

Appraisal of Recent Developments in the Digital Library Services of Festus Aghagbo Nwako Library Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. (FANDL)

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Abstract— The study was carried out to appraise the recent development in the digital library services of festusAghagbo Library Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Aawka. (FANDL). Specifically, the study aimed at identifying new innovations, and developments being made so far since the inception of the Digital Library in 2009 till date. Also, to identify number of units and services/functions rendered by each unit. To ascertain the capacity of work stations and staff strength in Digital Library. To know the level of their input and output and beneficiaries. To find out how do source their resources. The instruments used were oral interview and personal observation by the researcher. After the investigations, the researcher find out that the digital library has made huge progress in acquisition of e-books, e-journals, e-theses and dissertation and 2017 latest scanner and digitizing machines. More so, their staff strength has increased from 2 librarian to 3 librarian, 4 non librarian and 1 technical staff who is in charge of NOC. They have 6 functional unit and their services differs according to their specifications. The researcher also find out that target audience of the digital library are undergraduate, postgraduate, sandwich, CEP, JUPENG students, researchers and staff of the university. The study however recommends that more innovations should be made to meet up the demand of these patrons. Especially in the area of electricity and functional work stations. More importantly, to employ more staff in the digital library.

Index Terms— Appraisal, Development, Digital Library and Services.

I. INTRODUCTION

The “digital library” concept is of recent vintage. A digital library is a library or institution that harbors digital citizens a place where digital language is spoken and digital impressions made. A digital library comprises computer, digital environment, the digital librarians and digital users. In a digital library, the library becomes even more important for people to connect to what is going on in town and cities across the world, Miller (2011).

In a digital library, there are digital citizens. What qualifies one to become a digital citizen is the ability to operate comfortably in a digital environment or digital library. Schular (2012) recorded that a digital library can also be identifies as a city. And city has at least two possible meanings such as:-

-A city that is being transformed or re-oriented through digital technology.

-A digital representation or reflection of some aspects of an actual or imagined city.

Imagine a digital society, city or institution where some citizens are Moping like blind immigrants that are ignorant of what is happening in their city.

This scenario is a typical world where all members are digital literate except some few groups which might include librarians. Why this imagination being treated upon is that, the fact that librarians have the tendencies of becoming endangered in this technology innovation, digital citizens from a community network. A community network is defined by Eke (2012) as a representation of a digital city. Here interactions exist among professionals of same value, ethics, vision, and goals. In the digital world books are advertised and tagged which attracts comments and this spreads in a seconds through web 2.0, delicious, flicker or other social media. Librarians could take the advantage of this to advertise their products, thereby making and creating resources in the digital society. In this scenario the librarians become digital citizens and as digital citizens do not only market their resources but emerge in the digital society, showcasing their relevance in the digital society.

Furthermore, Digital citizenship is about confident and positive engagement with digital technology. A digital citizen is a person with the skills and knowledge to effectively use digital technologies to participate in society, communicate with others and create and use digital content

II. A BRIEF HISTORY OF PROFESSOR FESTUS AGHAGBO NWAKO LIBRARY NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA

The present Professor Festus AghagboNwako Library of NnamdiAzikiwe University, Awka was formally known as Anambra State University Technology, (ASUTECH). The bill establishing the ASUTECH, was signed by the then Governor of Anambra State, Chief Jim Nwaobodo on July, 30th 1980 and it was then, that this library came into existence. The library was formally situated at the temporary site of the university in a two-storey building. The officer incharge of the library then was Mr. Raph G. Nwamefor along with a few library staff. The library was later relocated in the Bus-stand premises in the temporary site. After Mr. NwameforRaph C., Mr. E.O. Onwuka took over from him as an acting University Librarian until 1991, when the new Anambra was created.

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After creation of Anambra State, the Old ASUTECH, Awka Campus was re-named after Late Dr. NnamdiAzikiwe, then NnamdiAzikiwe University Library inherited the library collection of the former ASUTECH, Awka Campus. By the end of 1991 the former NnamdiAzikiwe University Library Awka Campus that was situated near AFRIHUB was build. Dr. W. AAnyakorah was appointed as University Librarian and then to over from Mr. E.O. Onwuka presently Dr. W.A Anyakorah has retired from service and once more Mr. E.O Onwuka is the Acting University Librarian. In 2015, Rev. Prof. ObioraNwosu became the substantive University Librarian. In June 2020, MrsNkechiObiozor took from Professor ObioraNwosu as Acting University Librarian.

