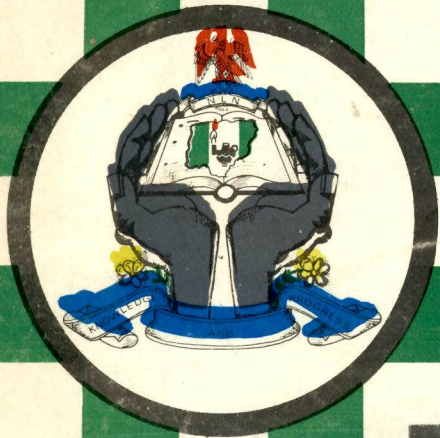


# Nigerbiblios

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## Cover Picture

The National Union Catalogue of Monographs and Serials represent important results of co-operative efforts by some fifty libraries in the country. In this edition's cover picture, a few members of staff of the National Union Catalogue (Monographs) are busy at the cabinets at the Ijora Temporary Office of the National Library of Nigeria. The catalogue now has approximately 2,000,000 cards already filed.

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# THE ROLE OF PUBLISHING IN THE DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

.....Being an address by the Director of the National Library of Nigeria, Mr. S. B. Aje, at the annual conference of the Nigeria Publishers Association held at Ibadan recently.

The President, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to have this privilege of addressing you this year while you are about to commence your annual general meeting. I have looked forward to this opportunity to meet you in a body to discuss matters of mutual interest to us: you as producers of the material receptacles of knowledge and we as the disseminators of knowledge and aiders its consumers.

I am therefore grateful to the President, Mr. M. O. Akinyele, who acceded to my request and who has allotted time to the discussion. I also appreciate your response to attend this extraordinary session. Let me hope that our association will become stronger on the basis of the common interest between us so that we may serve our clientele more effectively and with increased profit to all.

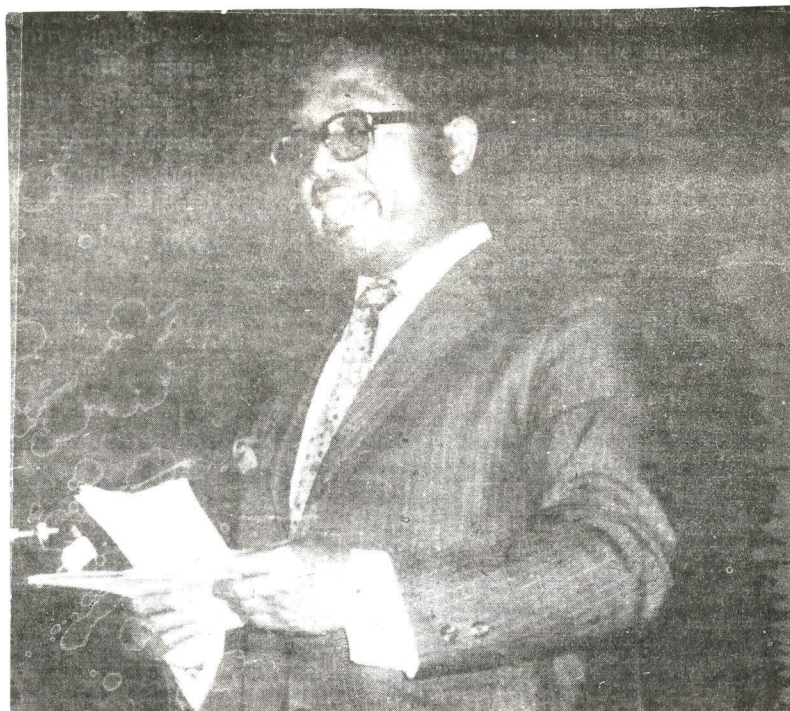
## The Role of Publishing.

Publishing represents a vital and indispensable function in the knowledge industry. There is no gainsaying the fact that without publishing knowledge cannot be effectively disseminated in a world of rapid development. It can also be proved that it is publishing that has escalated the pace of development in the world. Publishing as we know it today has become a highly technological process but it still must not lose its professionalism which inheres in the essential philosophy that dissemination constitutes the vitamin which sustains the growth of knowledge. Dissemination is the elemental process comparable to the natural phenomenon of the dispersal of seeds which leads to propagation of the species of a plant, as we know very well.

The world has become conscious of the processes of producing and propagating knowledge. The publisher is the catalyst. At the other end is the author's audience who constitute the consumer of the product. The consumer

in his own case is besieged by an avalanche of the products of knowledge and he needs to quickly identify the various components, particularly those of them that are of immediate interest to him.

put out on sale by a small group of people somewhere in Gongola State of Nigeria on a subject that is of interest to this man in a small village in India? This is where standardisation comes in and the world is moving to-



MR. S. B. AJE

This is a formidable problem. Therefore the consumer is anxious to devise ways of rapid identification so that selection, that is, choice for eventual consumption may be quicker. Not only that, he also wants to be in control to the extent of being aware of what is available to him to use from and use. This is not easy particularly in a world of rapid generation of ideas that are quickly made known and not kept secret. The situation is further aggravated by increasing shortage of time for what there is to do.

## Universal Bibliographic Control

A global approach to the problem of awareness and also to the whole question of identification has become imperative. How does a man in India benefit from a pamphlet published and

wards accord in this matter so as to create general awareness for everybody and to facilitate choice of items of knowledge to the average seeker. The concept that has emerged for solving the problem is known as Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC).

In the recent past several bodies have addressed themselves to this programme and as of today three areas have attained a reasonable degree of stability which is manifested in various systems.

## ISBN

The first system is the International Standard Book Number (ISBN). This ensures that every book, that is, monographs published anywhere in the world is assigned a unique number which cannot be taken by any other mono-

graph. This monograph will always be identified by that number only. There are many advantages to this. One of these covers ordering, making it faster and less expensive of time, energy and material. Another advantage derives from the fact that information about each publication is stored in one central data bank in the world.

This facilitates dissemination so that any interested persons can be made aware of the existence of a monograph publication, however small. By collation there is an automatic guaranteed extension of the market for that single item in the world.

How does this work? It is simple. There is a central Data Bank located in Berlin by consensus of all the agencies which initiated the system. All nations of the world are, however, welcome to participate in it free of charge. Each national, linguistic or geographical unit

Let us look at the other side of the coin. If a publisher is not registered for this purpose his publications cannot be fed into the international data bank and the advantages listed above are lost.

There are cases of publishing houses incorporated in Nigeria but affiliated to an international headquarters located outside the country.

The international headquarters in some cases allocate block numbers to these houses for application in Nigeria. Invariably the numbers relate to the country in which the headquarters is located or the language block in which it operates. Such numbers applied to publications originated and produced in Nigeria impose one fundamental disadvantage.

In the central data bank the publications do not register as Nigerian, and do not match with Nigerian publica-

only numbers allocated in Nigeria by the competent authority, which is the National Library of Nigeria.

### ISSN

The second system is known as the International Standard Serial Number. This, the ISSN, is a unique code for the identification of serial publications, which can be used wherever information on serials needs to be recorded or communicated. It operates in the International Serial Data System (ISDS) with headquarters in Paris. Initially financed by the UNESCO and the Government of France, the International Centre (IC) has now been constituted by statute as an organ of the member states of UNESCO under a General Assembly consisting of member states which have acceded to the statutes and set up national centres.

Nigeria has satisfied the two condi-

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**"...A global approach to the problem of awareness and also to the whole question of identification has become imperative. How does a man in India benefit from a pamphlet published and put out on sale by a small group of people somewhere in Gongola State of Nigeria on a subject that is of interest to this man in a small village in India?"**

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has been allocated a group identifier either on linguistic, national or political basis.

For example, Nigeria has a choice of taking the same number in the English-speaking block or one as a country Nigeria. We have chosen the latter and it is 978. This is so recorded in the International Data Centre;

Here in Nigeria, we can register every publisher and allocate them numbers within the group identifier 978. Each number is made of ten digits of which the group identifier has already accounted for three. The rest is divided between the publisher identifier, the serial number of the book and a tenth digit which is a check.

There is a national agency in each country to allocate the numbers and to keep a record of items published with the numbers. The National Library of Nigeria is the agency for Nigeria. As all books issued in Nigeria are required to be deposited in the National Library by law (National Library Decree 29 of 1970 Section 4) the National Bibliography of Nigeria which lists such publications also records the numbers.

tions. They count for the country of the international headquarters of the publishing house. As a result Nigeria is losing in terms of the score of numerical output. Even though it is actually producing it is the other country that takes the count and the credit.

This is not only anomalous, it is grossly unfair and it should be checked. For record purposes not only should Nigeria as a country know what it produces in quantitative terms, the world should also know and recognise it. The ISBN, locally assigned is the answer to that.

To be specific any ISBN starting with 978 represents a Nigerian publication. If it starts with 0 (zero) it is of English origin and could come from the United Kingdom or Canada. I urge that we avoid this pitfall by securing independence in this regard from any overseas international headquarters. Nothing will be lost, but the house will gain credit for what it achieves.

I therefore appeal to all those who have not registered in Nigeria to do so, soonest and those who have hitherto used numbers allocated outside Nigeria to desist from doing so, and use

tions and is a member of the General Assembly. The national centre for Nigeria is located in the National Library of Nigeria. Under the statute, a Governing Board elected from among the members of the General Assembly runs the affairs of the International Centre. The first Board has been elected and a Nigerian, the speaker, is the current President.

The International Centre is the data bank for serials throughout the world. It allocates block numbers to the various nations. Here allocation is by political entity either a nation or region. The national centre assigns numbers to serials.

It is therefore the responsibility of publishers of serials to get in touch with the National Library of Nigeria for allocation of numbers to their respective titles.

One number goes to each title and is of constant application to appear on every issue without variation. All that has been said for ISBN applies to the ISSN in the area of its importance.

### ISBD

While the foregoing systems take

care of the counting of publications issued as monographs and serials for awareness and identification, another system known as International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) assures accurate recording of data relating to the publication for easy exchange. All countries are expected to issue lists of publications emanating from their respective territories in the name known as national bibliography.

The measure taken to ensure comprehensive listing is legal deposit, which is provided for and is operative in Nigeria. An agreement has now been reached on the format for recording data on publications in the national bibliographies. This is convertible to computer format for producing machine readable catalogues (MARC): which facilitates exchange of information throughout the world.

