



Global Advanced Research Journal of Educational Research and Review (ISSN: 2315-5132) Vol. 4(2) pp. 020-028, February, 2015  
Available online <http://garj.org/garjerr/index.htm>  
Copyright © 2015 Global Advanced Research Journals

*Full Length Research Paper*

# **Alternative Funding of Academic Libraries in Nigeria: Case Studies of Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library ,Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife and Wusto Library, Wesley University of Science and Technology, Ondo**

**Obadare Sunday Olurotimi and Hezekiah Oluwsanmi**

Principal Librarian Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria

Accepted 11 November, 2014

The author examine the present sources of income in the two academic libraries and come up with a suggestion that alternative sources of funds are necessary for the survival of academic libraries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century . The researcher makes use of interview, documentary evidence for the study. The results of the study reveal that there other sources of incomes that were neglected which could have fetched them a lot of money to keep afloat. Such area include, binding of theses, reference services, printing, indexing and abstracting, consultancy services, e-resources, internet search, grants and aids. The study concludes that the management of both institutions to have a written policy these alternative sources in order to give legal backing to the library to effectively embark on the exercise to avoid crises and lack of understanding on the part of the users.

**Keywords:** Funding, academic libraries, alternative.

## **INTRODUCTION**

An academic library is central and important in any academic institution. Its importance hinges on the relevance that is attached to research which is the core area in any university in the world. Research, being a continuum, is an exercise that must not be inhibited by any factor be it finance or lack of relevant books in order to achieve optimal results.

Library is in the front burner because any serious researcher must be in constant touch with the library for its needs. This is why the National Universities Commission {NUC} embarks on routine visitation to universities to ascertain the library holdings and their relevance to the academic needs of researchers and by extension lecturers and students. However, funding has

become an albatross {Ola,C.O. 2001} because human needs are endless while the available resources are limited. This situation has drastically affected most institutions to procure relevant books and materials coupled with their inability to sponsor staff to conferences and workshops. Therefore, there is a compelling need to source for alternative funds to meet the ever increasing demands of the library in order to be relevant not only to their clientele but the public. The fact that funds come from the university to the library has not really made librarians to be on their toes when it comes to fund raising either from corporate organizations or individuals and this situation has greatly affected the clientele over a long time Recently, the Librarian Registration Council {LRCN} organized a workshop in March 2013 at Enugu on grant proposal writing for librarians with the aim of equipping them to write beautiful proposals for grants

---

\*Corresponding author Email: [soabadare2003@yahoo.co.in](mailto:soabadare2003@yahoo.co.in)

from donor agencies, yet, it should not be limited to this because there is the need to build the consciousness in librarians to always face the reality that funds are not forthcoming hence they have to seek for alternative funding to make ends meet.

The federal government who is the proprietor of federal universities is still battling with budgetary allocation to ministries and parastatals owing to instability in the world price of crude oil and oil theft [The punch, Mon .April, 2013 p.29]. This situation has a great toll on the funding of universities and in recent times, universities have been receiving budgetary allocation as and when due which has drastically affected academic libraries. On the other hand, private universities are not finding it easy because funding of universities is capital intensive; there are lots of competing demands and their finances are contingent on student population. Most of the private universities had to increase their fees in order to remain afloat. This situation has great impact in the development of academic libraries hence it becomes imperative to source for alternative funding. Popoola {2005} opines that in view of the reduction in annual budgetary allocations to information service organizations especially libraries, archives and information centres by their owners, the managers of these information systems must embark on priced based information services. This will enable them to recover their costs on the provisions of information services to users. He reiterated further that libraries must be capable of generating revenue if possible making maximum profit using appropriate pricing policy. He concluded that any good or service that is provided free is never valued.

## History of Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library

## History of Wusto Library

## Statement of Problem

Funding challenges of academic libraries has always been a recurring decimal. The inflationary trend in the country is quite alarming and this has a great toll on the operations of the library especially academic libraries that have in one of its objectives the provision of research. Funding challenges has manifested in the inability of libraries to procure essential materials and sponsor staff on training. This study seeks to find out the current budget and sources of funds for the two libraries and factors that may affect the introduction of new sources of funds as viable alternatives for income generation.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study aims at examining the existing sources of funds for academic libraries and proposes viable

alternatives for income generation to assist the libraries to function properly.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions are tenable:

1. Is there any budget for academic libraries?
2. Do you receive your budget as and when due?
3. What are the current sources of revenue for your library?
4. How much do you charge users?
5. Are you satisfied with the income generated so far?
6. If no, what are the other sources of revenue for the library?

