

Full Length Research

Influence of institutional Support and Legal Deposit Compliance in Nigeria

¹Eddy-Ugorji, Deborah Chinwe and ²Prof. G. Alegbeleye

¹Department of Information Resource Management, Babcock University, Ilishan Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria

²Department of Information Resource Management, Babcock University, Ilishan Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria

Accepted 30 October 2021

Abstract

The study evaluated the Influence of institutional support and compliance with legal deposit law in Nigeria. The study adopted a survey design with a study population of four hundred and eighty-four (484) professional librarians, para-professional librarians and library officers working in the thirty-two (32) branches of the NLN and the headquarters in Abuja (NLN staff list April 2020), total enumeration was used because the population was very few. A structured and validated questionnaire was used for data collection. Data was analyzed using the SPSS software, frequency distribution and percentages. The findings revealed that the need for National Library of Nigeria to sustain institutional support in the aforementioned areas. Nonetheless, the result also suggests two critical areas of concern regarding institutional support namely insufficient funding (mean = 2.08) and lack of special allocation specifically to pursue enforcement of legal deposit (mean = 2.09). The study concludes that the Institutional support has a positive influence on legal deposit compliance. When NLN provides enabling support to librarians, there is strong tendency to improve legal deposit compliance. Institutional support is vital in improving legal deposit compliance with adequate planning and attention by management of NLN. The study recommended that the use of updated publishers' catalogue and monthly legal deposit drive to publishing houses should be employed by NLN to monitor and ensure timely compliance, as the legal deposit copy is the only copy of a publication that is acceptable by court as an authentic copy in a case of copyright litigation.

Keywords: institutional support, compliance, legal deposit law in Nigeria

Cite This Article As: Alegbeleye, G., Eddy-Ugorji, D. C. (2021). Influence of institutional Support and Legal Deposit Compliance in Nigeria. *Inter. J. Acad. Res. Educ. Rev.* 9(8): 324-330

INTRODUCTION

Legal deposit is an obligation on publishers, authors and distributors to deposit their publications in the National library for the purpose of maintaining an archival record of the published materials. It is also a term used to describe the activities of statutory submission of publications by publishers in a country. It involves the collation of printed materials in an approved facility for the primary purpose of storage for present and future use. It is a mandatory obligation which publishers and authors must abide with as it presents great advantages to the

authors, publishers, researchers and the general public. This is because publications are made available to readers in the society, they are also preserved for the benefit of future generations which becomes a part of the national heritage. If a publisher fails to adhere to a legal deposit law in Nigeria, the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) may apply to the court for an order requiring the publisher to comply with the obligations stated in the National Library Act. The National Library of Nigeria 1970 Act stipulates that publishers in Nigeria are to deposit certain number of copies, depending on the category of the publisher with the National Library of

Nigeria, within one month (30 days) of the publication at the expense of the publisher. If the publisher is unable to comply, the court may convict the publisher by making sure the publisher pays a fine of fifty pounds or serves a prison sentence of not more than three months. Iqbal, Qutab and Soroya (2015) established that legal deposit facilitates the documentation of intellectual heritage of a country which is critical to national development.

In pursuance of the law, legal deposit is maintained to preserve and benchmark the country's developmental history and contribution to knowledge. It can be deduced that the major goals of legal deposit are the development of a nation's publication collection, preservation of the collection for the benefit of future generations as well as the creation of national bibliographic and preservation for research and related purposes. Nicholson (2015) highlighted the importance of legal deposit as an internationally recognized practice within the global library community which ensures that cultural heritage of a nation is collected, accessioned, stored, protected, preserved and made accessible for the benefit of the citizens. Akintunde (2019) asserted that legal deposit stabilizes and promotes the cultural heritage of a nation as well as its intellectual outputs. Iqbal, Qutab and Soroya (2015) established that legal deposit facilitates the documentation of intellectual heritage of a country which is critical to national development. The benefit of legal deposit cannot be overemphasized for authors, publishers, the public and researchers. Authors have their work catalogued, classified, and accessible thereby increasing their visibility nationally and internationally. Publishers have their trademark on deposited and accessible publications, thereby increasing their public profile. The nation maintains a comprehensive aggregation of a national heritage. The public can access the national heritage and the researchers can as well use the materials for research purposes. Therefore, the mentioned benefits cannot be made possible without legal deposit compliance.

