



CRISIS OF NOMENCLATURE AND LOCATION IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY BASED LIBRARY SCHOOLS- THE WAY FORWARD

IFEKA E. OKEKE*;LUCKY U. OGHENETEGA;
OYENIKE OLUWATOYIN ERIMIELEAGBON*****

*Department of Library and Information Science Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka Anambra State.

**Department of Library and Information and Science Madonna University-Okija Anambra State

***The Library College of Education, Agbor Delta State

Abstract

This study is on the crisis of nomenclature and location in Nigerian University based library schools. This is descriptive survey, Data were collected through documentary sources from library literatures, NUC, discussion with professional colleges. Seven Nigerian University based library schools, were used for the study. The results of the study reveals that library schools in Nigeria operates with different departmental names like Department of Library Science, Department of library and Information Science, Department of Library and Information Technology, whereas some departments are under faculty of education, others are in social. It was recommended that the Nigerian Library Association (NLA) and Librarians Registration council of Nigeria (LRCN) must be ready to step into these crisis. The departmental names must be library and information science and should be under the social science faculty. The degree to be awarded will read Bachelor in Library and Information Science (BLIS).

Keyword: Crisis, Nomenclature, Location, Library Education.

INTRODUCTION

This paper is on crisis of nomenclature and location in Nigerian University based library schools. Librarianship in Nigeria met all the requirements that qualifies it to be a profession. It has a body of knowledge, theoretical base, specialized skill, an association, formal education and most importantly a body (Librarians Registration Council) that regulate its practices.

Librarianship education started in 1960 at the then university college Ibadan, then known as the institute of librarianship but now the Department of Library, Archival and Information studies. This was followed with the establishment of library education at Ahmadu Bello University in 1968, Bayero University 1977, University of Maiduguri 1978 and University of Nigeria Nsukka 1983. Library and Information Science education program in Nigeria are offered at various tertiary level institutions such as colleges of Education, Polytechnics and Universities. Such program awards certificate, diploma, BLS, BLIS, BED (Library) BSC Library Science/Botany MLIS, MLS, Ph.D and vary in nomenclature, content, location and grading system depending on the awarding institution. The proliferation of library schools brought about serious crisis in nomenclature and location. Though some of the crisis were put under control, like the stoppage of the college of Education from running NCE programme in library and information science. The proliferation also brought about the issue of curriculum in use in the various library schools.

Curriculum guides students activities and developed defined procedures for the achievement of the educational goals. Ocholla (n.d) States that

A curriculum is a fundamental part of any education or training program largely because it provides not only a list of courses or modules offered in a program, but also gives information on content, purpose, method, time/duration, trainers and location or situation of a programmer course-all of which are essential in a successful dispensation of manpower training and education.

The inability of the Nigeria Library schools today to operate on a defined and generally acceptable curriculum has created major crisis in library education which brought about the crisis of nomenclature and location.

Statement of Problem

Since the inception of library education in Nigeria with particular reference to undergraduate program in Nigerian Universities, no concrete efforts have been made to determine a universal name for library education in each faculty. Some are being addressed as the department of library science, Department of Library and Information Science, Department of Library and Information Technology. Some of the library schools are even a unit of the education foundation department. Also some awards BLS, BLIS, BA/BSc, BLS (Ed). BED (Library Science). To worsen the situation the location of the department in the faculties in Nigerian university also differs. Some are under faculty of Education, faculty of science, faculty of social science and faculty of science and science education. These developments above have brought about a lot of crisis in the development of librarianship. It is therefore very necessary to find out the crisis and the extent it has gone in effecting the professional development and the way forward.

Purpose of the study

The general purpose is the crisis of nomenclature and location of Nigerian University based library schools. Specifically the objectives are to:

1. determine the location and nomenclature of the departments of Library and Information Science in Nigerian Universities.
2. ascertain the crisis brought about by the discrepancies in nomenclature and location.
3. Proffer possible solutions to the crisis.

