



NIGERIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CATALOGUING, CLASSIFICATION AND INDEXING SECTION

33rd

ANNUAL SEMINAR / WORKSHOP

THEME:

**Towards A National Union Catalogue:
Challenges, Opportunities, Pathways...**

Date:

21st – 25th October, 2013

Venue:

Makurdi, Benue State.

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PAPERS PRESENTED

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COOPERATIVE CATALOGUING: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

By

**Josephine LASISI
and
Adetoun A. OYELUDE**

INTRODUCTION

Cataloging is the process of describing an information package (book, monograph, compact disc, cassette tape or material in any format) following well-established guidelines and applying time-tested standards. It is a process which needs painstaking adherence to details and therefore, any attempt at cataloguing cooperatively is taken seriously since whatever has been previously catalogued is taken by the one copying as the gospel, once the source is acknowledged as authentic.

The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2009) meaning of the term “cooperative” is “involving doing something together or working together with others towards a shared aim”. The idea in cooperative cataloguing is to create a way for libraries to reduce the cataloging load of individual institutions, improve the quality of records, share cataloging resources, and bring the concept of cooperation to a new level and thus simply put, cooperative cataloguing is a means by which libraries share resources deployed for cataloguing. Cooperative cataloguing saves cost, eliminates redundancies and produces high quality records for libraries that participate.

This paper discusses cooperative cataloguing activities in Nigeria in historical perspective, addresses the issues currently on-going here and now, and projects what cooperative cataloguing will be in future, especially with new technological advances in the offing every now and then. The experience of both researchers as well as extensive literature search is relied on with the aim to establish the need for a cooperative programme to ensure cataloguing of information resources in Nigeria. We advocate for the creation of a bibliographic database of information available to all libraries much like the OCLC and Library of Congress databases a local database for our own materials which could be consulted by cataloguers world over.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Cooperative cataloguing evolved out of the need to catalogue library resources

in record time at less cost. The working group on the future of bibliographic control found out that time and money are spent redoing work that has already been done, rather than creating new records for materials not yet catalogued. This led to delay in providing access to materials that though owned are not yet accessible (On the Record, 2008).

The Library of Congress' cooperative cataloging efforts began in 1902 when the Library began distributing its cataloging data to other libraries via the sale of Library of Congress printed cards. The most frequent example given is the purchase of cataloging cards from commercial companies and the Library of Congress, which started to sell them in 1901 (Evans, Intner, & Weihs, 2011). Evans et al. state that this type of activity was not considered outsourcing, but instead a sort of "resource sharing", and lead to the creation of shared processing centers in the 1960s, such as the Ohio College Library Center, or OCLC (which now stands for the Online Computer Library Center)

Elrod (2000), the owner of a Canadian cataloging outsource agency for special libraries, posits that the decreasing cost of computing power and increasing capability of library software mean that libraries might be able to save money by performing copy (derived) cataloging in-house, rather than outsourcing. He also suggests that outsourced copy cataloging will decline overall, but vendor use will remain stable for the cataloging of original records and "exotic" languages.

The three major phases of computerization of subject cataloging CIP data cataloging, Online cataloging and Cataloging on the web are means by which cooperative cataloging is achieved. The CIP is a straightforward copying of data from the library resource that already carries the data. The CIP itself is an effort by the publishers of the resource to save the time and the effort of the libraries that will stock the material, in cataloging it.

Online cataloging goes a step further to do the same cataloging activity, but on a larger scale, and provides databases that libraries can purchase or subscribe to, in order to aid their cataloging activities. Cataloging on the web is an all encompassing activity that allows libraries to download or copy cataloging data from each other's website directly. This data can be modified to suit the needs of the library that is copying depending on the information needed to be copied. Popoola et al. (2001) observed however that apart from the attempts by the National Library, library cooperation in cataloging has not gone beyond the proposal stage in Nigeria.

This is not surprising as the literature from developed countries are replete with statistics and figures on how much it costs to catalogue by their libraries and what the cost benefit of cataloging collectively, and original cataloging is

(Calhoun, 2006; Yu, 2007, Macroplan Australia Pty Ltd., 2010), but in Nigeria, scarce information is available on the costs of cataloguing, or budgeting for technical services generally (Oyelude & Ola, 2006). The concerns nowadays are only just gearing towards analyzing use of electronic resources, technology deployment in libraries and other such topics. There is not much done about costing cataloguing activities for instance.

