Nigerian Academic & Research Libraries Journal
Volume 3 No. 2, Dec., 2024 ISSN: 2408-753X

OOldscholar

IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES IN ORGANIZING LIBRARY RESOURCES TO ENABLE ACCESS IN ENUGU STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UKWUEZE, Perpetua Onyinyechi[1]; NSUDE, Scholastica Ndidiamaka[2]; UGWU, Dorcas Nnedinso[3] & UGOCHUKWU, Victoria Oluchukwu[4]

[1, 2, 3 & 4] Enugu State University of Science and Technology.
[1] perpetua.ukwueze@esut.edu.ng [2] nsude.ndidiamaka@esut.edu.ng
[3] ugwu.nnedinso@esut.edu.ng [4] victoria.ugochukwu@esut.edu.ng

Abstract

The study is on identifying challenges of organizing library resources to enable access in Enugu State University of Science and Technology Library. It aimed to find out the challenges faced by the library cataloguers in the course of organising library resources to enable library users have easy access to the library resources. The study is a quantitative research guided by three research objectives and three research questions. The research design adopted for this study is a case study research design. A total of ten (10) staff make up the members of the cataloguing and classification unit and they formed the population of the study. Data were collected using the instrument of a questionnaire (e-copies). The collected data were statistically analysed in percentages and presented in charts. The results of the findings show that the cataloguers' experience challenges such as inadequate professional staff, lack of training opportunities, outdated working tools and working on backlogged materials. Based on findings, the study recommends that there is need to address the issues raised for enabled access in Enugu State University of Science and Technology Library.

Keywords: Cataloguing, classification, cataloguer, organizing, library resources.

Introduction:

The job of a cataloguer is considered the most important job in any library. This is because they are the specialists responsible for organizing the library resources. That is, they take care of bibliographic control, information management and standardization of library records that help users find materials. According to Monyela (2023), cataloguers are responsible for providing and organizing an efficient and effective research system that saves time and increases the overall performance of the library. This group of librarians is located in the cataloguing and classification unit of a library.

The cataloguing and classification section of each library is considered the centre of such a library. This is because this unit is concerned with analysing all resources that enter the library, whether through donation or purchase, before they are moved to the shelves. Given the extensive holdings of libraries, especially academic libraries, one can well imagine what will happen to library resources if they

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024 Vol. 3 (2)
DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

are not systematically analysed and processed. For this reason, the practices of cataloguing and classification are intertwined functions that must fit together to effectively describe and organize library collections and provide effective access to the library resources. If this is not done, the resources purchased in the library will not be easily accessible to the library users. This practice is largely done manually, but with the introduction of ICT in the library, online cataloguing has become widespread in most libraries. However, the fact is that the procedures for preparing materials remain the same regardless of manual or online cataloguing. Each element in the book is described in a standard format. The procedures for cataloguing a book follow the rules of the Anglo-American Catalogue Rules 2nd Edition (AACR2), and the procedures for classifying library materials follow a standard classification scheme.

Cataloguing is the process of preparing a library catalogue that serves as a retrieval tool and provides access to library holdings. This is the systematic process of analysing and creating bibliographic records of the library collections to facilitate access for library users. According to Ekere and Mole (2014), cataloguing is the process of describing the information materials of a library to determine their bibliographic attribute. Cabonero and Dolendo (2013) wrote that cataloguing is very important to keep all the materials in the library organized and orderly. The essence of cataloguing lies in its ability to improve information organization, enable retrieval and access to information resources, making it an essential function in libraries and information management systems. In other words, the main purpose of any cataloguing process is to create a library catalogue that serves as an index of library holdings and improves the provision of information services. According to Nwachukwu and Ogwo (2014), a library catalogue is a list of books, maps, audio recordings and other library resources arranged in a systematic order for easy retrieval. The library catalogue can be in a manual format or an automated format. Whatever the format, the essence is to provide access to the holdings of a library or database. Therefore, cataloguing is the process of creating and maintaining bibliographic records.

