



## OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN

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### Nigeria Comms Commission, Digital Bridge Institute Train National Library Staff

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) in collaboration with its IT training subsidiary, the Digital Bridge Institute DBI, organized a training workshop for a total of 250 staff members of the National Library of Nigeria, to acquaint them with contemporary global computer and ICT skills, for effective library service delivery in the Country.

The training which held in three four batches from 07th to 25th August 2023 focused on three major topics including Library Automation and Document Management, Data Analysis

and Decision Making, Data base and implementation administration.

While addressing the Participants during the kick off of the training,

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The National Librarian Presenting the Award to Akogun Lanre Adesuyi

### Nigeria Library Association Appoints Fellows, Brand Ambassadors

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Library of Nigeria (NLN), Prof Veronica Anunobi has been awarded a fellowship, by the Nigerian Library Association, which also appointed her its brand ambassador.

The award and investiture were both done during a dinner organized held at the National Defence College, Abuja on Saturday 30th September 2023 which according to the organizers, is targeted at honouring members who have contributed immensely to the Association's growth.



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### Inside

National Library Decentralizes Cataloguing Operations

Staff Cooperative Society Hold AGM, Elect New Officials

# Mr. Jacobs Exits Civil Service

The Director of Human Resources and Administration Department, Mr. Bamidele Andrew Jacob has retired from active service having attained the retirement age of 60 years.

Mr. Jacob, who hails from Illa kindred in Egbe, Yagba West of Kogi State, joined the services of the National Library of Nigeria on 24th March, 1993 as Personnel Officer II and was confirmed on 24th March, 1995.

Mr. Jacob obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Political Science in 1987 and Masters Degree



in Management Psychology from the University of Ibadan, in 2001. But before his Masters degree, he earned Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Relations from the Institute of Journalism, Lagos (1993). He had earlier attended Government Primary School, Okesuma Lagos from 1967-1973 and Rev. Kuti Memorial Grammar School, Abeokuta. He proceeded to Kwara State College of Technical Education, Ilorin from where he obtained his A level certificate in 1982.

Mr. Jacobs is a member of several professional bodies including, the Nigeria Institute of Public Relations, Nigeria Institute of Management, Nigeria Institute for Training and Development and also an Affiliate member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management in Nigeria.

Mr. Jacob rose through ranks to become the Director of Human

Resource and Administration on 28th October 2019, a position he held until his final exit on 20th September, 2023.

During his career at the National Library, Mr. Jacob was seconded to the Nigeria Institute of Animal Science Gwarimpa Abuja from 14th April, 2014 and resumed his duty in the National Library in 2016.



His wealth of experience and personnel management is unquantifiable. His managerial prowess is visibly seen in the way he had piloted the affairs of the organisation's personnel in the past four years.

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## Nigeria Library Association Appoints Fellows, Brand Ambassadors

Describing the dinner awards as “a flagship event going forward”, the NLA President, Pastor Dominic Omokaro, said it was the first of its kind, as NLA awardees were usually honoured during



its Annual General Meeting (AGM). The appointment of NLA Brand ambassadors was an innovation of the current executive to help propagate the ideals of the profession and to always attract positive public response towards the profession.

Whilst commending the awardees for their passion, unwavering dedication, outstanding contributions and innovations which has not only enriched Library Information Service (LIS), but also inspired others, Omokaro urged all the association's members to reflect on the profound impact that recognize excellence. He further stated that, Awards are not merely symbols of achievements but are beacons of inspiration to all.

Reacting to the award, Anunobi who spoke on behalf of all awardees noted that “it was a dream come true” and thanked the NLA for making it a reality. She further pledged to continuously uphold the principles of the Nigeria Library Association in particular, and

the Library and Information profession in general.



Those were also conferred with the Fellowship on the same day included Dr. Module Aboyade, Dr. Nkem Osuigwe, Dr. Adetoun Oyelude. Others are, Alhaji Jafar Wase, Dr. Gladys Onyia, Prof. Roseline Echezona. On the other hand, Akogun Lanre Adesuyi, Hajia Neemat Abdulrahim, Prof. A Adetoro, Alhaji Jafaru Wase and Dr. Justina A Kotso were appointed brand ambassadors alongside Prof. Anunobi.

