DIGITAL LIBRARY SERVICES AND ITS CHALLENGES IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

Elejene, Albert Obiora[1], Ekuma, James Nkorabon[2], Akilapa, Babatunde Olaniyi[3] & Ejiga A.I.[4]

[1&4]Department of Library and Information Science, Federal Polytechnic Idah, Kogi State
[2&3]Department of Computer Science, Federal Polytechnic Idah, Kogi State
Email: Elejenealbert@Yahoo.Com, Ekuma_Ejn@Yahoo.Com, tundearmstrong@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Revolution in today's digital computing world has not only impacted computing industry, but also library services and entrepreneurship education. Even though entrepreneurship is a relatively new paradigm in management science, Education and Technology, it has attracted increasing interest among scholars. It prepares and builds individuals to be responsible and enterprising individuals capable of deep entrepreneurial thinking that contribute to economic development. Nigeria especially in the face of the global economic and energy crisis requires graduates who will be job "creators" and not job "seekers". The rapid globalization of world markets and economies has encouraged entrepreneurial organizations of all sizes and national origins to foster entrepreneurship throughout their operations. This paper examined the concepts of digital library services in the development of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria. The benefits of digital library services in the development of entrepreneurship education are equally addressed. Also it discusses challenges of the digital library services to Entrepreneurship development in education. The paper finally made recommendations that will enhance a full blown impact in Digital Library Services.

Keywords Digital, Library, Services, Challenges, Entrepreneurship, Education:

INTRODUCTION

Digital Library Services, though relatively new in developing countries like Nigeria, is popular in developed countries of the world. It is capable of providing services to users irrespective of where they may be through electronic means Elejene (2002) describes the Digital Library Services as that which involves collaboration between library users and librarian in a computer-based medium, which utilizes various media such as e-mail, web forms, chat, video, web customer call centre, software, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) etc. Using these media, users and librarians get connected to interact electronically. Madu in Omoniyi (2008) describes a virtual or digital library as that whose variety of information resources such as books, journals, articles, newspapers, magazines, etc, could be accessed through the use of computer and telecommunication facilities.

CONCEPTS OF DIGITAL LIBRARY SERVICES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

An entrepreneur according to Livingstone (2007) is a person who is willing and able to convert a new idea into a successful innovation. An entrepreneur is a business man or woman who assumes the risk of bringing together factors of production-land, labour, and capital and receives reward in form of profit from the market value of the product. In a digital library environment, physical contact between users and librarians is highly minimized. A user can have access to all sorts of information resources that a library stores electronically, especially in online databases. However, some of these resources could be stored on CD-ROM and other electronic storage devices whose access may warrant the physical presence of a user. In the virtual or digital environment, access is only made electronically without users being physically present in the library. Madu (2008) describes the features of virtual or digital services as follows:-

- Absence of physical contacts between users and librarians, all services are provided online or remotely.
- Computers and other sophisticated telecommunication technologies are used in the provision of the services.
- Services are provided by pooling the resources of other libraries through networking. The development of internet facilities and their uses in libraries brought about serious development for Librarians. To some; it may be seen as a means of easing the burden of a reference librarian in such a way that it provides the opportunity for him to provide electronic services as well, which adds to his everyday work.

It is however, worthy of note that the comfort and satisfaction of every librarian is his ability to explore all kinds of techniques and means to provide users with what they want at the quickest possible time. Where that may be difficult to provide, at least they are guided as to where or how they could get their information deficiencies solved. Whichever way it is, there is no doubt that library services are better provided electronically than by traditional ways.Should all libraries operate digital services, users would no doubt benefit immensely from a very wide range of resources that are located in different parts of the world. In essence, resources could be shared among various libraries, which would enable users have access to them. However, for digital or virtual services to be provided, a library must possess the following infrastructures;

- Computers
- Telecommunication facilities including modem
- Internet service provider
- Relevant software that would allow inter connectivity among computers remotely
- Constant power supply
- Trained personnel, etc.

Online/virtual library services was facilitated because of a number of factors such as improvement of computer memory technology,

development in hardware technologies; development made in the national and international telecommunication and the improvement in the command language (Gash, 2000). Tanim in Gamar (2014) examined some online reference services which could be provided with the World Wide Web. Through the internet users get access to reference librarians within a limited time. The following are some examples of the type of digital and remote services offered by libraries in various countries.