Grouping library collections according to their degree of similarity is called classification. This process is based on standard classification schemes that are generally accepted and used worldwide. According to Ekere and Mole (2014), the ultimate goal of library classification is to ensure optimal utilization of the library's information resources. They further stated that the purpose of classification is to improve rapid identification, location and retrieval of information resources in a library. The key element in classification is grouping similarity materials and assigning classes to the grouped materials. According to Isyaku, Bello, and Ado (2018), the word classification is used to describe the logical and systematic arrangement of library collections, usually by subject content, their similarity, and treatment. In other words, it is the process of compiling similar library materials according to their subject content.

Like many other established institutions, every area of the library has one challenge or another. However, experience has shown that those associated with the cataloguing and classification field must be considered very crucial considering the fact that the cataloguing section is considered as the engine of the library. Chitumbo

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024;Vol. 3 (2) DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

and Kanyengo (2017) outlined some of these challenges faced by the library's cataloguing department, including: staff shortages and constant turnover of staff in the cataloguing department. Manaf and Ibrahim (2016) in another study revealed some challenges faced by the engineering department including: the lack of modern tools, inadequate work tools and unfavourable work environment. Experience has shown that, in addition to the points listed above, the following have been observed to pose challenges for cataloguers: evolving cataloguing standards, diverse materials, multilingual materials, technological challenges.

Effective cataloguing and classification provide the foundation for optimized access to library resources, facilitating retrieval of relevant information and improving the overall user experience. This involves organizing and describing library resources using standardized metadata such as keywords, call numbers and classification systems. Accurate and comprehensive cataloguing enables users to quickly locate relevant resources, promotes effective information searching, and maximizes the use of the library's extensive holdings. However, if this process is compromised, it will severely impact seamless access to resources and thereby compromise the library's role as a knowledge hub.

The Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) Library was established to provide information materials necessary to support the teaching, learning and research of the institution. The aim is to acquire, process, organize, store, preserve and distribute information resources to users upon request. The university library consists of the main library, the medical library, the law library and the faculty libraries. The library takes pride in its ability to integrate new technologies in information service delivery. Currently, it operates a hybrid library system- a combination of both print and electronic resources and services. It aligns itself with the university objectives to deliver world-class physical and digital contents and services especially as it relates to teaching, learning and research. Its greatest investments are its staff, print and electronic collections, physicals and virtual libraries that drive information and scholarly communication. In order for the library to achieve its set goals, it has departments that perform key functions, including the Cataloguing and Classification unit.

The Cataloguing and Classification section of the library is a unit in the Technical service division of the library. It is a section that is involved in the cataloguing and classification of every information material that are acquired by the library. Before books are moved to the shelves, they must be analysed by the cataloguing section in other to create a bibliographical record of such material. It is this bibliographical record that will enable access to the material when it is eventually moved to the shelf. Considering the technicality involved in cataloguing and classification of library materials, it is imperative that the affairs of the unit is absolutely taken care to ensure efficiency in their services, however, where this is challenged, it affects the overall usability and accessibility of the library resources. Therefore, this study looks at identifying and addressing challenges of organising library resources for enabled access to library resources in ESUT library.

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024, Vol. 3 (2)
DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

Statement of problem

Cataloguing and classification of library resources is the responsibility of the library's cataloguing unit. This unit of the library is tasked with preparing information materials for the shelves. This will improve information gathering and ensure effective delivery of information services. For this reason, this unit is considered a very important unit of the library. However, several challenges hamper the effective services of this unit. Challenges which are likely to affect this unit may include: constant disposition of personnel of the cataloguing unit, large amount of resources to work on at a time, multilingual materials, pirated resources, outdated cataloguing tools, etc. To establish the fact, this study aims to properly ascertain the challenges of organising library resources and profound the way forward to enable access to Library resources in ESUT library.

Purpose of study

The general purpose of this research is to investigate the challenges of organising library resources to enable access in Enugu State University of Science and Technology, specifically, the following purposes will guide the study.