Institutional support may also come in the form of motivation of librarians in the national library. When librarians are well motivated they have the willingness of facilitating the enforcement and compliance to legal deposit law. The concept of motivation is viewed by Nwibere (2014) as a human psychological characteristic that contributes to commitment on the job. Motivation takes different dimensions such as extrinsic motivation which is induced by external factors such as financial reward. Extrinsic motivation encourages staff to complete their task in order to receive the reward. There is also the concept of intrinsic motivation which explains internal response such as satisfaction when a job is accomplished. Therefore, for librarians in the National Library of Nigeria to enforce the legal deposit compliance, there is need for an effective motivation of professional librarians, para-professionals and library officers. Librarians should be provided with the right incentives;

they should be rewarded for the job they carry out in the library. The right level of promotion should be given to deserving librarians as at when due including letters of commendation for a job well accomplished. These motivational actions will have a greater influence positively on how they carry out their job such as the enforcement of compliance to the legal deposit law.

The concept of training is another element of motivation that can help librarians in the national library to discharge their duties well. Training of librarians is a critical element to consider. Staff training may be a major determinant of effective productivity in an organization. The performance of librarians with respect to the National library is determined by their effectiveness and efficiency on the job, which is championed by effective training. Ajidahun (2011) reported that training is an integral part of vocational development which has become essential in any organization. The absence of training in any organization spells doom because training of staff determines the success of any organization. Jacintah (2012) stated that libraries cannot do without adequate training of employees. Hence, the concept of training should be an ongoing activity for all librarians. To enhance and improve on the job rendered by librarians in the National library especially in the enforcement of compliance with legal deposit law, there is a need for proper training to take place. This is why it is prescribed that enforcement of the legal deposit compliance, amongst others is based on a prescribed level of training for the librarians and library officers. Training is designed to help librarians achieve the required outcome. Therefore, institutional support is the perception of librarians and library officers that they are valued by the National Library management. It suggests that the library management values their contribution to the success of the organization.

Krishnan and Mary (2012) assert that, in order to meet socio-emotional needs and to assess the benefits of increased work effort, employees form a general perception concerning the extent to which the institution values their contributions and cares about their well-being. The institutional support in the form of training, motivation and funding of legal deposit activities by the National Library management is likely to increase librarians' obligation to help the institution reach its objectives. These institutional support indicators provide critical resources that may be useful in legal deposit law enforcement and implementation. Iwuji (2000) had posited that the extent of collection of legal deposit in NLN depends on the enthusiasm, dedication and perseverance of the national library staff. Therefore, funding, motivation and staff training has to be adequate to achieve legal deposit compliance goals in the National Library.

Compliance with the national legal deposit law cannot be achieved without the commitment of librarians and library officers who work in the national library.

Commitment is viewed as dedication to the actualization of organizational goals and objectives. According to Owolabi, Ajiboye, Bakare, Bello, Omotoso and Adeleke, (2013) commitment refers to the degree to which staff of an organization displays some degree of dedication in the accomplishment of organizational goals and objectives. Okechuku (2013) established that commitment deals with employee's work attitude towards the actualization of the mission of the organization. When the staffs of an organization are committed to the goals of an organization it implies that they display some level of commitment to it through their involvement in the progress of the organization. In the library however, commitment implies that the librarians show some level of emotional involvement and commitment to their work. It implies that the degree to which their work is taken seriously cannot be overemphasized. A librarian who is committed to his or her work will be vital to his/her institution. A committed librarian indicates that such a librarian has an in-depth connection to the organization and tries to accomplish the goals of the organization.

Statement of the problem

Legal deposit compliance by publishers and authors is beneficial to the society, it permits comprehensive, standardized cataloguing and recording of publications to the benefit of publishers, authors, booksellers, libraries, scholars and the general public. Through legal deposit, authors, publishers and other creators of legal deposit materials are immortalized as their publications are preserved permanently. It also enables the National Library to serve as the national reference and information center for study and research on all facets of national documentary heritage (IFLA, 2011). The National Library also protects the interest of publishers and authors that deposited their publications by responding to subpoena in cases of litigation. Legal deposit further serves as a source of statistical data on publication output in Nigeria and as a measure of the Human Development Index (HDI) of the country.

However, in spite of these benefits, existing literature and documented evidence indicate unsatisfactory level of compliance in Nigeria (Opara, 2020; Akidi & Omekwu 2019; Rotimi, 2019). The failure of publishers to deposit their publications has affected the operations of NLN as the current edition of NBN (2014) was updated and published retrospectively in 2018 (Aina, 2018). The implication is that authors, publishers and their publications will remain unknown nationally and internationally. The NLN has been concerned about what could be the causes of non-compliance and ipso facto how compliance could be improved. The problem of non-compliance may be due to a number of factors which include lack of institutional support, and poor commitment of library staff among others. It is doubtful if the National Library staffs have received adequate institutional

support.

