Library and social media as facilitator for national unity and security in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to know how Library and Social Media serve as facilitator for national unity and security in Nigeria. The study adopted a correlational research design with a population of 3,840 comprising of students and lecturers of different levels. A random sampling technique was adopted and Krejcie and Morgan method was used to determine the sample size of 350. The instrument used was tagged "Library and Social Media as Facilitator for National Unity and Security (LSMFNUSQ)". The instrument was validated by five experts and a field trial of test retest was done to know the internal consistency which yielded 0.79 co-efficient. 350 copies of questionnaire items were face-to-face administered to the respondents and 200 successfully retrieved. Mean statistics was used to analyse the research questions and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (r) was adopted to test the hypotheses. The study noted that Library and Social Media played a high level of role towards national unity and security. Among other things, the study recommended that there is need as an issue of priority to establish more public and school libraries which will help cultivate reading habits among youth and adults. Books on security issues should be stocked in the libraries for users

Introduction

According to Ogunsola (2011), traditionally libraries are involved in collections of books, manuscripts, journals, and other sources of recorded information. In the last 50 years, libraries have increasingly developed into a provider of information resources and services that do not even require a building. The Library's traditional lasting objective is to provide access to relevant information resources. The aim of this is to give high value to the needs and expectations of users. Generating and sharing information is useless if there is no way to locate, filter, organize and access it. Libraries collect, stock, process, organize, disseminate and distribute information/knowledge recorded in documentary and non-documentary sources/formats. Since knowledge and information are so vital for all round human development, libraries and other institutions that handle and manage knowledge and information are indeed invaluable in national security and unity (Ossai-Ugbah, 2013).

Empirical evidence has shown that librarian role is changing from a static mode; providing library services from physical and traditional library to a dynamic mode; providing access to information irrespective of formats. Hence, social media (networking) technology is an integrating tool of education that can serve as catalyst for national security, unity and development in Nigeria (Oghenetega & Ejedafiru, 2014). Apart from information acting as catalyst for national development and social change, it is geared towards the preparation of the ideal man and mind. The ultimate hope is that literate people in Nigeria who are products of modern library services including social media will be equipped with relevant knowledge and skills for survival. Social media have affected communication between people in educational

community positively since the past two decades. Now, life is made easy by this media for academic, social, and political development of any that is connected to it as well as solving national security and unity. In the Nigerian Tribune (2018) Adamu pointed out during Library Week, Conference/Annual General Meeting in December 13th 2018 at Oyo State Library Board, Dugbe, Ibadan, Oyo state that a country cannot have unity, if she has no security. He further noted that both libraries and social media contribute effectively to national development and security. These two as social agents of change can be used in fighting ignorance, illiteracy, poverty, crime and terrorism. He further stressed that Libraries and the social media have no doubt brought tremendous progress in all ramifications of human development in Nigeria, Africa and globally. He emphasised the importance of the online platform, the E-library to publish article that will counter fake news or other forms of wrong information common on the social media. Also speaking in the above same mentioned conference, Professor Oyesoji Aremu pointed out in Nigeria Tribune (2018) that a country cannot have unity, if it had no security. He therefore, stressed the importance of the use of library as the best place to acquire knowledge in fostering unity in our immediate environment and Nigeria at large. According to him, there is no problem one cannot solve with the help of reading books because through that, several experiences are gained. He backed this up with a recent suicidal attempt which he was able to stop with the help of a book he read many years ago.

Statement of the Problem

The issue of security is a national and global problem. Library and social media are places of sending and receiving vital information.

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Therefore, this study sought to determine how Library and Social Media can serve as facilitator for National Unity and Security in Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate how Library and Social Media can serve as facilitator for National Unity and Security in Nigeria. The study specifically sought to:

1. Determine the role of library towards national unity and security
2. Determine the role of social media towards national unity and security

Research Questions

The under stated research questions were posed to guide this study

1. What is the role of library towards national unity and security?
2. What is the role of social media towards national unity and security?

Hypotheses

Two null hypotheses was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance

1. There is no significant relationship between the role of library and national unity and security
2. There is no significant relationship between the role of social media and national unity and security

Review of Related Literatures

The Roles of the Library in National Security

Historically, libraries have always been a key contributor to national development and it is appropriate that they take a leadership role in the current movement on national security. The word 'national security' is used by politicians and military leaders in the line of a policy objective. However, national security loosely defined refers to the protection of the interests of a country (Ossai-Ugbah, 2013). This is where it takes a wide meaning as all-embracing dimension of national life (Hussain, 2008 and Iradia, 2011) because; threat posed to any element of national power creates security problems. The role of the library in national security is not just to spread information in a particular area but to offer a holistic approach, around all aspects of the policies of the country called Nigeria. Currently, the war on terror and terrorism is not only fought by the armed forces but the whole nation that engaged in the economic, scientific, political and social activities and happenings in all practicable fields of life. For the library, this is a feasible objective, which is achievable through the information and dissemination process of the library. National security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic, diplomacy, power projection and political power (Ossai-Ugbah, 2013). Information is therefore a crucial factor in national security. This is because the line between security and insecurity lie in information given or information withheld. The ability to use information and its associated tools is a source of power for any nation which the library and librarians are best equipped to do. In Nigeria's current security challenge, citizens and government must recognize this need for information use and literacy as a means of national security (Noruzi, 2006).