ISBD recognises specific areas such as author, title, publisher, price, etc., which must be clearly provided on any given publication and be identified easily. Experience has shown that many Nigerian publishers do not observe these basic requirements. Books have been issued without a definite title. The title-page has become standardised in its contents, but not all publishers seem to be aware of this. Items like place and date of publication are frequently absent, not to talk of the price.

It is realised that the physical presentation of Nigerian books do not as yet in many cases allow for printing on the price of the book. When the Nigerian book begins to arrive with dust jackets, may be this will be possible.

(a) Title and statement of authorship area

Title and statement of authorship are important for the identification of a book therefore a standard book must have a distinctive title, and clear information about the intellectual responsibility for the work. That is, there must be printed on the title page of the book, - the title and the correct form of the authors' names. In this connection attention is drawn to ISO/R1068-1969: Title leaves of a book. Every publisher should have this. Similarly, ISO/R-8S-1964: Layout of periodicals will be much help.

(b) Edition

Edition statement is also very important for identification of a publi-

cation. Edition statement should be printed on the title page. It is also necessary to know if a book was previously published, either in another country or by a different publisher. Such information, or the history of the book usually appears on the verso of the title page.

(c) Imprint

Imprint information is important from the point of view of the book trade and for retrieval purposes. Imprint is made up of (i) the place of publication; (ii) name of publisher; and (iii) date of publication in that order. Imprint information is not complete without any of these three elements. Date of publication for example, is useful for knowing the currency of a publication and the number of publications produced in a country within a particular period.

The place of publication helps to know the particular location of the publisher concerned. It has to be the city, town or village. With complete imprint information, publishers can be easily contacted in order to purchase more copies of the publications.

(d) Collation

Collation means the physical make up of the publication i.e. pagination, number of volumes, binding, accompanying materials, etc. What is required here is that all publications should be properly and distinctively numbered. Number of pages helps to differentiate a pamphlet from a book. When number of pages is recorded on the catalogue card, it helps the reader to know how big or how small the particular publication is. When a publication is numbered it facilitates references.

(e) Series

If a publication is part of a series, such information should be indicated on the book, either in the preliminaries or in the subsidiaries. Series statement helps readers who are interested in publication of particular series, e.g. Heinemann's African Writer Series.

(f) Notes

Notes qualify and amplify the formal description of a publication. Therefore the publisher can include any information in the preliminaries of a book which can bring out background information or help to understand the content of the book. Notes can be given on the title, author, or content of the book.

(g) ISBN, Binding and Price

The international standard book number (ISBN), binding and price constitute a unique identification of a publication. The inclusion of ISBN on a publication, whereby each item produced by a publisher bears this unique number which also identifies country of origin and publisher, is a great booster for the book trade.

The use of the ISBN in Nigeria, as described above, will not only help to identify the publisher and country of origin, but will also provide a numerical check to the items published in the country. It is very important, and indeed compulsory in some countries for each book deposited through legal deposit to have an ISBN. This is to the mutual advantage of both the country and the publishers.

(h) Price

Price is important for the book trade and for price standardization.

A librarian, especially a cataloguer, finds it necessary to give full bibliographic details in describing a book according to the new "International Standard Bibliographical description (ISBD)" Such detailed information is gathered from different parts of the publication.

For this purpose, a publication is grouped into parts termed prime sources of information. Different areas of a bibliographic description are found from one or other of the prime sources of information. Publishers are therefore required to include adequate information on their publications in order to facilitate such detailed description.

Areas	Prime Sources of Information
1. Title and statement of authorship	Title page
2. Edition	Title page, other preliminaries
3. Imprint	Title page, other preliminaries
4. Collation	Publication itself
5. Series	Publication itself
6. Notes	Publication, or anywhere
7. ISBN, binding, price	Publication itself or anywhere

# THE HEALTH LITERATURE SERVICES: Possibilities and Challenges

*Being a Paper presented at the annual conference of the Nigerian Library Association (Lagos Division)*

*Held in Lagos, 15th December, 1977.*

By

The Annual Conference is a place to learn. Its educational values cannot be overstressed. Although we sometimes think of it as a place for society affairs and business, committees, coupled with a few hours of entertainment, renewing old friendships and, finally returning home with a month of keeping in touch.

But it is true that there is no other place better to become enlightened, informed and rejuvenated than at the annual meeting of such renowned professional association such as ours.

If we consider the future of this profession and the sweeping innovations in technology, the broadening horizon of research and the complexity of socio economic and governmental influences on our profession, we must with one accord accept the challenge of the times. To meet the challenge, we must constantly update our knowledge and skills.

This year's theme is "Libraries and the Nation's Health" and hence the topic for our annual lecture is no less related.

The intention in this paper is to give you an outline of the Government plan to fulfil its obligation in bringing health facilities to the people of Nigeria whilst relating it to international health's scenery to justify the need to involve everybody in health care delivery.

The need for provision and use of health literature services for effectiveness will also be reviewed with examples drawn from everywhere including Nigeria and lastly, I hope to draw your attention to some of the challenges posed by the problems which time might have allowed me to discuss. First, an analogy is given for answer to What Is Health Care?

Health is an inalienable right of every creature whether human or animal. It is a basic need. This can be illustrated by the analogy of a child who likes to drink water to quench a thirst, and just turn on the tap and satisfies his thirst not knowing that many hands had been involved in bringing the water so close to him or a thirsty man who turns a faucet, fills a glass, and drinks deeply of cool, pure water. Thus a basic human need is satisfied in simple fashion.

Or so it seems to the casual consumer or the provider. But no one seem to involve himself, at any level beyond that of plumber's helper, with the slaking of thirst can ignore the complex factors which determine whether and how this basic need will be satisfied.

When the horizon is broadened to include more than the local plumbing and to consider public water supplies, the provider of pure water as well as the socially conscious consumer must take into account the influences of geography, political science, economics, chemistry, microbiology, industrial toxicology, epidemiology, system analysis, architecture, and city planning - to name a few. Thus planning in such a field requires an especially long perspective and a great breadth of understanding.



Dr. S. O. OYESOLA

So it is with Health Care ..... To the anxious parent whose infant daughter is wheezing, the process for meeting the need may sometimes appear very simple - call the doctor, who prescribes or indicates mode of treatment, the pharmacist who dispenses the drug, the nurse who administers the medicine, and soon the child is better. A simple, personal services is rendered at the proper time and place to meet an individual's perceived need, or complaint.

But the satisfaction of the needs of society for health care in its broadest aspect is a much more complex process, and many factors will determine whether and how an individual's needs can be satisfied. Health care must be viewed in terms not only of cure but also of prevention and rehabilitation. At whatever angle it is viewed, three important information needs can be identified viz.: Education, Patient Care or Practice and Research.

The Federal Government took some decisive steps to support the saying "The Wealth of the Nation is the people's Health" by including in the 3rd National Development Plan Period (1975 - 1980) a National Basic Health Service Scheme (BHSS)!

## The Basic Health Service Scheme (BHSS):

The Federal Government got a step further in the implementation of the Plan, with the establishment, by decree, an Implimentation Agency for the National Basic Health Service Scheme in addition to the revision of the budget allocation for Health Programmes throughout the country:

A total sum of ₦1,173m. to both the Federal and State Governments for their collective health projects in five years 1975 - 1980.

<u>Federal Government</u>		Nm. 693m
Anambra	State	35.500m
Bauchi	"	42.500m
Bendel	"	38.659m
Benue	"	21.850m
Borno	"	16.750m
Cross River	"	27.350m
Gongola	"	24.147m
Imo	"	40.147m
Kaduna	"	19.658m
Kano	"	27.156m
Kwara	"	15.000m
Lagos	"	40.848m
Niger	"	20.915m
Ogun	"	12.545m
Ondo	"	15.590m
Oyo	"	15.590m
Plateau	"	16.151m
Rivers	"	27.855m
Sokoto	"	21.185m

This showed an increased of N143.002m or 54% over the original allocation. The BHSS objectives, among others, are:

- (1) to initiate the provision of adequate and effective health facilities and care for the entire population as a forerunner for the introduction of National Health Service in Nigeria.
- (2) to carry primary health care to the people in rural and other areas.
- (3) to correct imbalances between preventive and curative health care.
- (4) to correct imbalances in the location and distribution of health institutions.
- (5) to provide the infrastructure for all preventive programme such as the control of communicable diseases, family health, environmental health, nutrition services, health education mental health, dental health, school health, health statistics and community health statistics and community health activities.
- (6) to establish in the long-run, a dynamic health care system best adapted to the local conditions and the level of health technology.

Other favourable signs are:- The new Universities, of Ilorin, Jos, Sokoto, Calabar and Maiduguri started with plans for new medical schools. Many State Governments are now running Schools of Health Technology. The admission to the existing Medical Schools have been doubled in spite of budget cuts and many new hospitals are being built; there is also a government proposal to build at least one teaching hospital in each state of the federation.

In addition, more attention is being given to biomedical research efforts in order to keep pace with the developed nations: The Medical Research Council through the Institute

for Medical Research has also intensified its research programmes.

As expected, other health professional institutions such as the Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, Radiography and Midwifery to mention a few, are being expanded to supply the manpower need of the BHSS.

In addition, to the progressive efforts of the Federal Government in furthering the declared objectives of the BHSS, special attention is given to see that "Health is obtainable at the 'grassroot' of our economy by the establishment of comprehensive Primary Health Care Centres in the rural areas. Special focus of these services include Rural Health Clinics, Dispensaries, and Health Centres.

This bold but ambitious plan enumerated above is consonant with the declared objectives of the World Health Organization expressed in the spirit of international health as man's inalienable right which re-echoed at the last World Health Assembly recently when President Carter reportedly said:-

"...These questions affect us all, since increased international travel hastens the spread of disease throughout the world. But a greater degree of co-operation between scholars and scientists of all nations can slow that spread, and even wipe out certain diseases altogether, smallpox, for example, is almost eradicated... We also know that health and economic development are closely linked. The child with malaria often misses schools, the anaemic worker, with a parasitic infection, is less productive than he should be.

We need to pursue programmes which break this cycle of poverty, disease and hunger. My country also supports the bold and innovative new programme of research in tropical diseases being developed in co-operation with the World Health Organization. These efforts will bring us closer to our goal: a world in which all people can live free from fear of crippling and debilitating diseases.

