

Evaluation of Osun State University Library: 2013 to Date

A Case Study of Osogbo

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Abstract

In most academic institutions, particularly in the third world countries, adequate attention is not given to the library. This study, therefore, focuses on the growth and development of library infrastructure, using Osun State University, Osogbo as a case study. With the adoption of participatory observation method, the research examines the updates on the previous work carried out on the subject. It also interrogates the infrastructural growth and development of a multi-campus university. The findings include Osun State Library: Development and projections from 2013-2030, the newly completed two-storey library complex building at the main campus, Osogbo, its operations, the E-Library Section of the library, access to library resources and other units/sections in the library. The study concludes that library is the heart of every academic institution and must be given serious attention by maintaining all the library buildings across the six campuses. Also, it needs to recruit more staff, invest in building staff capacity and expertise and make the security of the library topmost priority, such as investing in Electronic Security System.

Keywords: UNIOSUN library infrastructure, e-resources, multi-campus university, Nigeria

Introduction

Osun State University Library is distinctive as the institution which it serves. The collection of this library is determined by the needs of the curriculum. Such needs could include that of graduate education which offers only advanced courses and specific reading requirements for graduate and faculty or college research. Osun State University Library supports the academic objectives of the institution particularly in areas of teaching, learning and research purposes of the academic community it serves. The objectives of Osun State University dictate the objectives of its library. The main function of Osun State University library is to serve, to the full extent possible, the programmes of the mother institution and assist in the implementation of its specific educational objectives (UNIOSUN News-Spring, 2012). UNIOSUN is a multi-campus institution operating a collegiate system. There are seven colleges in six campuses located in the six geopolitical zones of the state, and so the library system is decentralized. There is a library in each of the six campuses namely: Osogbo, the Main Campus, which houses the College of Science, Engineering and Technology and the College of Health Sciences; Okuku Campus houses the College of Management and Social Sciences, Centre for Climate Change as well as Centre for Human Resource Development and Life-Long Learning; Ikire Campus houses the College of Humanities and Culture; Ejigbo Campus houses the College of Agriculture; Ipetu-Ijesa Campus houses the College of Education and Ifetedo Campus houses the College of Law. The main library at Osogbo coordinates the activities of all other campus libraries and ensures that all work together to achieve the mission and vision of the University.

Osun State University Library: Development and Projections from 2013-2030

The Library is built on the capability of having a strong foundation in terms of infrastructural development, addresses challenges and looks forward to future opportunities to serve the community better. Aforesaid, the Osun State University Library supports and supplements the teaching-learning programme of the institution at all levels. It performs this function by providing information resources in various formats. As the custodian of knowledge, the library serves as an institutional repository. Each of the six campuses of the university has its own college library and a link to the university library website: <http://library.uniosun.edu.ng>.

The completed new library complex buildings across the six campuses:



Picture i: UNIOSUN Main Library Building, Osogbo (Sola Akinrinade Central Library)



Picture ii: Ikire Campus Library (A replicate of other campus libraries: Okuku, Ipetu-Ijesa, and Ejigbo)



Picture iii: Ife-tedo Law Library Complex Building

The University main library building named after the first vice-chancellor of the institution, Professor Sola Akinrinade, and called Sola Akinrinade Central Library was completed on November 2016. The library was built and completed from the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the institution. The library is two-storey building with different units/sections, headed by unit or sectional heads. The University Librarian is the overall head of the library. Considering the mission and vision of the university community which is to create a unique institution committed to the pursuit of academic innovation, research, skills-based training and a tradition of excellence in teaching and community service; the library has been well positioned (UNIOSUN News-Spring, 2010).

The library at the main campus, Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria was moved from the old library building to the magnificent two storey new library building on February 2017. This new library could accommodate more significant library resources in all formats: print and e-resources as well as human resources, it could accommodate more than 500 library users/readers at a time. The reading rooms are spacious, well aerated, and with air conditioners, comfortable reading chairs and tables. Some of the reading rooms are set aside for group reading. In these rooms, readers are encouraged to discuss. Similarly, adequate shelves and shelving spacing that allows for easy movement are provided. More so, reading carrels are reserved for staff members.

Aside from the main library complex building at Osogbo, the five new campus library complex buildings were completed between 2013- 2015 and were put in use that same year. The college libraries were headed by College Librarians. They are all in full operation. The strategic goals for Osun State University Library across campuses are to provide adequate library resources in all formats: print and non-print materials. The major priority of both the university and library management is the maintenance of the six campus libraries.

