

**CONTENT ANALYSIS OF ZARIA JOURNAL OF LIBRARIANSHIP:
A Publication of Ahmadu Bello University Library Complex
(1994-2007)**

By

Katamba Abubakar Saka
*Department of Library and Information Technology,
Federal University of Technology, Minna-Nigeria
and*

Abubakar Mohammed Bitagi
*Library Services Department,
Federal University of Technology, Minna-Nigeria.*

Abstract

Articles in the ten (10) issues of Zaria Journal of Librarianship were critically analysed and discovered that 97 articles were authored by 105 contributors and published between 1994 and 2007. The journal was not published in the years 1995, 1996, and 1997. While in 2000/2001, the journal articles were combined to form a single volume. Titles of the articles in the 10 volumes were analysed in ranked order. Information Technology has the highest number of titles with 5(5.15%). This was followed by information needs and classification scheme each having 4(4.12%). The method of analyzing data in tables 1,2 and 4 confirms the data analysis by Awolola (2003). On the nature of articles in the journal, it was discovered that opinion papers top the list with 56 (57.73%) with few articles in Historical research; while none on experimental research. Institutional affiliation of authors were analysed in ranked order and found that contributors from Kashim Ibrahim Library of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria take the lead with 35(33%) This was followed by contributors from John Harris Library, University of Benin with 16(15%). Recommendations such as regular publication; encouraging authors to write empirical articles and collaborative works were proffered.

Introduction

The maiden edition of *Zaria Journal of Librarianship* (a Publication of Ahmadu Bello

University Library Complex) came into being in 1994 with

volume 1(nos 1 and 2). This volume consists of nine (9) articles authored by eleven (11) contributors. The volume consists of 7 single Author and 4-joint author articles. The contributors were affiliated to Kashim Ibrahim Library,

Department Of Library And Information Science A.B.U. Zaria and Idachaba Library, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi. The journal which was under the editorship of P S. Seriki is a referred journal and being published twice a year (June and December). The aim of the journal according to Seriki (2000) is "to meet the needs of professional and non-professional librarians interested in the profession".

After the maiden edition in 1994, the journal was not published in the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 as well as 2000. The Editor-In, P. S. Seriki lamented that the volume 4 edition is the cumulative of numbers 1 and 2 for 2000/2001. The journal is being identified with the ISSN 1117-7918.

Statement of the problem

Zaria Journal of Librarianship is now 13 years old. The challenges readers might face could be on the number of articles being published, the titles contained in the journal as well as the institutional affiliation of contributors etc. This study is to provide answers to the following research questions:

1. What is the frequency of publication?
2. What subjects treatment are contained in the journal?
3. What methods of research are being used in the journal articles?

4. What are the institutional affiliations of contributors?

5. What is the geographical spread of contributors?

6. What form of authorship is being adopted in the journal?

Methodology

Documentary source was mainly the "Zaria Journal of Librarianship volumes 1-10" They were collected/consulted and a page-by-page analysis was done. Variables measured include publication by year, research methods adopted; authors institutional affiliation, geographical spread of authors and forms of authorship. Descriptive statistical analysis involving frequency of articles, percentages and cumulative were used to analyse data.

Review of Related Literature

Awolola (2003) under took a study on the Bibliographic analysis of the articles published in *Nigerian Teacher Today* 1991 – 2001 and discovered that the research based articles constituted the articles published with 56.27% while joint-authorship was very low i.e 7.9%. On the issue of gender in the publication, male accounted for 88.2% of the total articles. On the institutional affiliation of contributors, Federal Colleges of Education topped the list with 30%. Other findings include non publication of journal in the years 1993 and 1996.