With these efforts outlined to improve the health care delivery from all fronts by the Federal Government, the need to have easier access to health literature information as part of the National Plan becomes quite obvious.

We shall now examine what facilities are available to meet these needs and then hazard some solutions to where there are very acute inadequacies.

### Health Information Systems For

#### Health Care Professions:

The information systems designed to cater for the needs of the health care staff are many and vary in type of services provided and patrons served. The most common area where they all meet is the demand for information for education, research and practice which must be responsive, rapid and less expensive.

The libraries can be grouped into the following categories:

#### Private or Society Libraries:

Most of these are as old as the society that founded them. e.g. the Royal Society of Medicine London and the Cleveland Medical Association Library in Ohio both were founded in the 19th-century.

Some of the society libraries have museums containing records of the discoveries and inventions in medical sciences. For example, the Howard Dittrick Museum of Historical Medicine in Cleveland is a very important and functional arm of the Health Sciences Centre Libraries in Cleveland Ohio (Helerstein 1977). Many of its activities are based within the academic life of the universities and other academic medical institutions where they are situated.

The society libraries are significantly respected for the roles they play in the teaching of history of medicine which form part of the curricular of some notable medical schools. The Welcome History of Medicine Library in London comes readily to mind. They share in between them magnificent collections of rare books including manuscripts, portraits, and artifacts of ancient medical practices. One of the most essential aspects of these facilities is the use as an educational resource centre for children from the primary school level. The Nigerian Medical Association has no collection of this size and importance.

The libraries have also been used as national resources in many countries, Wade (1976) wrote of the Royal Society of Medicine:-

"I believe that in becoming a British Lending Library Department BLLD back-up the library has taken a really important step towards giving real substance to the hope of our forerunners - that the library should be worthy of the nation."

#### Institute and Research Libraries:

These in name go with the Institute or Research Centres to which they are attached. But the Institutes reflect on medical speciality e.g. The Institute of Child Health in Ahmadu Bello University and University of Lagos respectively. The National Veterinary Research Institute in Vom, and Nigeria Institute of Trypanosomiasis Research in Kaduna. The Research Centres specialise in conducting basic research and they assume national importance. Libraries for the two categories provide services to meet the needs of postgraduate students and research staff in medicine and related disciplines.

The Medical Research Council in Yaba, Lagos, inaugurated on January 26, 1973, is the only one of its type in Nigeria and it is addressed as the Medical Research Council of Nigeria and National Institute for Medical Research with a Director who also is the Secretary to the Council. The Library has been recognised from the outset as important supporting service of the research programmes throughout the Federation.

In the Institute's programme for development, there are provisions for a well-designed and functional library befitting the Institute that will replace the existing very small but useful collection now serving the needs of research fellows and other personnel at the Institute.

There are many well developed research libraries serving the Teaching Hospitals, Government and Private Hospitals, Universities and government institutions in countries where they are established. Some of them like the Clinical Research Institute Library in Norwich, England and the National Institute of Cancer Research in U.S. render services to institutions all over the world.

#### National Library:

It is convenient, considering the time at our disposal to discuss one of these types. The National Library of Medicine (NLM) at Bethesda, in Maryland, U.S.. It is part of the Health,

Education and Welfare Department of the U.S. Government functionaries. It was founded in 1836 as the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, in Washington with well over a million volumes, it takes about 10,000 current periodicals out of which it provided current indexes - author and subject to only about 2,400.

This is published as Index Medicus which first appeared in 1879 as an Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon's General intended primarily for the general practitioner. This a versatile tool for libraries and librarians serving the health care field and deserves some attention.

#### Index Medicus:

As the successor to the Index-Catalogue it covered the whole field of medical literature (Morton 1974) noted that its founder's intention was not to make the Index Medicus cope with the rapid indexing of current literature, but declared in its first preface of Index Medicus of 31 January, 1879, that it would record the titles of all new publications in medicine surgery and the collateral branches received during the proceeding month and that they will be followed by the titles of valuable original articles upon the same subject found during the like period, in medical journals and transactions of medical societies. The periodicals thus indexed will comprise all current medical journals and transactions of value.

The Index-Catalogue, Index Medicus and the baby Abridged Index Medicus had above, all established in the U.S. a pioneering tradition for the comprehensive indexing of medical literature, which had been carried forward to the present day.

Other very useful and important services from the National Library of Medicine will be discussed later for their international importance and as versatile computerized information retrieval tool.

#### Medical Schools Libraries:

The main users of these libraries are the faculty members, students and doctors. The doctors are expected to use the Hospital Libraries which should cater for their clinical and continuing education needs. But invariably, the interns and consultants, probably due to the fraternal ties, are very good users of the school libraries long after they had qualified. Though the ideal thing is to use another library specially designed to cater for their needs.

They also form the majority of the nation's collections in biomedical information for education of budding health care professionals. It was even announced recently that each of the new universities, as earlier mentioned will have a medical school and, by stretch of imagination, they will establish medical or health sciences libraries.

#### What Do These Libraries Do?

Like others anywhere in the world, they all strive to meet needs of their clients through the provision of both graphic and non-graphic materials, the recording, indexing and classifying of these materials. The accessibility and dissemination of information are essential characteristics of the medical or health sciences libraries.

The present trends include the involvement in the use of educational technology through the Biomedical Communication Centres, for instance, at the University of Ibadan, E. La-tunde Odeku's Medical Library, It is a replica of the over used

# CALL FOR MORE CHILDREN BOOKS

Publishing in Nigeria dates back to many decades ago when the colonial lords were at the helm of affairs in this country. The whole idea started with missionary societies pioneering the venture. The christian missionaries started with the printing of religious books and pamphlets which were used to impart moral lessons to the christian adherents and the literate public. There was no limit to what could be published as long as it conformed with moral norms and does not conflict with the laws of the land.

The Nigerian public gulped down their throats the contents of these literatures with less regard to the quality of the contents. We were being led by those we then regarded as all round masters in anything thinkable.

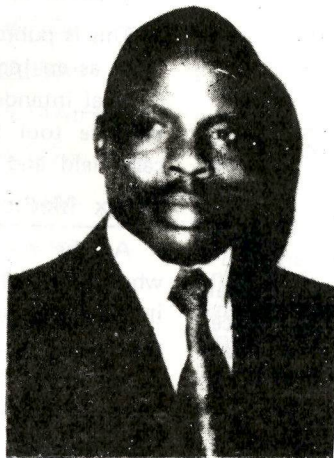
Hitherto many books read in this country came from Europe and we relied on the whiteman solely for our education both morally, socially and economically. They published for us books on varying subjects like English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Religion, Mathematics, Accounting and Secretarial practice. These books were used then and they formed the bedrock of our education.

Today, the tide has changed considerably. Although alien publishers are still many in the country, yet indigenous publishers are encouragingly springing up and this gives us a sort of consolation that a brighter tomorrow is in sight for Nigeria. Perhaps it is pertinent to mention that apart from the missionary publishers concerning themselves with religious books, colonial masters established government documents and information pamphlets to project the image and functions of the government.

It is noteworthy that this century has witnessed the appearance on the printing scene of eminent Nigerians who are worthy in character and learning to man our growing economy in the printing and publishing industry. We can now boast of such publishing industries specialising on not only commercial printing but on book publishing.

It is also noteworthy that even in alien publishing houses in Nigeria such

By



GBOLADE OSUNKOYA

as Macmillan publishing Company, Nelson Publishing Company, we have Nigerians occupying responsible positions which has placed them in vantage positions to assist in the running of the affairs of the companies, and their skill and expertise have contributed immensely to the economy of Nigeria in the printing and publishing industry.

Having spoken briefly on what publishing had been in the past and what it is presently in Nigeria, it is important to draw attention to one vital aspect of publishing which is almost lacking in this country - that is the publishing of children's literature. It has been said that since Nigeria is not yet generally a reading public it has been suspected in some quarters that it will amount to an economic risk to publish books for children.

It should be noted that most of our children in the hinterland of the country are not exposed to education in good time. Unlike the children in advanced countries who have the advantage of early education, majority of Nigerian children start schooling at the age of six years. It was of late that nursery education was introduced to Nigeria and this facility is exclusive to children of the top brass in the society who could conveniently afford the exorbitant cost of sending their children to nursery schools. This has hindered the publishing of children's books.

It is believed that parents, majority of who are illiterates, could not afford to buy books for their children since

many of these parents are very poor and could not even afford three square meals a day. Perhaps it is in place to mention here some of the reasons why children's books have not enjoyed the patronage of publishers in this country.

Apart from the aforementioned reasons, there are insufficient writers of children's literature in Nigeria. The few, who venture, into such avenue do so on part time basis because as it is, the risk being so much in terms of sales and patronage thus making the venture quite unrewarding.

Also, the publishers lack adequate financial resources, manpower, and equipment to handle such venture. The publication of children's books require very sophisticated equipments like four-colour machines and printing papers because children's books are produced with special papers. The duty on printing machines and papers is so prohibitive that it has escalated above the reach of many publishers and unless children's books are cheap many parents will not be able to afford to buy them for their children.

The above are some of the problems facing the publishing of children's books in Nigeria, and it will be in place to suggest solutions to these problems so that the generation of young ones in this country may have the benefit of reading books meant for their age and thereby enjoy the benefits derivable from such books.

First among the solutions I am suggesting is that Nigerian intellectuals should be encouraged to write books for children now that we are in the era of the Universal Free Primary Education (UPE) so that our children may have enough to read. We already have some of them trying to make their mark in the field of children's literature. These include Mabel Segun, Cyprian Ekwensi, Chinua Achebe, to mention a few.

The heavy duty on machines and papers meant for printing books for the use of schools should be lifted so that publishers may be encouraged to import these machines without hindrance.

The government, in pursuance of

its policy on education and in order to realise its dreams on the Universal Free Primary Education, should give financial subsidy to indigenious publishers to mass produce qualitative children's literature and also support this with liberal loan facilities through the banks or direct from government through a board that may be set up for that purpose, so that publishers can operate free of financial hinderance.

Illustrators and graphic artists in this country (thank God we have many of them) should be encouraged to work in collaboration with writers and publishers of children's books so as to produce good quality children's literature for our children. A well illustrated children's book will no doubt arrest children's attention and aid their perception ability.

Finally the Federal Military Govern-

ment should consider as a matter of urgency, the establishment of pre-school education facilities in both urban and rural areas of the country so that the young ones may have a taste of education before their full primary, education begin.