Information remains the only product which the library handles and this includes all media in which the information is shaped. The only means through which the real integration of people living in political, economic, religious and ideological poles could be brought together through the actual cooperation and exchange of vital information between the two: the terrorist and the terrorized.

The philosophy behind the library and its services is based on information collection, categorization, conservation, and management. At this time, when Nigeria is still in democratic embryo, ideological divides which is the threshold upon which terrorism thrives can be countered through effective information dissemination. There is an urgent need for provision of right information, in the right format, for the right people, at the right time, and in the right place to stem the tide of ignorance. The long years of political and religious distrust in the country has fanned the flames for crises that have polarized the society and divided Nigerians across ethno-religious lines. To allow every Nigerian to read from the same page, it is important to flash the searchlight of information dissemination on restive areas so that they cannot be used to destroy the hard earned peace and unity the country is presently enjoying.

Nwalo (2003) observed that the compilations made by mobile libraries reflect perceived needs of local communities. This will help to provide security services to communities and help citizens and patrons of the library attain maximum information services, in spite of their vocations. Ifidon and Ahiauzu (2006) defined information as structured data that causes a human mind to change its opinion about the current state of real world and contribute to a reduction in the uncertainty of the state of the system. Since information is a transformation agent, a shaper of perspectives and philosophies of life, the onus lies on libraries as information centres and librarians as information managers to ensure that Nigerians have access to information that will direct their actions. Anasi (2010) agreed that "information is necessary for people to be liberated from the shackles of ignorance, misconceptions, economic stagnation, social unrest, and political instability. Social cohesion cannot be achieved without timely, accurate, and relevant information." This is because information is fresh ideas or fact taken out of a person's surrounding for use with the objective of transforming behaviour in all areas of human life.

Information helps create enlightened and responsible citizens. The library is the gateway to information. It is a place where information is acquired, processed, repackaged, preserved, and disseminated (Anasi, 2010).

Social Media (Networking) Services

A social networking service is an online service, platform, or site that focuses on building and reflecting of social networks or social relations among people, who, for example, share interests and/or activities (Nwakaohu, 1999). Online community services are sometimes considered as a social network service, though in a broader sense, social network service usually means an individual-centred service whereas online community services are group-centred. Social networking sites allow users to share ideas, activities, events, and interests within their individual networks (Suraeera, 2010).

The use of online social networks by libraries and information organizations is also increasingly prevalent and a growing tool that is being used to communicate with more potential library users, as well as extending the services provided to individual libraries. The various social networking sites librarians can use to provide services are both at international and national levels, which include: Facebook, MySpace, 2go, UC Browser, Opera mini, Twitter and others. One of the good things about these sites is that the applications are acceptable in many of our camera phones owned by users of the library such as Blackberry, Nokia phones, Techno, IP computer, IP phones, LG products,

Samsung galaxy, Apple, Android, and Java phone among others.

Libraries/Librarians Roles in Social Media Tools for National Security and Unity

(Suraeera, 2010) stated and explained the following social media that could be used as tools for National security and unity:

MySpace: MySpace (http://www.myspace.com) is an extremely popular social networking site which primarily has a social function allowing people to make friends, talk online and share resources.

Facebook: This is another social media site frequented by library users and is librarian friendly, it also encourage group communication among patrons.

Blog: By creating a blog, one will be able to disseminate information to a lot of people at same time. Whether one is updating patrons on new collections, or just conversing with library staff, blogs are a powerful tool.

Meebo: Librarians can use this tool by creating a network of library users thereby assisting them, no matter what the clients are using. Online chatting or virtual reference service in library can be impacted by professionals to clients.

LinkedIn: This social networking site for professionals is a great way to get library patrons connected with the people that can help them find information. Some professionals publish their work through LinkedIn.

Twitter: Twitter, a micro-blogging application is used to keep staff and patrons updated on daily activities, like frequently updated collections, new arrivals, and current content services of library.

Information Distribution through Social Media Tools for National Security and Unity

Khan, & Bhatti (2012) explained how the following social media tools could be used by librarians to disseminate information:

Flickr: This image distribution tool is a great way to share new image of collections. Library can share photo collection of workshops, conferences and different programme that are organised within the library environment. It may be used to share photos of physical building and areas where materials are stored and may include staff offices. One can create image sets with metadata, as well as take advantage of the many plugins available for Flickr users. Flickr users can also help gather missing information about images.

