

## Alternative Funding sources for Nigerian Academic Libraries outside Government Sources in the Post-Recession Economy: A New Normal

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper is titled adoption of alternative funding sources for Nigerian Academic Libraries outside Government Sources in the Post-Recession Economy. The paper dwelt on alternative funding of academic libraries in Nigeria and why it has become imperative in the post-recession economy of Nigeria. It has been reported in this paper that funding allocation to tertiary education and particularly academic libraries in Nigeria as a result of economic recession has been notoriously weak. This paper highlighted key funding alternative sources that can bring out the academic libraries in Nigeria from the wood, these include: call for library grants, call for alumni intervention, donations from philanthropists, gifts and fundraising and so on. The paper also stressed the reasons why it is important for library schools in Nigeria to encourage grant proposal writing to training librarians. In conclusion, this paper is going to be an eye opener in generating fund for the survival of academic libraries for practicing librarians in academic libraries in Nigeria and beyond.*

**KEYWORDS:** Funding, Funding Sources, Academic Library, Post Recession Economy.

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### INTRODUCTION

In economic term, economic recession is the period in which there is a business cycle contraction when there is a general decline in economic activity (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary 2021).

Recessions generally occur when there is a widespread drop in spending (an adverse demand shock). This may be triggered by various events, such as a financial crisis, an external trade shock, an adverse supply shock, the bursting of an economic bubble, or a large-scale anthropogenic or natural disaster (e.g. a pandemic). In the United States, it is defined

as "a significant decline in economic activity spread across the market, lasting more than a few months, normally visible in real GDP, real income, employment, industrial production, and wholesale-retail sales". (Microsoft Corporation 2021).

According to BBC News (2008) in the United Kingdom, it is defined as a negative economic growth for two consecutive quarters.

In the case of Nigeria, economic recession and covid-19 has affected significantly all the length and breadth of the governmental interventions on national development, which has led to massive infrastructural decline

particularly in the areas of tertiary education financing and generally, academic libraries in Nigeria are hardly hit by the scourge of the economic downturn. In view of this ugly trend, academic libraries in Nigeria have become notoriously weak in the scheme of things at the global stage. In the face of dwindling financial interventions occasioned by economic recession and covid-19 pandemic, it is imperative for academic library policy makers to retool in the area of funding the Academic libraries in Nigeria through alternative funding order than the conventional government sources known to the Nigerian Academic libraries in order to emancipate academic libraries from the helpless state they are presently. Alternative finance which is the financial channels, processes, and instruments that have emerge outside of the traditional finance system earlier known to a system, must be become the new normal.

Undoubtedly, funding is an integral component of the continued relevance and survival of academic libraries globally. More so, in a Nation with hailing economy such as Nigeria that is just exiting economic recession, bedevilled with corruption and high exchange rate with poor representation of education in the national budget, it has become a matter of utmost national emergency concern for librarians and other stake holders in educational sector to seek for alternative source of funding the academic libraries in Nigeria before they become extinct.

Libraries are somewhat of a microcosm of a University, with large staffing, operational and programme-driven costs. Collections are no longer restricted to prints anymore but in electronic formats, e books, Journals, textbooks, integrated library management soft wares, computers, library furniture and fittings as well as staff development and so many other needs that will make today's academic libraries function at the optimum level all need huge, readily available and regular financial supply not to talk of the high exchange rate that mars international business transactions between Nigerian Academic libraries and oversea publishers. For a number of reasons, libraries in general and academic libraries in particular are no longer funded at the same levels as they have been in the past. Limited revenue means choices must be made

by higher education administrators about funding for academic and support units including faculty or departmental libraries. Because of this, academic libraries are increasingly seeking other sources of funding. This financial augmentation has been either from necessity or by mandate. Costs for libraries have increased at the same time funding for them has decreased In recent years, academic libraries have become active players in the fund-raising game in order to supplement decreasing funding from their parent institutions (Hoffman, Smith, & DiBona, 2000).

Despite high level of activity on getting fund internally for academic libraries outside governmental sources, there appears to be little effort being made to solicit funds from other sources. Thus, academic libraries are now seeking supplementary new sources of revenue from non-governmental sources outside dwindling government interventions. The recent recession may have cut into the size of wealth to be transferred, however, surmounting this financial quagmire has become major challenge this article seeks to address.