## METHODOLOGY

In order to obtain up to date information for this research, documentary method and interview were employed for the study. The researchers were able to check the documents in the various institutions as copious evidence and obtained valuable information from the staff on how they generate funds and how much that has been generated from such undertakings in the past three years.

The information got from the interview and documentary evidence was carefully tabulated in the past three years spanning 2010, 2011, and 2013 respectively. Other sources of funding as Alternative Avenue for income they would have generated in the past three years were equally highlighted.

## Justification for the Study

## Literature Review

WIKIPEDIA{2013} defined funding as an act of providing resources , usually in form of money or other values such as effort or time for a project , a person, a business, or any other private or public institutions. Abubakar[2011] citing [Akporhonor,2005] defined academic libraries as libraries attached to tertiary institutions such as universities, polytechnics, colleges of education, college of agriculture, college of technology and also research institutes. Academic libraries are at the forefront of providing services to their respective communities which comprises students, lecturers, and researchers in order to support their teaching, learning and research needs. Scholars have emphasized on the crucial role of academic libraries in research and scholarship in institutions of higher learning.

Ubogu and Okiy [2011] remarked that funding models for academic libraries vary greatly, depending on whether

the institution is private or public. Omole(2009) categorized the university fund administration into three ; recurrent, capital and research. He stated further that the aggregate cost per year to train a student in a medium range international level University across disciplines is US\$20,000.000(twenty thousand US dollars) which is about N2.5m today. Tertiary educational institutions should constantly explore ways and means of meeting its academic obligations and at the same time generate fund to improve their environments.

University libraries receive direct allocations from the parent institutions and being one of the various units in the university, it has to compete with other units based on the available funds from the host university [Ubogu and Okiy 2011 citing Omotayo, 1997]. The fact that funds come from the university to the library has not really made librarians to be on their toes when it comes to fund raising either from corporate organizations or individuals and this situation has greatly affected the clientele over a long time. Recently, the Librarian Registration Council {LRCN} organized a workshop in March 2013 at Enugu on grant proposal writing for librarians with the aim of equipping them to write beautiful proposals for grants from donor agencies, yet, it should not be limited to this because there is the need to build the consciousness in librarians to always face the reality that funds are not forthcoming hence they have to seek for alternative funding to meet ends need.

Coffman{2000} stated that the most critical challenge facing librarians as we enter the Third millennium is how to generate revenue that can replace the institutional support we once assumed would never stop. Swaydan[2013] opines that academic libraries are in great need for money; all over the world are facing budget reduction or cut. At the same time, some university administrators still look to library as one of their challenges because of the cost of building collections. Some university administrators look to the library as a bottomless pit that can absorb all the funds available: they think no institution has enough money to maintain and operate a library that is satisfactory to the faculty. Abubakar{2011} remarks that the situation in private universities also tends to portray a gloomy picture as the story seems to be the same. In most private universities, the proprietor dictates the tune and when money is not forthcoming the library is worst hit because there would not be priority for procurement of books and materials and the only song in such situation is survival.

Most libraries are experiencing funding problems because Nigeria as a country is facing economic quagmire. According to Nwafor{2013} the third world university libraries are currently perched on a precipice. The state of emergency could be declared in the libraries as a result of the worrisome state of our publishing industries coupled with the shortage of paper, ink, photographic plates, and printing machines. This situation has led to few publications in our countries and the

frustration of librarians is shared by the reading public.

Ubogu and Okiy{2011} advised that library should be accorded high priority because it permeates every strata of the society just like water and air, libraries have an integral part of human existence. Fund is needed to meet all these competing demands if it has to be relevant in the society.

Okon Uya{2013} said that school without a library is not a school. Therefore, it is important to fund the library without any hesitation and being a growing organism, it has to be continually funded in order to meet the global challenges. Books are to be constantly procured and processed by competent Librarians who must of necessity be well remunerated. Ola, C.O. {2011} opined that to starve university of funds is a dangerous exercise that will eventually stifle or paralyze research exploits and academic engagements. He expatiated further that the importance of the library can be measured from the rating given it during accreditation exercise by the National University Commission{NUC} and other professional councils of various disciplines. The quantity and quality of research outputs in any institutions can be easily measured by the type of library that exists in such institution.

