ACADEMIC LIBRARIES AND THE QUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANGING SOCIETY: PERSPECTIVE FROM NIGERIA

Kamaluddeen, Isa El-Kalash[1]

Bappah, Abubakar Magaji (PhD)[2]

Adamu, Mohammed Saba (CLN, MNLA, CTN)[3]

Introduction

For a very long time now, both the unwritten experience and historiographic evidence of humankind has proven that change is an essential process for the existence of all. In other words, as the definition and structure of society kept on evolving, leading to a gradual but steady modification of our thoughts and activities over time, advancements of all kinds have continued to occur as a result of change. For instance, right from the days of the solo wanderers to that of the groups of hunters, down to the traces of the first human settlement, our societies have continued to grow in ideas and evolving relations. Such constant changing pattern of the society that has become a rule is what prompted Winston Churchill to state that "to improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often". Threading a similar path, Gail Sheehy reflected that "if we don't change, we don't grow and if we don't grow, we aren't really living".

In a perfect simulacrum to the drumbeats of positive changes that occur, libraries and allied information hubs have been graciously responding to global changes via a variety of best practices. Within the academic library social structure, for instance, the factuality of this change is quite glaring for many to see and understand as activities in many of these libraries are being transformed daily. One of the reasons for such changes is because customer requirements on the quality of the information products and services that are rendered to them by information organisations are usually what boosts the performance of such organizations, thereby compelling the information organisations to expand their practices, adopt innovations and use creative solutions to perform better functions creditably. All these are in a bid to attain sustainable development.

In other words, while breezing through the wind of change, academic libraries in Nigeria have graciously been repositioning themselves to offer valuable information products and services to

the array of their clients, since they want to maintain relevance in the competitive economy. This, is for the simple reason that the 21st-century society requires social structures like libraries to face the growing and ever-changing demands of their clienteles by providing them with quality information that can contribute meaningfully to the development process. In support of the above claim, Hudson (1997) stated that: in general, the ability to access and share information can contribute to the development process by improving:

- efficiency, or the ratio of output to cost (for example, through use of just-intime manufacturing and inventory systems, through use of information on weather and soil content to improve agricultural yields);
- effectiveness, or the quality ofproducts and services (such as improving health care through telemedicine);
- reach, or the ability to contact new customers or clients (for example, craftspeople reaching global markets on the Internet; educators reaching students at work or at horne)
- equity, or the distribution of development benefits throughout the society (such as to rural and remote areas, to minorities and disabled populations.

In consideration to the fact that attaining sustainable development requires a collective effort by all the sectors of an economy and societal changes are analyzed in several dimensions (i.e. technological, economic, social, and cultural), it could be argued that the society grows based on the diffusion of information that is a result of the amalgamation of growing ideas that is usually and professionally been provided by libraries and allied information centres. It is based on the above premise that this chapter sets out to highlight the place of Nigerias academic libraries in the struggle for the attainment of sustainable development on a changing landscape.

Nigeria as a Nation

As a country, 'Nigeria' is a birth of an involuntary amalgamation of various ethnoreligious, geo-regional and political nationalities that occurred on January 1, 1914. As time went by, the country gained independence on October 1, 1960, becoming a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and joining the United Nations. The name "Nigeria" is derived from the word `Niger' which is the name of the river that constitutes the most remarkable institutions geographical feature of the country (Anyanwu, 2010). The name was suggested by British journalist Flora Shaw in the 1890s. She referred to the area as Nigeria, after the Niger River, which dominates

much of the country's landscape (Dumka, n.d). Nigeria has an area of 9,323,768 square kilometres, lying east of Benin Republic, south of Niger and Chad Republics, west of the Republic of Cameroun, and the North of the Gulf of Guinea (Anyanwu, 2010).

Nigeria is the largest and most populous nation on the African continent. She is dominated by the oil industry as the government's key source of revenue. Nigeria has between 250 and 500 ethnic groups (depending on the definition of 'ethnic group'); the largest are the Yoruba, the Igbo and the Hausa-Fulani, which in total make up some 70 % of the country's population and is endowed with a vast and largely untapped natural resources such as limestone, tin, columbite, kaolin, gold, silver, coal, lead, zinc, gypsum, clay, shale, marble, graphite, iron-ore, stone, zircon and natural gas (The World Factbook: Nigeria, 2017). Her rich natural and cultural endowment makes her a regional powerhouse in Africa (El-Kalash, Mohammed and Aniki, 2016). As at the time this chapter is written, Naidoo (2020) stated that Nigeria's economy is the biggest in Africa.

