

## ROLES OF THE LIBRARIES TOWARDS ENHANCING THE READING CULTURE AND RESEARCH CAPABILITIES AMONG NIGERIAN ARMY PERSONNEL

<sup>1</sup>Garba, Shambo Mohammed PhD, (CLN), <sup>2</sup>Musa, Baba Adamu PhD, (CLN),  
<sup>3</sup>Hajara Jibrin (CLN)

<sup>1</sup>Abdulkadir Kure University, Minna

<sup>2&3</sup>Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State, Nigeria

### Abstract

*The study investigated the roles of the libraries in Enhancing Reading Culture and Research Capabilities of the Nigerian Army Personnel. In today's rapidly evolving world, the importance of reading and research cannot be overstated especially within the context of organizations like the Nigerian Army. Libraries play a crucial role in cultivating a reading culture and enhancing research capabilities among military personnel. By providing access to a wealth of resources, libraries serve as vital hubs of knowledge and learning, thereby empowering soldiers with the information necessary for effective decision-making, strategic planning, and personal development. This study delves into the multifaceted roles of libraries within the Nigerian Army, focusing on their contributions to fostering a reading culture and enhancing research capabilities.*

*The study covered the functions of the Nigerian Army which includes the access role of the library as the place and the space where the information seeker can access information and the user education on how to use information resources. The study enumerated some of the constraints to be Changed in Nigeria's value system, Economic hardship, Astronomical prices of books and other information materials, poor availability of indigenous books, cost of publishing books is very high and Advent of home videos finally, the study concluded by giving ways of enhancing the reading culture and research output to include Networking and collaborating with other institution or organizational libraries among others.*

**Keywords:** Reading culture, Research capability, Nigerian Army, Roles of libraries

### Introduction

#### The Concept of Library

According to Lazarus (2020), defines library as a collection of books, manuscripts, journals, and other sources of electronic information, that means libraries have increasingly developed from a place into a space providing information resources and services that do not

even require a building. This means that the role of the library is imperatively important in combating insecurity, social unrest in the society especially Nigeria where civil unrest or deadly protest come un announce. The roles of libraries in this information driven society are underestimated especially in the area of security maintenance and sustainability, this is because you don't hear and see army officers talk about going to the library to read and do research with the sole aim of combating insecurity and sustaining peace with enthusiasm. The reasons however Nigerian Army personnel not patronizing the library is majorly because of numerous problems bedeviling almost all the libraries in Nigeria, Nigerian military libraries inclusive. Some of the challenges identified include inadequate funding, insufficient ICT infrastructure and inadequate number of staff with ICT skills.

The territorial protection of Nigeria and indeed Nigerians lies on the shoulders of the Nigerian Army together with other security agencies, the people that are saddled with these enormous responsibilities are expected to be current and update through effective reading and researching in order to keep effective vigilant of happening both within and outside the country (Itunu and Iseoluwa, 2022). The best place to read and do research is the library. The Nigerian Army, as the largest component of the Nigerian Armed Forces, plays a pivotal role in the nation's defence and security landscape. Its functions span a broad spectrum; encompassing traditional military roles, peacekeeping operations, and civil assistance. There are ten major key functions of the Nigerian Army according to Anyira and Imade (2020), namely:

### **1. National Defense**

Among the primary functions of the Nigerian Army is the defence of Nigeria's territorial integrity against external aggression. This includes Border Protection, Maritime Security and Air Defense.

### **2. Internal Security**

The Nigerian Army is often called upon to support internal security operations. This function includes Counterinsurgency, Counterterrorism and Crime Control with other security agencies.

### **3. Peacekeeping Operations**

Peacekeeping is among the Functions of the Nigerian Army. Nigeria has a long history of contributing to international peacekeeping under the auspices of the United Nations and regional organizations like the African Union. The Nigerian Army's peacekeeping duties involve: Deployment of Troops and Training and Support.

#### **4. Disaster Response**

In times of natural disasters and humanitarian crises, the Nigerian Army provides critical assistance, including: Search and Rescue, Humanitarian Aid and Infrastructure Repair.

#### **5. Civil-Military Relations**

Fostering a positive relationship between the military and civilian population is crucial. The Nigerian Army undertakes several initiatives to enhance civil-military relations: Community Outreach, Public Information: Running awareness campaigns and providing information on security and safety.

#### **6. Training and Development**

To maintain a highly skilled and effective force, the Nigerian Army places significant emphasis on training and development: Military Academies, Specialized Training and International Training Programs: Participating in joint training exercises with foreign military forces.