As reported by Inyang and Wiche (2015) Library funding is the act of providing or making available financial resources for use in developing and equipping the library, these funds are needed to provide library services, materials and development of human resources. In fact, funding has the capacity to bring about renewal, maintenance, and sustenance, nourishment, durability of university libraries. However the library is invariably a part of a wider university and its budget is negotiated with its parent organization. The parent body is therefore the proprietor that takes full responsibility for its funding. Academic libraries are financed from the budgets of their parent institutions. These funds usually cover only the current expenditure. But sometimes, libraries are supported by government ministries particularly Ministry of Education, non-governmental organisations, donor agencies, Tertiary Education Trust Fund and individuals. Despite the government supports over the years through Tertiary Education Fund (Tetfund) and other formal sources known in Nigerian educational system, much is still left to be desired in meeting the

financial needs of many academic libraries in Nigeria, this is why this paper seek to enlarge the financial strength of Nigerian academic libraries for them to accomplish their core mandates.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Academic libraries are those attached to Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and other similar institutions of higher learning. The importance of funding in providing quality library service cannot be overemphasized. It is the glue that holds the building, collection and staff together and allows the library to attain its goals. As such, money can be considered the soul of the library. Inadequate funds impede the effectiveness of any library (Anafulu, 1997). It is absolutely essential for a library to possess the resources that will enable it meet its goals. Beautiful building, well trained staff and modern information storage and retrieval systems can only be appreciated if excellent services are rendered to users. These services cannot be provided without adequate finance.

Ifidon (1992) found that academic libraries derive the greater part of their funds from their universities, whose major sources of financial support is the government. An academic library have a clearly defined policy on funding, they are allocated 10 percent of the recurring annual budget of their parent universities, a result of the Federal Government and Academic Staff Union of Universities agreement of 1992.. But, this 10 percent is not enough for academic libraries to performance its functions effectively, this is where Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) comes in to rescue academic libraries and universities in general.

TETFund is a substantial source of financial assistance to the various institutions in the country, especially in the commencement, completion or rehabilitation of capital projects embarked upon by institutions at the Federal, State and Local Government levels. Most of the recent capital developments in our tertiary institutions have been sponsored or financed by the fund, the fund from the Education Trust Fund(ETF), was used initially to support activities at all the levels of education but, major policy shift by TETFund is now to fund

only public tertiary institutions. TETFund was the source of the special intervention of close to N42 billion to develop 6 universities, 3 polytechnics and 3 colleges of education into world class institutions (Bamiro, 2012).

The American Library Association (2006) notes that libraries of all kinds need money. The amount of funding that a library receives directly influences the quality of its services. While the majority of funds for libraries comes from state and local sources, federal funding provides critical assistance, giving libraries across the country the financial support they need to serve their communities. Like water and air, libraries have become an integral part of human existence. Often called the memory of human race, libraries are supposed to have on their shelves the records of almost everything which man has thought, dreamt of and invented. All these demand that, academic libraries should be adequately funded to be able to carry out these functions (Ifidon, 1992). Libraries are organic. This is to say that they grow or shrink with time depending on how much life is infused into them. Fund is needed to provide the information needs of the academic library.

Academic library is a social service organization that is capital intensive. Money is needed for building, physical facilities, books, journals, electronic resources, personnel, etc. (Ehigiator, 1997). The library is invariably a part of a wider organization –an arm of government, university, school, and research institute or business concern as the case may be. Its budget, therefore is negotiated with its parent organization. The parent body is therefore the proprietor that takes full responsibility for its funding. Academic libraries are financed from the budgets of their parent institutions. These funds usually cover only the current expenditure. But sometimes, libraries are supported by government ministries particularly Ministry of Education (Akporhonor, 2005).

According to Emojorho (2004), Nigerian government owned university libraries derive funds from government allocations, endowment funds, library fees, gifts and other miscellaneous sources such as the sale of duplicate materials, fines and photocopying; that the bursar integrates and collates the

various estimates from the various departments. The estimates are then channelled through and defended, at the following six levels: 1 Library committee: the librarian presents and explains his budget estimate. 2 Development and Estimate committee, the librarian defends his budget estimate. 3 Finance and general purposes committee. 4 The university council. 5 The National University commission/commission of higher Education. 6 Ministry of finance and education Development-through the ministry of education.