These aforementioned variables may have the capacity to influence compliance with the legal deposit law. However, the researcher discovered from observation and previous studies that little or no attention has been paid to institutional support and as legal deposit compliance in Nigeria. Moreso, no empirical study has focused on institutional support and compliance with legal deposit law in Nigeria, this leaves a gap that the researcher intends to fill.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the influence of institutional support and librarian's commitment on legal deposit compliance in Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

1. establish the extent of legal deposit law compliance in Nigeria;
3. find out the level of institutional support provided by National Library of Nigeria;

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What is the extent of legal deposit law compliance in Nigeria?
2. What is the level of institutional support provided by the National Library?

METHODOLOGY

The survey research design will be adopted for this study. The population of this study comprised a total of four hundred and eighty-four (484) professional librarians, para-professional librarians and library officers working in the thirty-two (32) branches of the NLN and the headquarters in Abuja (NLN staff list April 2020). There will be no sampling technique involved in this study because the researcher is interested in the total population, therefore total enumeration or census method will be adopted for this study. This is because the researcher considered the population as not too large to manage and that the use of the total enumeration can eliminate any potential bias that may occur if a sample is selected and allowed for the generalization of the findings from the study. The instrument for data collection of this study is a self-structured questionnaire. The data gathered from the field were collated and subjected to analysis. Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed respectively in analyzing the quantitative data. Descriptive analyses (frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviations) were used to analyse extent of legal deposit law compliance, degree of legal deposit law

enforcement and the challenges facing legal deposit law compliance in Nigeria in tabular forms. The descriptive statistics of frequency and percentage was used in analyzing the demographics. The descriptive statistics of frequency count, percentages, mean, and standard deviation were used in answering all the research questions.

DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Analysis of Research Questions

The data shown in Tables 1-2 were collated to enable the researcher provide answers to the research questions raised in the study.

Research Question One: What is the extent of legal deposit law compliance in Nigeria?

Research question one was analyzed with frequency counts, percentage, mean and standard deviation statistics. The result of the analysis is reported in Tables 1

Table 1. Extent of legal deposit law compliance in Nigeria

Statements Please indicate the extent of compliance with...	Very High Extent (4)	High Extent (3)	Low Extent (2)	Very Low Extent (1)	Mean	Std.
Three copies of privately published books are deposited in the National Library	205(94.5)	08(3.7)	03(1.4)	01(0.5)	3.92	0.36
Three copies of commercial publications are deposited in the national library	201(92.6)	12(5.5)	02(0.9)	02(0.9)	3.90	0.41
The legal deposit law is not out-of-dated	46(21.3)	158(73.1)	07(3.2)	05(2.3)	3.13	0.57
Twenty-five copies of federal government publications are deposited in the national library	21(9.7)	189(87.1)	07(3.2)		3.06	0.35
Ten copies of State publications are deposited by state government in the national library	19(8.8)	189(87.1)	07(3.2)	02(0.9)	3.04	0.40
Publishers compulsorily deposit copies of their publications in the national library	14(6.5)	194(89.4)	09(4.1)		3.02	0.33
Authors and publishers exhibit knowledge of the legal deposit law	13(6.0)	188(86.6)	14(6.5)	02(0.9)	2.98	0.40
Publishers deposit their publications with the national library within 30 days of publication	10(4.6)	05(2.3)	199(91.7)	03(1.4)	2.10	0.46
There is a proliferation of registered publishing houses in Nigeria	07(3.2)	07(3.2)	196(90.3)	07(3.2)	2.06	0.44
There is a proliferation of ISBN and ISSN from outside NLN	07(3.2)	04(1.8)	196(90.3)	10(4.6)	2.04	0.44
Extent of Compliance with copies of publications deposited (Weighted Mean = 2.93; Std. = 0.27)						

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2021

Decision Rule: 1.0-1.74 = Very Low Extent; 1.75-2.49 = Low Extent; 2.50-3.24 = High Extent; 3.25-4.00 = Very High Extent.