1. To establish the type of cataloguing practice used in ESUT library for enabled access to library resources.
2. To ascertain the challenges of organizing library resources for enabled access to library resources in the library.
3. Identify solutions to the challenges of organizing library resources to facilitate access to information resources in the library.

Research Questions

The research questions are formulated in line with the research objectives to guide this study.

1. What type of cataloguing practice is used in ESUT library for enabled access to library resources?
2. What are the challenges of organizing library resources for enabled access to library resources in the library?
3. What are the solutions to the challenges of organising library resources to facilitate access to information resources in the library?

Literature Review

Cataloguing and classification is the library practise that is designed to impose order on library resources. They are information processing concepts that are fundamental in information access and retrieval (Nwosu, 2012). Cataloguing and classification serves as a fundamental process in library management, ensuring organized and structured access to resources. According to Chan and Salaba (2016), cataloguing enables users to locate and retrieve relevant information effectively, resulting in improved user satisfaction and utilization of library collections. Accurate and comprehensive cataloguing practices contribute to the discoverability and accessibility of library resources, making them essential for supporting teaching, research, and learning activities.

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024, Vol. 3 (2). DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

POldscholar

The process of cataloguing involves descriptive cataloguing, subject cataloguing and classification. The descriptive cataloguing describes the physical attribute of a library resource; the subject cataloguing explores the subject content of a library resource which helps to bring together entries on a specific subject. Classification on the other hand ensures grouping of library resource into classes according to their similar characteristics. According to Monyela (2023) the intention of this task is to identify the work and distinguish it from other works by the same author, or with the same title or on the same subject.

Prior to advent of internet, libraries engaged in manual cataloguing practice. This is the process of creating a library catalogue through manual, hands-on efforts by cataloguers following a set out cataloguing rules such as AACR. This practice produces library catalogue in the form of card catalogue, printed book form, guard book catalogue etc (Nwosu, 2012). Over time, libraries have continued to adopt other evolving library practices such as: Retrospective Conversion, Online Cataloguing, Resource Description and Access, etc. as means of coping with greater demand on their services in this era of information explosion.

Cataloguing and classification is very important in any library, this is why Alajmi and Ur-Rehman (2016) assert that from ancient times, cataloguers and their skills have been the cornerstone of librarianship. According to Bello and Mansor (2013), surveys of cataloguers' job descriptions continue to reveal that knowledge of cataloguing and classifications such as original/copy cataloguing, authority control, descriptive/subject cataloguing and use of standard tools (AACR, LSCH, LCCS, MARC) are the most frequently required skills. However, the impact of information and communication technology on cataloguing practices has added to the cataloguers' skills. According to Esse (2013) The implication of this to the cataloguer is that in addition to his professional competence he must add computer literacy and competence, he must be able to work with the new information technologies to develop machine-readable catalogues that can be accessed in remote locations. In affirmation, Bello and Mansor (2012) in a survey conducted on the duties, skills and functions of cataloguers indicated swift changes in cataloguing duties and function, and many reports revealed that cataloguers have taken to more challenges in view of developments in their profession.

Despite the importance of this practice, cataloguing and classification faces so many challenges. According to Ajani, Amzat, James and Sulyman (2022), One of the basic constraints of cataloguing and classification is difficulty in determining the subject content of the materials at hand, especially for books with multiple subject headings. Often times, the subject of the work is readily available, like in the case of cataloguing-in-publication, but in other cases, as stated by Miller in David-West and Angrey (2018), the subject is not so easy to discern. Likewise, the formats of material, diction skills and time constraints are also challenges of cataloguing and classification of library and information resources. The use of archaic cataloguing and classification tools, inadequate knowledge of cataloguing and classification rules, poor interpretation and application of these rules, shortage of trained professional staff, as well as the time consumption in the area of original cataloguing for data processing are also hindrances to cataloguing and classification in academic libraries (Orbih and

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024, Vol. 3 (2)
DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

Aina, 2014). Inadequate Information and Communication Technology (ICTs) skills by librarians also hampers the quality of service delivery by cataloguers in academic libraries (Ajani, et al, 2022).