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### Nigeria Comms Commission, Digital Bridge Institute Train National Library Staff

the National Librarian, Professor Chinwe Anunobi expressed immense appreciation to both the Nigerian Communication Commission and the Digital Bridge Institute {DBI} for the huge support given to the National Library of Nigeria in its quest to build the human capacity of its personnel, for optimal performance.

Prof. Anunobi charged the participants to pay attention to the lectures received and make necessary adjustment where

needed.

“By the end of this training, we are going to be exposed to the world of ICT which will enhance our skills, that will make a difference. I appreciate the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Communication Commission, Alh. Umar Dan-Batta who sponsored the programme as well as president, Digital Bridge Institute, Eng. Prof. Mohammad Ajiya for this opportunity” The National Librarian has stated.

Earlier in his speech, the President of Digital Bridge Institute, Prof. Mohammed Ajiya disclosed that the Institute was established to provide excellent ICT innovations and capacity building to Nigerians. He added that the Institute has arranged qualified Resource Persons that would navigate the participants through digital world to give them room for adjustment in their operations and therefore advised the participants to extract enough digital knowledge from the resource persons.





## National Librarian Pays Advocacy Visit on FRSC Corps Marshal

The National Librarian Prof. Chinwe Anunobi accompanied on 20th September paid an advocacy visit on Corps Marshall of the Federal Road Safety Corps in Abuja, at the Corps Command Headquarters.

Prof. Anunobi, who was accompanied by Directors from the National Library Library, informed her host that the National Library's mandate is to connect and build an informed citizenry through elaborate collection of publications and other information resources emanating from the country. These information resources are processed and stored for future generations.

She also emphasized the need to obtain the International Standard Numbers for all publications, which can only be accessed through the National Library, which serves as the National Centre for International Standard Book Number as well as the International Standard Serial Number. The process according to the

National Librarian has been automated and could be accessed online or physically via our various state branches. NLN also champions the campaign on promotion of Readership, ensuring that Nigerians imbibe the habit of reading. She also informed the Corps about the legal mandate of depositing all published works with the NLN.

In his response, the Corps Marshal of the FRSC, Corps Marshal Dauda Ali Bui assured his guest that the Corps would key into the National Library mandate through standardization of their numerous publications and adherence to the legal deposit law. He also admitted that other possible areas of synergy would be explored.



## Public Relations Staff Acquire Training on Podcasting, Studio Management

The members of staff of the Public Relations Division on Saturday 5th August, 2023 held a one-day in-house training on Podcasting and studio management. The training which was held at the mini studio of the organization was to equip the officers of the division on basic knowledge in Podcasting to enable them to perform optimally in the discharge of their duties.

An experienced Podcaster, attached to one of the media houses, Mr. Ifechukwu Oscar Ughanze and his teammate, Mr. Daniel Ojo exposed the trainees on the rudiments of podcasting, equipment and recording techniques as well as editing and postproduction.



Addressing the participants at the end of the session, the Ag. Head of the Division, Mr. Vershima Orvell-Dio stressed that the essence of the training was to enhance their productivity. He advised them to ensure adequate utilization of the knowledge acquired in order to meet up and possibly surpass the National Librarian's expectations of a rapid and robust promotion of NLN's activities, services and holdings, therefore bringing to the knowledge of the public some resources available at the National Library of Nigeria.

Participants were optimistic that the knowledge acquired will greatly enhance their capacity.

# National Library Decentralizes Cataloguing Operations

The National Library of Nigeria has decentralized its cataloguing operations to enhance efficiency and save cost. Going forward, state branches of the organization are to

from which state each material came from. She therefor encouraged the participants to learn, go home and apply what they have learnt for smooth operations of library services,

information needs and the collections. She further stated that the workshop is designed to equip them with skills covering the creation and storage of bibliographic data.



henceforth catalogue new acquisitions emanating through them especially as legal deposit collections, or gift donations on the Online Open Access Catalogue. It is to this end that the Collections Development and Technical Services Department organized Cataloguing and Classification Workshop for branches within the North central Zone, from Tuesday 01st to Thursday 03rd August, 2023 at the NLN headquarters, Abuja.