In 2007, a significant move was made towards providing a befitting university library building. The constitution of permanent site library building began that year. The library building was completed and commission in March 2008. In October, 2008 the library was occupied. It was opened to readers in January 2009. The new library was named after the pioneer vice-chancellor Professor Festus AghagboNwako. The main library has about 30,000sq meters of floor space which can accommodate 3,000 readers at a

III. AN APPRIASAL OF THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

Prof. Festus AghagboNwako Library of NnamdiAzikiwe University, Awka was commissioned officially by Dr. Igwe Aja-Nwachukwu, the then Minister of Education on Saturday, April 26, 2008. Thereafter, on April 21, 2009, the door of the Digital Library, a section of the main library was opened.

The digital library was also opened in January 2009. It has usable floor space of about 10,000sq. Meters and is equipped with 500 desktop/computers then, and internet facilities. Dr. Mrs. Anunobi was the pioneer head of digital library of Professor Festus AghagboNwako from January 2009 to April 2014, when Mr Andrew Ogbonna took over from May 2014 to May 2019 and Mrs Obiekwe Obioma Loveth took over from

June 2019 to September 2019, then Dr Mercy Anyaegbu took over from October 2019 till date.

Installation of the digital library: On the 21st of April 2009, the workstations was test run on the hardware configuration as well as the soft wares available in the digital library. In the process some problems was observed:-

- Not all the work stations in the four virtual halls could access the main server.
- The few other workstations especially those at the helpdesks are yet to join the network and must before the operation starts.
- The printers are yet to be configured
- 10% of the workstations have no Ups
- There are many faulty power points, network cables as well as data cabling
- Networking activities at the NOC and E-learning center are yet to be completed
- The server which is the main source of digital resources

contains little to enable the operations of the digital library to take off and

- The power backup at the server is grossly inadequate.

Afrihub from Lagos understudied by the staff from MICTU worked tirelessly to ensure the rectification of the server. Success was recorded on the 28th of April 2009. A USB driven MIT courseware was installed and workstations can now access the step one of the digital library. More fundamental works need to be done in collaboration with an MICTU staff of the school (Kingsley).

Presently, the hard ware group of Afrihub is working to fix all anomalies associated with the hardware and the networking.

However there is need to put the following in place:-

- Extension of the Network to the 4 helpdesks which Afrihub argues is not part of the original drawing as per contract
- Increasing the power backups capability at the server
- Provide Ups and other cabling accessories for some of the work stations in the virtual halls
- Equipping and fixing up of the Multimedia and E-learning centers to enable them function effectively
- Improving the security situation at the digital library

The digital library is made up of 3 professional librarians and 7 nonprofessional librarians, 2 3 library officers, 1 technical personnel that is total of 14 staff.

Due to lack of content, arrangements commenced to acquire contents and register University community for effective use of the content. The good news today is that the university community can now enjoy access to peer-reviewed journals from renowned international and even national publishers, digitized indigenous resources and other off line databases.

At the moment, the Digital Library has acquired over four thousand (4,000) full-text e-resources, links to on-line resources and bibliographic entries of over five hundred, (500) CD-ROMS (rich in applications/system programs, text, journals) theses/dissertations, proceedings, as well as internally generated digitized resources from the 15 faculties.

Contents of Digital Library

The Digital Library has the following as its contents.

1. CD-ROMs

Out of the existing CD-ROMs in the Digital Library, three hundred and fifty three (2000) have been processed while about one hundred and forty-seven (200) are yet to be processed. For under listed faculties:

Arts
Education
Engineering
Environmental Sciences
Health Science and Technology
Natural Sciences
Law
Management Sciences
Medicine

Basic Medical Sciences
Social Sciences
World Bank resources on CD-ROM amount to about nine-eight (100).

2. Online Links

The Digital Library page users have links to other online databases subscribed by the university. They include:

QARE: Online Access to Research in the Environment.

AGORA: Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture.

HINARI: Health Internet Network Access to Research Initiative.

PROTA

Earth Science
National Universities Commission, Nigerian University Virtual Library.

World Digital Library.

Directory of Open Access Journal.