Librarians were asked to rate the extent of compliance with legal deposit law in Nigeria using a rating scale of 1–4, with 4 being Very High Extent; 3 High Extent; 2 Low Extent and 1 indicating Very Low Extent in Table 4.3. On the general level, the extent of legal deposit law compliance in Nigeria with regards to the number of copies deposited was high (Weighted mean= 2.93), on a scale of 4. However, depositing these publications statutorily within thirty (30) days of publication as stipulated in the legal deposit law was low (mean = 2.10) Compliance is not complete if it is not done timely, within the 30days stipulated period. Deposit of publications is one aspect, but compliance is only complete when done within 30days after publication. Areas such as

proliferation of ISBN and ISSN from outside NLN (mean = 2.04), and proliferation of registered publishing houses in Nigeria (mean = 2.06)

Research Question Two: What is the level of institutional support provided by the National Library of Nigeria?

Research question three was an attempt to find out the level of institutional support provided by the National Library of Nigeria The result of the analysis is reported in Tables 2

Table 2. Level of institutional support provided by the NLN

Training					3.15	0.45
The national library send librarians to workshops to learn more about copyright issues	193(89.4)	13(6.0)	09(4.2)	08(3.7)	3.78	0.69
Librarians receive special training on collection of legal deposit	191(88.0)	08(3.7)	13(6.0)	05(2.3)	3.77	0.66
Librarians are regularly sent to conferences and workshops	10(4.6)	196(90.3)	07(3.2)	04(1.8)	2.98	0.39
Training is received on the enforcement of legal deposit law	03(1.4)	195(89.9)	11(5.1)	08(3.7)	2.89	0.45
Training is regularly carried out on how to effectively communicate with publishers	36(16.7)	10(4.6)	165(76.4)	05(2.3)	2.36	0.78
Funding					2.59	0.36
Adequate fund is provided by the national library for effective collection of legal deposit	10(4.6)	190(88.0)	12(5.6)	04(1.9)	2.95	0.42
The legal deposit unit of the national library is given priority funding to enable it carry out its duties	08(3.7)	190(87.6)	12(5.5)	07(3.2)	2.92	0.46
The National Library provides financial support for the enforcement of legal deposit law by librarians	10(4.6)	185(85.6)	13(6.0)	08(3.7)	2.91	0.50
There is a special allocation specifically to pursue enforcement of legal deposit	08(3.7)	09(4.1)	195(89.9)	05(2.3)	2.09	0.45
The National Library is sufficiently funded as evidenced in the discharge of duties	09(4.1)	04(1.8)	199(91.7)	05(2.3)	2.08	0.45
Institutional Support (Average Weighted Mean = 3.15; Std. = 0.40)						

Continuation of Table 2

Statements	Very High Level (4)	High Level (3)	Low Level (2)	Very Low Level(1)	Mean	Std. Dev.
Please indicate the level to which...						
Policy					3.45	0.48
The National Library has a policy that facilitates collection of legal deposit	194(89.8)	13(6.0)	05(2.3)	04(1.9)	3.84	0.54
The policy on legal deposit collection is made known to publishers and authors	192(88.9)	12(5.6)	08(3.7)	04(1.9)	3.81	0.58
National library policy on legal deposit is comprehensive	191(88.4)	12(5.6)	08(3.7)	07(3.2)	3.78	0.66
The policy on legal deposit collection is made known to all staff	08(3.7)	195(90.3)	06(2.8)	07(3.2)	2.94	0.44
The policy on legal deposit is regularly updated	03(1.4)	190(88.0)	15(6.9)	08(3.7)	2.87	0.46
Motivation					3.4	0.52
Salaries and allowances are paid as when due in the national library	194(89.4)	10(4.6)	03(1.4)	10(4.6)	3.79	0.69
Librarians in NLN are adequately motivated	187(86.2)	13(6.0)	11(5.1)	06(2.8)	3.76	0.67
Librarians are motivated in the National Library through the provision of a good working environment	186(85.7)	12(5.5)	15(6.9)	04(1.8)	3.75	0.66
Librarians are given special recognition in the National Library for carrying out their duties effectively	09(4.1)	189(87.1)	09(4.1)	10(4.6)	2.91	0.51
Librarians in the national library are adequately motivated through rewards and bonuses	06(2.8)	190(88.0)	06(2.8)	14(6.5)	2.87	0.55

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2021

Decision Rule: 1.0-1.74 = Very Low Level; 1.75-2.49 = Low Level; 2.50-3.24 = High Level; 3.25-3.99 = Very High Level.