In a study on analysis of articles in the *Information Technologist: an International Journal of ICT*, Saka and Garba (2007) submitted that a total of 44 articles were published in the journal between 2004 and 2006 with 20(45.5%) articles published in 2004, 16(36.36%) in 2005 and 8(18.18%) published in the year 2006. Form of authorship was analysed and it was discovered that 26(58.63%) articles were published by joint authors and 18(40.91%) articles published by single author. There is therefore high degree of Author-collaboration in the journal. Articles were equally analysed by their nature and submitted that 13(29.55%) articles were research using survey method. This followed by opinion articles with 12(27.27%). Articles based on case study received 7(15.91%), while few articles were of experimental and documentary methods with each having 6(13.63%). Ranking of articles by various aspects of ICT were analysed and discovered that 13(29.55%) articles were on internet/internet resources and services. This was followed by Information Technology with 9(20.55%) articles. Few articles were found on Environmental studies/ICT/Physical/Natural Science/ICT, Information Science with each having 1(2.27%) article. Articles in the three (3) year journal were analysed by countries and submitted that

Nigeria has the highest number of the published articles with 34(77.27%) reason being that the journal is based in Nigeria. Next to this were articles from Ghana having 3(6.82%). Others that received 1(2.27%) article each were Pakistan, Botswana, Kuwait.

Bubba and Kadir (2002) studied the Trends and rates of collaborative publication by the University of Maiduguri lecturers: a bibliographic analysis submitted that "the spirit of collaboration is a common feature among science lecturers".

Aliyu and Isah (2006) studied Authors' characteristics in the *Educational Forum* and discovered that 133 articles were published in the 5 issues of the journal. It was discovered that Education Departments had the highest number of articles with 51(38%). Meanwhile, creative Art and History recorded the lowest number of articles with 1(0.7%) respectively. Further analysis also shows that Nigeria, tops the list with 52(37.9%) articles. In terms of authorship, single authorship recorded the highest number of articles with 79(55%), while in the area of author-collaborative, it shows that 4(0.7%) authors published one article each. On the area of authors' productivity, 95 (68.5%) authors produced one article each. There were 143 people that authored 133 articles in the 5 volumes of the journal.

Majority of authors were males. This study also recorded that

majority of authors were from University of Maiduguri.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Table 1: Publication by Year

Volume	Year	No of Articles	Cumulative No of Articles	Percentage of articles	Cumulative %
Vol 1,(1&2)	1994	09	09	9.3	9.3
-	1995	-	-	-	-
-	1996	-	-	-	-
-	1997	-	-	-	-
Vol 2(1&2)	1998	12	21	12.3	21.8
Vol 3(1&2)	1999	11	32	11.3	32.9
Vol 4(1&2)	2000/2001	09	41	9.3	42.2
Vol 5(1&2)	2002	09	50	9.3	51.5
Vol 6(1&2)	2003	09	59	9.3	60.8
Vol 7(1&2)	2004	11	70	11.3	72.1
Vol 8(1&2)	2005	09	79	9.3	81.4
Vol 9(1&2)	2007	09	88	9.3	90.7
Total		97	97	100	100

There were 97 articles published between 1994 and 2007. The journal was not published in the years of 1995, 1996 and 1997 while in 2000/2001 the journal articles were combined to form a single volume. The highest number of articles per journal was 12(12.3%) and was produced in the year 1998. This was followed

by 11(11.3%) articles which were published in the years 1999 and 2004 respectively. The least number of articles were 9 (9.3%) and were published in the years 1994, 200/2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

The system of analysis used in the above table follows the pattern as used by Awolola (2003).

Table 2; Distribution of Articles by Subject Treatments in Ranked Order

S/No	Titles/subject Treatments	Number Articles	of %	Cumulative	% Cumulative
1	Information Technology	05	5.0		0.11
2	Information Needs	04	4.0	09	0.22
3	Classification Scheme	04	4.0	13	0.32
4	Bibliographic Analysis	03	3.0	16	0.39