#### **7. Engineering and Construction**

The Nigerian Army Corps of Engineers plays a vital role in both military and civilian infrastructure projects, including: Military Engineering and Civil Engineering.

#### **8. Medical Services**

The Nigerian Army Medical Corps provides comprehensive medical services to military personnel and civilians, including: Healthcare Facilities, Medical Training and Public Health Initiatives: Conducting vaccination campaigns and health education programs.

#### **9. Intelligence and Surveillance**

Effective intelligence and surveillance are crucial for national security. The Nigerian Army's intelligence functions include: **Data Collection:** Gathering information on potential threats through reconnaissance and surveillance operations, **Analysis:** Analyzing data to identify security threats and inform decision-making and **Cyber security:** Protecting military communication and information systems from cyber threats.

#### **10. Support to Other Security Agencies**

The Nigerian Army collaborates closely with other security agencies to enhance national security. This includes:

- **Joint Operations:** Participating in joint operations with the police, navy, air force, and other security agencies,

- **Training and Capacity Building:** Providing training and support to other security forces to enhance their capabilities and
- **Technical Assistance:** Offering technical expertise and equipment for specialized operations.

According to Itunu and Iseoluwa (2022), the functions of the Nigerian Army extend far beyond traditional combat functions. Its contributions to national defence, internal security, peacekeeping, disaster response, and civil assistance highlight its importance in maintaining Nigeria's stability and development. Through continuous training and retraining, community engagement, and international collaboration, the Nigerian Army remains a cornerstone of Nigeria's security framework. The people that perform the above functions obviously required increase in reading culture through research which will eventually result into efficient and qualitative research output. The only place and space to provide this important information is the library.

### **Two Major Roles of Modern Library**

There are two are critical roles of library to modern society as we know it (Issa, 2024).

1. The first is the access role of the library as the place and the space where the information seeker can access information without restriction and difficulties. The access (the first role) has been the world- wide function of the library to acquire, organize, provide on-going access to variety of information as well as preserving the valued cultural heritage for long term access; library by its position promote learning and long-life education to the generality of the public.
2. The second focused on user education. The focused of the second role (user education) takes place even beyond the library as it serves as an avenue to educate people on how to source and get information on any issues, like security which is very important in country survival and continue existence in peace.

### **The Concept of Security and National Security**

Security is a state of being safe and the absence of fear, anxiety, danger, poverty and oppression. It is the preservation of core values and the absence of threats to these values. The security is the freedom from threats to a nation's capability to defend and develop itself, promote its values and

lawful interest. For some scholars, security is a state in which people or things are not exposed to danger of physical or moral aggression, accident, theft or decline. This view is associated with the survival of the state and the preservation of its citizens (Noruzi, 2016).

Similarly, National security can be defined as the actions and policies taken by a nation against all internal and external threats to its borders, economy, and stability. It doesn't have to be terrorism or an enemy nation, though it often is. The security interest includes safety of life and property, economic, physiological, mental well-being and the freedom to pursue the attainment of legitimate objectives without hindrance. This definition is holistic and most relevant to us as it sees the objective of national security as elimination of all distractions in order to bring about growth and development of the society and its constituents (Noruzi, 2016). In other words, every national security structure must be seen in the light of its two core obligations of preserving the safety of its citizens at home and abroad, and preserving the integrity of the borders and assets of the country. National security as “the acquisition, deployment and use of military force to achieve national goals”. The lack of danger or risk to hold standards, values and ideals and the absence of fear that such values will be attacked now or in the future. Thus, national security is the preservation of the values a nation holds as relates to the defense of its territory from human as well as nonhuman threats and guides in the pursuit of its national interest in the international system. However, national security loosely defined refers to the protection of the interests of a country.

Nowadays, we live in a society known as knowledge society, because it is being driven by knowledge management processes. The role of libraries in providing widespread and inclusive access to knowledge is widely acknowledged. In today's context, Murugan and Krisha (2018) describe libraries as the collectors and stewards of our heritage; they are organizers of the knowledge in the books they collect adding value by cataloguing, classifying and describing them; and, as public institutions, they assure equality of access for all the members of the organization. They take the knowledge of the past and present for future preparation especially as it has to do with the security of life and properties in the country.