Declaring the workshop open, the National Librarian, Prof. Chinwe Anunobi said the workshop was organized to the participants with necessary and contemporary skills and competence, required to achieve the purpose of the decentralization. She further stated that it is expected at the end of the workshop that resources deposited at the branches are no longer sent unprocessed to the headquarters but duly processed at the grassroots before sending to the Headquarters.

This, according to her, will ensure equitable distribution, knowing

said the National Librarian/CEO Earlier, the Director of Collections Development and Technical Services Department, Mrs Anthonia Onuoha in a welcome address informed the trainees that their participation is an opportunity for practical exposure on cataloguing and classification beyond the knowledge and skills they might have acquired in school. She emphasized that cataloguing is the heart and soul of libraries and is also the bridge between the users'





# Prof. Anunobi Decries Literacy Gap in Nigeria

The National Librarian, Professor Chinwe Anunobi has decried the literacy gap in Nigeria, which contributes to the declining reading culture amongst Nigerians. She made this known during a Literacy Campaign organized by the National Library of Nigerian to commemorate the International Literacy Day held at the Karshi Rural Information Resource Centre, Karshi, Abuja on Friday, 08th September 2023.

Speaking on the theme for this year “Promoting Literacy for a World in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful Societies” Prof. Anunobi emphasized that literacy plays a very significant role in the development of a people or nation. She further stated

a decade of mother tongue/indigenous language” She encouraged Nigerians to be considered literate if they could read and write in their own indigenous languages.

Responding, the Emir of Karshi Alh Danladi Mohammad, who was



that literate people are better disposed to obtain factual information, engage in economic activities, participate in the democratic processes and governance while enabling equity and sustainable development as literacy imbues and individual with confidence, overall wellbeing, critical thinking, problem-solving, and empathy—qualities necessary for inclusivity and peaceful coexistence.

Speaking further, Prof. Anunobi who acknowledged that literacy in itself is not an end but rather a means to an end, said “Let me clarify that we must not use the ability to read and write in the English Language as a yardstick for measuring literacy. UNESCO emphasizes literacy in indigenous languages as a very important element of development and has therefore set aside

represented by the Karshi District Head, Alh Ahmed Doka expressed appreciation to the Management of National Library of Nigeria for



recognizing Karshi Community during the International Literacy Day, which serve as a clarion call to the entire People of Karshi Community to embrace the awareness campaign for literacy and the promotion of the mother tongue.

In a goodwill message, the Secretary-General Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO in Nigeria Dr. Olagunju I.L expressed his satisfaction at the pace of awareness being created about literacy by the National Library of Nigeria which is yielding good results across the Country.

He said Literacy provides a platform for individual personal development with which they could contribute towards the development of the society. He said this event was rather apt especially now that emphasis is being laid on overcoming the literacy challenges in achieving the desired economic empowerment and acquisition of skills necessary for the nation’s technological advancement.

He emphasized that a Country with low literacy rate would automatically record failure economically and technologically.

The event culminated in the donation of books to the Karshi Community Library.



# NLN, NLA Katsina State Branch Donates Books to 14 schools

The National Library of Nigeria in collaboration with the Nigerian Library Association Katsina state Chapter on the 25th July 2023 distributed about 2000 volumes of books to primary school pupils in 14 government schools across the state to promote reading culture.

The donation was in redemption of the pledge made by the two organizations during the 2023 library week of NLA Katsina chapter, as their contribution towards the promotion of education and literacy in the state.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman of the NLA in Katsina state, and University Librarian, Umaru Musa Yaradua University, Prof. Sani Abdu Fari stated that “the unimpressive reading culture was the cause of the problems we have in our society today” and said the books were donated as part of contributions to



education and to promote the reading culture of the pupils/students. He applauded the National Library Nigeria for its delivery of library services and the promotion of reading culture across the country. He also commended the Head of Katsina state branch, Amina Sayyadi Maje for her support and passion towards the growth of librarianship in the state.

Also speaking, the Marafan Katsina, Alhaji Abu Abe, who represented the

Emir of Katsina, appreciated the donors and encouraged the pupils/students to make good use of the books donated.

The Head of Katsina State Branch Amina Maje Sayyadi in her closing remarks thanked the NLA and all who contributed to the success of the event. She advised the students to cultivate the habit of visiting the library not just for reading to pass examinations but also to read for pleasure. She encouraged schools to bring their pupils/students to the National Library of Nigeria on excursions to acquaint them with

operations and resources available for their use.

