliographic control, legal deposit and other sundry matters that will benefit the Nigerian publishers, authors and the nation in a symbiotic manner.

Since publishers are not willing to deposit their publications, the National Library of Nigeria should initiate programmes to encourage the publishers to deposit their publications. The rested legal deposit award needs to be revived, in addition to creation of an enforcement unit for the legal deposit division and the section for International Programmes.

The National Library Decree No. 29 of 1970 is becoming rather difficult to enforce in respect of all manner of publications especially electronic publications. The low penalty prescribed for defaulters is too meagre to serve as deterrent. The law, therefore, is long overdue for revision. Perhaps one thing that needs urgent attention in the enforcement of bibliographic control and growth of publishing in Nigeria

is the computerization of the legal deposit and the ISSN/ISBN sections. This, no doubt, shall enhance the efficiency of these activities and encourage networking in the long run.

More qualified, trained and well motivated staff is required to handle the schedule of legal deposit, ISSN/ISBN/CIP and the compilation of the National Bibliography of Nigeria. This will go a long way in achieving bibliographic control compliance, universal bibliographic control and universal availability of publications. For the National Library to achieve a least 90% legal deposit collection of the sum total publishing output of the nation, adequate funding, provisions of logistics and staffing is required. This is in addition to holding regular stakeholders meetings, consultations, training, among others, to create a good working relationship.

Finally, government policies should give due regards to the Nigerian publishers in terms of import wavers and duty free importation of essential printing/publishing materials and equipment.

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