According to Ayilara and Adegboyega (2020), the management and organization of knowledge have long been regarded as the domain of librarians and libraries. Libraries of all types play five major roles in a knowledge economy. These roles are code-named RICER for research, information, custodian, education and recreation. In this regard though military libraries cannot

directly engage in security duties; it is comforting to know that it can support our military personnel and help them reduce information overload and cognitive fatigue. Military libraries also known as base libraries provide the following service; carry specialty materials required for certain military personnel, provide free public education for all military personnel, provide supportive, encouraging, educational environment for children and families who need consistency. Today, libraries both digital and physical is helping disseminate information that is a powerful means of social empowerment that drive community literacy and learning (Chatterjee, Samanta & Dey, 2021). Once relevant and appropriate information and resources are identified and organized by libraries, they need to be disseminated and promoted to users and referred to and linked throughout numerous information channels and platforms (Walker, 2021)

### **Concept and Significance of Reading Culture of the Nigerian Army Personnel**

There is no doubt that the level of development in a country is directly proportional to the literacy level. The literacy rate of Nigeria dropped is dropping rapidly. This implies that the number of illiterate citizens is reducing and going down. It also means that rather than improving on the literacy rating, Nigeria keeps on retrogressing. Most of the problems we have in this country are traceable to the high rate /level of illiteracy. Look at the issue of vandalisation for instance. Anyone who is knowledgeable enough to know that when he cuts an electricity wire he also suffers the consequences of lack of electricity along with others will think twice before he embarks on destroying electricity cables. The same thing goes for being healthy. If a person can read and write, he will most certainly be able to avoid certain things that can harm him. He will be able to get information from different sources on what to do to be healthy. He will know how to take care of himself to stay healthy (Ifidon and Ahiauzu, 2016).

The nation benefits from this because it is only those who are healthy that can contribute to the development of the country. The fact remains that unless a solution is found to the dwindling reading habit of Nigerians, the country will continue to battle with underdevelopment. Nigeria needs to improve its literacy level because literacy is the forerunner of development. That is why many researchers emphatically remarks that a country's level of development is a function of its level of mental and cultural evolution as well as the state of its educational advancement, which is embedded on building a high level of literacy in all facets of the population. Be that as it may, this paper will embrace the following, which includes reading culture and development,

constrains to the development and improvement of reading culture, education as the focal point for development as well as strategies for the improvement and development of reading culture in Nigeria (Ifidon and Ahiauzu, 2016).

Basic literacy means an individual's ability to read, write and speak in English. Reading is the corner stone of learning. Many scholars describes reading as reasoning involving the meaningful interpretation of words, phrases and sentences requiring all types of thinking such as critical, analytical, creative, imaginative, evaluative, judgmental, and problem solving. Reading culture is the use of reading as a regular activity. It is the cultivation of an attitude and possession of skills that make reading a pleasurable, regular and constant activity. Reading culture is identified as the single most important determinant of Nigerian Army's success in education and in our modern complex society. Reading culture is the process of building up positive reading attitude among army personnel over a period of time for enhance research output. When an individual habitually and regularly read books and other information materials that are important and necessary requirement for him to advance in his profession or career, he is said to have a reading culture.

According to Sokari (2016), reading culture in essence therefore is the kind of culture that imbibes reading and studying as the basis of growth and development for your Country and world at large. It is the type that sees continuous and dedicated reading of information resources organizational personnel and other adults for knowledge acquisition, which will be applied practically for development. Reading sharpens the mind, makes officers reason rationally and objectively as well as projects them for securing lif and properties through the provision of internal security. That is why Scholastic describes readers as leaders. Development generally means the improvement of people's lifestyle through improved, qualitative and functional education; incomes, skills development and fulfilled employment. Development also means that people should be able to read and write. In Africa, this is a problem as most people are still illiterates, Nigeria inclusive. Investment in education is a productive venture. This is because an educated labour force is a source of productivity for national development. Nigeria needs this kind of development in order to meet the needs of its present generation without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs. This is an embodiment of sustainable development (Sokari, 2016).

### **Roles of Library to National Security in Nigeria:**

Effective information dissemination on security issue: Currently, the war on terror and terrorism is not only fought by the armed forces but by everybody as an agent of policing. As the whole nation is engaged in the economic, scientific, political and social crusade against insecurity and social unrest, for the library, information is veritable tool to address the situation. Library is the centre for peace and conflict resolution which is achievable through the information dissemination and enlightenment mechanism (Hali, 2013). “National security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic, diplomacy, power projection and political power”. Information is therefore a crucial factor in national security. This is because the line between security and insecurity lie in information given or information withheld. The ability to use information and its associated tools is a source of power for any nation which the library and librarians are best equipped to do. In Nigeria’s current security challenge, citizens and government must recognize this need for information use and literacy as a means of ensuring peace and engendering national security (Noruzi, 2016). Information remains the only product which the library handles and this includes all media in which the information is shaped. The only means through which the real integration of people living in political, economic, religious and ideological poles could be brought together is through the actual cooperation and exchange of vital information between the two: the terrorist and the terrorized (Ossai- Ugbah, 2013). The philosophy behind the library and its services is based on information generation, categorization, conservation, and management. At this time, when Nigeria is still in democratic embryo, ideological divides which is the threshold upon which terrorism thrives can be countered through effective information dissemination. There is an urgent need for provision of “right information, in the right format, for the right people, at the right time, and in the right place” to stem the tide of ignoramus decadence. The long years of political and religious distrust in the country has fanned the flames for crises that have polarized the society and divided Nigerians across ethno-religious lines. To allow every Nigerian to read from the same page, it is important to flash the searchlight of information dissemination on restive areas so that they cannot be used to destroy the hard-earned peace and unity the country is presently enjoying.