Dignitaries who honored the event include former University Librarian, Umaru Musa Yaradua, Alhaji Naiya, Chief Judge of Katsina State represented by Barr. Danladi Abubakar among others.

Books were given individually to the pupils and their schools including Hausa/English Dictionary to promote indigenous language.

## Enugu State Branch Organizes free holiday Summer Camp for 2023

The Enugu state branch of the National Library of Nigeria during the long school vacation organized a free holiday camp for students ages 12 to 20 years in collaboration with the Ike keke youth and women empowerment foundation. Apart from the keeping the students engaged during the holiday, the camp afforded them an opportunity to explore their

interest through hands on creating projects by fostering learning, creativity and do it yourself (DIY) culture as well as promote knowledge sharing, collaboration, and support, creative thinking, playful learning, social interaction and informal mentoring among the teens.

Activities and exercises the students

were engaged in included computer appreciation, Essay writing, quizzes, catering, hair braiding, beadmaking, film making/ film shows, music / dance, modelling, and swimming.

At the end of the three-week camp, deserving camp participants were awarded gifts, prizes and scholarships.



## John Obot, National Library Regular Visitor Sets Guinness World Record in Marathon Read-Aloud

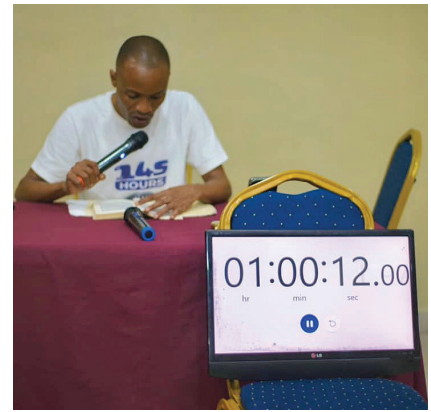
A regular reader at the Akwa-Ibom state branch of the National Library of Nigeria, John Obot has set a new Guinness World Record in marathon read-aloud which lasted for 145 hours.

John Obot, whose successful attempt to beat the previous record of 124 hours set in 2022 by Rysbai Isakov was held public in Uyo from 9th to 15th September 2023 is a familiar reader who frequents the Akwa-Ibom state branch of the National library of Nigeria in Uyo.

The Head of Branch, Mrs. Helen Alfred Ebi who was present during new record holder's session commended Mr. Obot for his endurance and tenacity during the reading practice at the Akwa Ibom

State branch, stating that the Branch supported Mr. Obot's journey by providing him with all the materials he asked for including books and serials.

She also expressed satisfaction with John Obot's dedication and the depth of his knowledge and willingness to achieve this remarkable feat.



## Staff Cooperative Society Hold AGM, Elect New Officials

The Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Abuja held her Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 26th September 2023 to deliberate on matters concerning the Cooperative to achieve the aims and objective of the Society. The AGM was also a forum to elect a new Executive Committee for the society.

The outgoing President, Mrs Chinwe Enekayi, while giving her speech welcomed everyone to the 9th Annual

to retirees and deceased members etc. She expressed her gratitude to her executives for their supports and appealed to every member to join and build back the cooperative.

The event was also graced by the Deputy Chief Registrar of Cooperative FCT, Mr. Ayuba Shekwonya Abaji who was also the Chairman of the occasion. He emphasized on the need for members to increase their savings as the only way to bring the cooperative



General Meeting of the society. She outlined the challenges faced by the Cooperative when she took over the mantle of leadership which lingered throughout her tenure. She lamented on the poor savings from individual members. She highlighted her achievements which include auditing of the Society's account to recover debts as well as advanced payments

back to its feet.

While acknowledging the efforts of the outgoing Exco, Mrs. I.G Akpabio advised the cooperative to completely pay those who are already retired and contributed to the cooperative all their money as it was the first money they would fall back on after they stop receiving salaries while emphasizing that it would also encourage new

members to join the cooperative as they will see the cooperative as a genuine medium to save money against the future.

Mrs Francisca Ofodile, Deputy Director of Collections Development and Technical Services department also advised the cooperative to focus on members request and quit purchasing land for the moment as it seemed it was always an issue for the cooperative. Another member said that the cooperative needed to revisit the aims and objectives of the cooperative so as not the defeat its goals.