Also, Posigha, Ojohwoh and Oberhiri-Oruma (2019) carried out a study which aimed to investigate the challenges and prospects of cataloguing and classification in academic libraries in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive survey design. The population of the study was made up of 66 practicing librarians who attended the Nigerian Library Association, Bayelsa State chapter 2018 annual conference held in Yenagoa. Questionnaire entitled "Challenges and Prospects of Cataloguing and Classification Questionnaire (CPCCQ)" that contained close-ended items was used to collect data for the study. The findings revealed, inadequate staff, lack of up-to-date tools, difficulties of cataloguing and classifying of backlogged, inadequate motivation, etc. as some challenges militating against the technical sections of the academic libraries studied. The study also reveals, increase advocacy for library automation, available training opportunities outside the State, the introduction of information management system, accelerated movement from manual to computerized method, etc as indication of brighter future or good prospect for the technical sections of the libraries studied.

The introduction of new cataloguing terms such as the Resource Description Framework (RDF), the Resource Descriptive Access (RDA), and the Functional Requirement for Bibliographic Record (FRBR) has also been identified as some of the challenges of cataloguing library resources. Adebayo (2013) carried out a study on the challenges associated with cataloguing electronic resources in selected university libraries in South West Nigeria and found that lack of ICT skills, insufficient number of professional cataloguers and lack of knowledge of computer language such as the MARC and Dublin Core are challenges faced by cataloguers in this digital age.

Similarly, Obiozor-Ekeze (2016) also discovered that library not being automated, under-staffing which slows down the pace of working at the various department of the library, lack of knowledge of current trends in cataloguing practices, lack of competent typists, and problem of irregular power supply constitute as challenges of cataloguing in libraries.

Onyemaizu in Moustapha (2021) examines usefulness of cataloguing for digital services and challenges faced during the process. Digital or online catalogue is designed so that the documents can be accessed via terminals, so that library users may directly and effectively search for and retrieve bibliographic records without the assistance of a human intermediary. They further stated that in spite of the usefulness of digital cataloguing, like flexibility and currency, easy updating among others, Nigerian libraries are not properly practicing digital cataloguing because of challenges like erratic power supply, inadequate funding, under-staffing, lack of cataloguing expertise or knowledge among others. The present paper also describes that these challenges can be overcome by the provision of adequate funds, adequate staffing and training, and stable power supply.

Isyaku, Bello and Ado (2018) investigated the challenges and prospects of cataloguing and classification of library materials in libraries of Kano State, Northwest Nigeria. The paper focuses on organization of library materials which helps to deliver

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024, Vol. 3 (2) DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

POldscholar

effective services effectively and efficiently. The study identified that librarians are no longer interested in cataloguing and classification units due to its tedious nature and naturally like to avoid the work. This is what affects the technical department of all libraries in Kano state. The paper further highlights some of the challenges and prospects, and offered suggestions on how to minimize the challenges or do away with them completely.

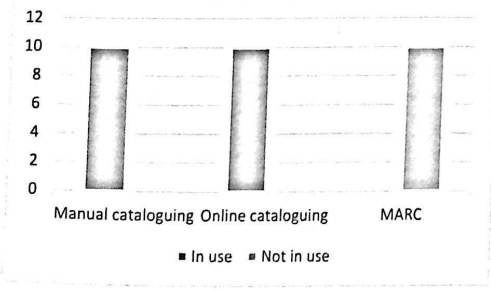
Manaf and Ibrahim (2016) investigated cataloguers and classifiers' perception towards cataloguing and classification practices. The study adopted descriptive design. All the 67 academic librarians working in six selected institution libraries were studied. The study adopted questionnaire method to collect data from the respondents. The data analysis was done using inferential statistic. The findings revealed librarians' have positive perception towards cataloguing and classification activities. The challenges noted include: lack of up-to-date tools, inadequate working tools and unconducive working environment.