Work outside the library walls: Ogunsola (2011) observed that librarianship has undergone a radical change in recent years, which will be continued in the future. As libraries have changed, so too, has the role of the librarian. The work of librarians has moved outside library walls.

Librarians have begun to work in the information industry as salespeople, designers of new information systems, researchers, and information analysts. They are also found in such fields as marketing and public relations and in such organizations as law firms, where staffs need rapid access to security information. Security information in every facet of human endeavour has become an inevitable imperative. Librarians generate security information and make it available to members of their organizations and public for building both individual and collective alertness as well as neighbourhood co-operation (Lazarus, 2020).

Mobile library and enlightenment programmes: Though information officers and librarians may not be in battle field or war front, they are fighting behind the scene in providing technical information services to experts in military and in other fields using the language they understand most since language is a synergy. In providing information services, librarians may need to adopt mobile library strategy as well as enlightenment programmes to bring library services to the doorsteps of citizens and educate them on issues that borders on national security. Nwalo (2013) observed that the compilations made by mobile libraries reflect perceived needs of local communities. This will help to provide security services to communities and help citizens and patrons of the library attain maximum information services, in spite of their vocations. Ifidon and Ahiauzu (2016) defined information as “structured data that causes a human mind to change its opinion about the current state of real world and contribute to a reduction in the uncertainty of the state of the system”. Since information is a transformation agent, a shaper of perspectives and philosophies of life, the onus lies on libraries as information centers and librarians as information managers to ensure that Nigerians have access to information that will direct their actions.

Give accurate, timely, and comprehensive security information: Information therefore is a sine qua non for individual and collective freedom and attainment of national security. Anasi (2010) citing Sokari (2016) agrees that “information is necessary for people to be liberated from the shackles of ignorance, misconceptions, economic stagnation, social unrest, and political instability. Social cohesion cannot be achieved without timely, accurate, and relevant information.” This is because information is fresh ideas or fact taken out of a person’s surrounding for use with the objective of transforming behaviour in all areas of human life (Ajegbomogun, 2008). Information helps create enlightened and responsible citizens. The library is the gateway to information. It is a place where information is acquired, processed, repackaged, preserved, and disseminated (Anasi, 2010).

Use of electronic media to promote and expand security awareness: A nation not mobilized enough to withstand terrorism cannot aspire to preserve its freedom, faith and ideology for long. To mobilize people, the use of electronic media comes to mind. Currently, electronic media is one of the most effective and powerful means of mass mobilization. Therefore, it is in this regard that libraries and librarians can ginger up the electronic media to promote and expand security awareness among the people at large. The library through the media has been waging war of its own to counter the hostile propaganda from insurgents and terrorists in Nigeria. The government through the library (using electronic media) can fund effective counter propaganda campaigns that will sensitize the citizens to the ills of terrorism and win over their sympathizers (Lazarus, 2020).

### **Strategies adopted by the library in promoting national security**

There are many strategies which library and librarians adopt in promoting national security. They are discussed thus:

Moral boosting strategy: The librarian, being a mass mobilize knows how to use effective electronic media to promote and expand security awareness among the people at large. One of the most effective tools to maintain national security is through propaganda and the primary tool of propaganda is the media; hence libraries use the media to wage war of its own to counter the hostile propaganda campaign of the insurgents [for example boko haram, headsmen problem, and Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND)], and win over their sympathizers as they become sensitized and informed (Nwalo, 2013). Some of the counter-propaganda techniques that librarians could use include repeating the lies of the terrorists, attacking personal opinions disguised as facts, headlining propaganda, selective control of information and the yellow journalism “in the military parlance, morale is the will to fight for the national cause to the last”.