Members commended the outgoing President, Mrs Enekayi for resolving a very challenging situation which was the reselling of a land in Minna for a reasonable price. They also congratulated her as she happened to be a returning President unopposed and thereby part of the new exco.

Mr. Ayuba Shekwon administered the oath of office on the new exco members and charged them to continue to uplift the status of the cooperative.

The newly constituted Exco include Mrs. Chinwe Enekayi (President), Mr Essien Akpan (Vice President), Mrs Linda Elufioye (Secretary), Ms. Cannice Odu (Asst. Secretary), Ibrahim Ogaji (Financial Secretary) and Mr. Tanya Francis (Treasurer).

# CDTS Honors Mrs. Cordelia Ozoukwu, as Friends Fete Dr. Anthony Okuagu

On 4th September 2023, the Collections Development and Technical Services Department, organized a send-forth in honour of a Confidential Secretary Mrs. Cordelia Ozoukwu who recently retired from the civil service.

Mrs. Ozoukwu joined the services of the National Library of Nigeria on 23rd August, 1991 and retired on the 23rd August, 2023 having served for 32 years.

while in service.

The head of Division, Cataloguing and classification, Ms Gloria Okeagu in her goodwill message also expressed



The Director of CDTS, Mrs. Antonia Onuoh in her remarks expressed appreciation to the staff of her department and the planning committee for making the send-forth celebration possible, as she extended her commendation to Mrs. Cordelia for the hard work and punctuality she exhibited

commendation to Mrs. Cordelia for her active service and for being a peaceful person while in service and wished her well in her future endeavors.

In her response, the Celebrant, Mrs. Cordelia Ozoukwu thanked the Director and the entire staff for their kindness who made her service in National Library memorable.



Relatedly, friends of a retired Chief Library Officer, Dr. Uti Anthony Okuagu, gathered in the Boardroom of the organization on Friday 11th August

2023 to celebrate him and wish him well in his retirement.

Dr. Okuagu who hails from Ndokwa West Local government area of Delta State began his career at the National Library of Nigeria, Edo state branch as a Library Assistant in 1988 and was later posted to Rivers state branch, Port Harcourt from where he was transferred to the headquarters.

Dr. Okuagu was once described as the engine room of Public Services Department by an erstwhile Director of PSD, Alhaji Abdulgafar Adebimpe for depth of his innovative ideas in the smooth running of the department especially branch services.

The National Librarian/CEO who was represented by the Special Assistant on Special Duties, Mrs. Chinwe Enekayi, in her address appreciated Dr. Okuagu for his contributions to the organisation and the nation at large. She observed that it is noteworthy for friends to gather resources to celebrate one of theirs. It's an indication of love and concern. It also shows how well you related with them while working. She prayed and wished him well in his post service endeavors.

Earlier, the Deputy Director of PSD, Ms Akpabio commended Dr. Okuagu for his commitment to service and dedication to duty. She said it is not easy for somebody to work up to thirty-five years and therefore worth celebrating.

In a goodwill message, all the Directors present took turns to commend Dr. Okuagu who they say was a dependable staff who was fully dedicated to his duty. They prayed that God will grant him bountiful favours in his future career.

Responding, the celebrant said he was

overwhelmed beyond such and thanked all for the love showered on him, promised to remain in contact with the organization.

## Niger State Branch Embarks on a Legal Deposit Drive

The Niger State Branch of the National Library of Nigeria on 24th July, 2023 embarked on a Legal deposit drive and sensitization campaign to several Institutions across the State in order to identify authors and publishers who have not been complying with the Legal Deposit requirement that all published books and related information resources must be deposited.

The team led by Head of Branch, Mrs. Tinuola Ogunmade were on arrival at the Federal University of Technology Minna Academy Publishing where they were received by Prof. Abdulsalam Sani Kovo, Head of the Center who expressed appreciation to them for the wake of call, he lamented that authors and publishers sometimes needed this type of visit to reawaken them on the need to exercise their obligation by submitting copies of their books and serials to the National Library of Nigeria for preservation.