In consideration to the fact that the country (Nigeria) is battling to attain development by way of moving from the 'Industrial' into an 'Information' society, many sectors of her economy are struggling to offer impeccable services via an utmost utilisation of information. This, is because the world now boasts of a knowledge-based and information driven economy; which is characterised by the changes brought about by technological advances. Said differently, the information society is presently the new world order as the position of nations in terms of strength, wealth and influence, greatly depends on their access to and ability to utilise information to their advantage. The fore-stated is anchored on the fact that information is now the key to any sustainable development drive and the academic libraries in Nigeria are the most committed custodians of quality information.

Understanding Academic Libraries

Academic libraries are those kinds of libraries that are attached to the institutions of higher learning. Here, institutions of higher learning imply educational establishments that have met some basic required benchmarks that are set by the government of a country, to enrol graduates from senior secondary schools, to offer higher education courses and training in many forms of correspondence for a specific or a variety of programmes above the secondary level, to serve the teaching and research needs of students and staff. Examples of higher institutions are

universities, colleges of education, polytechnics, research institutes, schools of nursing/ midwifery amongst others.

According to Fabunmi (2002) as cited by Umoh (2017), academic libraries are operationally defined as organized collections of information resources (print and non-print) which form an integral part of a tertiary institution. For Akporhonor (2005), academic libraries are libraries attached to tertiary institutions such as universities, polytechnic institutions, colleges of education, colleges of agriculture, colleges of technology and also research institutes. The main mandate of academic libraries is the preservation and access to knowledge and information as well as supporting the mission of their parent institutions which is teaching and research (Singh and Kaur, 2009). In the view of Oyegunle (2013), academic libraries are information centres established in support of the mission of their parent institutions to generate knowledge, equip people with knowledge in order to serve the society and advance the wellbeing of mankind. Further, Oyegunle stated that academic libraries serve two complementary purposes: to support the school's curriculum and to support the research of the university faculty and students. Academic libraries have evolved and developed alongside the higher education institutions that they are part of and are characterized as being resilient institutions that have demonstrated the capacity to adapt to changing social, political and technical forces (Weiner, 2005).

Harrison and Beenham (1985) as cited by Arthur, Brafi and Kuranchie (2013) stated that the general objectives of academic libraries are:

a) to serve the needs of the academic community

b) to provide reference materials at the appropriate levels;

c) to provide study areas for users;

d) to provide a lending service appropriate to the different types of users; and

e) to provide an active information service that may extend beyond the institution to local industry and commerce.

In the view of Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey and Frempong (2010), academic libraries are essential contributors to knowledge generation and serve a wide spectrum of knowledge seekers. By implication, academic libraries are the engine blocs of their parent bodies because they grease the entire intellectual basis for the smooth sail of activities upon which their parent bodies are established.

Academic Libraries in Nigeria

At the time of writing this chapter, Nigeria has a total of 190 universities, 140 polytechnics, 152 colleges of education, 69 research institutes, 36 colleges of agriculture and about 236 schools of nursing, midwifery, post-basic nursing combined. The above number of institutions indicates that the country has a large pool of higher institutions with some corresponding academic library set-ups. In other words, it can be conveniently argued that the country has about 1000 academic libraries. With the staggering number of these libraries, Nigeria has all that is required to boost her strength on many enviable fronts because information and knowledge are key drivers of human capital and economic development; and it is in these libraries that over the ages, the collected, refined and, or improved documented knowledge are professionally selected, processed and organised on a variety of disciples for research purposes.