Selective dissemination of peace information/ education strategy: The philosophy behind the library and its services is based on information collection, categorization, conservation and management. At this time, when Nigeria is still in democratic embryo, ideological divides which is the threshold upon which terrorism thrives can be countered effective information dissemination. There is an urgent need for provision of “right information, in the right format, for the right people, at the right time and in the right place” to stem the tide of ignoramus decadence

(Ubah, 2015). The long years of political and religious destruct as the country fanned the flames for crisis that have polarized the society and divided Nigerians across ethno-religious lines. To allow every Nigerian read from the same page, it is important to flash the search light of information dissemination on restive areas so that they cannot be used to destroy the hard earned peace and unity the country is presently enjoying. This is so because the more informed the citizen are, the less aggressive and arrogant they will be. Thus radicalization is prevented.

Peace and reconciliation strategy: Library is a judgment free zone in which a citizen can investigate interests of terrorists with aggrieved communities. A greater understanding of the differences and similarities between people of the world can potentially initiate and expands feelings of tolerance and empathy for cultures, religions and traditions outside of one's immediate sphere (Zabadi, 2015). Hence, in conflicting situations, the library provides information resources and guidance that can promote peace, unity, progress, peaceful coexistence and harmonious relationship among agitating communities. Example when South African Youths confirmed from their libraries of Nigerian government fought apartheid and international consequences of xenophobia attacks, their leaders called Nigerian government for reconciliation.

Social integration strategy: Library is one of the major places in the world through which the real integration of people with diverse political, economic, religious and ideological spheres could be brought together through actual cooperation and exchange of vital information (Bulus, 2019). It is a judgment free zone that allows the exchange of vital information between the terrorist and terrorized; the able and disabled; the rule and the people; the lord and the slaves; the complainant and the plaintiff; the strong and the weak; the acquitted and the criminal; the secured and the insecure etc.

National development strategy: National security loosely defined refers to the protection of the interests of a country like Nigeria. Threat posed to any element of national power creates security problems hence the word "national security" is used by politicians and military leaders in policy making objectives (Ifidon and Ahiazu, 2015). Hence, the role of library in national security is to offer a holistic information dissemination approach around all aspects of the policies of the country called Nigeria so that the war on terror and insecurity is not only fought by the armed forces but by the whole citizenry in their different facet of human endeavours. Librarians contribute to policy directives of national development of Nigeria by very of providing technical

services to experts in order fields using the language they understand most since language is synergy. Also, librarians have begun to work in information industry as salespersons, designers of new information, researchers, information analyst, marketing, public relations where staff need access to rapid information for effective operation of the organization.

### **The Importance of Reading culture of Nigerian Army Personnel in Promoting Research Relevance of Research to National development**

In the view of Itunu and Iseoluwa (2022). research output is key to development process, thus sources of knowledge are probably less important than the value attached to associated research and the ways in which the research results are utilized. The ability and willingness by the officers to evaluate material from whatever source, to understand its characteristics and its reliability, and to relate it to local circumstances are most important. It is fundamental that knowledge inputs into the planning process that have an impact upon decision-making if such processes are to retain public credibility must be of high quality and value. Similarly, any processing and presentation of research results for planning purposes by the Nigerian Army must take account both of the inherent qualities of the data and of the reliability and robustness of the methods of analysis used; and this needs to be done in transparent ways. Other roles of research and development include

**Effective planning and Sustainable development:** Any planning or development process cannot yield optimal or "best" outcomes, except they are based on the outputs of well-conducted research. Some people may not believe in the value or outcome of research partly because the lines of communication, from inquiry to outcome, are not as clear as they should be to them. Nevertheless, it is important to properly conduct, disseminate and apply research results in order to improve overall performance and productivity as well as change ineffective and inefficient practices.

**Influencing Policy Decisions:** Research outcomes are very important in influencing policy and in determining policy direction. Many policies of the Nigerian Army have emanated from outcomes of research. Through research, a better understanding of what is actually happening is facilitated and well-informed policy decisions can be taken.

**Facilitating Development Efforts:** Research and development (or R&D), as an activity, has a special commercial significance, apart from its conventional coupling of scientific research and technological development. Generally, R&D activities are conducted by specialized units or centers, universities and other agencies including the Nigerian Army. On a technical level, security organizations explore ways to re-purpose and repackage advanced technologies through their research activities in handling criminal activities.

**Promoting Knowledge Sharing:** Good research is only effective if it is shared with the right people. In fact research must be disseminated properly and communications must be taken into account in order to have an impact, these days. Applying and sharing knowledge about research results (for planning and development purposes among other things) is increasingly leading to the emergence of network partners and the strengthening of networking among groups with similar research interests. This tends to improve the quality of research and, by implication, its application and effects.