> Ask, A librarian by Library of Congress http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib. A virtual reference service offered by Library of Congress which allows users to get librarians' help by either completing a general inquiry form or through a chat service available at designed hours of the day.
> Ask A Librarian EARL's National Digital Reference Service by the UK public libraries http://www.ask-a-librarian.org.uk
> Ask A question by the Internet Public Library http://www.ipl.org/div/askus/etc

These services are only possible through Wide Area Network of computers such as the World Wide Web or tools that were of interest to libraries. They includes:-

- E-mail=also called simple mail transfer protocol.
- Telnet=which is a remote login that allows a local computer to connect to a remote computer as a terminal. It can be used to connect to various kinds of databases around the world.
- File Transfer Protocol (FTP)= this involves the movement of files from one computer to another. Services such as electronic document delivery, anonymous file transfer protocol and transfer cataloguing records can be provided by libraries. Elejene (2014) posited that digital library services enhances teaching and learning of computer skills, teaching and learning repetitive tasks, teaching and learning intellectual thinking and problem solving skills, stimulating creativity and imagination, research and communication.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

Education is the pivot of every developmental efforts of a nation including Nigeria. Federal Government of Nigeria (2004) in its National Policy on education reaffirmed that education is a vehicle for national development and an instrument "per excellence" for effecting development, (Obunadike, 2013). Entrepreneurship education simply means the type of education, which helps a person to acquire relevant knowledge and skills to start a new business initiative with the ultimate aim to generating income in the society. The knowledge and skills being acquired are very much relevant to the economic environment of the areas concerned. The word "entrepreneurs' means a person who starts a new business in order to generate income to improve his living conditions in the society. Entrepreneurship education is a process of including knowledge and skill to assist a person assemble resources, innovations, finance, business acumen and effort to transform these into economic goods (Shane, 2003).

The Benefits of Entrepreneurship Education

The study of entrepreneurial education has never been as important as it is today when the world is confronted with challenges that extend well beyond the global economy, (Unachukwu, 2009). Some of the benefits of entrepreneurship Education includes the following:

- Aids the realization of goals of education: The target of education across nations today is the programme of inclusive education. The place of entrepreneurship education in the realization of this programme cannot be over emphasized. As established earlier, entrepreneurship education motivates students and sustains their interest, their individual problems and challenges notwithstanding. As a result, they develop great interest in school subjects and consequently benefit from education.
- Increasing economic competitiveness: In the world especially in the face of the global economic meltdown, the establishment of industries capable of creating jobs and wealth has come to be the

cornerstone for the future economic growth of any nation. Only persons who are greatly skilled in entrepreneurship can establish and sustain such industries. Gottleib and Ross (1997) observed that entrepreneurs are made and not born and elements of entrepreneurship can be taught and learnt. The expansion of training and educational opportunities for desiring entrepreneurs therefore affords them benefits that would enhance their level of economic competitiveness.

- Improving academic performance of students: Entrepreneurship education goes beyond teachings on how to operate a business but extend to encouraging creative thinking and promotion of a good spirit of self worth and accountability. This shows that the phenomenon keeps people (especially youths) who for any reason lack interest in the traditional school system committed to their work. Such persons include those gifted or talented, physically challenged or financially challenged. Through entrepreneurship education which emphasizes other aspects of academics, including self worth, such persons are motivated and enabled to work towards realization of their dreams. With such motivation, they perform better in their academics and graduate from school. In support of this, Charney and Libecap (2003) observed that entrepreneurship is an important educational innovation that provides impetus to learning about learning.

Challenges of Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria

Despite the profound benefits of entrepreneurship education, it is still not fully blown in Nigeria. The problems that impede the development of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria include the following:

Inadequate infrastructural facilities: Due to inadequacy of facilities like electricity, access to information, there is increased problems confronting the development of entrepreneurship education. There is the difficulty of communicating ideas and wary with other areas.

Education: Entrepreneurship demands a talented workforce. Our system of education fails to provide the necessary foundation for such a workforce. Our schools up to the tertiary level present do not have well developed curricular that emphasizes initiatives to increase accountability. There is need for training and retraining programme that will provide necessary skills that can enhance entrepreneurship education.

Lack of Data: Data for entrepreneurship education has been lacking. There is little or limited programme design for entrepreneurship education.

Economic Pressure: Some Nigerian parents prefer their children to make money in the short term over the long term benefits of education. This makes it difficult for youths to devote enough time required for training in entrepreneurship. It is also as a result of such pressures that Nigeria is faced with a high rate of child labour without any skill in entrepreneurship.

High Cost of Technological Equipments: The cost of equipments is very high and is not easily affordable by the young graduates or young aspiring entrepreneurs. This makes it difficult for development of entrepreneurship as technology is closely related to entrepreneurship. There is therefore, the need for provision of affordable technologies.

Finance: There is need for substantial funds to support teaching in practical terms, of entrepreneurial education in order to produce successful entrepreneurs. These funds could come from internal sources like personal savings, financial support from friends, relations, traditional cooperative societies or externally from institutions like banks, government agencies and non-governmental organizations. These sources do not guarantee fund due largely to lack of collateral which they may require.