John-Okeke (2012) discussed cooperative activity of law libraries' from the 15th century to the present, some of the benefits of networking such as increase in production, cost effectiveness and production of high quality products and services. Two major challenges towards networking of bibliographic resources of law libraries in Nigeria discovered were the absence of automated systems and lack of training for law librarians.

DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH COOPERATIVE CATALOGUING

Automated generation of card catalogues started in the 70's. Nigerian libraries began to use computers to generate their records around the early eighties and many libraries have gone far in their automation even though most libraries still use typewriters to create their cards even today. In today's world, a web-accessible catalogue is a gateway to any cooperative activity, and the conversion of manual catalogues into OPAC systems is compulsory if cooperation is to exist. The history of cooperative cataloguing efforts in Nigeria is presented in this section.

The Nigerian Library Association has organized a number of conferences, seminars and workshops on internationally acceptable cataloguing rules and standards. The Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Section of the Nigerian Library Association completed work on the revision of the LC subclass DT for African History. The Association also embarked on the compilation of Name Authority File for Nigerian authors, to promote uniformity of name headings. These activities were and are in the right direction but unfortunately have yielded little or no result.

Union Catalogue: A Union Catalogue is essentially a centralized finding list of books in more than one library. Such catalogues traditionally have served several useful purposes. These include facilitating interlibrary loans allowing for coordinated acquisition efforts and a source for cataloguing records. Each of these functions strengthens cooperation among libraries, whether the catalogue is regional, national or international no matter its size.

Harrods Librarians Glossary (1986) defines Union Catalogue as "a catalogue of **stove** in various departments of a library, or a number of libraries indicating

locations. It may be an author or subject catalogue of all the books or of a selection of them, and may be limited by subject or type of material". Wikipedia encyclopedia (2012) also defines a Union Catalogue as "a combined library catalogue describing the collections of a number of libraries. Union Catalogues have been created in a range of media, including book format, microfilm, Cards and more recently networked electronic databases. Print Union Catalogues are typically arranged by title, author or subject (often employing a controlled vocabulary) electronic versions typically support keyword and Boolean queries."

The main objective of the major bibliographic tools such as union catalogue is to foster library cooperation thereby making more library resources available to user communities. Cooperative acquisition and cooperative cataloguing rest squarely on sound bibliographic infrastructures respectively. The largest print union catalogue ever published is the American Union Catalogue pre- 1956 Imprint (NUC) completed in 1981. This achievement has since been superseded by the creation of union catalogues in form of giant electronic databases of which the largest is OCLC *World Cat*. Another is *Copac* (<http://www.copac.>) provided by research libraries in the United Kingdom. A third example is AMICUS, provided by Library and Archives, Canada. One of the library's most important services is the Union Catalogue in view of the enormous advantages derived from it. The Union Catalogue remains the best tool to locate the published information sources spread out within the country, as it provides the physical location of the items covered in it.

Historical Background Of National Union Catalogues (NUC) In The National Library Of Nigeria.

The National Library of Nigeria which serves as the National Bibliographic Agency in compliance with one of the objectives derived from its statutory functions is responsible for the maintenance of the National Union Catalogue (Monograph) and the National Union List of Serials (NULOS). The duo are national bibliographic tools and national resources sharing tools containing data on the holdings of participating libraries and a programme for meeting the objectives of Universal Availability of Publications (UAP).

The NULOS was created, beginning with the University of Ibadan in 1968. Since then, other libraries have been contributing to the NULOS. The first edition of NULOS, with approximately 12,000 records, received from 49 libraries, was published in 1977. Subsequent NULOS records were put into a database, using the DOS version of the CDS/ISIS software. The differences in cataloguing practice in the catalogue cards sent by participating libraries posed a problem which the cataloguer

was to correct using the AACR2 as a guide.

The National Union Catalogue project was conceived in 1963. In January 1964, Dr Carl White contacted the four existing libraries and the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs on the desirability of maintaining a National Union Catalogue before the records of their collections got out of control. There were positive replies from Ahmadu Bello University, University of Lagos, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Lagos. The University of Ibadan which had started fifteen years earlier and as such had a large collection could not participate in the project at its inception. Since the NUC could not be thought to be complete without the collection of the University of Ibadan efforts were made to ensure its participation in the scheme.

However, as at January 1965, four university libraries including the University of Ibadan had contributed cards of their materials in monographs and serials totaling forty-four thousand and eighty-four (44,084) cards to the scheme. All the participating libraries were properly coded using acronyms developed in-house for purpose of identification.