### **Other Roles of Library in Enhancing Culture and Research Capabilities of Nigerian Army Personnel**

In the view of Issa (2024), reading is basic to learning and its process is not only tedious and gradual, but also endless. While it is basic to learning, learning itself is also basic for survival. Hence, lack of reading is disastrous because, it is the most efficient way of acquiring knowledge and a source of achieving sound and physical development of our minds. The library is a place designed to freely support the attainment of these purpose. Libraries play invaluable role in the educational set-up of any institution or country and can be seen as the national treasures where knowledge, both in print and non-print formats, is acquired, preserved and disseminated to the reading public. Libraries are generally regarded as storehouses of information and it is made available to users through print and non-print resources because this is a vital aspect of the world's systems of education and communication (Lazarus, 2020). People in various disciplines including students use library resources for their work. Some people also visit libraries to obtain materials for pleasure reading or for some kind of leisure activities. Therefore, there is need for the provision of modern libraries in our various barracks in order to support the reading culture of Nigerian Army personnel and also to improve their research capabilities.

According to Ubah (2015), Many scholars emphasized that the role of libraries in our military barracks cannot be overemphasized in the provision of the much needed facilities for the development of good reading habits and effective research output, as it caters for different reading interests at various stages of our intellectual development and for pleasurable reading for the officers. One can also regard the library as an agent for educational and social change because it is often said that if you teach a child to read, you have made him a king. Developing the right reading culture for the Nigerian Army help nations to develop and no nation can develop without its people reading and conducting different researches. Reading makes our officers intellectually capable to handle any challenge and it helps to develop their mind, to be informed, thoughtful and constructive (Lazarus, 2020).

### **Effective Reading Environment in a Society**

Effective reading environment is a situation whereby environment for learning is conducive. According to John (2018), an effective reading environment exists in a society „where there is an awareness of the benefits to be derived from reading and research in which books are made accessible to Nigerian Army personnel. It follows, of course, that such awareness that brought about researches can only exist in a society where a high percentage of the population is literate and therefore possess the ability to read and write. Another fundamental requirement for an effective reading environment is the availability of appropriate books. Without books there can be no readers to conduct research that will benefit the nation, since readers exist because there is something to read. Books in the right number, at the right price and of the right variety constitute a pre-condition in any effort to bring books and readers together. Above all, such books must be perceived by the society as meeting their research needs and interests. situation where even though the vast majority of the people in a society can read and write and where books are available potential users are not motivated to read and do not realize the advantages books offer and so the information they contain remain underused or largely unused. Therefore, the issues surrounding an effective reading environment are complex (John, 2018).

Indeed, reading is a difficult, complex and multifaceted process involving the ability to perceive and comprehend letters, words, sentences, paragraphs or whole stories in written text. It is an acquired art which individuals acquire over a period of suitable exposures which demands for its efficiency, skill and a set of behaviour which are both linguistic and psycholinguistic (Ugulu and

Oghuvwu, 2015). Reading is an acquired art, thus it requires skills which can be developed or can become stunted under certain sociocultural environments. In this connection, it is indeed the case that Nigerians, and Africans as a whole, derive more pleasure from the oral and performing arts – talking, singing, dancing, and socializing than from the rather private and solitary preoccupation of reading. It is generally agreed that the home and the first years of schooling are the essential theatres for fostering appropriate cultural attitude of reading, nurturing and awareness of, the importance of reading. Children should be introduced to books and reading from an early age. Parents should start reading to their children as soon as they can understand sounds. In the school system, informal learning in the school library should be recognized as a necessary complement to the formal learning in the classroom. The school curriculum should include periods for using the school library while school library collections should include a wide range of recreational books. Finally, access to books in any given society is significantly aided by the existence of a virile publishing industry geared towards meeting the society's reading needs and skills; a wide network of commercial book selling channels in both the urban and rural areas and an equally wide network of good public libraries Itunu and Iseoluwa, 2022).

### **Constraints on Reading Culture of Nigerian Army Personnel**

Libraries have a historic mission of fostering literacy and learning. The relegation of that vital institution in recent decades is indeed a matter of great sadness. Libraries, learning and reading can and do change lives and they have a role to play in determining the future of our society. Libraries are vital to education; and research has shown that current lower levels of proficiency in reading are due to underfunding of libraries and their services. While lamenting the generally poor state of provision of library facilities and resources in most organizations including the Nigerian Army that is negatively affecting education in Nigeria. From North to South and from East to West of the country organizations without libraries to support teaching and research. There are cases of lack of (not inadequate) dedicated library space, inappropriate use of libraries, poorly stocked and unattractive libraries etc. which lack the potentials to encourage anyone to read for knowledge or pleasure (John, 2018).