Operations of Osun State University Library

Osun State University is set up to extend services beyond its physical walls, provide materials accessible by electronic means and at the same time to provide unrestricted access to information.

Opening Hours: The libraries open to readers as follows:

During Session

Monday – Friday

8.00 am - 6.00 pm

Saturday

8.00 am - 1.00 pm

Environmental Sanitation (Saturday)

10.00 am - 4.00 pm

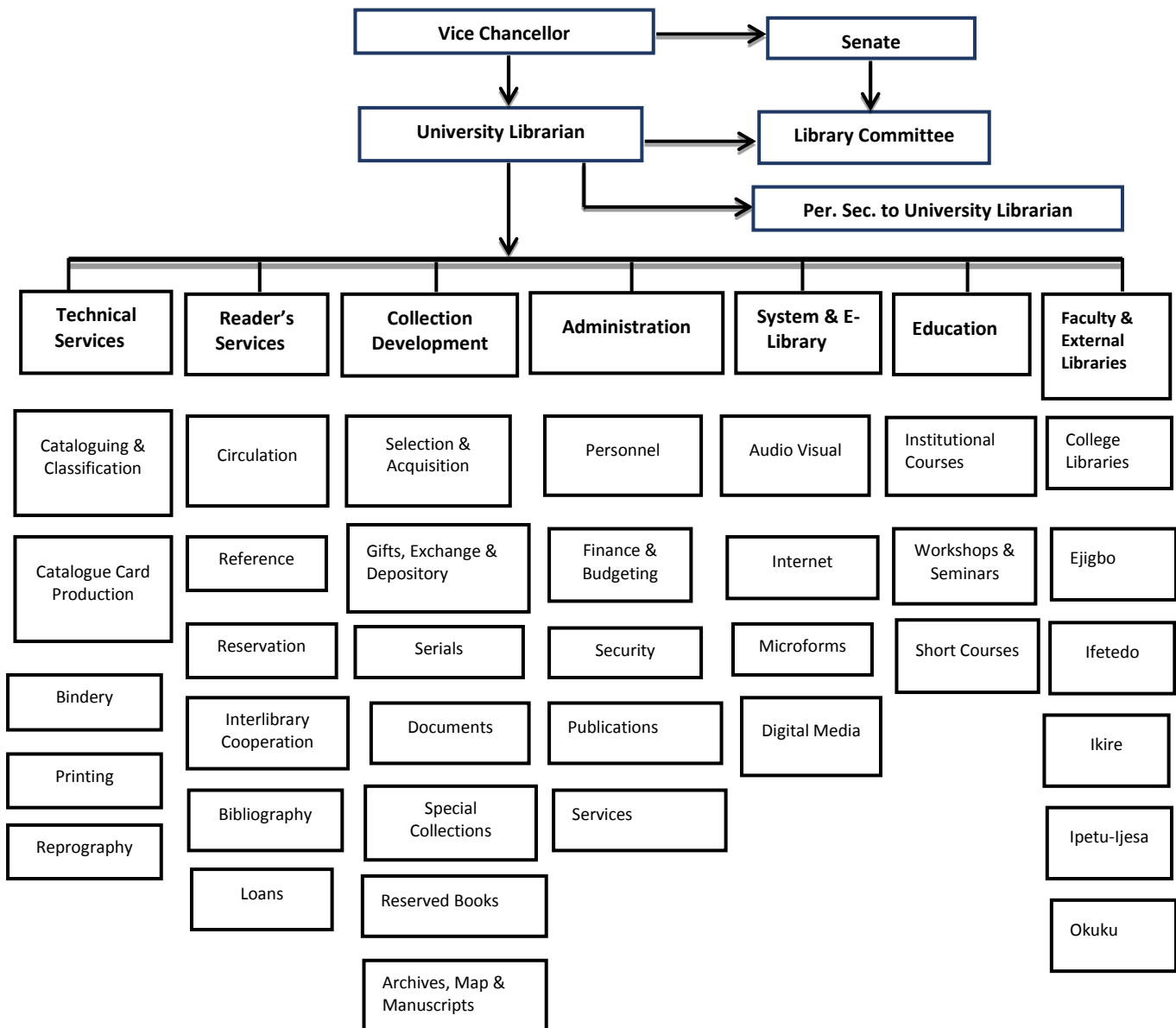
Sunday and Public Holidays

closed

Organisational Chart- University Library

Sola Akinrinade Central Library

Osun State University, Osogbo.