5	Roles of Libraries	03	3.0	19	0.46
6	School Libraries	03	3.0	22	0.54
7	Information Technology in libraries	03	3.0	25	0.61
8	Catalogue use	03	3.0	28	0.68
9.	Library services	02	3.0	31	0.73
10	User delinquency	02	3.0	34	0.78
11	Library Development Fund	02	2.0	36	0.83
12	Availability and use of information	02	2.0	38	0.88
13	Library building	02	2.0	40	0.92
14	library school Curriculum	02	2.0	42	0.98
15	Writing and publishing	02	2.0	44	1.02
16	Staff development	02	2.0	46	1.02
17	Organization of library materials	02	2.0	48	1.07
18	Principles of management	02	2.0	50	1.17
19	History of libraries	01	1.0	51	1.20
20	Information needs of Nigeria legislatures	01	1.0	52	1.22
21	Computer usage	01	1.0	53	1.24
22	Library Boards	01	1.0	54	1.27
23	Media resources	01	1.0	55	1.29
24	Science and Tech.	01	1.0	56	1.31
25	Dissemination of Agric information	01	1.0	57	1.34
26	Resource and information usage	01	1.0	58	1.37
27	Inf. & Comm. Tech (ICT)	01	1.0	59	1.39
28	Agric information management	01	1.0	60	1.41
29	Use of Library /Gen. studies course	01	1.0	61	1.47
30	Journal Donation Project	01	1.0	62	1.46
31	Collection development	01	1.0	63	1.49
32	Preservation of Library Material	01	1.0	64	1.51

33	Practical Attachment Programme	01	1.0	65	1.54
34	Performance Appraisal	01	1.0	66	1.56
35	University Autonomy and Library Funding	01	1.0	67	1.59
36	University Autonomy	01	1.0	68	1.61
37	Computerization of Libraries	01	1.0	69	1.63
38	Collection development	01	1.0	70	1.68
39	Specialized Information Services	01	1.0	71	1.68
40	Reading Habits	01	1.0	72	1.71
41	LIBRARY SKILLS	01	1.0	73	1.73
42	Resources and Service	01	1.0	74	1.73
43	Resource Sharing	01	1.0	75	1.78
44	Bibliographic Services	01	1.0	76	1.80
45	Reference Services	01	1.0	77	1.83
46	Channels of Communication in libraries	01	1.0	78	1.85
47	Electronic Information Resources	01	1.0	79	1.88
48	Library materials on university bookshops	01	1.0	80	1.90
49	Archival collection	01	1.0	81	1.92
50	Subject specialization	01	1.0	82	1.95
51	Electronic publishing	01	1.0	83	1.98
52	School library resources	01	1.0	84	2.00
53	Staffing	01	1.0	85	2.02
54	Law library Resources	01	1.0	86	2.05
55	Security in academic libraries	01	1.0	87	2.07
56	Information Services	01	1.0	88	2.10
57	Theft and Mutilation	01	1.0	89	2.12
58	Classification Scheme	01	1.0	90	2.14
59	Filing systems	01	1.0	91	2.17
60	Information Search	01	1.0	92	2.19
61	Mass literacy	01	1.0	93	2.22
62	Use of Information resources	01	1.0	94	2.24
63	Information	01	1.0	95	2.27

	Resources				
64	Educational Tech. and Libraries in UBE	01	1.0	96	2.29
65	Record Management	01	1.0	97	2.31
66	Archives	01	1.0	98	2.34
67	Agricultural Research	01	1.0	99	2.36
	Total	97	100	100	100

In the table above each article represents a subject treatment. The number of articles in the journal (1994 - 2007) was 97. Distribution of articles by subjects treatment as found in the journal between 1994–2007 shows that Information Technology had the highest number of articles which was 5(5.15%) Next were information needs and classification scheme each with 4 (4.12%) articles. It should be noted however that there is relationship between Information Technology and Information Science hence Information need is an aspect of information science. It was revealed that three 3(3.1%) articles were obtained each from bibliographic and bibliometric analysis, roles of libraries, school libraries, information technology in libraries and catalogue use.

These were represented each by 3(1%).

Following the ranking order it clearly shows that the ten (10) different titles were represented each by 2 (2.1%) They include library services, user delinquency, Library development fund; availability and use of information; library building; curriculum of library schools; writing and publishing; organization of library materials and principles of managements. Based on these 10 titles, it was discovered that knowledge were scattered and that is why there is the need for every library to organize and classify its resources as well as embark on indexing of materials. The least number of articles were recorded in 42 different titles with each having 1(1%) These titles appear in the serial numbers from 19th - 67th on table 2.