With the various practical problems arising from the catalogue entries on the cards received from the contributing libraries there was the need for standardization. The then National Library Adviser Miss. A.P Taylor took up the matter with the Nigerian Library Associations Standing Committee on Library Resources in November 1965. Taylor (1965) noted that "the work and development of the National Union Catalogue raised many problems, particularly those arising from the lack of a Standard Cataloguing Code to be used by all contributing libraries, and the difficulties that would be encountered in incorporating the holdings of the already established larger libraries and those of special research institutions. "The Nigerian Library Association Standing Committee on Library Resources took the necessary measures to overcome the issues raised so that the NUC could function effectively and usefully to the users.

In its effort to cut down cost, the National Library of Nigeria in reviewing this project decided to weigh the value of a National Union Catalogue against its cost and operation. Oderinde (1965) suggested that "the main function of union catalogue (viz a record of library materials and their locations in Nigeria) may be better served by other means. The development of telex in Nigeria may show that a National Union Catalogue is both unnecessary and uneconomic". He expressed the fact that he would be glad if the Nigerian Library Association Committee on Library Resource after studying his papers on telex dated 15th November 1965 consider whether the National Library of Nigeria should continue the project on the National Union

Catalogue.

In February 1966, the proposals were countered at a subsequent meeting of the Nigeria Library Association Standing Committee on Library resources by Mr. S.C Nwoye of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka who argued that the telex could not in any way be compared with or replace a national Union Catalogue which is a bibliographic tool and a resource sharing tool meant to identify and locate materials. Following the argument put forward by Mr. Nwoye for possible substitution of the telex for the NUC, the suggestion of Mr. Oderinde on the NUC project was unacceptable to the committee and the idea was dropped.

Having crossed the hurdle of getting libraries to contribute their cards in monographic and serials materials the National Library was faced with the challenge of editing as the cards had already piled up. In 1967, proposals were put forward as to the possibility of utilizing the computer facilities of the University of Lagos for inputting these cards but the problem of editing created another bottleneck. By April 1972, a total of ten thousand six hundred and forty-three (10,643) cards were awaiting filing. A task force of professional librarians and library assistants was set up and a target of six weeks was fixed for the task to be accomplished.

By 1992, the number of participating libraries contributing to the NUC had risen to ninety-seven (97) and the records in the catalogue had grown to about two million entries. The National Library only succeeded in publishing the first edition of the printed entries in the NULOS file in 1977 with approximately twelve thousand entries contributed by forty-nine (49) libraries. As at 1992, ninety-two (92) libraries were already sending their serial holding for contribution to the NULOS scheme.

As a result of the non-publication of the entries received from participating libraries either in print or machine-readable format the receipt of cards and serials holdings from these libraries started to dwindle. Libraries in Nigeria have long been agitating for the production of the NUC so as to derive maximum benefits from the efforts to build it up since inception.

In the last decade nearly all the participating libraries had stopped contributing their cards to the scheme. Presently, only few libraries still send cards for their materials to the NLN. In order to rekindle the interests of participating libraries and also to woo new libraries to participate in the scheme, the NLN had written to all libraries in the country that have been automated to send their computer catalogues as well as automated list of their serials holdings for inclusion in the new NUC. Once this is accomplished, the NLN will be seen to have achieved the objectives of the Universal Availability of Publications (UAP).

Areas of Cooperation: The programme for the compilation and maintenance of the

National Name Authority File was initiated by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) during the 1970s as an important corollary programme from the production of a national bibliography. The programme was initiated on the belief that each National bibliographic agency is best qualified to maintain an authoritative list of its national authors and make the list available in published format to other national bibliographic agencies.

The National Library of Nigeria has since the 70's compiled and maintained a Name Authority File for both personal and corporate national authors. This has been made possible through the National bibliography of Nigeria (NBN) which contains established names of personal and corporate materials listed in it. It is rather unfortunate that only the first edition was published by the NLN before it ceased publication. If this programme is resuscitated by the NLN, other libraries can also contribute their lists and by so doing establish uniformity and standardization for the established names used by individual libraries.

Subject Authority File: The compilation and maintenance of a subject authority file for subject headings used in the NBN is also a corollary for the production of the NBN. This programme arose from the differences in some terms and nomenclature used in Nigeria and the United States of America. The Library of Congress has over the years made remarkable efforts in the Subject Headings in the Library of Congress List of Subject Headings (LCSH).