Educational Resource Information Centre

EBSCO HOST

JSTOR

Bio line International, Bibliomania and British Library of Developmental Studies

Other off line Databases available in the Digital Library are

- a. MIT Open Courseware
- b. E – Granary
- c. Online Encyclopedia, dictionaries, and search engines.
- d. Multimedia contents
- e. Electronic books, study and research materials relating to various departments of study.
- f. Microsoft content – based training.
- g. Access to local and international dailies.
- h. Access to Nigerian online dailies.

3. Indigenous Research

The Digital Library has collated and processed all publications emanating from the University. These include, bulletins, conference proceedings, lecture series, addresses, journals theses/dissertations etc.

Services

A total of 500 desktops and 200 laptops are available and on the network to provide services to the users of the Digital Library.

On authentication, users are availed the opportunity to access and print, where necessary, all the contents as provided.

Furthermore, provisions are made for electronic news through cable Television. Business area is also available for photocopies, lamination, typesetting, CD duplication, spiral binding, etc. Users are allowed to use or borrow overnight any relevant CD in the Digital Library.

Between March 2010 and August 2015 a total of 12,318 users have registered to use the Digital Library.

Vision of the Library

The vision of Festus AghagboNwako Library may be

summarized as follows:

- i. To rank among the world’s best academic libraries.
- ii. To employ the best practices in Librarianship and Information Technology to provide the necessary support to teaching and research in the University.
- iii. To achieve discipline, self-reliance and excellence in the conduct of its affairs.

4. Mission of the University Library

The mission of the University Library is to harness all relevant human and material resources in support of teaching and research efforts of the University. Its mission can be itemized as follows:

- i. Doubling the present size of the Library’s holding of journals, books and other materials by the year 2012 by adopting very aggressive collection development strategy.
- ii. Digitization of the library’s resources and automation of processes.
- iii. Provision of adequate professional staff and retraining of serving staff to meet the needs and challenges of the new information age.
- iv. Creating more links external bodies and vital data bases and provision of facilities for real time information services

13. Digitization Programme

The Library presently digitizes the following resources.

- i. Academic output of Faculties (Journals, Theses and Dissertations, Inaugural Lectures, etc.
- ii. Local news, speeches, etc.

Departments in digital library. The digital is an equivalent of the traditional library. The only difference is that it’s functions basically on e-resources.

The under listed are functional Units;

- 1. E-reference,
- 2. CD processing Unit
- 3. Indexing and abstracting
- 4. Digitization Unit
- 5. Network Operating Center NOC
- 6. E- Public Service

IV. DEPARTMENTS / FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

- **Network Operating Center**
- (NOC) is the heart of the digital library. The software engineer are in charge of the office. This is where the server, router and CCTV monitor are installed. Simply put that it is the engine house of the digital library. Those machines installed in NOC and maintained and managed by the technical staff in the digital library.

E- reference:

- This section deals with the students using the system



to search for information. It is an online reference services rendered to library user who are digital citizens. A digital citizen is one who manipulates computer, smartphones effectively in searching information online without any assistance. They also interact with the student using social media network such as: Delicious, flicker, face book, twitter, blog and e-mail.

- Digitalization unit:

Recall that one of the primary functions of digital library is conversion of any fixed or analogue media such as books, journals, articles, photos,

Paintings into electronic form. In the digitalization unit, digitalizes projects and book and conference papers through computers.

This unit acquires material such as journals, inaugural lectures, brochures, theses, dissertations, welcome addresses, photos and papers presentation by prominent people that visited unizik. This unit also covers events that happened in unizik with digital camera and digitized those materials acquired and send to the key wording unit for key wording.

V. PICTURE OF REF LIBRARIAN AND USER IN THE HALL

DIGI MACHINE PIX



More so, they keeps record of acquired materials. This unit acquire

Indexing and Abstracting Unit;

Key wording is a tool used to assign meaningful words to your server or database content so that people searching for resources may easily find them. Adding keywords to your database is important in building your exposure on the web.

Indexing and abstracting librarian, keywords the scanned theses and dissertation and upload them to internet for the digital library users. Most online data sharing sites, search engines, and web words to your server or database content so that people searching for resources may easily find them. Adding keywords to your Database is also important in building your exposure on the web galleries use keyword

recognition to help people find your resources by assigning keywords to e-resources Nevertheless, Key wording of various subjects can be a time consuming, but it is of a great important it is included in database, in order to help for easy retrieval of information.