No clear responsibility for organizing fundraising campaign is assigned, either to librarians or university administrators. Library funds are accumulated from a mixture of local, state, federal, and other sources. Occasionally, an institution provides funding for its library through individual colleges and departments instead of central funding of the library budget. In that case, each department or university unit decides whether or not to fund the library each year based on satisfactory library service as well as need. In most cases, academic library budgets are not allocated separately from the university budgets. Nigerian academic and research libraries derive the major part of their financial support from the government.

Ifidon (1990) found that university libraries derive the greatest part of their funds from their universities, whose major sources of financial support is the government. Of all the different types of libraries in Nigeria, only university libraries have a clearly-defined policy on funding. They are allocated 10 percent of the recurring annual budget of their parent universities, a result of the Federal Government and Academic Staff Union of Universities agreement of 1992 (Okoye, 2005).

Funds for library and information services are traditionally derived from the library proprietor. The extent of such revenue varies from fixed fraction of received grant to ad-hoc arrangement (Edoka, 1992). According to Anafulu (1997) the university library is only one of numerous units in a university. By its centrality and role in the endeavours of the university-teaching, research and extension work -it is a major unit and a vital one at that. Notwithstanding these considerations, however, the fact remains that the university

library does not generate its own income and does not receive grants directly from the proprietor. The general financial environment of the university is such that allocations are made to the library, but apart from small impress accounts, no money is held in the library.

Omotayo (1997) opined that libraries derived their funds from the host university. Therefore as university financial situation dwindled, so also the allocation to the library.

### **GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND INTERVENTION ON NIGERIAN EDUCATION SECTOR FROM THE PAST**

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) There are various agencies in Nigeria that are responsible for managing the University education system. One of these agencies set up by the government to oversee the monitoring of the university system of education is the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). TETFund came into existence in 2011 after it metamorphosed from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) which was established in 1993 (Ogunde, 2011).

As an intervention agency, the institution has been responsible for ensuring that the objectives of the public tertiary institutions in the country are met through the provision of necessary resources. Although a new agency; the TETFUNDs presence has been felt in virtually most of the Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education in the country. The focus of this body is to ensure that the tertiary level of education in the country can compete favourably with other universities in the continent and around the world. TETFund has been responsible for the distribution of intervention funds to the various public higher institutions in Nigeria. This includes the Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and other levels of education. Although the agency also takes responsibility for the funding of other lower levels of education within the country, however, their major task has been in the area of distributing and monitoring fund among tertiary institutions in the country (Ogunde, 2011).

The TETFund is an interventional measure of the Federal Government to tackle inadequate facilities in our tertiary institutions (Nairaland,

2013). This is the major role which the agency has been playing over the years since it came into establishment in 2011. Various government agencies such as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) release funds to the TETFUND as a channel for distributing same to the various tertiary institutions within the country. However, funds from the TETFund are usually made available only to public tertiary institutions in Nigeria. In an interview with the former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Professor Oladapo Afolabi, by Adeleye (2013), it was noted that the reason for having the TETFUND is actually to assist public tertiary education programme. The TETFund therefore does not put into consideration the management of private tertiary institutions within the country. This on its part has led to much argument for the review of this trend. The mission of the body as spelt out is: To provide focused and transformative intervention in public tertiary institutions in Nigeria through funding and effective project management (SOURCE: TETFund website).

TETFund through its activities has also seen to the management of other non-financial needs

of the various levels of education in the country. Some of the institutions that have benefited from the TETFUND in one way or the other are: Yaba college of Technology, University of Port Harcourt, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Kano State University among others (source: TETFund website).

Before the establishment of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), Federal, State and Local Government in a bid to make Nigerian Tertiary institutions World class, have made huge financial commitment to the education sector through numerous fiscal interventions, right from Nigeria post-independence era through the Military regime and finally in the democratic dispensation. Despite regular intervention from the government, what education sector has got is still a far cry in comparison with what obtains in the Western World. With paltry of 7.04% percent on education in 2018 National budget, how can academic libraries-a subsidiary of tertiary institution expect to run effectively in meeting the needs of their clientele? Below is the breakdown of Federal Government budgetary allocation to education sector from 1960-2015 so far.