Despite the above staggering number of academic libraries in Nigeria, however, most of these libraries could be said to be experiencing a series of glitches. For instance, the issue of underutilising the intellectual assets that are professionally organised in these knowledge hubs is a problem that requires urgent attention. Though, Nwezeh and Shabi (2011) have argued that the problem of underutilisation of library resources is a global one, several other issues cut across many borderlines that are suppressing the quality of service provision that these libraries can offer, towards the sustainable development of the Nigerian nation. For instance, the country is presently experiencing a shrink in revenue, leading to great budget cuts in all sectors of her economy. The problem has adversely affected the area of bandwidth provision for internet services and other ICT requirements in her academic libraries. Again, the erratic power problem in the country; lack of proper mentoring; procurement of non-qualitative hardwares and pirated software peripherals; non-adherence to policy regulations; the high exchange rate that limits the acquisition and importation of foreign books and journals and weak IT literacy competency among librarians. These, among others, are what characterise the academic libraries in Nigeria today.

The Issue of Sustainable Development

It would be apposite to offer precluding explanations on the concept of 'sustainable' and that of 'development', before merging them to form a transitive meaning. By so doing, it would enable us to understand clearly, what sustainable development imply. Hence, the term sustainable could be seen as a process that can be maintained, defended or upheld at a certain rate or level. This, is

because, anything sustainable has to be continuous, feasible or viable. Hornby (2005) defined sustainable as something that can continue or be continued for a long time. Said differently, it implies what people want to happen indefinitely.

On the other hand, the concept of development could be conceived using different viewpoints because scholars in different disciplines have problematised the concept using different paradigms (El-Kalash, Mohammed and Ahmed, 2014). Daley (n.d.) stated that the idea of development articulated by the World Bank, for instance, is very different from that promoted by Greenpeace activists. In other words, political scientists view development as a means of enhancing the capacity of the political system while economists concieve development in relation to production and capital investment. Development is a sustainable increase in living standards that encompass material consumption, health and environmental protection (World Bank, 2001). For Todaro and Smith (2006), development is a multidimensional process that involves major changes in social structures, attitudes, and institutions, as well as economic growth, reduction of inequality, and eradication of absolute poverty. In simple terms, however, development could be said to be associated with any progressive imporovement or ascension from a lower to higher stage, or from simple to advanced forms; bringing about social changes that allows people to achieve their human potential.

Harrison (1985) as cited by Adekeye (2014) averred that "what makes development happen is our ability to imagine, theorize, conceptualize, experiment, invent, articulate, organize, manage, [and] solve problems and do a hundred other things with our minds and hands that contribute to the progress of the individual and of humankind." In her human development report (HDR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1994) stated that the purpose of development is to create an environment in which all people can expand their capabilities, and opportunities can be enlarged for both present and future generations. Further, the UNDP averred that development has to be sustainable. As articulated by Adams (2009), the above point has important implications for the task of understanding sustainable development because much of the confusion about the meaning of the term 'sustainable development' arises because people hold very different ideas about the meaning of 'development'.

The term 'sustainable development' (SD) is a concept that is well-used even beyond the academia especially in the more advanced economies. To buttress the fore-stated, Ukaga, Maser, & Reichenbach (2011) noted that SD has become a ubiquitous development paradigm—the catchphrase for international aid agencies, the jargon of development planners, the theme of conferences and academic papers, as well as the slogan of development and environmental activists. Mensah (2019) observes that in spite of its pervasiveness and the massive popularity it has garnered over the years, the concept still seems unclear as many people continue to ask questions about its meaning and history, as well as what it entails and implies for development theory and practice. Notwithstanding its pervasiveness and popularity, murmurs of disenchantment about the concept are rife as people continue to ask questions about its definition and what it entails as well as implies for development theory and practice, without clear answers forthcoming (Shahzalal & Hassan, 2019). As such, Mensah & Enu-Kwesi (2018) argued that SD stands the risk of becoming a cliché like appropriate technology—a fashionable and rhetoric phrase—to which everyone pays homage but nobody seems to define with precision and exactitude.