Teacher training programme should be intensified in order to produce sufficient manpower to handle the education of the young ones at both pre-school and primary school levels.

# Accomodation Problem: Causes and the Way Out

By MR TAIWO SALAWU

One of the major problems which the developing countries of the world had to grapple with is acute shortage of accommodation and Nigeria is no exemption.

Generally speaking, Nigeria is an agrarian economy with the majority of the population depending either directly or indirectly on agriculture for their means of livelihood. One is therefore tempted to believe that majority of the population should be concentrated in the rural areas. But this is far from the truth. The urban areas are overpopulated at the expense of the rural areas.

The reasons for this is not far fetched. With the availability of white collar jobs and the concentration of light and heavy industries in the cities, there is an influx of people, especially the young school leavers, into the cities in search of fortune.

Other reasons why there is a mad rush to big cities like Lagos, Enugu, Ibadan, Kāduna and Jos to mention a few, are that despite the fact that the country gained independence seventeen years ago and coupled with the fact that the country is enjoying oil boom, agriculture is still being practised with the same old and crude implements used by our great grandfathers. The method of bush fallow, shifting cultivation and

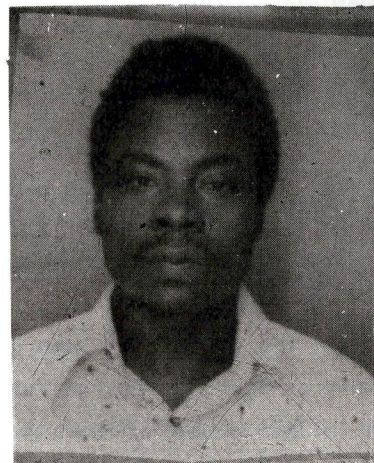
communal land ownership which hinder

extensive as well as intensive agriculture is rampant among a great majority of our farmers.

Mechanization of agriculture is yet in its infancy and the peasant farmers are not yet familiar with the use of tractors fertilizer or combined harvesters as it is the case in other developed economies such as the United State of America, Britain and the U.S.S.R.

Farming in Nigeria is so tedious to the extent that most farmers would not want their children to step into their shoes by taking to farming. Hence you see thousands of people both literate and illiterate flocking into the cities to seek better fortune.

The effect of these mass movements is overpopulation of the cities and depopulation of the rural areas with the result that the various governments of the country are incapable of finding a permanent solution to the big problem of accommodation to every individual that needs one. Consequently, majority of the urban dwellers live in unhealthy, and in most cases subhuman conditions such as in make-shift houses and under the bridges springing up everywhere particularly in Lagos. This has also given rise to social and economic problems such as armed robbery, drug adiction and exploitation of the masses by the



TAIWO SALAWU

few shylock landlords who arbitrarily increase house rents with flimsy excuses.

The governments of the country, both the federal and the state, are, however, trying hard to battle with shortage of accommodation. With the introduction of housing programmes whereby thousands of housing units are built annually by the state and federal governments, it is hoped that the problem will soon be a thing of the past.

The various government decrees and edicts on rent and the setting up of tribunals to adjudicate cases between tenants and landlords over rents and tenancy agreements are steps in the right direction.

Needless to say that much as the governments are trying, the housing problem is far from being completely solved. Efforts should therefore be stepped up by all governments of the federation by way of cancelling contracts awarded to contractors who prove inefficient and dealing ruthlessly with any landlord who increases his house rent without government approval.

By: Taiwo Salawu,  
Head of Stores Section.

# STAFF NEWS

## New Appointments

Listed below are the new members employed to further improve the staff strength of the National Library of Nigeria and in a bid to plug the holes created by those members who left recently. Among the new members of staff are Oluyemi O., Umo, A., Clerical Officers; Afere, A. O., Assistant Clerical Officer; Adejuwon, A. (Miss) and Kalu A. Library Assistants; Olakanpo Y. (Miss) Aliu, F. B., Olude, O. Miss, Lanlchin, S. Oshindeko, E. O. (Miss) Kalu, N. Abawa, O. and Obaleye J. F. (Miss) all library attendants.

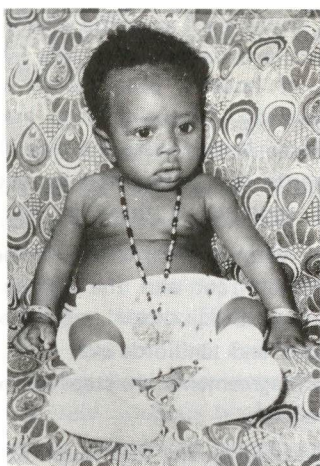
Also recruited are: Jimoh S. S., Tradesman Grade III. Obadiaru P. and Ogunkola O. (Miss) both Typists Grade III; and Awofade C. (Mrs) Telephone Operator.

On the list are also four motor drivers and two night watchmen. They are Alimi T. Aboki U. Adeniyi T. and David S. Drivers; and Gombe M. B. and Gombe G. Night Watchmen. Three gardeners: Tito R. Sule J, Oyiji L. and two Cleaners: Chokwe B, and Dadoe A. were also appointed.

## Confirmation of Appointments

The Management of the National Library has confirmed the appointments of the following members of staff: Akhigbe E. (Miss) Senior Typist, Lana A. (Miss) Sofolabo S. T. (Mrs), Egwurwu J. T. (Mrs), Solanke A. (Mrs) all Library Attendants and Nwogu S. A. Driver.

## BIRTH



**OLATUNJI OYENIRAN**

It is quite some time that we reported any birth in this journal. We are happy therefore to announce the arrival of a baby boy to Mr. Moses Oyeniran, a Driver with the National Library. Little Samuel Olatunji Oyeniran above joined the Oyeniran family on 18th August, 1977 but his photograph got to us recently. We will not deny him a space. Nigerbiblios wishes him a prosperous and long life.

NIGERBIBLIOS is  
growing fast, why don't  
you get together with US!

## Promotions

For every hard work there is always a reward, the Nigerbiblios rejoices with the following members of staff on their recent elevation to higher posts. They are: Abodunde E. O., formerly Acting Deputy Secretary, who now becomes a substantive Deputy Secretary; Salawu T. Clerical Officer Grade 1, now Senior Clerical Officer; Folarin F. B. (Mrs) and Olukoju S. T. both Tradesmen Grade 11, who are now Tradesmen Grade 1.

Others promoted are Martins K, and Akinleye D. O. both Tradesmen Grade III now Tradesmen Grade 11. Four Typists Grade III were among the rewarded hard workers. They are: Anyaeze E. N, Akintelu B. (Mrs) Araka T. (Mrs) and Onyema E. N. (Miss) who were promoted Typists Grade II. Two Cleaners were also elevated to the post of Messengers. They are: Attuah C. M, and Oyekanmi M. A.

## Left the Service

The following members of staff have resigned their appointments with the National Library: Abolaji, J. A., Librarian Grade II; Akhigbe, E., Senior Typist; Ayeni, O. T. and Molake, Y. (Miss) both Assistant Clerical Officer; Ogunnade A. and Odusole, A. O. both Library Attendants.

# STAFF NEWS

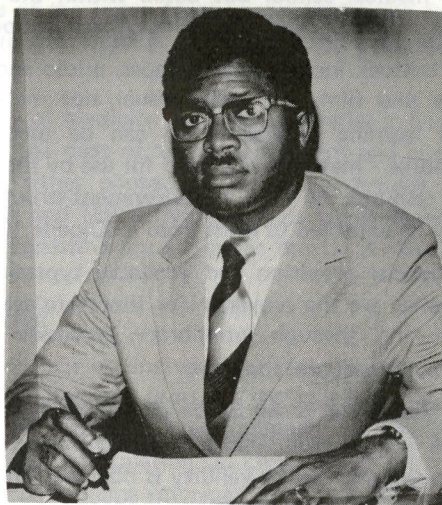
## Aje Elected Chairman UNESCO Council

The Director of the National Library of Nigeria, Mr. S. B. Aje, has been elected Chairman of the UNESCO Inter-governmental Council on General Information Programme.

The announcement was made by the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. W. Lohner, during the UN's Agency Regional Seminar on Bibliographic Control in Af-

rica which had just ended in Lagos.

The Council, which was created by UNESCO at its 19th Session in Nairobi in 1976, is to guide the planning and implementation of the General Information Programme and to promote the development of education, culture, science and technology through co-operation between member states in the context of the Programme.



MR S. B. AJE

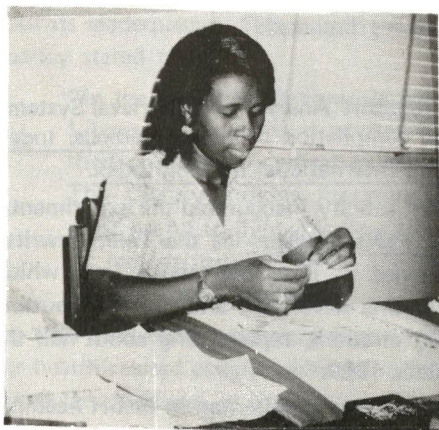
## Omolayole becomes N.L.A secretary

The Head of the Acquisition Department of the National Library of Nigeria, Mrs O. Omolayole, was elected Secretary of the Lagos Division of the Nigerian Library Association at

its last Annual General Meeting held at the Eko Holiday Inn, Victoria Island, Lagos on Thursday, 15th December, 1977.

Nigerbiblios therefore congratulates her for being so honoured. It also reminds her that by her election, all eyes will now be on her because many of her professional colleagues will be expecting nothing short of the best from her being a member of staff of the premier library of Nigeria.

Once again, Nigerbiblios wishes her the best of luck and also solicits on her behalf, co-operation from all members of staff.



MRS. O. O. OMOLAYOLE

## MEMBERS GET TOGETHER

A staff party was again held on 28th January, 1978 this year to bring both members of staff, their spouses and guests together in an informal atmosphere to enjoy themselves and exchange views and ideas.

This year's party was an all-embracing one for participation cut across the entire hierarchy of the organisation. It was not just eating and drinking only during the party, but music was supplied by a chiscoman while a Calabar dancing troupe, some of the casts in the famous radio variety entertainment slot "Join the Bandwagon" and "Zoro" the man who performs some acrobatic feats with his bicycle were in attendance to make the evening a memorable one.