Earlier in her remarks the head of Head

Niger State Branch, Mrs. Ogunmade emphasized that the essence of the exercise was to enlighten the publishers, authors and other stakeholders in the Books Industries on the importance of legal deposit compliance and to ensure that books, serials and all printed materials published in the Center for the Institution and the State are deposited with the National Library of Nigeria for the future generations. She also

informed them on the importance of acquiring the ISSN/ISBN for all their publications.

The Head of the Centre who conducted the team round the Centre also appreciated them for coming and assured compliance with the legal deposit law as required by Law. He also pledged to help in sensitizing publishers, authors and the University Community on the benefits of ISBN/ISSN on their publications.

Books and other publications published in the Centre were handed over to the NLN team as legal deposit copies.



## Chinese Embassy Pays Courtesy visit on the National Librarian

The Director of Political and publicity Department of the Chinese Embassy Mr. Du Sheng on Tuesday, 8th August, 2023 paid a courtesy visit on the National Librarian, Prof Chinwe V. Anunobi in her office to discuss how the embassy could partner with the National Library of Nigeria in areas of Literacy and cultural development

Mr. Sheng, He expressed his country's readiness to consolidate on the long-standing relationship between Nigeria and China, especially in promoting digital literacy and rich cultural heritage of both countries.

He recalled that China and Nigeria had over the years developed such mutual relationships, he said that this relationship had to be maintained and strengthened for the benefit of all the Citizenry.

He further stressed that the digitization of National Library Nigeria's resources would be a focal point, looking at the diverse importance to the global readers.

Responding, the National Librarian, Prof Chinwe Veronica Anunobi thanked the Head of Publicity section of the Chinese Embassy Mr. Du Sheng for the visit and emphasized that it was important for the National Library of Nigeria to partner with the Chinese Embassy especially in terms of shared resources.

Anunobi further committed to her guests' request that as soon as the Chinese Minister of Culture informed her the National Library of Nigeria of their readiness to visit, the Institute would be happy to receive them.



## Osun State Branch Moves to Permanent Site

The Osun State Branch of the National Library of Nigeria on 10th August 2023 moved to its permanent site, in a more spacious and conducive location opposite the Osun State House of Assembly, for enhanced operations and functions.

The Branch which commenced activities in August 2004 was established in compliance with the organization's enabling Act, which makes it mandatory for the establishment of its Branch in every state

of the federation.

The branch had been operating from a temporary office accommodation which was rented and donated by the state government since inception.



## University of Lafia Students on Study Visit to National Library

Students from the Department of Library and information Science, Federal University Lafia, Nasarawa State numbering about 150, Led by Head of the Department, Dr. Asom Faga and

three other Senior Lecturers paid study visit to the National Library of Nigeria to under study the library as a part of their training.

They were received on arrival by Ms

Akpabio Glory Ag Head Public Services Department of the National Library of Nigeria.

In her remark, she enjoined them to take their studies very seriously in order to come out successful and contribute in the discharge of effective library services in Nigeria. She encouraged them to be proud of their profession and advised them to be passionate about it.

The Deputy Director of the Public Services Department, Ms. I.G Akpabio who received the visiting team, explained to them the functions and activities of the National Library of Nigeria, before handing them over to relevant Heads of Sections who took them round the different departments for more elaborate explanation on the functions and activities of all the 5 Professional Departments in the Institution.

The Director Collection Development and Technical Services Department Mrs. Antonia Onouha, and some of her staff including Mr. Akinlolu Ajani, Mrs. Omon Ize – Iyamu, Mrs. Tayye Abenu, Ms. Canis Odu and Mr. Baba Mohammed were on hand to explain to the students the activities of each Department.

After the visitation to various departments, the HOD Dr. Asom Faga expressed appreciation to the National Librarian and the Management for well educative lectures they received from different departments which was the reason for the visitation, so that Students should be acquainted with the functions and activities of the National Library of Nigeria.

The Lecturers were later at the Office of the National Librarian for a Professorial hand shake.



# PERSONALIA

The National Librarian has accepted the retirement from service of Mr. Bamidele Andrew Jacobs, the Director of Human Resource and Administration with effect from 20th September 2023. Similarly, she has accepted the retirement of Builder Wilson Olayiwola

Odunmbaku, the Deputy Director and Head of Physical Planning Division as well that of Mrs. Amarachi Dioma Osuagwu, who served in the Public Services Department with effect from 29th August, 2023.