According to Jarvie (2011), the Brundtland Report is most often cited for its definition of sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Similarly, Elliot (2009) stated the acknowledged fact that the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (also known as the Brundtland Commission) published in 1987 did much to bring the term 'sustainable development' into the popular consciousness and onto public agendas. Esan (1998) as cited by Agbani (2015) is of the view that sustainable development is concerned with technologies for pollution reduction; monitoring of technologies to optimise energy mix; peoples' participation in eliminating environmental degradation; modern technologies of biomass, wind, solar energy, thereby reducing the ecological and environmental hazards and risk emanating from the use of fossil fuel and nuclear energy in Nigeria. The fundamental notion that development today should not be at the expense of that in the future has found widespread allegiance (Elliot, 2009). By implication, SD is any positive progress that aims to accomplish economic development, social advancement and natural harmony either indefinitely or for a long term period.

However, it is worthy to indicate here that the pursuit of sustainable development is a struggle that requires the effort of all and sundry. In order words, attaining sustainable development is a collective responsibility that requires a substantial effort by every member or all groups/ organisations of the society to contribute towards its attainment and for that to be achieved, access to information is key. To buttress the fore stated, Bradley (2016) noted that the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development 2014, calls upon the United Nations member countries to ensure that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development. This, is because information plays a critical role towards the attainment of objectives and academic libraries play strategic roles in the provision of adequate and timely information towards the actualisation of the already stated goals.

Academic Libraries in a Changing Society and the Quest for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

It is a truism that the inevitability of change is as constant as the motion of the day, thereby qualifying the word "change" to be the only permanent event in nature. The term 'change' which could be a positive or negative one, is used to evaluate the activities, processes, inputs and outputs of systems. Although, our concern in this chapter is basically on positive change. Academic libraries in Nigeria have over the years, undergone a series of changes in a bid to contribute their quota towards the attainment of a sustainable development drive. A greater part of these changes could be said to have blossomed, courtesy of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Gilmour and Sapp (2003), for instance, noted that as scholarly publication and access have shifted even further towards electronic services, academic libraries were forced to adapt further to demonstrate the "value-added" services that they could deliver. The electronic services that have been talked about by Gilmor and Sapp above are undisputably, courtesy of ICTs. The (ICTs) have made the selection, acquisition, organisation, management and dissemination of library products and services to be more effective and relevant to the demands of the present century.

Quite interestingly, the issue of sustainable development (SD) is all about attaining both human and societal advancement. As such, the sustainable development that is talked about is an interrelated framework that consists of 17 goals and 169 targets that cut across all aspects of

human endeavour. That is why individuals, institutions, professional bodies, societies, and nations are putting their best to actualise the SD goals. The desired result according to Okuonghae and Igbinovia (2019) is a state of society where living conditions and resources are used to continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system.

Academic libraries in Nigeria have graciously been contributing and would continue to contribute positively to the sustainable development of their country in different ways. For instance, many academic libraries have advanced their methods of operations by offering flexible and dynamic services that are tailored to contemporary societal demands. As in the past with other innovations, digital developments afford opportunities for academic library staff to create new roles and new ways of delivering services for users. One obvious area is in the creation of seamless information architecture and knowledge organization structures that facilitate easy access and retrieval from online platforms. They provide a variety of information products and services to users and at the same time, provide people with the conducive learning atmosphere that increases their mental capacity. Sometimes, they collaborate to support the dissemination of information and research to help decision-makers achieve the SDGs. In fact, a study by a group called Advancing Sustainable Development (2017) found out that academic libraries can aid the achievement of the sustainable development goals, better understand local information needs, promote universal literacy and advance digital inclusion through access to information and communications technologies and dedicated staff to help people develop new digital skills.

For Iroka and Ndulaka (2018), libraries promote sustainable development through closing gaps in access to information and helping government, civil society, and business. Similarly, Duhon & Jameson (2013) averred that: one key thing that fosters sustainable development in the local communities is services provided by libraries in collaboration with different organizations that are within the locality. Again, the findings of a research conducted by Dadzie, Martin-Yeboah, and Tachie-Donkor (2016) showed that librarians have been working in partnership with health and other related institutions to solve some health needs of the communities they are embedded in. More so, some academic libraries have been collaborating with health and agricultural professionals, ministries, NGOs, and communities to promote educational campaigns as well as

identify and address health and food security needs in their communities (Mbagwu, Lyaka, Kiwelu, Nyantakyi-Baah and Holmner (2020). In addition, attracting research grants, educating or linking people up to grant funding agencies is another role that the academic libraries in Nigeria have been playing towards helping to achieve a sustainable development drive.

