

## The role of library in rehabilitation needs of some special group of persons

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### **Abstract**

*Beyond the usual heritage of being a home to large holding of materials in print and electronic, the library likewise functions in outreach programmes in development of target audience. Their flexibility to support organization and drive knowledge management is the key. The major concepts are to tackle change head on, while they tend to influence prisoners, hospital staff and patients, and handicapped to change their mindset, thus ultimately facilitating change while these special group have always depended on library and information and research needs of their respective pin situations, the library is undergoing a radical change in the wake of new scientific discoveries including the information communication technology (ICT) consequently even though the set of skill used by the librarian remain unchanged the technique employed to apply those skill have drastically changed from what it used to be , thus it will be more correct to describe the library as the hub for support for information cum developmental needs of all disciplines.*

**Key words:** *Library, Skill Acquisition, Prisoners, Handicapped, Sick People.*

### **Introduction**

To develop skills in humans, involves expanding the choices. People have to lead lives that they value, and improving the human condition so that people have the chance to lead full lives (Streeten, 1994). Over the years many libraries have supported education efforts by providing teaching resources, information and referral services (Shukla et al 2013).

Obviously the library is the physical infrastructure required to facilitate the kind of information needed by target client. To this effect most libraries put up well planned outreach programmes, designed to meet the needs of various target group of persons. Traditionally, library users have been classified into group. Nwalo(2003) grouped them into specialists students, disadvantaged majority and the indisposed. Similarly Aina (2004) grouped library users into children, pupils students, adults, professionals researchers policy-makers, artisans, hearing and visually handicapped as well as physically handicapped.

However, they are classification does not count. What matter is what we have in the context. That is the purposive seeking for information necessitated by a need to satisfy some goals (Wilson 2000). Adede and Milherim (1995) posited that libraries are not merely store houses for books but perform productive functions to their

users within and outside the library. Information is a veritable tool and an indispensable component of skill acquisition. Furthermore, libraries are the collectors and stewards of our heritage – they are organizers of the knowledge in the books they collect, adding value by cataloguing, classifying and describing them and as public institution, they assure quality of access for all citizens (Reding 2005). This studies assessed the role of libraries in developing the needs of specific group of people; the 21<sup>st</sup> century libraries otherwise referred to as library without walls (Reitz,2003) are we suited to carry out these roles. Anyira (2011) argues that every individual whether literate or not, has information need. One of the mandates of the library is to satisfy different needs of people.

### **Role of Prison Library in the Reform and Rehabilitation Process of Prison Inmates**

In the past, prison libraries have been closely associated with rehabilitative function (Oreh, 2006). This they achieved by providing positive moral literature and religious text in order to convert the inmates both spiritually and behaviourally.

Studies of Steven (1995), however gives room for worries. According to him, over half the number of male prisoners released, get convicted again for another offence in UK. Steven (1995), however had earlier opined that in making a link between imprisonment and rehabilitation of the offender, there should be further studies relating to what caused the crime, what the term rehabilitation means to know if custodial sentence will result to required rehabilitation etc. Jarjoura and Krumholz (1998) are of the view that the inmates who visit the library during Jail term have better chance of successful integration into the society after release from custody.

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights which compels society to shift their focus from punishment of prison to education, rehabilitation and use of their time while serving in prison was highlighted by Lehman and Locke(2005). Field (2008) reported that libraries engage convicts in reading, book club discussion, creative writing, workshops, music programmes art workshop contest and display, literacy tutoring spelling, Contest and Job talks. The information materials may include (books, journals, newspapers and maps) both in print and electronics formats as well as audio visual, CD-ROMS, computer software, online data bases, e-books, e-journals and other media (Hasley, 2005). Other services of the Prison Libraries include counseling appraisal, information and follow up (Ipaye, 2004). He suggested that counseling in prison or fail or remind homes are very beneficial as it helps them to cope with their new environment. The problems encountered by some researchers (Onukaogu, 2001, Emaseahi, 2010). In Nigeria, prisons library include poor funding, lack of basic amenities, overcrowding (congestion), dirt, substandard living conditions, Lack of commitment and political will on part of staff and

government of the day. it is good to note that the nomenclature has changed to become correction and not prisons. It will do much more good if certification are given to inmates in area of training, while the issue of ex-convict could be reviewed.