YouTube: Library video and e-learning tutorials, events and other videos of library services can be effectively promoted through YouTube.

Teacher Tube: Teachertube, which is a YouTube for teachers, presents an excellent opportunity for instructor-librarian collaboration. Librarians can guide students to useful library resources through YouTube.

Wikipedia: Wikipedia is an online encyclopaedia updated by users. One can use this tool to share one's knowledge by editing, or simply point library patrons in the right direction. Librarians can also host their library websites on wiki software like PBWiki.

PBwiki: PBwiki is the world largest provider of hosted business and educational wikis. It encourages collaboration from students, a way to showcase work, and offers a central gathering point for information. PBwiki offers controlled access, some can give some editing privileges while others are read only.

Footnote: On Footnote, user will get access to original historical documents, and can update them with his own content and insights. One can even find personal anecdotes and experiences which one will not find in reference books.

Community Walk: Community Walk offers a geographical way to interpret text and events. It can be used for instruction, such as showing someone where to find a book, or walk them through a historical and geographical timeline.

Slide Share: This can encourage faculty members and students to share their slideshow presentations for the greater community to access. It is a great way to disseminate information among research community

Digg: Digg is a great way to find useful content that one would not come across in traditional ways. Here, stories are found and can be shared with others using Digg's blog function.

Stumble Upon: Another way to find great content is with Stumble Upon. One can channel surf to the Internet to find useful content, research tools, and more.

Daft Doggy: This is another social media tool librarians can use to find a particularly good resource. They can also use it to create a website tour with instructions, pointing out useful references and items of note

Methodology

The study adopted a correlational research design to find out the relationship between Library and Social Media and National Unity and Security in Nigeria. The study covered Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUE) with Departments of Political Science and Biology, University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT) with Departments of Computer Science and Sociology, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) with the Departments of Law and Mathematics, Captain Elechi Amadi Polytechnic (CEAPOLY) with the Departments of Office Technology & Management and Science & Laboratories Technology (SLT), University of Uyo (UNIUYO) with Departments of Business Education and Mass Communication, University of Calabar (UNICAL) with Departments of Sociology and English & Literary Studies, Rivers State University (RSU) with Departments of Business Education and Mass Communication. 240 Lecturers and 3,600 students from twelve Departments of the six universities and polytechnics were carefully selected to form the population of 3,840 ranging from Years 1, 2, 3 and 4, National Diploma I, II and Higher National Diploma I and II. The lecturers range from the categories of Graduate Assistants to Professors. A random sampling technique was adopted and Krejcie and Morgan (1970) method was used to determine the sample size of 350. This is the technique used to determine the sample size of a known population.

The instrument used was tagged "Library and Social Media as Facilitator for National Unity and Security Questionnaire *(LSMFNUSQ)*" with a four point scale of Very High Level of Role (VHLR; 4 Points), High Level of Role (HLR; 3 Points), Moderate Level of Role (MLR; 2 Points) and Very Low Level of Role (VLLR; 1 Point). The instrument was validated by three experts and a field trial of test retest was done to know the internal consistency which yielded 0.79 co-efficient. 350 copies of questionnaire items were face-to-face administered to the respondents and 200 successfully retrieved. Mean statistics was used to analyse the research questions and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (r) was adopted to test the hypotheses. The decision point was that any calculated grand mean from 2.5 and above was accepted and any grand mean below 2.5 was rejected. Also, any calculated value of (r) that was greater than > the critical table value of 0.113 at 0.05 significant levels, such null hypothesis will be rejected and vice versa

Results

Research Question 1: What is the role of library towards national unity and security?

Table 1. Computed Mean on the Role of Library towards National Unity and Security.

SN	N = 200, TNR = Total Number of Response							
	Items statements	VHLR 4	HLR 3	MLR 2	VLLR 1	TNR	X	Remarks
1	Collection of books, manuscripts, journals	150(600)	50(150)	0(0)	0(0)	750	3.8	HLR
2	Sources of recorded Information	100(400)	100(300)	0(0)	0(0)	700	3.5	HLR
3	Provide access to relevant information resources	170(680)	30(90)	0(0)	0(0)	770	3.9	HLR
4	Sharing information is useless	180(720)	20(60)	0(0)	0(0)	780	3.9	HLR
5	Facilitator for national development & social change	160(640)	40(120)	0(0)	0(0)	760	3.8	HLR
6	Fighting crime and terrorism	190(760)	10(30)	0(0)	0(0)	790	4.0	HLR
7	National security/unity	200(800)	0(0)	0(0)	0()	800	4.0	HLR
8	Fighting ignorance	160(640)	40(120)	0(0)	0(0)	760	3.8	HLR
	Grand mean/SD						3.8	HLR

Researcher's Field Survey, 2019.