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**NIGERBIBLIOS**

Continued from p. 9

slogan Education or Resource Centre for the Health Sciences Professions. The emphasis of this centre is in the provision of all audio visual materials that form the bulk of instructional support to all academic lectures seminars and other studies in the medical school but based within the library premises - thus forming the Health Communication Centre per se.

Its stock includes slides, tapes, audio and videotapes, films trips and film, and other visual aids materials used during any learning process which can be used as both teaching resource - materials intended for use by the teacher; and learning resource - an item or environment structured so that a user may be expected to learn from it (Ojoade 1977)

Special provision and probably typical of medical school libraries are the provision for literature searches both on the spot and through interlibrary processes for their research or post-graduate students.

Though, it is yet to be confirmed that within the Health Care Information field a lost information can lead to death of a patient, but its validity is obvious. The librarians of these libraries are often faced with situations whereby they found themselves bound by ethical practices to keep our secret secret.

For instance, the writer was on one occasion forced to tackle a reference inquiry involving the offering of an information which may lead to a possible legal proceeding between an unidentified patient and the doctor-lecturer specialist who administered a drug of which the patient had read about its side effects in the literature.

Thus because of their unique connections, the medical school librarians had to be on their guards when attending to their professional duties.

Another area of service in medical school libraries attached to hospitals whether general or teaching is the unspecified number of inquiries coming from the casualty or the surgical operating room. The doctor who perhaps remembered that he had an article on the treatment of a child with short breath once in a journal in the library could call for information on what had been recommended. It is not a strange inquiry to be asked to read the summary or list the prognosis described on the telephone.

The intention here is not to emphasize that the librarians do something extra-ordinary but only to reinforce the fact that the work of these people involve more than the acquisition and loan of books. Librarianship as a service-oriented profession should not only meet the needs of the users but should also anticipate and initiate services that are responsive to needs of the users. These are what the medical school libraries and librarians offer their patrons

### Hospitals and Other Libraries:

Those included under these are the Teaching Hospitals, General Hospitals, Schools of Nursing and other paramedical institutional libraries. Some general features among these libraries are that the Schools of Nursing are usually attached to Teaching Hospital and hence have a joint library service.

General Hospitals (unlike the Nigerian pattern) are characteristically independent of any other health care institution, for example, the General Hospital in Lagos. But no General Hospital by convention could divorce itself from training responsibilities of all categories of staff. An example to us

in Nigeria are the Schools of Health Technology programmes in different parts of the country. For example, in Bauchi State, there would be training facilities for midwives and nurses in their current planning period for which adequate funds had been allocated.

The libraries for hospitals generally cater for the continuing education needs of both doctors and other health professionals including the non medical staff e.g. the technical and secretarial staff. These are the health team needed for quality patient care.

In addition, patient needs are also catered for mostly by the provision of recreational reading materials but ideally based on the advice of the attending physician. It is usual and inadvisable to allow a patient access to the library, even where you have patient-library services well established.

Bibliotherapy is a term often used in error for books generally provided for the use of patients. This is not correct. It is a special service offered by competent and trained staff usually with experience in librarianship to a special group of client whose indisposition could be ameliorated by reading or being read to, some of the carefully selected titles. The users may include mentally imbalanced or those who are temporarily emotionally disturbed. It is usually a service recognized as part of the entire prognosis in health care institutions.

### COMPUTER PRODUCED INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SERVICES

There are many computer data bases very important to health sciences information services. The Chemical Abstract Services (CAS) Biosciences Information Services (BIOSIS) e.g. Biological Abstracts; Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) Services e.g. Current Contents; the Clinical Practice and the Life Sciences are all commended to you for their excellence as essential 'Current Awareness' tools to mention a few. "For now, the following are discussed:

#### Medlars/Medline:

Medlars (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System) is a by-product of the compilation of Index Medicus, Index to Dental Literature and International Nursing Index.

In 1970 the National Library inaugurated the experimental AIM-TWX (Abridged Index Medicus via the Teletypewriter exchange Network) service. It is a new service from which MEDLINE (Medlars on-line developed and provided outline searching of 4,000,000 citations, representing about half the MEDLARS Journals since 1969.

The hierarching of terms, as represented in MeSH headings can be explored on-line and up to 45 users can use the system simultaneously.

The MEDLINE computer recognizes some 9,000 medical subject heading that can be combined to search on a precise topic e.g. Zinc Metabolism: Metabolic Shock: Shock Metabolism. In addition to the subject headings, the computer can search by an author's name, works in the title of the article, a publication date, language, a specific journal, or a combination of these elements. Printed out at the terminal is a listing of references each containing the author, article title, and journal source.

It is also possible to print out the medical subject heading that were used to index each article - In a sense a "telegraphic abstract" Searches that result in large numbers of references retrieved are usually not printed out on-line at the terminal, but off-line at the N.L.M. and mailed to the requester the next day

Medline operationally started in 1971. It permits immediate access to half-a-million references to articles in 2400 of the world's most important health and medical journals. The bibliographical citations in the data base formed by the indexing of current medical literature, contains terms from the special vocabulary for biomedical literature known as MeSH. A trained searcher uses the same list of words to get the requested references for articles on the designed object out of the computer. Citation can also be located by author title, journal or language.

### Where Services can be Obtained Outside the U.S.

About 250 medical and health libraries in the United States and Canada are linked together in a nationwide data communications network. Scientific centres or biomedical libraries in Australia, Brazil, France, Sweden and United Kingdom are making services available in their countries as a part of an international computer based health information network.

MEDLINE materials more relevant to West Africa are made available to libraries in Nigeria through Medline Output on Medicine in West Africa, a service obtainable, until last month, through the World Health Organization Library in Geneva, Switzerland. There in Geneva a terminal is linked directly to the National Library of Medicine. It was no doubt a rapid access to current literature information from the world's leading biomedical journals on West African Medicine from WHO Medline Centre.

Circumstances leading to its stoppage had been the dismay of all biomedical researchers and academic health care practitioners particularly in Nigeria and other Anglophone and Francophone African countries.

As versatile as this service is to us in Africa, it is not without its inadequacies. This is partly due to the journal selection policy stated thus:-

"In the selection of materials for indexing, the National Library of Medicine is advised by a group of distinguished physicians, medical editors and medical librarians. The Library indexes literature that has been judged most useful to Index Medicus Users but it is not possible to include every journal and monograph that might contain useful article".

This statement accounts for the fact that not all medical or health related articles reported in journal published outside U. S. are indexed. In fact, research had confirmed that only two titles out of the twenty-four listed in the Nigerian Health Sciences Periodicals are indexed in the Index Medicus and hence citations of other medical journals are consequently excluded. This matter will be brought up later under the challenges that lie ahead of librarians working in the health care field in Nigeria.

### Charges:

The charge for a MEDLINE Search will vary, according to an institution's policies. Depending on the length and complexity, the user may anticipate a charge of up to \$8.50 for an ordinary search. Some MEDLINE Centres are able to absorb the cost and do not charge the user. The charges sometimes cover the communications cost from the user's terminal to the National Library of Medicine Computer as well as, if applicable, the assistance of an analyst or searcher.

Otherwise the institution, which may be a local hospital,

medical school or other health science library, pays a charge based on the amount of computer time used, telephone communication costs, and the number of references printed out. For the benefit of those who are cost conscious or willing to compare values of the Index Medicus and MEDLINE Services, I commend to you (Harley 1975) article on information costs.

National Library of Medicine Services to libraries in Nigeria are free both for the cost of the materials sent and postage. The materials are either photocopy of journal articles not available in Nigeria and MEDLINE printouts all of these are airmailed to the requesting library under the U. S. Aid Programmes.

### Medline Offshoots:

These consist of other on-line services. They are accessible via terminals which connect users to the computer at the National Library of Medicine. The following are available. TOXLINE (Toxicology Information On-Line) operational since September 1972. It contains information for health professionals and scientists working in the areas of pharmacology/toxicology, environmental pollution, occupational health and safety, medicine, and related field. TOXLINE has an extensive collection of about 350,000 references and abstracts from the scientific literature including references with MeSH terms from Toxicity Bibliography abstracts from International Pharmaceutical Abstracts; and other miscellaneous references on the health effects of pesticides.

SDILINE (Selective Dissemination of Information On-Line) is a data base containing all citations to the forthcoming printed edition of Index Medicus, thereby making available some 20,000 references to users almost one month prior to publication in Index Medicus. This consist of the current month's input to MEDLINE

CATLINE (Catalogue On-Line) is a data base containing full bibliographic information for all monographic and book materials catalogued at National Library of Medicine and appearing in the National Library of Medicine Current Catalogue since 1965. It contains about 150,000 items. CATLINE is used in support of a number of library activities ranging from acquisitions and cataloguing to reference and inter-library loan.

SERLINE (Serials On-Line) is a data base of serial records containing bibliographic and locator information for about 6,500 current biomedical serial titles. Using SERLINE, it is possible to identify which specific titles are held by any of 177 participating medical libraries. SERLINE is used primarily in support of interlibrary activity.

CANCERLINE - sponsored in collaboration with National Cancer Research Institute has some 40,000 abstract in the area of cancer research.

AVLINE (Audio Visual on-line) The physicians through MEDLINE have access to audio visuals housed at the National Medical Audiovisual Centre (NMAC) in Atlanta.

The centre, which has been part of the library since 1967 is engaged in developing a programme that may have an important influence on health science teaching, recertification, and continuing education programmes. With the assistance of panel educators and specialists, the centre identifies, collects and evaluates audiovisuals used in medical and dental education.

Instructional materials judged to be sound in content and high in technical quality had become part of a new on-line retrieval system known as AVLINE.

As with journal articles, the NMAC will lend health science motion pictures of video tapes to institutions of higher learning and to individual health professionals. Whilst on the AV it is pertinent to note additional facilities provided by the Teaching Aid at low cost project of the Institute of Child Health, London and the Royal College of General Practitioners - sponsored Medical Recording Foundation both are producing materials appropriate to Nigerian needs and non-profit-making prices.

The Lister Hill National Centre for Biomedical Communications is another component of National Library of Medicine. The Centre established in 1968 draws on talents of medical educators, system specialists and . . . . .

communication engineers to apply modern technology to the problems of health information transfer. It played an important role in the initial development of MEDLINE and is now engaged in experiments involving satellite communications in support of medical education areas of Alaska.