### **Impact of Hospital Library on Development of Clinical Staff/Patient Care**

Rapid change in health care have presented the health care community with a number of challenges. Clinical librarian service has positive impact on patient care (Weightman and Williamson, 2005). Librarians also contribute to the institutional culture of quality assurance by continuously evaluating their services and communicating to hospital administrators the impact of the library and librarian on other disciplines involved in meeting the hospital's mission of safe and high quality patient care (Dudden, 2008). Hospital Librarians can help reduce corporate risk by disseminating information to support evidence-based practice(21, 26, 27)

Compliance with changing government regulation (Droese and Peterson, 2006) and adherence to corporate compliance and copy right compliance. Librarians can also assist with integrating knowledge-based resources into electronic medical record system (Giuse et al, 2005) enabling improved access to information at the point of care and subsequently reducing the risk of malpractice and improving patient satisfaction.

Hospital librarians have a tradition of supporting the education needs of employees and staff (Rankin and Sayre, 1993). Those working in large academic health centres provide students, range of services for medical students, residents and clinical faculty to support the teaching mission of these institution's (AAHSL, 2009). Even in the smallest rural and urban community hospitals, librarians play a key role in providing information services to support continuing education (McDuffee, 2004, Labeause et al. 1999).

### **Provision of Library Services to people with Disabilities**

People with disabilities are subjected discrimination and ridicules. And sometimes discrimination prevents people who are discriminated against from exercising their rights, including the right to access information resources in libraries and information centres (Chilemba , 2012). Todaro (2005) defines disability as a physical or mental condition that in one way or the other prohibit an individual from performing daily task. Typical disability cases include autisms, hearing difficulty and deafness, speech disorders, limited vision or blindness, albinism, handicapped etc. libraries are among those institutions that have the mandate to alleviate deprivation by ensuring unhindered access to learning resources and can empower people with disabilities by offering more accessible and usable services to them (Fagbola et al, 2011). People with disabilities have limited opportunities to attend pre-school,

school and higher education and establishment and work side by side with able bodies people (Armenian news agency Noyan Tapan, 2009).

The 21<sup>st</sup> century stride on technology through ICT facilities, has however made teaching and learning even much more easier. ALA(2001) reported that Association of specialized Government and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) offers resources on assistive /adaptive technologies. The assistive(also called adaptive) technologies are electronic solutions that enable people with disabilities to live independently. By this the blind can hear computer screen text, while people with visual impairments can enlarge text, hence enabling independent reading. People who are unable to manipulate a mouse can enter data, and those who cannot physically hear a computer prompt can view prompt. There is also computer software that helps persons with learning differences see and hear the information displayed on the screen.

The only problem here is the challenge of building digital libraries in a developing country like Nigeria (Armenia and Bukhtoyarova, 2013). This is due to economic restriction and lack of skilled professionals.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

In today's ever evolving world, there is dire need for training and retraining of individuals to get the best out of them. Residual knowledge requires update, otherwise the individual might soon become a misfit to the profession or organization he/she belong. The study viewed the role played by libraries in human resource development in the prison, hospital and people with disabilities. All three sectors highlighted are examples of cases that could be regarded as precarious as those involved may appear as in valid yet when given appropriate care in form of re-orientation there by awakening the grant in them. Worthy of note is that the libraries and librarians are well suited and or equipped to see this through.

However care areas of need for this potential to get it full fruition includes need for proper planning and budgeting to cover the expenses of the prisons, hospitals and care of people with disabilities.

The staff should be encouraged to show more commitment in discharge of their duties and willingness to undergo self development especially in ICT.

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