THE NIGERIAN LIBRARIAN AND PROMOTION OF KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL IN THE INFORMATION AGE:

Ogbonna, Isaac M. Okonoko, Vera N. Sokari, Uwuma Digitemie-Batubo, B.N.

The broad purpose of the paper is to discuss how Nigerian librarians can promote knowledge for all in the digital age. Knowledge is an essential commodity required at all times to develop and progress societies. The paper examines the concepts of knowledge, information and information age, interrogating the roles of Nigerian librarians in promoting knowledge for all. Professional, personal and ICT competencies/skills requirements for Nigerian Librarians in the new dispensation are discussed. Challenges facing Nigerian Librarians in this regard such as the problem of inactive information seeker communities in Nigeria, inadequate ICT infrastructure in Nigerian Libraries, the cost of installing and using ICT facilities, and inadequate power supply are discussed. Recommendations arising from the study were proffered such as the need for collaboration between the LIS Schools, LRCN and NLA towards equipping Nigerian Librarians with the required skill for this age; up-grading traditional libraries in Nigeria to Hybrid and Digital libraries; development of ICT infrastructural base by the Nigerian Government; provision of regular electric power in Nigeria; regular professional development of librarians. Also, that librarians should be assertive and proactive to the needs of the clientele is recommended.

Keyword: Information, Information age, Knowledge; Nigerian Librarian.