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study is a case study research design. This is because the study aims to provide a thorough understanding of a given group. According to Nworgu (2015) the social unit may be an individual, a group of individuals, a community or an institution. The population of the study is ten (10). These are the total number of the library staff in the cataloguing and classification section of the library. The data for the research were gathered through the instrument of a questionnaire which was generated in line with the research objectives and distributed among the cataloguers. The questionnaire was shared virtually, received and considered useful for the study. The data for the study were analysed using a descriptive statistics and presented in bar charts based on the research questions that guided the study.

Research Question 1: What type of cataloguing practice is used in ESUT library for enabled access to library resources?

Chart 1



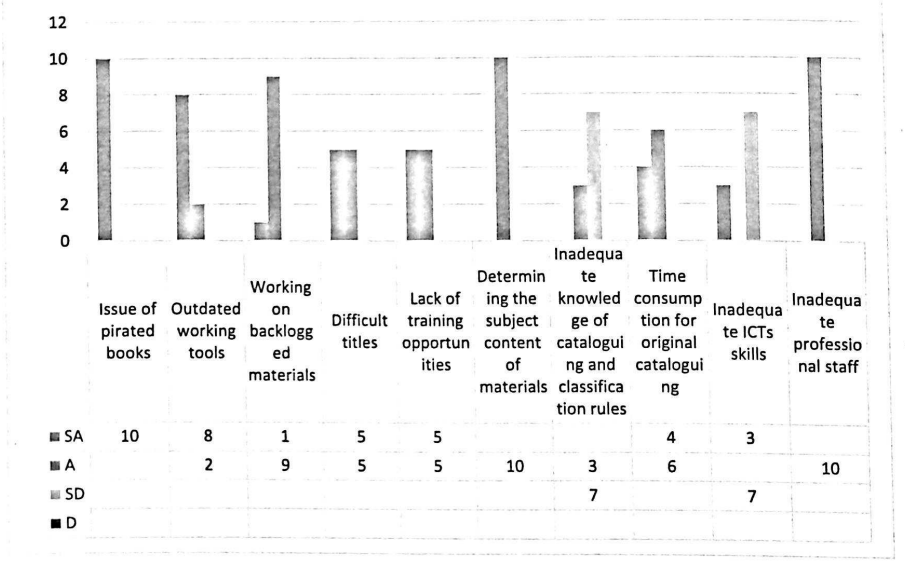
The chart above shows the responses by the respondents on the cataloguing practice is used in ESUT library for enabled access to library resources. All respondents, which is 100% of the population agree that the library is using both

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024, Vol. 3 (2)
DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

manual cataloguing practise and online cataloguing and classification practice. The responses also show that 100% of the population affirm that MARC practise is not in use.

Research Question 2: What are the challenges of organizing library resources for enabled access to library resources in ESUT library?

Chart 2



The chart above shows the responses on the challenges of organizing library resources for enabled access to library resources. The responses show the level of challenges experienced by cataloguers in the course of cataloguing and classification of library materials. From the responses, it shows that 100% of the responses affirms that there is the issue of pirated books in ESUT library. 100% responses also agree that there are challenges of outdated working tools, working on backlogged materials, use of manual methods in the cataloguing and classification of library resources in ESUT Library. On the other hand, 70% of the respondents disagree that inadequate knowledge of cataloguing and classification rules and inadequate ICT skills constitute as challenges to cataloguing and classification of library resources. This is to show that the librarians in the unit are competent and very professional.