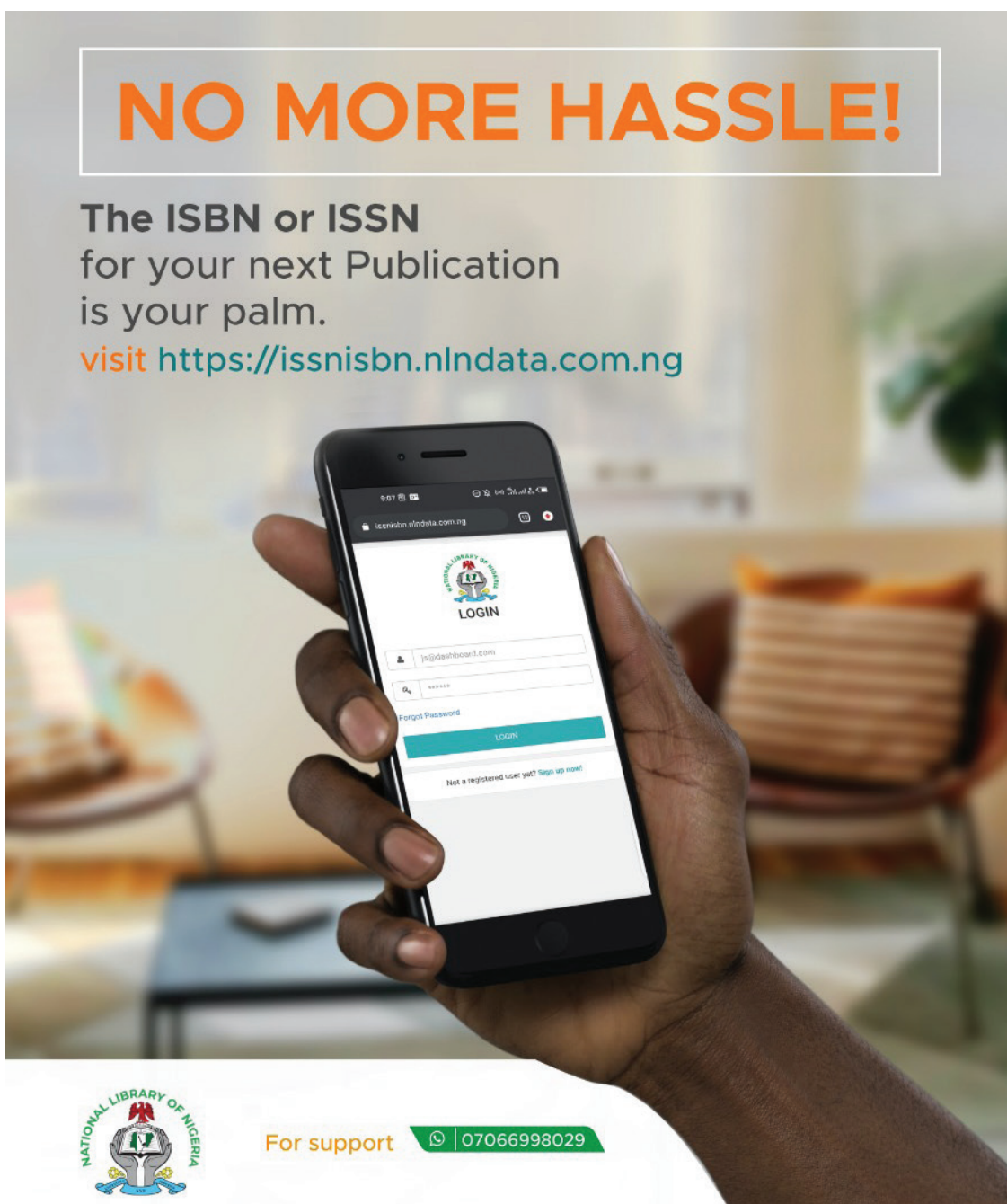
On behalf of the Management and

entire Staff of the National Library of Nigeria, the Organization appreciates the invaluable contribution of Mrs. Osuagwu to the growth and development of the nation at large during her 35 years of service and wishes her well in her future Endeavour.

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