In spite of these efforts, there was still need to build up our own subject headings for headings that are only peculiar to Nigeria. The subject authority file therefore is a tool meant to assist cataloguers in efforts to achieve standardization and uniformity. The National Library of Nigeria has a serious role to play in the production of the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN) national name authority file. This file is only maintained in-house and has never been published however. Other libraries in Nigeria also keep files of their subject headings and this is an area where these libraries can cooperate with the NLN by sending their lists for incorporation into its own database and subsequent publication for the benefit of libraries not only in Nigeria, but also Africa.

THE HERE AND NOW OF COOPERATIVE CATALOGUING

Now to the present, Cooperative Cataloguing has taken different turns in the present. The deployment of technology in cataloguing units of libraries has speeded up cooperative activities as well as slowed it down. This seems like a paradox or a cliché but the reality is that technology is playing a fast tracking role, but is sometimes also the cog in the wheel of the cooperative cataloguing activity. How does this play out in the first instance?

Many agencies have worked to create databases that cataloguers can copy data from. Some examples of these are the efforts of the OCLC in this regard which stand out as they have an extensive database available at the click of a mouse or touch of a finger online at <http://www.oclc.org>; and the ITS for Windows Bibliofile, another cataloguing tool that has been used extensively by libraries to get cataloguing done fast. The Bibliofile offers already catalogued works in a database that can be searched and downloaded from.

The Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) is an international cooperative effort aimed at expanding access to library collections by providing useful, timely, and cost-effective cataloging that meets mutually-accepted standards of libraries around the world. Today, the PCC has four components: NACO (Name Authority Cooperative Program), SACO (Subject Authority Cooperative Program), BIBCO (Monographic Bibliographic Record Cooperative Program), and CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials Program). To learn more about the above programs visit the PCC website at: <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/>.

Advantages offered by the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) and its components can be found at <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/informatics/taf/proceedings/wiggins.htm>). Some of them are more dependable and timely cataloguing. In addition, there is more cost-effective cataloging with copy cataloging being less expensive than creating original cataloging. The PCC requirement is that all cataloging contain headings that are represented in a shared authority file which increases the number of *headings in the authority file, reducing the total cost of original cataloging* by distributing the labor-intensive and costly creation of authority records to a large number of participants.

In Nigeria, there are little pockets of efforts at cooperative cataloguing, due to scarcity of funds and infrastructure facilities. Sharing of information among Nigerian libraries provides a solution for most of the information requirements of the library users. One such case study which will be described here is the adoption of an Integrated Library Software called VIRTUA by six academic libraries to organize their collection.

Case Study 1: Libraries Deploying VIRTUA in Consortia

The main purpose of the project, majorly funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, was to improve user access to research and scholarly materials at university libraries in Nigeria. The libraries involved initially were: Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Bayero University Kano (BUK), University of

Ibadan (UI), Port Harcourt University (PH), University of Jos (JOS) (Carnegie funded), and Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) (Carnegie funded).

The goals of the activities embarked upon were:

1. Implementation of a new library management system This was to increase the number of records in the library management system so that users can find and check out library materials, provide remote access to library holdings via the Web, and provide remote access to electronic journals via the Web;

2. Development of a more skillful and knowledgeable library staff The aim was specifically to train library staff on technical standards, networking, systems administration, and library management, and advocate for the creation and use of institutional repositories, and;

3. Development of a resource-sharing network Specifically this was to develop and institutionalize a library network.

In 2006, when the first phase of this project began, for the first time in Nigeria, the librarians were engaged in the selection and had a chance to review and select from three excellent library management vendors, Ex Libris, Sirsi/Dynix, and VTLS, after hearing presentation from all three vendors. The Mortenson Center had pre-selected the three vendors after they agreed to the following guidelines: That the software should be made available essentially at cost, the company should be willing to sign a five year contract, all software leasing and support costs should be front-loaded, and a support office should be established in Nigeria. VTLS was eventually selected and Mrs. Olayinka Fatoki, then a Systems librarian from the University of Ibadan, was selected to be the Regional Coordinator and the office was located at the University of Ibadan. VIRTUA is web-based and allows importation or uploading of cataloguing data from online cataloguing tools like the Library of Congress, BookWhere and the ITS Bibliofile.