This is in line with Miller in David-West and Angrey (2018) and Ajani, Amzat, James and Sulyman (2022), who opined that the basic constraints of cataloguing and classification is difficulty in determining the subject content of the materials at hand, especially for books with multiple subject headings, hence, the subjects are not so

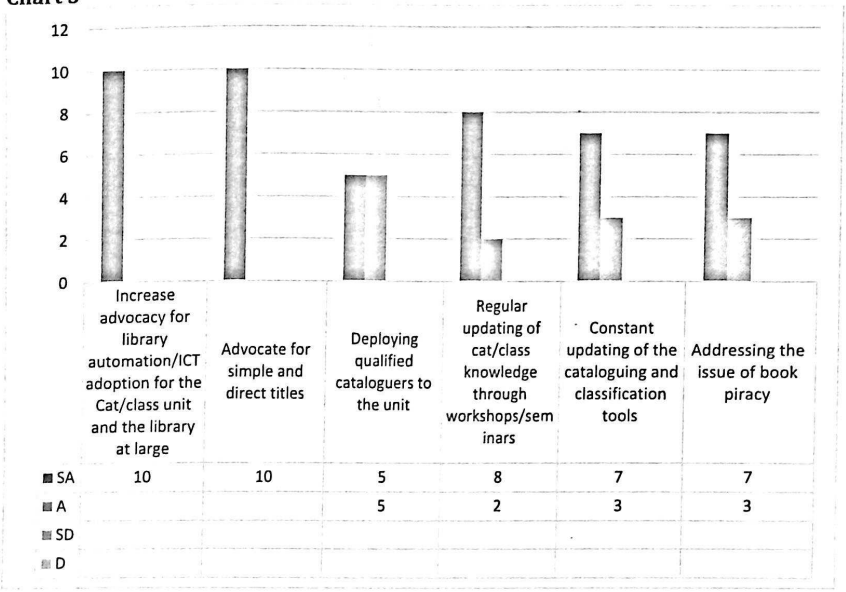
Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024, Vol. 3 (2) DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

POldscholar

easy to discern. It is also in line with Obiozor-Ekeze (2016) who discovered that library not being automated, under-staffing which slows down the pace of working at the various department of the library.

Research Question 3: What are the solutions to the challenges of organising library resources to facilitate access to information resources?

Chart 3



The above chart shows the responses on the potential solutions to the challenges of organising library resources for enabled access to information resources. 100% of the respondents agree that to improve the practice organising library resources through cataloguing and classification, there is need to address the issue of book piracy, encourage the staff training, adopt information management system, regularly updating of cataloguing and classification knowledge workshop and adopting library and information management system. Also, 100% of the respondents agree that there is need for constant updating of cataloguing and classification tools, deployment of qualified professional staff and automation of the cataloguing and classification unit.

This is in line with Posigha, et al. (2019) who reveals that increase advocacy for library automation, available training opportunities outside the State, the introduction of information management system, accelerated movement from manual to computerized method, etc are indication for brighter future or good prospect for the technical sections of libraries.

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024, Vol. 3 (2)
DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

Conclusion

The study was carried out to identify and address the challenges of cataloguing library resource to facilitate access to library resources in Enugu State University of Science and Technology. The study aimed to find out the challenges faced by the cataloguers in the course of organising library resources to enable library users have easy access to the resources. From the findings, it is evidence that the process of organizing library resources face challenges such as: issue of pirated resource materials, difficult titles, outdated working tools, working on backlogged materials and use of manual methods. Also, time consumption, lack of training opportunities and lack of knowledge about all discipline constitute challenges to cataloguing and classification of materials. Therefore, to enable access to library resources, there is need to tackle the challenges identified as the unit is the hub of the library.

Recommendation

At the end of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- That the library administration should always prioritise the issues of the cataloguing and classification unit because of its genuine importance.
- That the library administration should ensure to deploy professional cataloguer to the cataloguing and classification unit for effective service delivery.
- That the issue of pirated resource materials should be discussed at the management level for immediate actions.
- That the library administration should ensure that a serene environment is provided for cataloguing and classification unit.
- That all the challenges identified should be treated as a matter of urgency for effective service delivery in the library.

