



ADDRESS BY THE NATIONAL LIBRAIAN DURING THE UNVAILING OF BOLDSCHOLAR - A MULTIDISCIPLINARY E-LIBRARY PLATFORM WHICH ACT AS A COLLECTION POINT OF ONLINE PUBLISHED MATERIALS FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA ON NOVEMBER 03, 2023 AT CHINUA ACHEBE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, MAMMAN VATSA WRITERS VILLAGE, MPAPE.

Protocol

It is with great joy and excitement that I stand to speak to you on this special occasion which serves as a dream come true experience for me and the entire staff of the National library of Nigeria. It is the mandate of the National Library to collect, process and preserve all information materials emanating from Nigeria, written about Nigeria, by Nigerians for Nigerians and beyond for current and future use. This mandate has been religiously executed with all the attending challenges including unawareness and resistance from the stakeholders.

However, with the evolving transformation in the information packaging, processing, distribution and access engendered by Information and communication technology, it became obvious that the mode of legal depositing, preservation and access creation will be redefined. For National Library to continue as the giant memory of the country there is need to re-strategize with the aim of collating and preserving these resources in-spite of their forms and

location. The initial move was to request stakeholders in the publishing and information production windows to deposit resources both in electronic and print forms. The approach was possible for only few who produced in both print and electronic formats. We are then faced with the challenge of convincing online publishers to either release access point for their online publications or at worse to harvest the resources for storage in the National Library. While we continued to brainstorm with similar International agencies to learn from their approach, BoldScholar approached the National Library in 2022 to offer a solution similar to what obtains in the Library of Congress and other National Libraries that are worth their names.

The National Library signed MoU to partner with BoldScholar along the line of our desire in June 17, 2022. Thus, Boldscholar will serve as the Databank of National Library for all online publications that fall within the mandate of the National Library as Giant Memory of Nigeria. This arrangement provides online publishers access to the bibliographic publication control services of the National Library including International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and International Standard Serials Number (ISSN) and International Music Number (ISMN) and all their attending services. It will also serve as a reliable access point for such publications.

For us in the National Library, we are happy that all the online publications by Nigerians are collated and stored in a safe space. We are also assured that their access from the National Library Internet Protocol (IP) is unhindered and unique.

The platform will serve as one amazing database that will provide a win-win opportunity for all stakeholders in the world of information including the authors, publishers, printers, users and the National Library as the Nation's memory. The later will ensure that history is preserved.

Ladies and gentlemen, Boldscholar will break the jinx as the first of this kind in Nigeria and indeed sub-Saharan Africa. I therefore recommend that you key into the facility as provided, explore, exploit and maximise the benefits it offers.

Thank You for Listening

Prof Chinwe V. Anunobi

National Librarian