

MATERIALS OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LIBRARIES, VIS-A-VIS STANDARD

**NGOZI CHIMA JAMES
AND**

OKOYE I. B.

THE LIBRARY, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY OWERRI

ABSTRACT

The survey was made to find out the extent to which school libraries in Imo State are meeting the standards as enshrined in the standard for school libraries in Nigeria by the Ministry of Education (1992). The work identifies the availability of school libraries and their library materials visa-vise the set standard. Data was collected using questionnaire designed and distributed to teacher librarians in all the 9 government secondary schools in Owerri Metropolis. On the spot observations were made to confirm the availability of the resources. The result shows that all the 9 government secondary schools in Owerri metropolis have libraries but are of below the stipulated standards in operation. In terms of library materials, none of the government secondary schools in Owerri metropolis met the set standard. However, Government College and Owerri Girls” have some of the audio-visual materials required of school library.

Various problems were found to have contributed to the inadequate school library materials. These include: inadequate funding, attitude of the school management towards librarianship, unqualified library staff and laissez faire attitude of the state government towards the library profession. The work recommends provision of adequate fund and engagement of qualified library staff.

INTRODUCTION

This work focuses on the Secondary School Library materials in Imo State vis-a-vis the standards. Secondary school was established to prepare and train students for the challenges in the university education. For this reason a standard school library should be put in place for the effective learning of the students.

As a practicing librarian in one of the Academic libraries in Imo State, the researcher observed that most of the undergraduates could not identify or differentiate each material from the other, and some are lost when they come into the library to search for information. Then, the big question, are there no libraries in secondary schools? And if there are. do their materials meet the stipulated standards? Hence, this work seeks to find out if the available materials in those secondary school libraries in Imo State agree with the stipulated school library standards.

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED

- ❖ School library materials.
- ❖ Types and uses of school library materials.
- ❖ Minimum standards for school library materials.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIALS

Fayose (2001) stated that a wide range of school library materials exist through which students and teachers can obtain information and gain knowledge. They include:

- ❖ Reference Books - dictionaries, encyclopedias, year books, directories, gazettes and atlas.
- ❖ Fiction - story books, picture books, poetry and drama books.
- ❖ Periodicals - magazines. Journals, newspapers
- ❖ Government publications - Government gazettes
- ❖ Audio-visual materials - hardware or equipment, software e.g. cassettes. Some of the projected visual materials are in form of films, filmstrips. slides and video cassettes.
- ❖ Audio recording - photograph records, recorded tapes, cassettes musical scores.

TYPES AND USES OF SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIALS

There are different types of school library materials according to Elaturoti (2001) they include

- **Beginner Books:** They are non text books that provide young children of pre-school and lower primary classes the opportunity to read for pleasure or information. Beginner books *are* of four types namely Lap books, concept books, counting books and picture story books.
- **Uses:** It develops the curiosity of young children as well as improves their languages skills.
- **Fiction:** It is one of the most important parts of a school library collection. It consists of works of the creative imagination e.g. story books, easy to read books, the adolescent novels. even some picture books, short stories, poetry and drama.

USES: It is useful for relaxation, for developing children's emotions and sensibilities.

- **Non-fiction Books:** these consist of picture books, textbooks, other information books and reference books.
- Magazines - they are popular recreational and supplementary reading materials among children in school. Some are for entertainment while some provide information in specific subject areas such as science, the social science, art. technology etc; hence they make excellent supplementary materials for learning content that is important to the curriculum.
- **Non-print materials or Audio-visual materials:** they are divided into two. The hardware or equipment like film projector, and softwares like video cassettes.

Uses: they make learning more concrete and real-Instructional posters: they are type of display system that deals with a single concept and treats it generally rather specifically. They are designed to attract the attention of the learner, present a small body of information and gets its message across in a relatively short period of time.

They are also projected visual materials in form of film and filmstrips, slides, video cassette. They carry various useful information as well as stories. Projected visual concentrates on teaching and learning making these more interesting, meaningful and lasting.

- Audio recordings: Which include phonograph records, recorded tapes cassettes, musical score etc. It appeals to the ears senses of both pupils and teachers in the school.

Uses: they are useful in teaching and learning foreign languages phonetics, history, poetry and music. It is useful in developing or improving children listening skills-Computer; They are used for storing and assessing of information material.

- **Microforms:** the microform includes microfilms; microfiche and microcards. They are photographically reduced documents which are very small in size. Microform readers

are necessary because they can help store bulk library materials in small space. It is not yet common in school libraries.

Other Non-print materials include: Models and Specimens; Flash Cards and Flannel Graphs: Realia; Artifacts and Museum Objects.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIALS

According to the minimum standards for school libraries in Nigeria published by the Ministry of Education (1992). A school library should have the following listed features.