Respondents were asked to indicate the level of institutional support provided by the National Library. The result of Table 4.5 indicates that the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) provides high level of institutional support for national library operations in Nigeria (average weighted mean = 3.15), on a scale of 4. Four dimensions of institutional (funding, training, motivation and policy) were considered and their average mean values were also calculated. Of the four dimensions of institutional support, policy was high (weighted mean = 3.45) while funding was ranked lowest (weighted mean = 2.59). Statistically, and according to the parameter set, policy and motivation are the same level (very high), while training and funding are the same (high). The high level of institutional support could be due to the reason that the National Library of Nigeria achieved very well in putting in place policy that facilitates collection of legal deposit (mean = 3.84), creating of awareness of such policies among publishers and authors (mean=3.81), ensuring legal deposit policy comprehensiveness (mean = 3.78), provision of salaries and allowances incentives (mean = 3.79), adequate motivation (mean = 3.76), provision of a

good working environment (3.75), and special training on collection of legal deposit (mean = 3.77). This result suggests the need for National Library of Nigeria to sustain institutional support in the aforementioned areas. Nonetheless, the result also suggests two critical areas of concern regarding institutional support namely insufficient funding (mean = 2.08) and lack of special allocation specifically to pursue enforcement of legal deposit (mean = 2.09).

CONCLUSION

The study has succeeded in investigating the influence of legal deposit law enforcement, institutional support and librarians' commitment on legal deposit compliance in Nigeria. It was found out in the study that legal deposit compliance guarantees the aggregation of all published works in Nigeria for access and preservation, for the present and future generation. The effectiveness of legal deposit compliance in terms of depositing prescribed number of copies of publications is high, while timely

statutory deposit of these publications is low. This low level of legal deposit compliance affects the bibliographic activities of NLN, as the NBN will be published retrospectively. Also, copies of current legal deposit publications cannot be accessed by researchers in the NLN and in case of litigation, NLN will have no copy to tender in court as *sopena*.

Conclusively,

1. Legal deposit law enforcement has a strong positive influence on legal deposit compliance, which indicates that legal deposit law enforcement determines the degree publishers comply with legal deposit law in Nigeria. However, improving legal deposit enforcement on monitoring of publishers will result in better legal deposit law enforcement.

2. Institutional support has a significant and positive influence on legal deposit compliance. When NLN provides enabling support to librarians, there is strong tendency to improve legal deposit compliance. Institutional support is vital in improving legal deposit compliance with adequate planning and attention by management of NLN.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings from the study, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. There is need for the National Library of Nigeria to improve legal deposit compliance by ensuring that publishers and authors deposit their publications statutorily within 30 days of publication as stipulated by the law, by sending emails, reminder notices and regular visits to publishing houses.
2. The use of updated publishers' catalogue and monthly legal deposit drive to publishing houses should be employed by NLN to monitor and

ensure timely compliance, as the legal deposit copy is the only copy of a publication that is acceptable by court as an authentic copy in a case of copyright litigation.

REFERENCES

- Aina, L. O. (2018). The National Library to issue ISBN/ISSN to applicants within 48 hours : An interview by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN); Eagle Online : December 18, 2018. <https://theeagleonline.com.ng/national-library-to-issue-isbn-issn-numbers-to-applicants-within-48hrs/>
- Ajidahun, C. O. (2011). Indispensability of library services to all professions. *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal).
- Akidi, J. O., & Omekwu, C. O. (2019). Assessment of legal depository practices of the National Library of Nigeria and compliance of publishers and authors with legal deposit obligations. *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal). 2737.
- Bello, M. A. (2019). Library resources enrichment and preservation: International standards and legal deposit. *Paper presented at the workshop on legal deposit/ ISSN & ISBN at the University of Jos.*
- Krishnan, J. & Sheela, M. (2012). Perceived organizational support. *Zenith International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 2(4), 130-152.
- Nicholson, D. R. (2015). Legal Deposit in South Africa: Transformation in a Digital World. *Paper given at Dynamic Libraries: Access, Development and Transformation – IFLA World Library and Information Congress 81st IFLA General Conference and Assembly*, 15–21. Cape Town, South Africa
- Opara, U. N. (2018). Legal deposit compliance in Nigeria: A choice or a duty?. *Paper presented at the National library sensitization programme held in Owerri, Imo State.*
- Rotimi, V.T. (2019). Legal deposit obligation and stakeholders participation in Nigeria. *Paper presented at the NLN sensitization workshop on legal deposit, ISBN & ISSN in Bauchi, Nigeria.*