Nonetheless, collaboration with researchers from diverse sectors of the economy is another positive stride that many academic libraries in Nigeria have used to facilitate thate sustainable development of the country. These, they have achieved through the acquisition, organisation and provision of access to accurate research results and knowledge enhancement. In other words, since the attainment of sustainable development squarely rests on access to information, many academic libraries in Nigeria have been providing research support services to relieve researchers of the burden of looking for information on new researches via building a solid and relevant library collection, information literacy guidance and selective dissemination of information amongst others.

Conclusion

The struggle towards the attainment of SD has become a global one, with the aim to principally develop or transform the world in which we live. Achieving this struggle requires a collective and absolute effort by all sectors of the economy. With specifics to academic libraries, their contribution to attaining SD is through the provision of information, which requires them to be adequately equipped with timely, adequate and current information sources and services since it (information) and knowledge are basic pillars that are required for the attainment of all development drives. In other words, information is a veritable resource that provides access to economic opportunities, personal and societal development. Therefore, it can be summed up that in our constantly ever-changing society, academic libraries are critical elements that cannot be ignored in the struggle for the attainment of SD because no nation can develop without reliable information. In other words, the sustainability of society largely depends on the availability of adequate and appropriate information that would boost our health systems, enhancepeace, solidify human rights, justify gender equality, improve quality education and promote the rule of law. Hence, the invaluability of academic libraries in the drive for SD cannot be over-emphasised since no nation can progress without the contribution of academic libraries.

References

Adams, W. M. (2009). Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in a Developing World. Third Edition. Oxon, UK and New York, Routledge, pp. 1–25.

Adekeye, D. O. (2014). An Alternative Platform for Sustainable Development: A Social-Reform Agenda for Nigerian Intellectuals. *Africa Today, 60 (3), 103–117.*

Agbani, B. J. (2015). Fiscal Discipline and Sustainable Development in a Developing Economy: The Nigeria Experience. *International Journal of Economic and Development Issues.* 14 (1 & 2).

Agyen-Gyasi, K., Lamptey, R. & Frempong, A. (2010) Academic librarians' role in maximizing library use in Ghana. dspace.knust.edu.gh:8080/ [accessed: December 17, 2012]

Akporhonor, B. A. (2005). Library Funding in Nigeria: Past, Present and Future. The Bottom Line: *Managing Library Finances*, 18 (2), 63-70.

Anyanwu, J. C. (2010). Nigeria - Evolution of a Nation. London: News Desk Media. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276847664_Nigeria_-_Evolution_of_a_Nation

Arthur, C., Brafi, P. O., & Kuranchie, A. (2013). The Use of Academic Libraries among Students in Tertiary Institutions in the Sunyani Municipality, Ghana. *Journal of Education and Practice*. 4 (2). Available at: https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/234633931.pdf

Bradley, F. (2016). 'A world with universal literacy': The role of libraries and access to information in the UN 2030 Agenda. *IFLA Journal*, 42 (2), 118-125. doi: 10.1177/0340035216647393

Dadzie, P. S., Martin-Yeboah, E., & Tachie-Donkor, G. (2016). Ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all: the role of Ghanaian academic libraries in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Daley, B. (n.d.). Understanding sustainable development. The University of London. Available at: https://www.soas.ac.uk/cedep-demos/000_P501_USD_K3736-Demo/index.htm

Duhon, L., & Jameson, J. (2013). Health information outreach: a survey of US academic libraries, highlighting a midwestern university's experience. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 30 (2): 121-137.

Dumka, N. V. (n.d). The Ethnic History of Nigeria. Available at: https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/14051828.pdf

El-Kalash, K. I., Mohammed, S. B. & Ahmed, M. M. (2014).Towards a sustainable rural community development in Nigeria: the role of information. *Ebonyi Journal of Library and Information Science.* 1 (1). Pp. 89-101.

El-Kalash, K. I., Mohammed, S. B. & Aniki, M. Y. (2016). Exploring Infopreneurship for Economic Growth and Sustainability in a Developing Economy: The Nigeria Perspective. *Journal of Educational Policy and Entrepreneurial Research (JEPER)*. 3 (7). Pp 240-249. Available at: www.ztjournals.com

Elliot, J. A. (2009). *Sustainable Development*. In: International Encyclopedia of Human Geography. Newyork: Routledge.