The same condition is applicable to public libraries as revealed that the practice of governments releasing to the public library boards an amount that is far less than what was approved for in a

given year affects the quality and quantity of materials acquired and the level of services rendered.

The low level of reading habits and culture among Nigerians is caused by multi-varied factors according to John (2018). it includes:

1. Defective Education System: The Nigeria's education system does not prioritize reading for general acquisition of knowledge. Rather, it prioritizes reading for passing examinations. The education system in Nigeria can be best described as an examination-oriented education system. Under the circumstances, military use the library whenever examination or promotional tests, it means that one does not need to read if there are no examinations to be written.
2. Lack of Well-Equipped libraries: A great deal of existing literature has attributed the poor reading culture in most of the African countries to the non-existence of functional libraries (Anyaegbu et al., 2016).
3. Change in Nigeria's value system. The quest for material wealth has eroded the interest for the search of knowledge.
4. Economic hardship that is prevalent in many homes. Most parents manage to pay their wards school fees and forget about buying book for them.
5. Astronomical prices of books and other information materials have put them out of the reach of the masses.
6. Coupled with high cost of books is poor availability of indigenous books owing to the fact that local authors are not encouraged to write books.
7. Also cost of publishing books is very high. Indigenous writers are not motivated as they may not be able to finance the high cost of book publishing.
8. Advent of home videos, film houses and other electronic gadgets.

### **Ways of Enhancing the Reading Culture and Research Output of the Nigerian Army Personnel**

According to Issa (2024), there are many ways of Enhancing the Reading Culture and Research Output of the Nigerian Army Personnel which include the following:

Networking and collaborating with other libraries, institutions, or organizations for the purpose of sharing resources, expertise, and costs. To reduce the cost of running libraries, there is the

need for collaboration and networking in order to provide adequate and quality information resources to the users.

Appropriately adopting technology geared towards achieving enhanced services, expanded access, and reduced costs should be introduced in all the libraries including Military libraries in order to make the accessibility of electronic information resources easier by the military

Seeking other new sources of funding, like grants, and crowd funding. Seeking other sources of funding by the military is very important by the military to equip their libraries with required resources for efficient and effective research work. This will make the military informed about new tactics deployed by the criminal and how to curtail their menace.

Attending to users' needs, preferences, and feedback to tailor services towards optimizing resources; is the tradition of libraries to meet up with the needs of their patron including military libraries to make sure that they give preference to the user information need all the time.

Prioritizing effective service delivery by investing in staff skills acquisition and adaptability; training and retraining is a continue process in the library. Library services is evolving so is important to give training and retraining a priority in order to deliver modern services to the users.

Adhering to cost-saving measures, like energy-efficient practices because of inadequate fund available; this will reduce the cost of maintaining the library on a long time basis.

Cultivating enduring and mutually beneficial relationships with relevant stakeholders like faculty, and departments, to support research, teaching, and learning. there is need to collaborate with relevant stake holders for mutual benefit because of high cost of library materials, this is the only way you can satisfy your users efficiently.

Redesigning library spaces for enhanced user experience, and diverse learning styles; and Conducting community analysis regularly to balance resources acquisition with needs.

Subscription of data bases that are relatively affordable in order to attract more patronage in reading culture which will ultimately lead to higher research output among the military personnel in Nigeria and the number of hours used in watching home videos, film houses and other electronic gadgets should be reduced in order to more time for reading and research by military personnel.

## **Conclusion**

The pivotal roles that libraries play in enhancing the reading culture and research capabilities of the Nigerian Army personnel cannot be overlooked. Through resource accessibility, structured programs, and collaboration with other educational institutions, libraries nurture a literate and research-oriented military workforce. As the Nigerian Army continues to face challenges in a complex global landscape, the emphasis on reading and research will not only bolster operational effectiveness but also contribute to the personal and professional growth of its personnel. Ultimately, fostering a robust reading culture within military ranks will translate into a more knowledgeable and strategically adaptive force capable of responding adeptly to the demands of modern warfare and peacekeeping efforts.