Collection Development Unit

Acquisition of library books and other literary materials: This Unit is headed by a Collection/Acquisition Librarian. In Osun State University Library, the nature of acquisitions has continued to illustrate the shift from print material to electronic media. More investments are in both digital content and technology infrastructure. The library acquires its resources in all formats, such as subscription to locally produced books and journal, association journals, subscription to current journals both print and electronic, large scale acquisition of books in print and subscription to international databases. Acquisitions in the library could also be through gifts and exchanges, inter-library loan and bequeath. Every new resources/item coming into the library passes through the Acquisitions Department which ensures that proper records have been kept concerning the item acquired before being out for further processing and use.

Technical Services Unit

The Technical Unit of UNIOSUN Library is headed by a Technical Services Librarian. It processes all library resources. The following resources are made available in this unit:

- Library of Congress (LC) Subject Headings and Schedule
- Internet Connectivity to check online resources
- Cataloguers' desktop.

This Unit is responsible for the cataloguing and classification of all library materials. Cataloguing has to do with description of library materials such as books to point out important bibliographic features like author, title, place of publication, publisher, edition, date of publication and subject of each book. In classification, all materials that have similar subject contents are grouped together and are assigned class marks or numbers. The class mark or number identifies each item as a member of a group. The ultimate purpose of cataloguing and classification is to ensure that library materials are systematically organized. With cataloguing and classification, it becomes possible to put all materials on a specific discipline in one area of the library shelves. Library and classification save the time of the library user/clientele.

Serials Unit

The Serials Unit is headed by a Serials Librarian. It stocks primary sources of information, for example periodicals, newspapers and magazines, academic journals on various subjects. The materials in this Unit are restricted and cannot be taken out of the library. This Unit of UNIOSUN Library contains back sets of both foreign and local journals/periodicals, magazines, newspapers and special collections that have to do with government publications, Nigerian, Osun-ana, gifts and exchanges, legal depository and rare books. The task of the Serials unit is to select, acquires, record, process and display serials for use in the library. It also undertakes the cataloguing and classification of serials and creation of a serials catalogue.

Reference Unit

The Reference Unit is headed by a Reference Librarian. She/he performs the following services:

- Conducts an extensive literature search for readers with research/project proposal;
- Provides answers to specific queries;
- Instructs users on the use of the library, catalogues, abstracts, and indexes etc;
- Guides users/clienteles in locating materials;
- Renders photocopying services to readers;
- Provides inter-library loan services.

The materials in the Reference Unit are for in-house use only. They are not for loan. Readers are supposed to consult or refer to them only. However, it is not only the materials that are consulted in this Unit, but

also the Reference Librarian and his supportive staff are consulted. These staff constitute the human resources of this Unit and can answer questions from the users to satisfy their information needs. In addition, this Unit of the library assists users to release information very quickly through compilation of reading lists, bibliographies and making of abstracts and indexes.

Readers Service Unit

This Unit is headed by a Readers' Services Librarian. In Osun State University Library, this Unit serves as public relation unit. It is the point where books are charged out and discharged. The Unit registers users and generates the library tickets that admit users/patrons into the library. All library users with or without borrowing privileges, must register and be issued a library ticket before they can make use of the library. The purpose of every library is to provide literature support and general information services to users. It will be a complete failure if a library cannot provide the needed readers' services. This library provides readers' services in two main divisions:

- Circulation division
- Reference division.

Digitization Unit

This Unit is headed by a System Librarian/Analyst. In this unit of UNIOSUN Library, critical library resources, particularly thesis and dissertation known as *Red publications* are digitized and uploaded for wider circulation. The library management needs to invest more in modern digitization equipment in this unit. The library will in future publish the Abstract of Theses and Dissertations accepted by the Post Graduate School.

Institutional Repository Unit (IR)

This Unit is headed by an Institutional Repository Librarian. The Unit is an archive for collecting, preserving and disseminating digital copies of the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution. The services here are rendered to the members of the university community in the management and dissemination of digital materials created by this institution and its community members. Materials such as monographs, e-prints of academic journal articles, electronic thesis and dissertation, course notes, learning objects or conference proceeding are rendered or provided for the university. The main objective of having this Unit is to provide open access to institutional research output in an open access repository, to create global visibility for institutional scholarly research.

The Electronic Library Unit

Similarly, This Unit is as well headed by a System Librarian/Analyst. The Unit is an essential part of the library. The Unit is equipped with adequate number of computers. It has unlimited access to internet, provision of adequate bandwidth, and there is an alternative energy backup in the library considering the energy situation in Nigeria. The library has subscribed to the following e-resources:

Law Pavilion,	Law Companion,
African E-Journal,	Biokemistri,
Bioscience,	ARDI,
OARE,	Hein online,
AJOL,	Agora,
Ebscohost,	Hinari,
Nigerian virtual Library,	Lexis/Nexis.