The University of Ibadan experience is worth brief mention here. Currently, the VIRTUA software is being employed in re-building the catalogue. The acquisition of library materials is still being done manually but the e-resources acquired have been through contractual licence agreements facilitated by donor agencies. The cataloguing and classification of e-resources is being copy downloaded from the online cataloguing tools available i.e. the ITS Bibliofile which is a licensed software subscribed to by the library, and the Library of Congress online cataloguing tool used for free. Access is provided to users and staff for now, to over 20 web-based databases like the LANTeaAL, HINARI, OARE, JSTOR and EBSCOhost (an aggregated database that provides links and access to full-text journal articles and abstracts), via passwords that can be requested for from staff in the Reference section, the e-

classroom and the multimedia classroom in the library.

The online databases can be accessed from any point on campus provided the location has internet connectivity. Other non-internet based electronic resources have to be requested for from library staff within the library. No Electronic Resource Management software is yet in use as the OPAC is yet being put together. It is hoped that the eventual uploading of the catalogue will prompt a more efficient way of managing the electronic resources using the VIRTUA platform.

The coordinator provides technical support and training, arranges VTLS user meetings, and manages two listservs that are hosted by the Nigeria ICT Forum. Since 2006, in spite of several hitches and challenges faced, the six institutions have made progress on converting their bibliographic records to the new system. All the efforts are being geared towards creating a situation where cataloguing data can be copied and shared by the participating libraries. Achievements so far are summed up by Schnuer and Dorman (2012) as follows:

"The libraries are increasing their Web presence and providing better access to e-resources.

All the libraries provide better access to electronic resources and most do so through Web-based information portals. The university libraries turn in monthly reports to VTLS documenting their progress and recording their challenges, most of them on a monthly basis.

Library and campus-wide networks have been created and strengthened. The libraries have significantly increased both the capacity and reliability of their networks. At the same time, the campus ICT departments have made significant strides in laying fiber optic cable throughout the campuses and increasing intranet bandwidth capacity and stability. In particular the Nigeria ICT Forum has been a valuable partner in supporting the bandwidth requests of the librarians.' Catalogers are up-to-date on international standards and connected to colleagues and databases around the world. The catalogers have learned to take advantage of the work of their colleagues around the world and often simply download records of materials that they own from other libraries. It is a cost-efficient and effective manner for moving the project along as quickly as possible.

The librarians have project management skills. Bolstered by the success of their efforts, librarians are turning to other projects, including institutional repositories. The librarians from all six of the Nigerian university libraries implementing the VTLS system are

participating in a robust network”.

Some of the activities on-going are illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of VIRTUA Projects in the participating libraries.

Institutions	ABU	BUK	UI	PH	JOS	OAU
Automated Library Catalogue	X	Only on Intranet	Launched but Not Functioning	X	X	X
Circulation	X	X				
Website	X	On Intranet	X	X		X
Access to Remote Resources	X	X	X	X		X
Institutional Repository	X			X	X	
Digitization Projects	X	X	X			

N.B: In 2012, two libraries joined the VIRTUA team. They are: The University of Calabar and the Rivers State University of Technology, Port Harcourt. Their progress is however not reported in Table 1 as they are still new in the team.

Case Study 2: East, Central, and West African (ECWA) NACO funnel project

The American University of Nigeria (AUN) in cooperation with the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) and the Library of Congress (LC) in 2004 initiated the process of establishing an East, Central, and West African (ECWA) NACO funnel project. The East, Central, West African Funnel Project was intended to be a culmination of efforts that began in 2003 when Martha Spiers, then Director of American University of Nigeria Library, along with Inuwa Bukar *the Coordinator of Cataloging at the same University and a member of the Cataloging Classification and Indexing Section of the Nigeria Library Association* submitted an application to join the PCC/NACO. The funnel project was to help enhance global access to East, Central, West African resources never before retrievable. Some benefits to joining the ECWA project were:

- Authority heading instruction according to AACR2 and LCRIs
- Ability to update previous authority headings relating to the Africana experience

- Training by experienced PCC trainers
- Improved access to East, Central, West African resources
- Name headings preserved and distributed nationally as well as internationally
- Free online access to training materials and selected cataloging documentation

One of these writers received e-mail at that time inviting the library to join in the project and consider hosting one of the training meetings. Some efforts were made by the Medical librarian then also to connect with the project. Unfortunately nothing has come of this initiative. Correspondence with the two persons concerned shows that Martha Spiers has relocated and the project seems to have come to a halt.