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO EDUCATION SECTOR FROM 1960- 2015**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Allocation as % of Total Budget</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Allocation as % of total Budget</b>
1960	6.02	1987	1.93
1961	6.15	1988	2.40
1962	5.19	1989	3.55
1963	3.45	1990	2.83
1964	3.65	1991	1.09
1965	3.57	1992	3.86
1966	4.23	1993	5.62
1967	4.88	1994	7.13
1968	2.84	1995	7.20
1969	2.20	1996	12.23
1970	0.69	1997	17.59
1971	0.53	1998	10.27
1972	0.62	1999	11.12
1973	0.88	2000	8.36
1974	2.96	2001	7.00
1975	4.57	2002	5.9
1976	8.71	2003	1.83
1977	3.12	2004	10.5
1978	11.44	2005	9.3
1979	3.70	2006	11.00
1980	4.95	2007	8.09

1981	6.45	2008	13.0
1982	8.09	2009	6.54
1983	4.04	2010	6.40
1984	4.49	2011	1.69
1985	3.79	2012	10.0
1986	2.69	2013	8.70
2014	10.6		
2015	9.5		

**Source:** Central bank of Nigeria (2015) statistical bulletin and information.

### Lower exchange rate and the era of oil boom-the old order

First half of the 1970's witnessed great economic boom for the West African giant-Nigeria, with about 57.36million population and gross domestic product of 12.55billion Dollars, which dwarfed that of Saudi Arabia (5.014billion dollars), Egypt (7.682billion dollars) Ghana (2.215billion dollars), Democratic Republic of Congo (4.878billion dollars), Senegal (1.02billion Dollars) Cameroun (1.16billion Dollars) respectively, it was the period of oil boom and great economic prosperity that saw to the birth of many Federal and State-owned Universities and other Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria, at this time, academic libraries had major boosts from economic breakthrough of the time, scholarship were given to Librarians to travel overseas for educational advancement in order to receive sophisticated training of manpower in modern librarianship which was favoured by low exchange rate, acquisition of foreign journals, books, equipment and stationeries were made possible at the least costs with little difference in the naira equivalent, which permitted academic libraries in Nigeria to grow with greater responsibilities of providing literature supports to academic courses offered in Nigerian universities and other tertiary institutions.

### REASONS FOR OPTING FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF FUNDING IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA

- A massive drop in the unit price of documents (undermining the library's role as an information broker)
- A tremendous increase in the ease of finding documents (undermining the library's role as a guide)
- Instant, easy and functionally free access to ready-reference information (such as the annual

- Rainfall) from virtually any location (undermining the library's roles as authoritative source, research centre and broker)
- Full-text searchability of documents (undermining the library's role as a creator of indexes and proxy documents for searching purposes)
- A growing open access movement (undermining the library's role as broker)

### FEATURES OF ACADEMIC ASSETS, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN NIGERIA TODAY

#### Library building:

Library building is an integral part of academic library assets. It is the structure with a roof and walls, aesthetically designed to support and primarily dedicated to provide shelter for library operations. Library buildings often provide quiet and conducive areas for studying, as well as common areas for group study and collaboration, and may provide public facilities for access to their electronic resources for instance Computers and Desktop and access to the Internet. Fundamentally, to build a standard academic library today, it is becoming more difficult to achieve with the meagre financial allocation allotted to most of the academic libraries in Nigeria, this is why it is particularly important to seek alternative funding sources in erecting academic library buildings in Nigeria.

#### Library Assets

In Nigeria, academic Libraries have gone from the old ways of receiving everything (fund inclusive) from their parent bodies to becoming a money generating bodies, as at now, many academic libraries, more than ever before, generate income in order to support their parent bodies in meeting overall financial needs of their library. Academic libraries now

engage in entrepreneurship programs from the academic library assets to generate money such as photocopying services with their photocopy machine, internet service, bindery and reprographic service and so on, money is being generated into the purse of the Institutions they serve. However, money generated through these means remains the far cry of what is needed to adequately finance academic libraries in Nigeria. Hence, there is need to look for alternative source of funding for academic libraries in Nigeria.

### **Library Equipment**

Professionally, there are myriads of equipment needed for smooth running of any standard academic libraries. In this digital age, where most of the library users are digital native, not naïve, it is pertinent that academic libraries meet the global standard in the acquisition and use of library equipment such as Bookshelves, book cases, book carts, desks or tables and chairs, MP3 players and various types of disc players (CD, DVD, etc.) Computers, Closed-circuit television, security doors, monitors, printers, software, hard discs, modems, optical disks, videodiscs, and speech-processing systems

### **Library Facilities**

Facilities of academic libraries in Nigeria include the following; Journals Periodicals Microforms Audio/visual media Computer-based information, Manuscripts, Maps, Documents and similar items. All these facilities put together are the essentials of the practice of academic librarians. The finance to ensure that academic libraries in Nigeria provide similar services like their Western counterpart have to be readily available and sourced by alternative funding sources.