### **EXCERPTA MEDICA:**

The Excerpta Medica Foundation is an international non-profit organization founded in 1946 with the principal aim to further the progress of medical knowledge by making information available to the medical and related professions on all significant basic research and clinical findings reported in any language throughout the world.

About 4,000 Physicians (Blanken & Stern 1974) 16 collaborate worldwide with the Foundation's Executive Editors and a staff of 100 practicing medical specialists and researchers who serve as index editors with about 250 additional full-time personnel comprising abstractors, medical translators and supervisors, etc., currently publishing 40 titles in Excerpta Medica series of English language journals, each covering a particular biomedical speciality. More than 3,500 of the most important serials in the biomedical field constitute the source material for the data base and the 40 Abstract Journals.

Some special features include first the archives which now contain over half a million microfilm representing over 22,000,000 pages of original articles from the 20,000 individual journal issues received annually by Excerpta Medica which are microfilmed from cover to cover before processing and abstracting.

Thus this microfilmed library, a cooperative endeavour between the Excerpta Medica Foundation (EMF) and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, has ensured since 1960 that complete contents of more than 2,500 biomedical periodicals are stored annually. Secondly in addition to the computer produced abstract journals of the regular series Excerpta Medica produces 20 "special services" or abstract bulletins and bibliographies designed to cover only the very best literature in more than highly specialised subject areas.

Two other sections which go considerably outside the scope of coverage of Excerpta Medica as defined earlier on, are mainly Health, Economics and Environmental Health both of which contain information of general interest to the public and hence should be included in the list of Journals of any library.

In the foregoing I have attempted to list the possibilities and problems of attempts being made worldwide to provide rapid access to information needs of the health care professions. This sketches users' environment of the Health Sciences

Libraries.

Efforts had also been made all along to draw on Nigerian scene in order to highlight some of the challenges of our times.

### **RESEARCH STUDIES:**

It is necessary, to inform or remind some of us one of the few relevant research studies 17, 18 that had been undertaken within the area covered by the topic of this lecture.

### **W.H.O. FEASIBILITY STUDY:**

This is a field study undertaken in 1975 by Seymour Taine, Chief Office of Library and Health Literature Service, W.H.O. Geneva, Switzerland, under the directives of the Director, W.H.O. Regional Office in Africa.

Taine visited some African countries including Kenya and Nigeria with the purpose of advising the W.H.O. Africa Regional Office in Brazzaville of the feasibility of a Regional Library Service for the African Health Professionals. The main purpose, I presume, included recommendations of the probable location of the Regional Library of excellence.

Taine's report identified, among others, the following: training and education of library staff: improved book and journal collection: additional abstracting and indexing of journals: extension of mechanisms for acquiring materials from abroad: photocopying equipment: audio visual equipment. facilitating conversion of local to hard currencies for procurement abroad: improved regional communication: transportation facilities: and extension of the medline service.

Though the report is not yet published but I believe efforts are being made to implement part of the recommendations.

### **HOW YOU ARE AFFECTED:**

The analogy given about the Health Care comes in handy again whether Public, Private or Commercial, academic non-medical and national, you are as librarians, your users cannot afford to be left health-information thirsty.

How many libraries in Lagos beside those who should, have copies of the Nigerian Medical Directory or the Lagos State Hospital Formulary and Mediscope. These, among others, are obtainable free, except the Directory. But they give basic information any user could expect to find in any library. The information on their availability are often made public. For example, the Lagos State Hospital Formulary was announced over the Radio and Television Network News Programmes.

### **RURAL HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICE:**

The Rural Health Service, as mentioned earlier on in the paper is an essential aspect of the BHSS and as far as the brain drain slogan goes, it has greater dimensions within the concept of a developing economy. It is also an open secret that well qualified and progressive young practitioners in the health care field usually find their ways to urban areas after fulfilling the National Youth Corps Service.

It is therefore essential that adequate provisions are made to encourage these cadre of health professionals to stay longer in the rural areas where their services are needed most. An example of lack of basic needs germane to the problem being addressed here can be deduced from (Ogunseinde 1976) when he wrote about difficulties facing a Government Hospital Medical Officer in writing medical papers:

*Continued on p. 18*

# National Library Publications

## S E R I E S

	Nigeria	Elsewhere
1. Special Libraries in Nigeria. 1966	50k	₦1.00
2. The arts in Nigeria: a selective bibliography. 1967	50k	₦1.00
3. 18th and 19th century Africana in the National Library of Nigeria. 1967	50k	₦1.00
4. The National Library of Nigeria: a guide to its use. 1967	Free	O. P.
5. Serials in print in Nigeria, 1967	50k	₦1.00
6. Index to selected Nigerian periodicals. 1965	₦1.00	₦3.00
7. Religious literature in the vernacular in the National Library. 1968	50k	₦1.00
8. A bibliography of Nigerian Arts. 1968	50k	₦1.00
9. A bibliography of biographies and memoirs on Nigeria. 1968	50k	₦1.00
10. Books on Nigerian languages: a bibliography. 1968	50k	₦1.00
11. Index to Nigeriana in selected periodicals. 1966, 1968. (Supersedes Index to selected Nigerian periodicals)	₦1.00	₦3.00
12. Social life and customs in Nigeria: a selective bibliography. 1969	50k	₦1.00
13. Theses and dissertations accepted for higher degrees in Nigerian Universities, 1966-1967. 1969	50k	₦1.00
14. Libraries in Nigeria: a directory, 1966-1967. 1969	50k	₦1.00
15. Serials in print in Nigeria, 1968. 1969	₦1.00	₦3.00
16. Theses and dissertations accepted for higher degrees in Nigerian Universities, 1967-1968. 1970.	50k	₦1.00
17. Libraries in Nigeria: a directory, 1967-1968. 1970	50k	₦1.00
18. Index to Nigeriana in selected periodicals, 1967. 1970.	₦1.00	₦3.00
19. Nigerian books in print, 1968. 1970.	₦1.00	₦3.00
20. Technical journals for industry FID-415 Nigeria 1970	50k	₦1.00
21. Lagos past and present: an historical bibliography, 2nd ed. 1970	₦1.50	₦3.00
22. Theses and dissertations accepted for higher degrees in Nigerian Universities, 1968-1969.	50k	₦1.00
23. Subject guide to periodicals in the National Library of Nigeria: a selected and annotated list. 1970	30k	50k
24. Theses and dissertations accepted for higher degrees in Nigerian Universities, 1969-1970	50k	₦1.00
25. Nigerian books in print, 1970. 1971	₦1.00	₦3.00
26. Nigerian Civil War, 1972	₦1.50	₦3.00
27. Theses and dissertations accepted for higher degrees in Nigerian Universities, 1970-1971.	50k	₦1.00
28. Libraries in Nigeria: a directory, 1971	₦1.50	₦3.00
29. Bibliography on labour in Nigeria, 1910-1971. 1974.	₦1.50	₦5.00
30. Meeting of the Working Group on Interlibrary Lending, Ile-Ife, April 24 & 25, 1974.	₦1.50	₦2.00
31. Nigeria National Conference on Library Statistics, Lagos, July 31 - August 3, 1973. (Report) 1974.	₦3.00	₦6.00
32. Nominal list of practising librarians in Nigeria 1974: 1975.	₦1.50	₦3.00
33. Peep hole into pre-independent Nigeria. 1975	₦1.00	₦1.50
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35. Transportation in Nigeria: a bibliography. 1975.	₦3.00	₦5.00
36. Library cooperation in Nigeria. Phase one inter-library lending Handbook. 1976.		
37. National digest of library statistics 1972.	₦3.00	₦6.00
38. Libraries in Nigeria: a directory 1974.		
39. Conference of State Librarians, 1975. Proceedings.		
40. Theses and dissertations accepted for higher degrees in Nigerian Universities, 1972-1973.		
41. Scriptures in Nigerian languages - a bibliography		
42. Nigerian books in print, 1975.		

(N.B. Series nos. 38 - 41 are not yet published)

PERIODICALS AND CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHIES	
1	National bibliography of Nigeria (Monthly, half-yearly and annually).
2	Nigerbibhos (Quarterly)
3	Annual reports

*Continued from p. 16*

"Government hospitals not involved with medical schools often lack the full facilities of the paramedical sector". He called on the government to improve the situation by the provision of some basic laboratory facilities usually found in teaching hospital and used for investigations and diagnosis:

"Finally" he writes, "a reference library is not easily accessible (if at all existing) to the doctors, yet it can be of great value in stimulating the interest of doctors in searching for references".

What is being done in this area? I would say nothing. The only service similar to this is what Hague (1975) reported as medical library extension activities at Ahmadu Bello University service. This covers three hospitals, Kaduna, Kano and Malunfashi.

This calls for a solution and challenge to planning acumen of our profession.

Nigeria is a developing country with a developing economy. It is one of the places where resources, both in human and materials are scarce. The survival of the nation vis-a-vis the economy, depends on how these scarce resources are utilized.

We should not feel unconcerned anymore with things around us. Health Sciences Information Services, I will suggest, should permeate through our national resources for library provisions. Libraries whether public special or academic must be involved in this crusade.

The Nigerian Library Association as a body has also a part to play. This could be achieved through the Health Sciences Library and Information Services Group of the Nigerian Library Association. The Group was inaugurated at a short but impressive ceremony at the University College Hospital, Ibadan on the 26th of August, 1977.

I will not bother you with the aims of this Group since you can get this from copies of the Newsletter published to commemorate the launching but I will like to mention here and now that other countries, particularly in Africa, are looking forward to Nigeria for a vigorous and more effective leadership in the library profession. (Sheriff 1977), Librarian, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone writes:-

"I say delights because an inauguration ceremony denotes joyous activities of festivity though this is not all that there is to a very important ceremony like yours. There is a more serious and perhaps more memorable aspect of it. That of serious and thoughtful planning for the development and nurturing of a professional association. In this regard we hope your association will make valuable contributions towards the development of medical librarianship not only in Nigeria but in the international field. We therefore look forward to your generating innovative, practical and useful professional ideas which would help solve many of our bibliographic and other problems in Health Sciences".