Schools that offers among others, first degree programme

S/N	Library School	Year Established	Home Faculty	Name of Department	First Degree Awarded
1.	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	1960	Education	Library, Archival and Information Science	BLS
2.	Ahmadu Bello University,	1968	Education	Librarian Science	BLS

	Zaria				
3.	Bayero University, Kano	1977	Education	Library Science	BA/B.SC
4.	University of Maiduguri	1978	Education	Library Science	BLS
5.	University of Nigeria, Nuskka	1986	Education	Library & Information Science	BA/B.SC
6.	Imo State University, Owerri	1990	Social Science	Library & Information Science	BLS/B.SC
7.	Abia State University, Uturu	1990	Social Science	Library & Information Science	B.SC
8.	Enugu State University of Science & Tech., Enugu	1991	Education		BLS (Ed)
9.	Edo State University (Ambrose Alli University), Ekpoma	1991	Social Science	Library & Information Science	BLS

Scope: The work is limited to seven Nigerian University – library based schools namely: Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Delta State University, University of Nigeria, Nuskka (UNN), Madonna University-Okija, Anambra State, Federal University of Technology Minna, Abia State University, Uturu and Edo State University-Ekpoma.

S/N	Library School	Year Established	Home Faculty	Name of Department	First Degree Awarded
1.	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka	1991	Education	Library & Information Science	BLIS
2.	Delta State University	1991	Education	Library & Information Science	BLS
3.	University of Nigeria, Nuskka (UNN)	1986	Education	Library & Information Science	BA/B.Sc
4.	Madonna University-Okija,	1999	Social Science	Library &	BLS

	Anambra State			Information Science	
5.	Federal University of Technology Minna	2001	Science & Science Education	Library & Information Technology	B Tech. LIS
6.	Abia State University, Uturu	1990	Social Science	Library & Information Science	B.Sc
7.	Edo State University- Ekpoma	1991	Social Science	Library & Information Science	BLS

These respective library and information science nomenclature and location were discovered.

Method of Data collection

The data for this paper was collected from

- i). Literatures documented in the library
- ii). National University commission documents
- iii). Jamb brochure 2013
- iv). Discussion with some heads of library schools and professional colleagues.

Data Analysis and finding/Discussion

All the sources used for this study were properly accessed and analysed with respect to the seven (7) University based library schools, The analysis and discussion are as follows:

1. The first library school in Nigeria was established in the 1962/63 session in the University of Ibadan as an institute of librarianship. At that time it not only stood on its own because institute could award diplomas and certificates but it was also located in the University library with the then librarian, late Williams John Harries as the pioneer director. As the institute expanded, it was transferred to the faculty of Education for two reasons. The first was that the focus was on the production of teacher/librarians. Arising from this was the second reason, namely that as a component of education, the teaching and research method were those appropriate for education. This remained the situation

- for most of the first and second generation Universities where librarianship was offered as an academic program.
2. By the early 1970's information science emerged in the industrialized countries. But this trend do not reach Nigeria until the 1980's when the third generation universities began to spring up followed by the fourth generation universities ie private Universities. The nomenclature for this discipline then changed from librarianship/library science to library and information science.
 3. With the change in nomenclature also came the change in both the subject content and teaching/research methods. The current teaching and research methods are those appropriate for the social science. Thus, it will be illogical to apply Education teaching and research methods to a discipline that has titled towards the social science.
 4. NUC'S Nomenclature and placement by a memo Ref No NUC/DAS/96 dated July 5, 2007, the National University commission (NUC) issued a document stating the location of a discipline in Nigerian Universities as well as listing approved nomenclature for qualification. In that document, library and information science was located in both the faculty of social sciences and faculty of Education. The clear implication of this is that NUC agreed that pure library and information science school be in the faculty of social science while the Education/library science program designed to produce teacher librarians should continue to domiciled in the faculty of Education.
 5. A close study of the location of the third and fourth generation Universities shows that where library and information science is offered as an academic program, it is located in the faculty of social science with the exception of Imo State University Owerri that was forcefully moved from social science to Education.
 6. The library schools that awards degrees are based on the 1995 National University commission's minimum Academic standards for library and information science, the library schools accordingly awards BLS or BLIS degree but those who stick to 1985 NUCS minimum Academic standards for library science awards BLS/History, BLS (ED) or B.ED (library science) and most of them are still under education faculty.