Benefits of Digital Library Services

Omoniyi in Umar (2015) stresses the importance of digital libraries especially in academic environment as;

- Improvement of academic activities through the provision of current literature.
- Enhancement of scholarship through access to shared digital collection
- Enhancement of academic libraries serving the educational community in Nigeria to global library and information resources.
- Providing guidance to academic libraries on how to apply appropriate technology used in the production of digital library resources.
- Advancing the use and usability of globally distributed network of library resources.
- Solving the problem of inadequate book collection in academic libraries.

Challenges of Digital Library Services

Going by the current scenario in integrating entrepreneurship education through digital library services, the following challenges still persist.

- Lack of Information and Communication Technology skills to combine with the existing pedagogical content knowledge to support teaching, learning and research
- Lack of training and re-training in the use of digital library resources for entrepreneurship education
- Insufficient number of computers, shortage of power supply, problems of internet and network failure, difficulty in integrating ICT to instruction and inadequate software.
- Different professional bodies such as Nigeria Library Association, Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria (LRN) National Association of Library and Information Science Educators (NALISE) have not shown enough commitment to

the issue of ICT application and integration in Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria.
- Lack of collaboration with international organizations like African Virtual Open Initiatives and Resources (AVOIR) with institutions of higher learning.

CONCLUSION

The birth of Global Service Mobile (GSM) Communication in Nigeria, decades ago has brought about significant development in communication. The immense advantages individuals and organizations enjoy from the facility indicates that it has come to stay. Although provision of necessary infrastructure for digital library services in our libraries are inadequate and in some cases lacking, yet the future of digital library services in Nigeria could be said to be bright. For Nigeria to achieve the economic blue print of diversification of its economy to enhance wealth creation and employment opportunities there should be concerted effort from the government and other stakeholders in education to mobilize digital library services that can guarantee effective entrepreneurship education programme online.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is clear that the foremost condition for the provision of digital library service is the availability of the basic information and communication technology facilities such as computers, telecommunications, internet connectivity, constant power supply. In order to address this problem therefore, there must be service commitment on the part of the relevant bodies
- There should be collaboration with International Organizations such as International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) and African Virtual Open Initiatives and Resources with tertiary institutions in Nigeria.
- Substantial amount of money must be made available for entrepreneurship education

- There should be adequate data programme design for entrepreneurship education. Sufficient number of computers and relevant software should be made available in libraries for effective service delivery.
- Professional bodies should show commitment to applications of ICT facilities and integration in entrepreneurship education.
- Access to stable power supply should be put in place by the government and possibly there could be public, private partnership in the provision of power supply in the country.

REFERENCES

Charney, J. and Libecap, S. (2003) Information System Theory and Practice. New York.

Elejene, A.O. (2002) Application of ICT in Academic Libraries and Science Information Centers: *International Journal of Management and Technology 1(1):53-63.*

Elejene, A.O. (2014). Functional Library Education for Development of Reading Culture in Children. *Journal of Business and General Education. 6(1)*

Federal Republic of Nigeria (2004). Nigerian National Policy on Education, Abuja.

Gama, U.G. (2008) Reference and Information Service Delivery and the Utilization of ICTs in University Libraries in Nigeria. Kaduna: Apani Publications.

Gama, U.G. (2014). Reference Services in the Digital Age: +what Hope for Reference Librarians in Nigeria? *Bayero Journal of Library and Information Sciences Vol. 1(1) 32-39.*

Gash, S. (2000) Effective Literature Searching for Research, 2nd Edition. England: Gower Publishers.

Gotteib, E and Ross J.A. (1997). Made not Born". HBS Courses and Entrepreneurial Management. *Harvard Business School Bulletin. Vol73pp 41-45.*

Livingstone, C.A. (2007) Founders of Work Stories of Work early days. New York: Berkey, C.A. press New.

Madu, E.C. (2008). The Basics of Audio-Visual Librarianship. Ibadan: Evicoleman Publications.

Obunadike, J.C (2013) Reliance of Teachers Attitude and Willingness in Implementing Integration of Entrepreneurship Education into Secondary School Curriculum for Quality Assurance. *International Journal of Educational Research 12(2)116-127.*

Shane, S. (2003) A General Theory of Entrepreneurship; The Individual Opportunity. Neus Edward.

Umar, M.(2015) Internet and Globalization of Information: A Paper Presented at the General Meeting held at ABU Zaria, April, 29.

Unachukwu, G.O (2009): Modern Economics for Senior Secondary Schools Book 1. Nsukka: Hallman Publishers.