In this Unit of the library, there is also an offline digital library referred to as *e-granary*. E-granary is an offline digital library containing over 45 million educational resources and links. It included 50,000 books, 150 academic and medical journals, publications of the World Bank and MIT courseware etc.

Access to Library Resources

Access to UNIOSUN library resources is through the library catalogue. The following catalogues are available either manually or electronically: Author/Title Catalogue, Subject Catalogue, and Serials Catalogue. The electronic catalogue is the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). It is managed by using Integrated Library Management System (ILS), for instance, KOHA Software. KOHA is an open-source library system.

Searching for Library Resources

Library user/clientele does search through author, title, keyword, subject, ISBN, ISSN and series depending on what they want. Quick search allows a user to search the catalogue by keywords or phrase, such as: To access “Quick Search” you must be in the OPAC (<http://opac.uniosun.edu.ng>) home page. Also, type a keyword or phrase in the box provided, then click on “OK” or press “Enter” and finally a little list is retrieved.

Training Programme

The Osun State University Library regularly conducts workshops and symposium/seminar on relevant library resources and how to use them:

- Open Access: This has to do with how to locate openly available academic resources at the Web;
- Accessing e-Granary Digital Library;
- Workshop on KOHA 3.08 (ILS). Koha is an open-source integrated library management system;
- Professional librarians Academic Staff) teach GNS 103, Use of Library for 100 level undergraduates. The aim of the course is to improve the skills and competence of students in the use of library.
- There are Non-professional or Para-professional librarians, according to Steinke (1962), the term “Non-professional staff” has at least a high school education (Diploma or ND in librarianship from either Polytechnic or University) and the ideal qualifications of native intelligence, intellectual curiosity, a pleasant disposition, and the desire to work. Other staff in the library are the Junior Staff, Secretariat/Supporting Staff and Systems Analyst.

Creative Learning Centre

There is a centre in this library referred to as *Creative Learning Centre* on the ground floor of the building where readers could view and listen to lectures from foreign universities or educational organizations real time or in batch mode.

Recommendations

Since libraries everywhere are veritable tools of information, for this reason Osun State University should adopt the following recommendations to address its challenges and at the same time look forward to future opportunities to serve the community better.

- The university and library managements should collaborate by proposing a bill to Osun State House of Assembly that will make UNIOSUN Library a “Legal Depository Library” for Osun State. When passed into law, it will make it compulsory for citizens, publishers in Osun State to deposit two (2) copies of their publication to Osun State University Library.

- Library programmes and services should be presented to library users/patrons in ways that will help them to understand the connections to their various needs.
- Critical library resources should be digitalized to make them available online for easy accessibility. The provision of digital context, tools and services will facilitate easy convenient discovery and use of the relevant scholarly information.
- The UNIOSUN Library will need to develop new research partnerships by being an active partner in the development of infrastructure that supports research and publishing.

Conclusion

The library being a growing organism needs to recruit staff, professional librarians, paraprofessional librarians and supporting staff, should be in the right mix and diversity. Secondly, it should develop and invest in building staff capacity and expertise. As part of professional development, library staff are encouraged and supported to attend both local and international conferences, symposiums, and workshops. In addition, library security is very important in our day-to-day activities. Library security is in two formats:

- Human resources
- Machines.

Library porters are employed. There is need for UNIOSUN Library with the assistance of the University management to urgently invest in Electronic Security System, such as CCTV, Cameras and Electronic Turnstiles. More so, it is necessary to urgently fix the netting wrapped up with wire mesh to protect the nets and prevent library users/patrons from illegally passing or throwing out library resources/materials e.g., Books and CD ROM etc out of the window as well as other openings in the library. Similarly, tagging of all library materials are very important and necessary for effective security system in the library. In addition, the library management should be interested in staff, most especially academic staff publications in refereed journals. This is a major way of contributing to the library profession and Osun State University as a whole. The following should be investigated:

- Have they done enough research?
- If they have, are these researches done in appropriate areas?
- What is the status, that is in terms of quantity, quality and perceived importance of research in Osun State University?
- Are there research collaborations/cooperation between Departments/Colleges or Faculties in Osun State University, industries, organization and Diaspora?

If these could be done, it will help to develop strategies which over time will improve the research component of this great university and, maximize the potentials inherent in the library.

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