Works of Reference

1. library materials/collection in this area should consist of
 - a. Sets of Encyclopedia: at least 2 sets (one science, one general).
 - b. Language dictionaries to cover English, French, Arabic and Nigeria language (Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba).
 - c. Books of quotations and dictionary of proverb.
 - d. Companion of comprehensive literary work.
 - e. Maps and atlases.
 - f. Gazetteers.
 - g. Subject dictionaries and music, geography, biology etc
 2. Non-fiction: Book collection should cover all subjects that are taught in school as well as curricula and book of general interests and photography, scouting, sports etc.
 3. Fiction (story books): Every school Library should have both local and foreign fiction materials.
 4. Periodicals - every school should have on subscription at least 10 different titles of periodicals (excluding Newspapers] in various disciplines.
 - 4b. On daily subscription 5 different Nigerian Newspapers.
 - i. Local Newspapers produces within the locality - 1 title.
 - ii. State government Sponsored Newspaper - 1 title.
 - iii. Federal government sponsored Newspapers - 1 titleOthers not listed above - 2 titles
 5. **Maps and Atlases** Each school library should have in library collection at least 3 different titles of atlases with the following representations the local government area, the state and country where no separate issue have been published, the continent i.e Africa, the world.
 6. **Books of quotation** - every school library should have at least 2) different sets of standard books of quotation.
 7. **Non-Book materials:** every school library should have in its collections - the following;
 - i. Pictures especially of famous personalities, place an events of geographical and historical importance as well as birds trees, flowers etc.
 - ii. **Realia:** Comprising of samples of local arts and crafts, historical objects of natural history such as rocks and metals, iii. Newspapers clippings/cuttings
- 7b **Types of audio visual material which include**
- i. Records
 - ii. Tapes and cartridges
 - iii. Slides
 - iv. Films, film-strips
 - v. Micro-films
 - vi. Transparencies

vii. Maps. Charts, and Globes

Basic Book collection - New schools may not be expected to meet up standard within the first two years of existence. Similarly, old school which at present has no formal libraries will equally require time for their libraries to meet the required standards.

Enrolment (secondary schools)	No of different titles
500 – less	1500
500 – 1000	3000
1000-1500	4000
1500 -2000	5000
12000-3000	6000-10.000

METHODOLOGY

Data was collected using questionnaire designed and distributed to teacher librarians of 9 public secondary school in Owerri metropolis and on - the spot observation was made to confirm the report of the questionnaire. Survey design was also adopted. Finally the work was analyzed using tables.

RESULTS

A total of 9 copies of the questionnaires were distributed to the teacher librarians of the 9 schools under study. The schools include Government College Owerri. Emmanuel College. Owerri. Comprehensive development Secondary School Owerri, Government Technical College Owerri. Boys Secondary School New Owerri. Urban development Secondary School New Owerri, Ikenegbu Girls Secondary School Owerri. Owerri Girls and Holy Ghost College Owerri.

All the questionnaires were filled and returned giving a percentage of 100%

The qualities of School library material in 9 secondary schools under study and their standard quantities.

Library Material	GC.O	EC.O	H.GG.O	LGS.S.O	GS.S.O	GT.G.O	B,S.N.O	C.D.S.S.O	U.D.S.S.O	Standard quantity for the secondary school material
Dictionary	2	-	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5 copies
Encyclopedia	2	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2 sets (1Science and 1 general)
Other periodicals	4	1	1	2	4	1	2	1	3	10 different titles
Newspapers	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	5 different of Nigeria
Maps & Alases	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3 different titles
Books of quotation	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2 different sets
Material (Non. Book)	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	Numbers not stated
Audio-visual material	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	Number not stated

From the table above it was observed that none of the nine public secondary schools libraries has required number of dictionaries as was stated in the standard- Similarly there is dearth of encyclopedias, other periodicals, newspapers, maps, atlas and books of quotations in the said school libraries. Even though that two school libraries have computers but it was observed

that their accessories are not complete. Therefore in audio-visual materials no number was stated in standards and that of non-book materials.

SIZE OF COLLECTION OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARIES COLLECTIONS. (FICTION AND NON FICTION) TEXTBOOKS

Secondary Schools	Collection size in standard Number
Standard Number of	Textbooks for Text book
G.C.O	1.875
E.C.O	3.678
H.G.C.O.	4.102
I.G.S.S.O	197
CD.S.S.O	75
O.G.S.O.	5,000
G.T.C.O	2,050
B.S.S.N.O	1,700
U.O.S.S.N.O	1,050
TOTAL	19.727 volumes

The table above revealed that the collection size of government college Owerri (G.C.O) is 1,875 Emmanuel College Owerri (E.C.O) has 3.678 volumes. Holy ghost College Owerri (H.G.C.O.) has 4.102 volumes. Ikenegbu Girls Secondary School Owerri (I.G.S.S.O.) has 197 volumes. Comprehensive Development Secondary School Owerri (C.D.S.S.O.) has 75 volumes, Owerri Girls Secondary School (O.G.S.S.) has 5,000 volumes, Government Technical College Owerri (G.T.C.O) has 2,050 volumes and Urban Development Secondary School New Owerri has 1,050 volumes. In other words the total collection size of school libraries understudy is 19,727 volumes. From the table above, the responses to the size of collections available in the School libraries under study revealed that collection (materials) size was below standard with a total volume of 19. 727.

Hence, the standard stated that each secondary library should have 10,000 volumes of textbooks in their collection.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusively, from the analysis and interpretation of data it was discovered that the 9 public secondary school library were below standard. Moreso, non-print materials of the library was a mirage not to talk of being up to standard as was stated in the minimum standards for school library.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The researcher recommends that there should be a standing policy that will guide library collections and one of the policies should be that every new student should pay a stipulated amount so as to be able to acquire the type and size of materials they want with current editions.
2. Let only professional teacher librarians be employed to manage the school libraries and should be encourage to attend seminars, conferences and workshop to update their knowledge.
3. The researcher recommends that Imo State government in concert with local government educational authorities Owerri should make effort to see that the necessary fund and materials are made available to the school libraries in Owerri metropolis.

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