Table 3: Analysis of Articles by Research Methods Used

Research Methods used	Number of articles	Percentage %
Case study	19	20.0
Documentary	05	5.3
Experimental	-	-
Historical	01	1.0
Survey	16	16.7
opinion papers	56	57.0
Total	97	100

Table 3 above shows the analysis of articles by research methods. Out of the 79 articles published in the journal, 56(57.73%) were opinion papers and thus were not empirical. These types of articles were based on contributors' past experiences. They are neither case study, documentary, experimental, historical nor survey. They therefore constituted the major contributions in the journal. Next in the ranking order were

case study research articles that scored 20%. Next to case study research were survey method with 16.49% Far from survey method was the documentary method having 5 (5.15%) of the total articles. The least in the ranking order was historical method having 1(1.03%) of the total articles. None of the articles was discovered to have delved into experimental research method as librarianship does not belong to physical sciences discipline.

Table 4: Spread of Authors by Institutional Affiliation in Ranked Order

S/No.	Inst. Affiliation of Authors	Number of Authors	(%)
1	Kashim Ibrahim Library, ABU, Zaria	35	33
2.	John Harris Lib. University of Benin	16	16
3	Department of Library and Infuriation Science, ABU, Zaria	09	08
4.	F. S Idachaba Library, FUA Makurdi	06	05
5.	Department of Library and Information Technology, FUT Minna	04	034
6.	Centre for Islamic Legal Studies ABU -Zaria	03	03
7.	NAPRI, ABU Zaria	03	03
8.	Library Services Department AAU Ekpoma	02	02

9.	Division of Agric Colleges DAC/ABU Zaria	02	02
10.	Inst. of Agric Research /ABU, Zaria	02	02
11.	Institute of Education Library, ABU Zaria	02	02
12.	Isah Kaita Lib. Kaduna Polytechnic	02	02
13.	Leather Research Inst. Lib. -Zaria	02	02
14.	Library Services Dept., FUT Minna	02	02
15.	PG School Library, Benue State University Makurdi	02	02
16.	Benue State Polytechnic Library, Ugbokolo	01	01
17.	Benue State University Lib. Makurdi	01	01
18.	College of Education Library, Gindiri	01	01
19.	Federal Polytechnic Library Bauchi	01	01
20.	Fed.College of Chem. Tech. Library, Zaria	01	01
21.	NAERLS, ABU, Zaria	01	01
22.	NARICT Library Basawa, Zaria	01	01
23.	NERDC Library, Abuja	01	01
24.	President Kennedy Lib. ABU, Zaria	01	01
25.	School of Nursing Lib. ABUTH, Zaria	01	01
26.	University of Calabar Lib. Calabar	01	01
	Total	105	100

Abbreviation used;

AAU= Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma

NAPRI = National Animal Production Research Institute

PG = Postgraduate

NAERLS=National Agric. Extension, Research and Liaison Services

NARICT = National Research Institute for Chemical Technology

NERDC = Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council

Table 4 above shows that there is difference between the number of articles and the number of contributors in *Zaria journal of librarianship* between 1994 and 2007. The name of institutional affiliations used in the above table was based on their appearance at the title page. After thorough analysis of

the article it reveals that 105 people authored the 97 articles. From the table 4 above it was discovered that Authors from Kashim Ibrahim Library of A.B.U Zaria contributed the highest number of articles in the journal. They constituted 35(33%) of the contributors. This might not be unconnected

with the fact that *Zaria Journal Of Librarianship* is a publication of ABU Library complex. There is a tendency that its staff will patronize the journal by writing and getting the article(s) published. That is to say that the contributors used home advantage. Next to this were contributors from John Harris Library, University of Benin. They are 16 in number representing 15% of the contributors. Despite the distance between Benin and Zaria, the contributors patronised the journal to a large extent. The analysis shows that 9(8%) contributors were from ABU Zaria Library School. The analysis also shows that 6(5%) and 4(4%) contributors were from Federal University Agriculture Library Makurdi and Federal University of Technology Minna Library School

respectively. It was discovered that contributors from faculties or institutes libraries in ABU Zaria have contributed to the journal. Such contributors were from C.I.L.S and NAPRI Libraries. Further analysis reveals that contributors from DAC, IAR and Institute of Education, AB.U. Zaria, as well as Isa Kaita Library, FUT Minna etc. were each represented with 2(2%) contributors

The lowest number of contributors was from Benue state Polytechnic and University Libraries; College of Education Library Gindiri in Plateau state, Federal Polytechnic Bauchi, NAERLS Library, President Kennedy Library ABU Zaria, Nursing Library ABUTH and University of Calabar were each represented by 1(1 %) contributor.