Other papers delivered on the occasion emphasized among others, the need to create a legal deposit library for copies of published medical and scientific journals, staff development through exchange and training programmes with National Library of Medicine in U. S., retrieval of scattered articles published on Nigerian health problems in many foreign journals and particularly (Nsolo 1977) hinted members of the Health Sciences Library and Information Services (HSLIS) Group at the launching ceremony about the Federal Ministry of Health's proposal to build a new Central Medical Library at Yaba at a cost of ₦883.250 - what a happy note to sound and it is indeed a welcome news

(Amosu 1977) is the latest of all papers affording us a general review and future prospects of libraries serving the health professions in Nigeria. She was forthright in saying:

".....The need for speedy and appropriate information work will even be greater than in the present medical schools because many faculty members will be far from the library and so will students and will have to rely on active assistance of librarians."

Therefore we need in this country and West Africa in particular the following:-

- (a) A Health Information "Clearing House"- this will be the nucleus of all health science libraries in the country cooperating to make their holdings usable by one another. This is necessary so that the library clientele will have access to all by submitting a request to one.
- (b) A simple but very cogent statement of functions which should include availability of information in health sciences research institutions in West Africa.
- (c) An organization composed of professionals and non-professionals but interested individuals in the health sciences literature services for West African countries. The Health Sciences Library and Information Group is a budding agent.
- (d) Government sponsored Indexing Service for all locally published journals. Irrespective of the fact that they are included in foreign indexing service. This will ensure accessibility and promptness.

Finally, knowledge of information is a commodity that has value when it is exchanged or disseminated. But informations should be gathered and organized for use. Hence, the trio - gathering, organising and disseminating of information are desirable prerequisites to Information Exchange.

Unknown information, I submit, Mr. Chairman, is a loss of both human and material resources. It leads to unnecessary duplication and wasteful economic resources. To health matters, it can lead to loss of life if the right information no matter in whatever form, failed to reach the right man at the right time. Thank you for listening.

The question of a standard presentation to ensure the presence of all areas required for full bibliographic description of Nigerian produced books should be taken up very seriously by your Association this year. We are at your service and are ready to provide any assistance in promoting this whenever your executive committee plans to launch it.

Generally speaking your association should be concerned with standards. We are no longer in the early stages of publishing since we have the experience of other peoples to draw on. If we adhere to existing standards we shall not only place our products on a wider market than this country, we shall

also be in a position to contribute positively to the development and improvement of the standards in the world context.

There is no doubt that we are capable of contributing, but before we can we must use what there is and understand it. Then the Nigerian experience will afford stimulus for research and improvement.

### Book Production Statistics

I do not wish to stop this brief discussion without drawing your attention to book production statistics which is collected on national basis and

published by UNESCO. This is a very important exercise and it is urged that every publisher should endeavour to facilitate the collection of such statistics. If your executive so wishes we can discuss the format for the collection at a future date.

Finally, we, that is libraries, as corporate representatives of your consumers would suggest that closer links be maintained on these matters as this is the only way to eliminate the skepticism which usually pervades new ideas as these.

Mr. President, members of the Nigerian Publishers Association, I thank you for listening, and wish you a successful annual general meeting.

# IFLA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Focus on Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC)

*...Being the concluding part of the report of IEFA-50th Anniversary made by members of staff who represented the National Library of Nigeria at the Congress.*

Universal bibliographic control is a long-term programme initiated by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) to ensure effective control of bibliographic records.

The basis of IFLA's approach to UBC was stated as early as 1969 in the following resolution of the "International meeting of Cataloguing Experts" (IMCE) organized by IFLA "Committee on Cataloguing" at Copenhagen:

"Efforts should be directed towards creating a system for the international exchange of information by which the standard bibliographic description of each publication would be established and distributed by a national agency in the country of origin of the publication. The means of distribution in such a system would be through the medium of cards or machine readable records. The effectiveness of the system will be dependent upon the maximum standardization of the form and content of the bibliographical description."

These objectives have been adopted by IFLA and UNESCO as a major priority objective to work towards the creation of a "world wide system for the control and exchange of bibliogra-

phic information"; so as to make "universally and promptly available, in a form which is internationally acceptable, basic bibliographic data on all publications issued in all countries."

In order to achieve the objectives of UBC, both IFLA and UNESCO, for more than two decades, have engaged, at different levels and through various activities, in the promotion and development of:-

- (a) National bibliographies
- (b) International standards for the description of the materials which form the contents of the national bibliographies.
- (c) Channels for the prompt interchange of bibliographic records.

Reports of the activities of the IFLA UBC office, and of the various working groups established for the promotion of the objectives of UBC, were presented during last year's IFLA Congress in Brussels.

### IFLA's Programme of International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions (ISBDs)

Mrs Dorothy Anderson, Director of IFLA International Office for UBC, presented a detailed and comprehen-

sive progress report on the activities of the UBC Office. The IFLA UBC Office was established in July 1974 as an extension of the IFLA Cataloguing Secretariat (1971-74) and with an expansion of its activities, for the purpose of promoting and developing a system of international bibliographic communication.

Mrs. Anderson enumerated the achievements in the area of standardization especially with regards to the use and adoption of the completed ISBDs. She reported on the finished and near-completed products of the various working groups on different ISBDs.

For example, the International Standard Bibliographic Description for Monographic Publications (ISBD(m)), the 1st standard edition of which was published in 1974, has not only been adopted and used by many national bibliographic agencies, but has also been translated into many languages.

A revised edition of the International Standard Bibliographic Description for serials (ISBD (s)) and the first edition of International Standard Bibliographic Description for Non-Book Materials, ISBD (NBM) were published in August last year. Copies of these publications, she promised would be distributed freely to delegates at the

International Congress on National Bibliographies which followed immediately in Paris from September 12th to 15th, 1977. The following ISBDs

ISBD (CM) — for Cartographic materials

and

ISBD (G) — General International Bibliographic Description were reported ready for publication by the end of this year.

Reporting on the achievements in the development of channels for the prompt inter-change of bibliographic records in machine readable format, the UBC Office announced the publication of Universal MARC Format UNIMARC which was then available for purchase.

UNIMARC is recommended to computer-based bibliographic agencies for use in their machine readable cataloguing. UNIMARC specifies the tags, indicators and subfield codes to be assigned to bibliographic records in machine readable form, for monographs, serials, cartographic materials, films, music and sound recordings. UNIMARC will eventually be expanded to include manuscripts and other forms of materials.

The chairmen of the working groups on two other ISBDs—namely, ISBD (Music) and ISBD (Old Books) gave progress reports on their activities.

Referring to previous comments and the need for the revision of existing ISBD texts, Mrs. Anderson envisioned that so far as it was not possible to anticipate all bibliographic problems that might appear, and since bibliographic matters were never static, ISBD texts would continue to be criticised, and consequently each text might not hold firm for more than a few years.

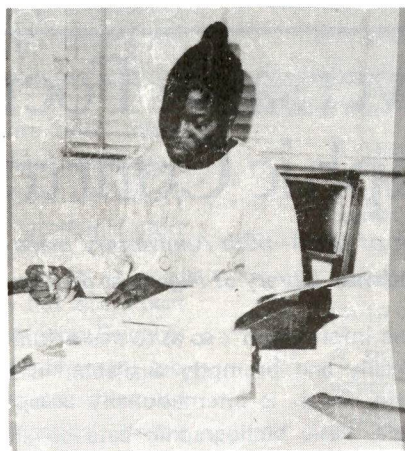
Nevertheless, it would be impractical, in terms of time and money to continue to embark on a series of revision meetings as with ISBD(M) and ISBD(S).

However, future programmes would be directed towards ensuring a combination of "sensitivity to bibliographic needs and users' requirements with the stability of printed texts" -a task which must be achieved "not too fast, so as to leave users in a constant bewilderment" and not too "slow so that our standardization manuals lag behind bibliographic changes."

Concluding, Mrs. Anderson said "IFLA, in its new structure is present-

ing a new professional image to the world, and as part of this image will be a new methodology in watching over its bibliographic standardizing activities." She hinted on the establishment of a small consultative panel in conjunction with the IFLA UBC Office, which was later discussed by the Standing Committee of the Section on Cataloguing.

She finally emphasized the role of the national bibliographic agencies in considering the implications of using ISBDs nationally. Since the ultimate goal of the acceptance of international standard practices as the basis for developing UBC, is better service to library users over a wider range of mate-



MRS B. S. BANKOLE

rials from many more countries, there should be no hesitation in accepting "space slash space, space colon space .....", in other words, ISBDs.

### Corporate Headings

Also as part of IFLA's efforts in the area of standardization, the Working Group on Corporate Headings gave a report of its recommendations concerning the following:-

1. Corporate bodies for cataloguing purposes
2. Problems concerning the form and structure of corporate headings, general consideration.
3. Territorial authorities.
4. Subordinate corporate bodies.

The Working Group on Corporate Headings recommended that an international standardization of the form and structure of corporate headings is essential, along with the use of authority files, for the realization of the UBC programme.

Evaluating the Finger print Standardizing activities of IFLA has also been extended to the recording of finger-prints. Mr. John Feather, Librarian of Bodleian Library, Oxford University, gave a report of the "tests on the use of finger prints in library catalogues". The tests were carried out to establish the "discriminatory ability of the finger print.

According to the report, finger print was designed to be used in union cataloguing projects with a machine readable discrimination in such projects could be done by computer. But it was always intended to be used in conjunction with conventional cataloguing data, not as a substitute for it.

Absolute uniformity of practice in recording finger prints was essential if it was to perform its task properly. If such uniformity of practice could be achieved, there was no reason why libraries should not record finger prints as a matter of course in cataloguing their own early printed books, as has been done at the National Library of Scotland.

Concluding, Mr. Feather recommended the establishment of a small standing committee to act as a clearing house for, and arbiter of, the problems encountered in the application of the finger printing rules.

### National Bibliographies as effective weapons for Universal Bibliographic Control.

The concept of UBC has always been based on the creation of an international network made up of component national parts, all integrated at the national level to form the total system. In order to achieve the objectives of UBC, national bibliographic control must be ensured through the development of national bibliographies. At na-

tional levels, both IFLA and UNESCO have supported and encourage the establishment in each country, of a national bibliographic agency which will:-

- (a) Establish the authoritative bibliographic record for each new publication issued in the country.
- (b) Publish those records with the shortest possible delay in a national bibliography which appears regularly.
- (c) Produce and distribute the records in a standard physical form i.e. cards, machine readable tapes, etc.
- (d) Receive and distribute within its own country similar records produced by other national bibliographic agencies.