The grand mean and grand standard deviation in Table 1 above showed 3. 8. This means that there is high level of role of library towards national unity and security in Nigeria

Research Question 2: What is the role of social media towards national unity and security?

Table 2. Computed Mean on the Role of Social Media towards National Unity and Security.

SN	N = 200, TNR = Total Number of Response							
	Items statements	VHLR 4	HLR 3	MLR 2	VLLR 1	TNR	X	Remarks
1	Make friends, talk online & share library resources	160(640)	40(120)	0(0)	0(0)	760	3.8	HLR
2	Encourage group communication among patrons	100(400)	100(300)	0(0)	0(0)	700	3.5	HLR
3	Virtual reference service in library	170(680)	30(90)	0(0)	0(0)	770	3.9	HLR
4	Professionals publish	180(720)	20(60)	0(0)	0(0)	780	3.9	HLR
5	Facilitator for national development & social change	200(800)	0(0)	0(0)	0()	800	4.0	HLR
6	Fighting crime and terrorism	190(760)	10(30)	0(0)	0(0)	790	3.9	HLR
7	National security/unity	100(400)	100(300)	0(0)	0(0)	700	3.5	HLR
8	Current content services of library	150(600)	50(150)	0(0)	0(0)	750	3.8	HLR
	Grand mean/SD						3.8	HLR

Researcher's Field Survey, 2019.

The grand mean and grand standard deviation on Table 2 above showed 3. 8. This means that there is high level of role of Social Media towards National Unity and Security in Nigeria.

Table 3. Computed (r) Between the Role of Library and National Unity and Security.

	Variable	N	X		Df	Alpha level	r-cal.	r-crit.	Remark	Decision
1	Role of the Library	200	3.8							
					180	0.05	1.621	0.113	Significant	Rejected
2	National Unity & Security	200	3.8							

Researcher's Field Survey, 2019.

The result in Table 3 above revealed that the (r) calculated value is greater than r-critical value. Since the r-calculated value of 1.621 is greater than the r-critical value of 0.113, the null hypothesis which stated there is no significant relationship between the role of library and national unity and security is rejected. This means that there is significant relationship between the role of library and national unity and security in Nigeria.

Table 4. Computed (r) Between the Role of Social Media and National Unity and Security.

	Variable	N	X		Df	Alpha level	r-cal.	r-crit.	Remark	Decision
1	Role of the Library	200	3.8							
					180	0.05	1.711	0.113	Significant	Rejected
2	National Unity & Security	200	3.8							

Researcher's Field Survey, 2019.

The result in Table 4 above revealed that the (r) calculated value is greater than r-critical value. Since the r-calculated value of 1.711 is greater than the r-critical value of 0.113, the null hypothesis which stated there is no significant relationship between the role of social media and national unity and security is rejected. This means that there is significant relationship between the role of social media and national unity and security in Nigeria.

Discussion of the Findings

From the analysis of research questions 1 and 2, respondents agreed that library played high level of role, which served as facilitator towards national unity and security. Also, social media played high level of role towards national unity and security.

The opinions of the respondents are in agreement with Ogunsola (2011), who noted that traditionally libraries are involved in collections of books, manuscripts, journals, and other sources of recorded information. Adamu in Nigerian Tribune (2018) also noted that both libraries and social media contribute effectively to national development and security. These two (libraries and social media) are social agents of change which can be used in fighting ignorance, illiteracy, poverty, crime and terrorism. Any threat posed to any element of national development creates security problems (Hussain, 2008 & Iradia, 2011). The role of the library in national security is not just to spread information in a particular area but to offer a holistic approach, around all aspects of the policies of the country called Nigeria.

Currently, the war on terror and terrorism is not only fought by the armed forces but the whole nation is engaged in the economic, scientific, political and social activities and happenings in all practicable fields of life. For the library, this is a feasible objective, which is achievable through the information and dissemination process of the library.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it is concluded that Library played a high level of role and Social Media also played a high level of role towards national unity and security as well as served as facilitator for National Unity and Security in Nigeria.

Recommendations

1. There is need as a matter of priority to establish more public and school libraries which will help cultivate reading habits among youth and adults.

2. Government should budget and allocate more funds to libraries because if there is free flow of relevant information, unity, peace and progress are achievable

3. Relevant authorities should ensure they tap from the electronic library in addition to the conventional libraries.

4. Books bordering on security issues should be stocked in the libraries for users

5. Security agencies should as a matter of deliberate government policy work closely with librarians in the war against terror

6. The curriculum of various degree and non-degree awarding institutions should be redesigned to accommodate issues on national security for all students

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