Table 5: Distribution of Contributors by Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria

Geo pol. zone	Number of contribution	Percentage (%)
North-West	65	62
North-Central	19	18
South-South	20	19
North-East	01	01
South-East	-	-
South-West	-	-
Total	105	100

Table 5 above indicates that between 1994 and 2007, 105 people authored 97 articles in the *Zaria Journal of Librarianship*. It should be noted

however that there is disparity in the number of articles (i.e 97) and number of contributors to the journal (i.e. 105). The fact is that a single

article/publication might be authored by more than one person.

Beside the analysis done on the ten (10) volumes of the journal, table The study further analysed the journal by geopolitical zones in Nigeria and discovered that 65(62%) contributors (being the highest) were from North-West Zone This may be used to the fact that the journal is based in a university library within the Zone i.e Kashim Ibrahim Library, A.B.U. Zaria. Followed by this were contributors form

South-South Zone of Nigeria with 20(19%) They include Ambrose Ali University Ekpoma, University of Calabar and University of Benin. Further analysis shows that 19(18%) total contributors were from North Central Zone including FUT Minna, FUAM Makurdi, BSU Makurdi etc. North-East geographical zone recorded only 1(1%) article while none of the article came from South-West and South-East.

Table 6: Analysis of Articles by Authorship

Form of authorship	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single-Author	82	78
Two-Authors	22	21
Three-Authors	01	01
Multiple-Authors	-	-
Total	105	100

Going through the journal it was revealed that the highest number of contributors were those of single authorship with 82(78%) of the total authors while 22(21%) were two-authorship. The least and lowest number of contributions was discovered with three authors represented by only 1(1%). From this table, it shows that there is no spirit of collaborative or joint authorship in the ten (10) volumes of the journal. Tables 1, 2 and 3 show that there were 97 articles with 105 contributors

Findings from the Study

1. There were no publication in the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 while 2 issues were combined to form that of 2000/200 1 issue.
2. Opinion paper top the list with 56(57.73%) articles with few articles from empirical studies.
3. Contributors were only from the 4 geopolitical zones. There was no contributor from South-East and South - West.
4. There was no spirit of collaborative authorship in

the journal as 78% of the contributors were single authors.

Recommendations

1. The journal should try to maintain the stated publication frequency.
2. Empirical articles are encouraged from contributors.
3. Call for journal articles should be spread across the six geopolitical zones to create awareness in the minds of contributors.
4. There should be spirit of collaborative research among contributors.

References

- Aliyu, Y. and Isah, R. (2006). Characteristics of Authors in the *Educational Forum: Journal of the Faculty of Education, University of Maiduguri*. *Education Forum*, Vol. 9(1) pp. 22-26.
- Awolola, J. O. (2003) Bibliographic Analysis of Articles Published in Nigerian Teacher Today (1991 - 2004.). *Nigerian Libraries*; Vol. 37 (1) p.29.
- Bubba, A. and Kadiri, D. (2002). Trends and Rates of Collaborative Publication Output of the University of Maiduguri Lecturers: a Bibliographic Analysis; *Borno Library, Archival and Information Science Journal*.; Vol. 1 (1) pp 67-73.
- Editorial Guidelines (2001) _ Vol. 4 (1 &2) P. IV.
- Introducing a New Journal: (1994) *Zaria Journal of Librarianship* Vol. 1 (1&2).
- Saka, K. A. and Garba, S. K. (2007). Analysis of articles in *Information Technologist Journal: an International Journal of ICT (2004 - 2006)*. *The Information Technologist*; Vol. 4. (1) PP 114-121.