During last years IFLA conference in Brussels, Dr. Gerhard Pomassl, chairman of IFLA Committee on Bibliography, presented a comprehensive report of ten years' activities (1966-1976) in the promotion and development of national bibliographies.

These activities include, surveys and analysis of the status of current national bibliographies throughout the world; the publication of the "Synoptic Tables concerning the current national bibliographies"; and survey of the status of bibliographies in the develop-

ing countries.

Dr. Pomassl in his report welcomed IFLA's decision to establish a section on bibliography, which was to be merged with the section on cataloguing to form the Division on Bibliographic Control. This he said "means a new quality in the bibliographical work within IFLA, as the section on bibliography will be able to rely on the former Committee on Bibliography".

He recommended that the new section should pay further attention to the question of current and retrospective national bibliographies; and it should assist particularly those countries which have just started to build their own bibliographical system. Dr. Pomassl hoped that together with the section on cataloguing, there should be an exchange of experience between national bibliographic centres on the introduction of international standards such as ISBD, ISBN (International Standard Book Number) and ISSN - International Standard Serial Number.

The section on bibliography should deal with the relations between UBC and UAP (Universal Availability of Publications); and with the important questions of international and national cooperation between the national bibliographies and specialized bibliographies. He concluded with the advice that research should be done in many implications automation had for bibliographical work.

During the long discussion which followed this presentation, a number of issues concerning the coverage, comprehensiveness, of, and responsibility for production of, national bibliographies; together with relationship to archival collections and the bibliographic control of journal articles in order to ensure full coverage, were raised and debated.

Some of the questions raised were postponed for further discussion during the World Congress on National Bibliographies following the IFLA Congress. However, it was unanimously agreed that it was very important to have "a bibliography which is up-to-date".

The following resolutions were made at the end of the session - that regional seminars where targets could be set for periodic review should be held; a journal of communication should be established; available hands to be sent to other needing countries, and finally that the programme should be reviewed a year after the initial workshop.

**International Congress on  
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cluding the standardization of library statistics, manuals on various catalogue tools; directories of reference works in particular fields and regions; support for seminars and conferences; and support for the work of non-governmental international organizations such as IFLA, ISO/TC 46 (International Standards Organization Technical Committee 46 Documentation) and FID (International Federation for Documentation)

The activities of UNESCO in the area of UBC have been based on two policies - concern for fundamental study and research; and reliance on national activities. UNESCO believes that development of national conditions are essential to the progress in universal bibliographic control.

For this reason, it had in the past sponsored series of regional meetings on the planning of library services i.e. for Latin America in Quito in 1966; for Asia in Colombo in 1967; for Africa in Kampala in 1970. and for the Arab countries in Cairo in 1974.

The Paris World Congress on national bibliographies was organized by UNESCO, within the frame work of its "General Information Programme" in collaboration with IFLA, as a forum for the meeting of many national bibliographic agencies. The main objectives of the congress were to identify similarities and to suggest standard practices for those elements which are common to all national bibliographies; and to make recommendations which have validity for all, in order to facilitate the exchange of records and hence to make the physical objects so recorded more easily obtainable.

The congress was attended by over 200 experts made up of editors and producers of national bibliographies from the member countries of the

United Nations. During the four days of the world congress, a working document, prepared by the IFLA International Office for UBC, copies of which were sent in advance to all the invited delegates, was examined and discussed in detail.

The experts deliberated during the eight working sessions on specific aspects, such as:- the national bibliography: basis and objectives; requirements and specifications; expansion and developments and the national bibliography of the future. It is remarkable that the Director of the National Library of Nigeria, Mr. S. B. Aje, was elected the President of this World Congress.

Ten resolutions were passed at the conclusion of the congress, the highlights of which include:-

Legal deposit laws; selection of materials for the national bibliography; presentation and frequency of the printed national bibliography; International information systems; the International Serials Data System and Resource Sharing.

On legal deposit, it was resolved that UNESCO draft model legislation would serve as a basis for member states in attaining national bibliographic control, and would take into account the relationship between copyright and legal deposit. On selection of materials for the national bibliography, the Congress agreed, that national bibliographies as a minimum, include the records for monographs and first issues and title changes of serials, including official publications of the national imprint.

Considering the importance of the International Serials Data System (ISDS) the Congress resolved that member states should promote the esta-

ishment of a national serials data centre, if possible, within the national bibliographic agency and that the Interrelationship of the ISDS data file and the serial records of national bibliographies, be studied and the results of the study be considered in the revision of the ISDS guidelines.

Finally, with regards to cooperation and resource sharing, it was decided that UNESCO and other appropriate institutions be asked to provide the necessary funding to establish pilot schemes for national bibliographic agencies, or to produce national bibliographies and to support national, regional or international, seminars and training workshops for these purposes.

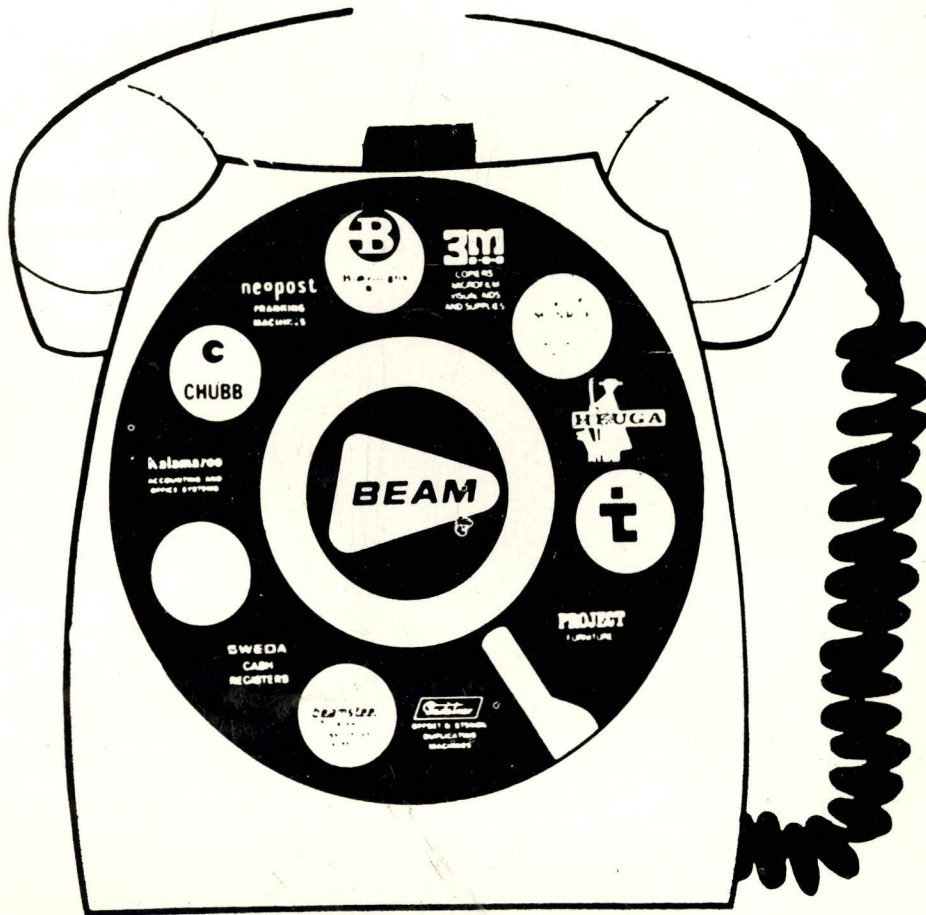
It is not possible to include every detail in this short report. Therefore, a fuller and more detailed analysis of the deliberations at the congress, will later be made available.

UBC, as conceived by IFLA and UNESCO, is a long term policy, with a programme of activities encompassing a wide range of recommendations and projects, some of which cannot be expected to show results immediately. However, as more countries adopt international standards for their bibliographic records, and as more countries develop their computer based information systems, the concepts of UBC will become a reality.

Mrs. B. S. Bankole  
Head, Cataloguing Dept.  
National Library.

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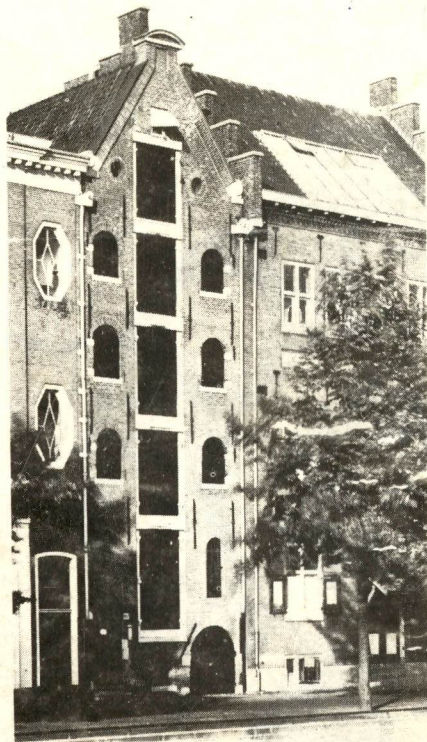
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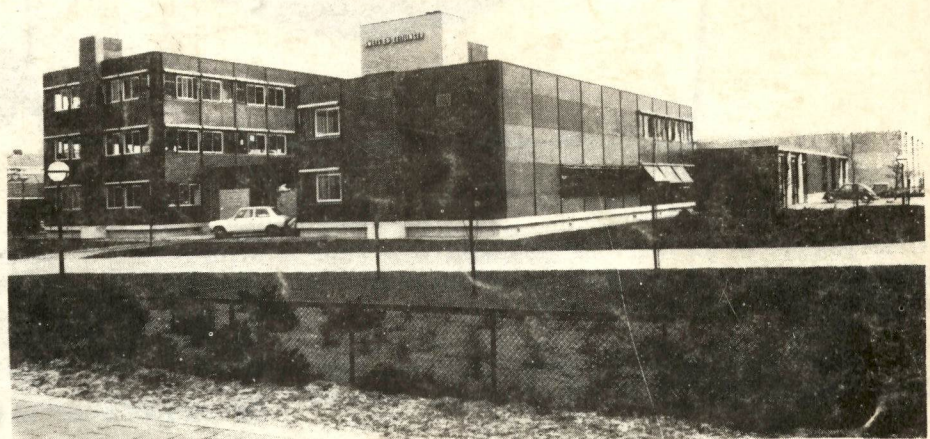
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