Fabunmi, B. A. (2002). Planning the University Libraries for Effective Customer Services in Nigeria.

Gilmour, R. & Sapp, G. (2003). A brief history of the future of academic libraries: Predictions and speculations from the literature of the profession, 1975 to 2000 —part two, 1990 to 2000, portal. Libraries and the Academy; 3 (1): 13–34.

Hornby, S. (2005). *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary.* 7th ed. USA. Oxford University Press

Hudson, H. E. (1997). *Global Connections: International Telecommunications Infrastructure and Policy.* New York: Wiley.

Iroka, P. L. & Ndulaka, C. M. (2018). Education and libraries for sustainable development in Nigeria. *Archives of Current Research International*, 12 (4): 1-10. Available at http://www.journalrepository.org/media/journals/ACRI_41/2018/Feb/Irok a1242017ACRI39009.pdf

Jarvie, M. E. (2011). Brundtland Report: publication by the World Commission on Environment and Development. Available at https://www.britannica.com/topic/Brundtland-Report/additional-info#history

Mbagwu, F. C.; Lyaka, M.; Kiwelu, J. E.; Nyantakyi-Baah, L.; and Holmner, M. (2020). Achieving Sustainable Development Goals Two and Three: Role of Academic Libraries. *Library Philosophy and Practice*. Available online at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/3995

Mensah, J. (2019). Sustainable development: Meaning, history, principles, pillars, and implications for human action: Literature review. *Taylor and Francis:* 5 (1). Available at https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311886.2019.1653531

Mensah, J., & Enu-Kwesi, F. (2018). Implication of environmental sanitation management in the catchment area of Benya Lagoon, Ghana. Journal of Integrative Environmental Sciences. doi:10.1080/ 1943815x.2018.1554591.

Naidoo, P. (2020). Nigeria Tops South Africa as the Continent's Biggest Economy. Available at: https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-03/nigeria-now-tops-south-africa-as-the-continent-s-biggest-economy

Nwezeh, C. M. T. & Shabi, I. N. (2011). Students Use of Academic Libraries in Nigeria: A Case of Obafemi Awolowo University Library, Ile-Ife. Library Philosophy and Practice. Available online at https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1634&context=libphilprac

Okuonghae, O. & Igbinovia, M. O. (2019). The Role of Academic Libraries towards the Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals: The Nigerian Perspective. *Covenant Journal of Library & Information Science.* 2(2) Pp. 2682-5295

Oyegunle, J. (2013). History, philosophy, challenges, nature, roles of the academic library in Nigeria. Library and Information Science Materials.

Shahzalal, M. D., & Hassan, A. (2019). Communicating sustainability: Using community media to influence rural people's intention to adopt sustainable behaviour. *Sustainability*, 11(3), 812.

Singh, J. and Kaur, T. (2009). Future of Academic Libraries in India: challenges and opportunities. A paper presented at the International Conference on Academic Libraries (ICAL) held at the University of Delhi, India. p. 52.

The World Factbook: Nigeria (2017). *About Nigeria*. Available online at: https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/nigeria/

Todaro, M. P., & Smith, S. C. (2006). Economic development (8th ed.). Reading: Addison-Wesley.

Ukaga, U., Maser., C., & Reichenbach, M. (2011). Sustainable development: principles, frameworks, and case studies. *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*, 12(2), Emerald Group Publishing Limited. Available at doi:10.1108/ijshe.2011.24912bae.005

Umoh, E. B. (2017). Information and Services Provision by Academic Libraries in Nigeria. *International Journal of Academic Library and Information Science.* 5(5): 153-159

United Nations Development Programme (1994). Human development reports. Available at: http://hdr.undp.org/

Weiner, S. G. (2005). The history of academic libraries in the United States: a review of the literature. *Library Philosophy and Practice*; 7 (2): 1–12.

World Bank (2001). *Engendering Development through Gender Equality in Rights, Resources and Voices.* New York: Oxford University Press.