## References

- Ajegbomogun, F. O (2008). Information availability and the extent of use in public library Abeokuta. *Borno Library, Archival, and Information Science Journal* 7 (1), 65-74.
- Alcober, L. F. (2022). Factors Affecting the Utilization of the Graduate Library Resources of the Leyte Normal University (LNU). *European Journal of Education and Pedagogy*, 3(1), 60–62. <https://doi.org/10.24018/ejedu.2022.3.1.219>
- Anasi, S.N. I (2010) Curbing youth restiveness in Nigeria: The role of information and libraries. *Library Philosophy and Practice*. Retrieved from <http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP/lpp2010.htm>.
- Anyaeibu, M. I., Aghauche, E. E., and Nnamani, E. (2016). Poor reading habit and the academic performance of Junior Secondary School students in Enugu South Local Government Area of Enugu State, *Eduation Research Journal*, 6(8), 112–121.
- Anyira, Isaac E. and Idubor, Imade, (2020). "Role of Education and Libraries in Developing Nigeria's Knowledge Economy". *Library Philosophy and Practice (ejournal)*. 4201.
- Bulus N.A (2019) *The Origin and Development of the Nigerian Armed Forces: Research Gate Online*.
- Ifidon, S.E. & Ahiauzu, B. (2015). Information and conflict prevention in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. *African Journal of Libraries, Archives, and Information Science*. 15 (2), 125-132.
- Issa, A.O (2024) *Managing University Libraries in A Depressed Economy: Strategic Pathways for Effectiveness: Holding at the 111<sup>th</sup> Meeting of The Association of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities at The University of Ilorin Main Auditorium, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria (Unpublished)*
- Itsekor, V. O and Nwanne M. N (2017) *the Importance of the Use of Libraries and the Need for a Reading Culture: Research Gate Journal*
- Itunu M. A and Iseoluwa, A (2022) *An Evaluative Study of Library use by use by Military Personnel: A Case Study of 2 Mechanized Division, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Ibadan, Nigeria: Library Philosophy and Practice (E-Journal)*
- John, N. (2018). *Libraries and the global Information infrastructure*. [www.unesco.org/webworld/infoethics2/eng/papers/paper\\_13.rtf](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/infoethics2/eng/papers/paper_13.rtf).
- Kagan, A.I (2015). IFLA and social responsibility: A core value of librarianship. In Seidelin and Stuart Hamilton (Ed). *Libraries, national security, freedom of information laws and social responsibilities IFLA/FAIFE World Report*. (33- 43). Susanne Copenhagen: IFLA/FAIFE.
- Kingsley N. I (2011) *Reading Culture and Nigeria's Quest for Sustainable Development: Library Philosophy and Practice*.
- Krishnan, Murugan & Krishna, K. (2018). *Role of library in changing society*. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323935597>

- Lazarus C. N (2020) Towards enhancing national security in Nigeria: The roles of library: Library and Information Perspectives and Research
- Mohanan, N. (2020). Best practices in library resources and services in academic libraries. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339353735>
- Noruzi, A. (2016). Where is the station of knowledge (libraries) in scientific and economic development? Available: <http://nouruzi.persianblog.ir/post/233>.
- Nwalo, K. I. (2013). Fundamentals of library practice: A manual on library reentries. Ibadan: Sterling- Hoden Publishers Ltd.
- Ogunsola, L. A (2011). The next step in librarianship: Is the traditional library dead? Library Philosophy and Practice. <http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP/Oli>.
- Ossai-Ugbah, N. B (2013) The role of library and librarians in promoting national security in Nigeria. Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, 2(2), 99 – 104.
- Samanta, Chatterjee, Sidharta &, Mousumi, 2021. "Conceptualizing Information Dissemination," MPRA Paper 108832, University Library of Munich, Germany
- Sokari, U. (2016). The role of library and information management in the promotion of information literacy in the 21st century in Nigeria International Journal of Research in Education, 3(2) Ibadan: Sterling-Hoden Publishers Ltd 176 – 181.
- Ubah, C.N (2015). Impact of information communication technology in university administration in Imo State University (1999-2014) A Seminar Paper, Presented to the Department of Political Science, Abia State University, Uturu. August 2015.
- Walker P. The library's role in countering infodemics. (2021) J Med Libr Assoc. Jan 1;109(1):133-136. Doi: 10.5195/jmla.2021.1044. PMID: 33424475; PMCID: PMC7772990.
- Zabadi, A.S (2015). Terrorism in asymmetrical conflict: Ideological and structural aspects. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

**Authors Note**

Garba, Shambo Mohammed PhD, (CLN), Abdulkadir Kure University, Minna  
[garba.shambo@akum.edu.ng](mailto:garba.shambo@akum.edu.ng) 07032605330

Musa, Baba Adamu PhD, (CLN), Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State, Nigeria  
[musa.baba@futminna.edu.ng](mailto:musa.baba@futminna.edu.ng); 08036758480

Hajara JIBRIN (CLN), Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State, Nigeria  
[hajara.jibrin@futminna.edu.ng](mailto:hajara.jibrin@futminna.edu.ng); 07035577793