Important areas to Keyword:

1. Definitions and explanations of Concepts.....Conceptual Keywords
2. Locations Keywords such as description of cities, states or suburbs.
3. Descriptive Keywords describes a concept

VI. MATERIALS TO KEYWORD

1. Digitized and Electronic Theses, Electronic Books, Journals, Inaugural Lectures, Addresses, World Bank Reports, etc every thesis or journal deals on a particular subject or concept from which the keywords are extract.

Public service department:

This unit is in charge of the four halls in the digital library where all the work stations are mantled. Usually, a desk officer is in charge of the hall and the work stations situated there. The officer's duties includes, on and off the work stations, taking statistics of the users, directing and guiding the users, printing and photocopying users downloaded information and registering the users. On registration, the user is expected to bring his/her library identification card.

C-D processing Unit:

This unit is in charge of processing all the e-books electronic theses/dissertation in the library and convert them to PDF for uploading.

These e- resources are of two types. They are;

Theses and Dissertations in soft copies, and Electronics Resources (e-books, e-journals etc)

Theses and Dissertations:

Theses and dissertations are research studies generated from the fifteen (15) faculties and ninety-nine (99) departments in the University. These are domiciled in the PG School from where they are acquired by the Digital library there are various stages they undergo.

The first stage is checking/ counting of the CD

When the department receives the CD all they need to do is:-

- 1 Count them one after the other, to make sure that the number corresponds with that stated by PG School.
- 2 Sort them according to their faculty / department
- 3 Slot them into the computer to confirm their status, if they are properly merged and if they are already in PDF.
- 4 Select those that are good and keep them aside. Good in terms of being complete, being able to open and having been converted o PDF. The next action should be dependent upon the status of the CDS.
- 5 Keep record of the bad ones too.

❖ The second stage is testing /confirmation of the CDs:-

1. Slot the CD into computer to process them.
2. Open the CD by clicking open.
3. Copy the work to your desktop or document, this is to save computer system from contacting virus.
4. Open the work and process it by converting it to pass worded document format (PDF).

How to convert CD to PDF

- Ensure that your computer system have Adobe Reader.
- Also ensure that your system is installed with a DOPDF Software.
- Open the work and click print, a dialog box will pop up, click on the DOPDF and then click ok.
- Another dialog box will appear; click on browse and the new document on PDF will appear.
- Create a folder where you wish to save the work.
- By creating a folder; simply click on a dialog box, scroll to new then folder.
- Create a folder for the faculty and list all the names of departments that you intend to save the works in.
- Open the folder for each, copy the work and paste them in the detailed folders.
- Also copy which you have converted to PDF and paste in owner's folder and save.

Problem CDs..

When you are done with the good CDs, you are also required to process those with different issues. Thereafter, provide the list of problems discerned from each CD, department by department.

❖ ELECTRONIC BOOKS

The e-books and/or journals are acquired from International Organizations such as ECOWAS, UNITED NATIONS, FAO, WHO and other foreign books bought or donated to the University.

The e-books are processed the same way with CDs. The only difference is that you don't convert them to PDF, since they are already in PDF.

Steps for preparing E-Books

First step

- Count the e-books.
- Slot them into your computer system to confirm the status and conditions of the e- books.
- Process the e-books the way you did on the theses and dissertations.

Second step

- Provide columns and rows,
- Serial number,
- Author's name,
- Title of the book,
- Area of responsibility,
- Year of publication,
- Edition statement
- Give them call numbers. For example

L = Education

Z= Library science

Final stage

Write a report and shelve the CDs accordingly.

VII. SUMMARY

The Digital Library offers all the services rendered by academic libraries. The Departments are organized along the line of functions of the digital Library. The digitization and

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Acquisitions' Department carries out collections activities in liaison with the Post Graduate school of the University for Theses/ dissertations. Also meets traditional acquisition department of the main library for e-books. It also solicits for gifts and exchanges, bequests, etc. The CD processing department processes the acquired materials for use. The Metadata department keywords the whole material for upload. The e-reference department attends to users' reference needs. It answers reference queries using available material resources and also offers user advisory services. The e-public service department provides services to the users anytime. The services are printing download materials, photocopy, bindery, etc. The Digital Library provides online and offline access to information for the users.

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