A discussion on cooperative cataloging would not be complete without mentioning the current trends. The Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2nd ed. (AACR2), which defined the rules by which works are described (also known as descriptive metadata or metacontent standards), and which was revised several times, has now been succeeded by the Resource Description and Access (RDA) publication. The rules have to be adhered to in cataloging therefore it is important for libraries to be unified in their switch to new rules and guidelines. Another trend in cataloging and classification is that Subject cataloging standards such as LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings) and Sears List of Subject Headings which provide subject headings to indicate what a work is about are threatening to be ousted by “folksonomies” which have grown in popularity with Web users (Segun, 2012).

MARC 21 in conjunction with AACR2 eased the cataloging process phenomenally, enabling libraries to share cataloging data and shed the onerous task of original cataloging for every new item added to a collection. However, the MARC 21 format is now being transformed and libraries will have to be committed to transforming the digital library environment once again (Marcum, 2004). AACR2 has been succeeded in June 2010 by the Resource Description and Access (RDA) publication which was released and has been fully implemented in libraries in the USA from January 2013.

RDA is the new standard for resource description and access designed for the digital world. Libraries worldwide are learning how to use the RDA Toolkit (<http://www.rda-jsc.org/index.html>). Many workshops, webinars and demonstrations of its use are on-going. For us on this side of the divide, we have to follow current trends and learn from agencies like the OCLC for example which is currently experimenting on developing a Crosswalk Web Service which can translate a group of metadata records from one format to another (www.oclc.org/research/activities/researchworks.htm). The ultimate goal is to have

an infrastructure that accepts bibliographic records in any format, which can be displayed and searched in other formats without losing its original encoding format. Perhaps more importantly, is to have metadata formats which can be captured directly from the digital resource itself and incorporated into the catalogue. Cooperative efforts are thus made simpler for libraries that are ready to train their staff in using the new tools emerging.

THE FUTURE OF COOPERATIVE CATALOGUING (BEYOND THE CLOUDS)

Beyond what is currently ongoing in cooperative cataloguing, the future bodes good if libraries can collaborate more. It is necessary for libraries to start by conducting cost benefit analysis of their cataloguing and classification procedures to find out if indeed they should participate in cooperative cataloguing. When the need is established, the libraries in cooperation need to engage themselves in being not only takers of what is provided, but also should be givers of some service or the other in the cooperative cataloguing circle. Consortia building should be encouraged seriously among libraries. When resources are shared in consortia, the costs are brought down and cataloguers can get their materials readily processed.

A future is envisaged where there is better problem-solving through networking wherein the network of catalogers creates a strong resource for resolving tough bibliographic issues and access to expert training is provided by the Cooperative network through participants having access to highly qualified trainers from a pool drawn from peer institutions, including the Library of Congress, the OCLC and hopefully even through the African Libraries Association (AFLiA) which has just recently been created by IFLA.

A future where cataloging staff are liberated to do other intellectual work is foreseen. Professionals in libraries can in this future turn their attention to new issues of information processing because the work of cataloging the majority of mainstream collections has been shared. The phobia or mystery surrounding cataloguers will be broken and library and information professionals will no longer regard cataloguing as a 'hardship area'.

There should be research projects in the libraries in consortia, aimed at for example bringing local content catalogued to the central core which would be useful internationally. The NACO project initiated should not be left hanging. Funding should be sourced for the project, and the effort should be sustained. After all, the projects started someplace; somewhere is what some libraries are now benefiting from. The works catalogued in Africa should be in a database accessible to others outside Africa.

CONCLUSION

Cooperative cataloguing has come a long way in Nigeria. The efforts should be redoubled. International collaboration might be a solution, but national efforts are called for as well. The Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Section of the Nigerian Library Association need to gear up and move to the next level by associating more actively in the International Federation of Library and Affiliated Association' s (IFLA) programs. This exposure can help to bridge the yawning gap between cataloguing and classification locally and internationally.

Library schools in Nigeria need to enrich their curriculum and follow new trends in the training of librarians especially in cataloguing and classification. The Cataloguing and Classification laboratories need to be (re)opened and well equipped to train. Steinhagen et al (2007) emphasized the need for library science programs to continue offering comprehensive cataloging courses so there will still be original catalogers for the collaborative process of cataloging in future.

With cooperative cataloguing, more authority and bibliographic records are added to the distributed national and international databases and more dependable cataloging is achieved. More efficient cataloging is done when records are created by catalogers to a common standard, allowing libraries to develop workflows that are streamlined. Cooperative cataloguing is serious business that requires serious considerations. The past has determined the present, the present will determine the future let us all arise to build a brighter future for cooperative cataloguing.

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