References

Adebayo, O. (2013). Challenges associated with cataloguing electronic resources in selected university libraries in Southwest Nigeria. *Chinese Librarianship: an International Electronic Journal,* 35(1) :1-10. Retrieved from http://www.iclc.us/cliej/cl36adebayo.pdf.

Ajani, F. O., Amzat, O. B., Sulyman, A. S. & James, B. O. (2023). Cataloguing and classification as predictors of library use among the users of libraries of public universities in Kwara State. *International Journal of Librarianship.* DOI 10.23974ijol.2023.vol8.1.277

Alajimi, B. & Ur-Rehman, Sajjad (2016). Knowledge organization trends in library and information education: assessment and analysis. *Education for information.* 32(4):1-10. DOI 10.3233//EFI-160084

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024, Vol. 3 (2) DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

BOldscholar

Bello, M. A. & Mansor, Y. (2013). Mentoring in libraries and information organisation, the catalogue librarian perspectives. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal).* Retrieved from http://www.digitalcommons.ul.edu/libphil/prac/1007.

Cabonero, D. A., & Dolendo, R. B. (2013). Cataloguing and classification skills of library and information science practitioners in their workplaces: A case analysis. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal).* Retrieved from http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/960

Chan, L. M. & Salaba, A. (2016). *Cataloguing and classification: An Introduction.* Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Chitumbo, E. M. M. & Kanyenga, C. W. (2017). Knowledge Management Culture among Library Cataloguers: the University of Zambia Library Experience. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal).* Retrieved from http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1561

David-West, B.T. & Angrey, C.U. (2018). Cataloguing and Classification Skills and Information Dissemination in Libraries. *Journal of Educational Research and Review*, Vol. 6(7), pp. 94-97.

Ekere, F.C. & Mole A.J.C. (2014). *Theory and practice of cataloguing and classification.* Enugu: Praise House Publishing.

Esse, U. C. (2013). Current Trends in Cataloguing and the Challenges of a Cataloguer in the Digital Age. *Information Impact: Journal of Information and Knowledge Management,* 4(2):16-23. Retrieved form www.researchgate.net

Isyaky, M., Bello, B. B. & Ado, G. (2018). Cataloguing and classification of library materials in libraries of Kano state, Northwestern Nigeria: challenges and prospects. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research.* Retrieved from www.researchgate.net

Manaf, Z. & Ibrahim, I. (2016). Assessing cataloguers and classifiers' perception towards cataloguing and classification practices in academic libraries in Malaysia. Malaysia: University Teknologi Mara. Retrieved from http//:www.irdci.unitm.edu

Monyela, M. (2023). Challenges of cataloguing library resources in the evolving digital environment: the African cataloguer's experience. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal). Retrieved from* https://digitalcomons.unl.edu/libphilprac/7667

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024,Vol. 3 (2)
DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY

Moustapha, A. A. (2021). Challenges and prospects for cataloguing and classification in academic libraries in Kwara State, Nigeria: a case study. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal).* Retrieved from http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6380

Nwachukwu, V.N. & Ogwo U. (2014). *Basic principles of information retrieval tools in library and information science.* Locco211 publishers.

Nwosu, C. N. (2012). *Principles of cataloguing and classification with AACR2R, MARC21 and classification schemes.* Sound and Sense Ltd.

Obiozor-Ekeze, R. N. (2016). Cataloguing and classification of library materials in 21st century: challenges facing Festus Aghagbo Nwako library Awka. Library Research Journal, 1(1) 47– 51.

Orbih, D. E. & Aina, A. J. (2014). Issues, benefits and challenges of original cataloguing versus copy cataloguing: The experience of Lagos State University Library. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 6(5), 88 – 97. Retrieved from www.researchgate.net

Posigha, B. E., Ojohwoh, R. & Oberhiri-Oruma G. (2019). The Challenges and Prospects of Cataloguing and Classification in Academic Libraries in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Information Science and Technology, 9(3).* Available at www.trp.org.in

Nigerian Academic and Research Libraries Journal 2024, Vol. 3(2) DOI: 10.61955/OOLYXY