### **Staff Emoluments**

In the Universities the estimates of staff emoluments are directly damaged by central administration. Units in the university, including the library provide information on the establishment and may include projected figures for the coming years (future) staff requirements.

### **General Expenditure**

This covers operational cost such as: Fuel, Travels, Stationaries, Database subscription, Furniture and fittings, Servicing of equipment, Internet bandwidth, Protective clothing for the

binders, Nose masks for staff, and Many others

## **IDENTIFIED FUNDING SOURCES OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES IN MEETING THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA**

### **Library Grant**

Library grants are formal request detailing the vision, objectives, purpose, and overall benefits that humanity can derive from the Library if such requests are granted. Although, not yet popular among academic librarians in Nigeria. Many researchers have benefitted from research grants in Nigeria by winning and attracting international donors in cash and in scientific equipment that ordinarily would not have been made possible with the financial sources available locally except through grant. It is clearly evident that there are tons of international and national bodies that, if approached, academic libraries in Nigeria can benefit significantly in the areas of e-books, database subscription, cataloguing and classification tools and equipment, security doors, stationeries, reprographic equipment, computers and books. However, it must be taught in library schools the imperativeness of grant proposal writing skills while at schools so as to attract library grants to academic libraries in Nigeria.

### **Academic library endowment**

An endowment is a donation of money or property to a non-profit organization, which uses the resulting investment income for a specific purpose. An endowment can also refer to the total of a non-profit institution's investable assets, also known as its principal or corpus, which is meant to be used for operations or programs that are consistent with the wishes of the donor(s). Most endowments are designed to keep the principal amount intact while using the investment income for charitable efforts.

Endowments are typically organized as a trust, private foundation, or a public charity. Many endowments are administered by educational institutions, such as colleges and universities. Others are overseen by cultural institutions, such as art museums or libraries, religious organizations, and service-oriented organizations, such as retirement homes or hospitals.

### **Gift**

In complementing the financial allocations from the former sector, academic libraries in Nigeria should start to solicit for gifts that are fundamentally beneficial to the survival of library operations and overall development of their universities in order to support cutting edge teaching and research initiatives as well as community service. Gift can be solicited directly from philanthropists, private companies, veteran entrepreneurs etc. in the areas of computers, e-books, database subscription, conference sponsorship and other academic library needs. If properly solicited, it will go a long way in meeting the needs of the Nigerian academic libraries, rather than waiting endlessly on government or parent institutions.

### **Alumni Intervention**

Alumni representatives can be reached, invited and offer a position in the university library committee and can offer a great financial and material relief to their academic libraries, efforts should be made to vigorously push up the revenue generating capabilities of Nigerian academic libraries in such a way that they can sufficiently afford all the necessary needs to initiate to a global level an efficient library services which ordinarily would not have been possible while relying on the parents institutions funding allocation alone.

### **Call for Donations**

Donations are becoming more and more popular in Nigeria among public libraries in the past and still in the present. Donors, as research have shown, over the years, donated books but mostly outdated editions to Nigerian public Libraries which the libraries have found out to be irrelevant in most cases. However, Nigerian academic libraries can attract more donations in collections (recent titles), computers, air conditioners, shelves, reading tables and chairs, internet subscription. Academic librarians on the other hand should now be aggressive in their campaign for donors for academic libraries in Nigeria, curriculum of library schools in Nigeria should also reflect the need of the trainings to develop skills in attracting donors for their libraries.

### **CONCLUSION**

Alternative funding of academic libraries in Nigeria is the recipe for sustainability and survival of effective library services in Nigeria and the world over, especially in the face of the current economic reality occasioned by Covid-19 lockdowns and post lock down era. It is particularly worthy of note that the practice of librarianship has evolved over the years, size of the libraries no longer reflect the strength but the quality of services they offer their clienteles. Therefore, all hands must be on deck at ensuring that there are adequacy of fund to finance Nigeria's academic libraries than what is obtainable today so that they can truly support the core mandate of teaching, research and community services before they become moribund.

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