The crisis in nomenclature and location

Dependence on the National University commissions minimum standard for library and information science produced first in 1985 and re-produced in 1995 despite negative reactions from some notable librarians had brought about the production of all sorts of librarians who are registrable and unregistrable by the librarians Registration council of Nigeria. The council is yet to prove that it really recognizes this level of crisis were all sorts of nomenclature are given to the first degree which is the starting point of the librarians professional call like BLS/Botany, B.ED (library science) or BLS (ED) This is a major crisis in the Education and training of Nigerian Librarians. Some library schools instead of allowing their students to go on six months industrial work experience scheme, send them on teaching practice meant for education students.

This brings us to another aspect of nomenclature which is the name of the department. Some will call it department of library and information technology, Department of Library Science, Department of computer and library science, and still Department of library and information science. Is this professional confusion or what?. Again the librarians Registration council of Nigeria must recognize the crisis.

Another crisis is on the issue of location. Some of the library schools are under Education faculty, some others are under social sciences and some others under computer science/technology. Some library schools are still a unit of the Education foundation of the faculty of Education. The major things in location are interest, employment opportunities, nature and content of the training program and the nature of research such a training requires. The time has come for the Nigerian library Association based on the recommendation of NALISE should take up these issues with the National University commission.

Conclusion and Recommendation

In this age of globalization, Nigerian cannot afford to pursue a policy of splendid isolation when the world is now a global village. Today, the debate about the nomenclature or location is no longer an issue. The nomenclature and location by training and professional demands are the Department of library and Information Science with Bachelor in library and information science (BLIS) as the degree and the popular and acceptable faculty is social science. This current agitation for the department of library and information science is for it to be upgraded to the status of a faculty. Based on this conclusions, the following recommendation are made.

1. The NLA and the Librarians Registration council of Nigeria must sit up to create uniformity both in nomenclature and location of library schools in Nigeria. NLA and LRCN have not done much in this regard.
2. All library schools should be addressed as the department of library and information science and should be under the faculty of social science. Library and Information Science is highly driven by ICT which has overtaken the world. Therefore, Bachelor of library science (Education) or Bachelor of Education (Library Science) or Bachelor of Science (Library/Botany) should not be registered by librarians Registration council of Nigeria.
3. For any institution to introduce library education, such must seek the approval of the librarians Registration council first before NUC comes in.
4. The National University commission should not take any final policy decision with respect to University based library and Information science program without due consultation with Librarians Registration council of Nigeria.
5. Membership of the Nigerian Library Association should be restricted to registered librarians from the librarians Registration council of Nigeria and professionally it must be made clear to all institutions by LRCN that first degree in Library and Information Science (BLIS) is the starting point of professional call.

References

1. Federal Republic of Nigeria (1995) Librarian Registration council of Nigeria Decree 12. Abuja.
2. Lawal, O lat O. (2009) standards for library and information science programme in Nigerian Universities In: Chidi Nwosu and Okeee Okoro (2009) Eds, standards for library and information science programmes in Nigerian Universities, Owerri: Kosoko press: 1-7
3. Lawal, O.O. (2003) Professional Education for Librarianship: International perspectives Ibadan: spectrum.
4. National University commission (2007) Location and Nomenclature. Abuja: NUC
5. National University commission (1995) minimum Academic standards for library and information science in all Nigerian Universities, Abuja.
6. Nwosu, Obiora (2009) Harmonization and standardization of library and information science curricula in Nigerian University library schools. In Chidi Nwosu and Okee Okoro (2009) Eds. Standards for LIS programme in Nigerian Universities. Owerri Kosoko press. 66-75.