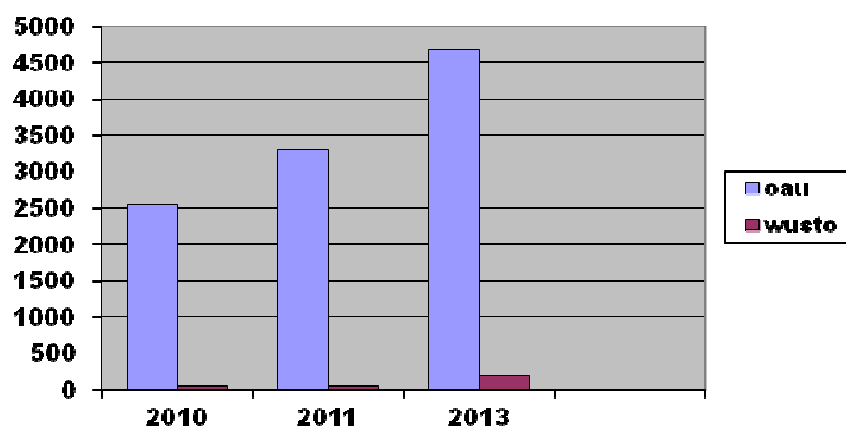
### **The Need for Alternative Funding**

In basic economics, it is stated that man has insatiable wants and resources are scarce. Therefore, we need to source for other sources to complement the limited resources. The second reason hinges on the fact that library has to prove to the academic community that it can stand on its own and cater for its needs. It is only when the library is able to generate its own revenue that it can have the boldness to challenge any unwholesome entreaties against its revenue. The library being a growing organism is constantly in need of money to finance its multifarious projects in the ever changing technological age. The resources to cater for the library in this digital age is enormous hence, alternative sources of funds are compelling factors for the sustenance of the library. The library must constantly be furnished with current books to meet the ever increasing research demands of its clientele because lack of necessary materials are negative factors and flaws during the accreditation exercise which might not be ascribed to the university management immediately but to the University Librarian who is believed to be a professional that is saddled with such responsibility. For instance, if any faculty fails the accreditation exercise, the University librarian shares in most of the blames likewise when faculties are fully accredited, he receives the accolades. Essentially, alternative sources of funds must be on the top priority of any academic library not only for the institution but also for the relevance of the library profession.

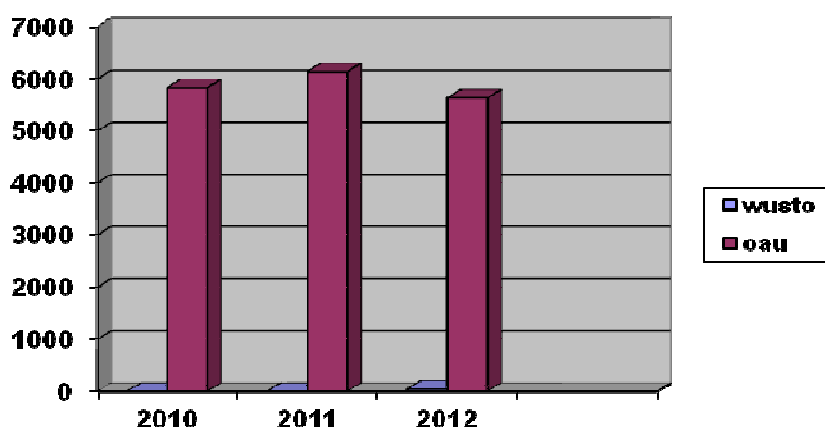
**Table 1** Library Registration in both institutions in the last three years.

Institutions	2010	2011	2012	total
O.A.U	2551	3298	4673	10522
.WUSTO	65	58	201	324

Source Field survey, 2013

**Table 2** Total number of Graduates in the last three years

	2010	2011	2013	Total
OAU	5824	6133	5632	17589
WUSTO	Nil	Nil	43	43

**Table 3** Revenue sources in both institutions

	Registration	Fines	Lost cards	E-library
O.A.U., Ile ife.	√	√	√	√
WUSTO, Ondo	X	√	X	x

Source Field survey, 2013

The figures above show the level of registration in both libraries and the total for the last three years.

The table indicates the total number of graduates in

both institutions during the period under review.

The table 3 highlights three sources of revenue being explored by OAU, Ile-Ife while WUSTO library only

**Table 4** Total Amount made from the present revenue sources

Institutions	2010	2011	2012	Total
O.A.U., Ile Ife.	N131,800.00	N182,900.00	N249,200.00	N563,900.00
WUSTO, Ondo	N2000.00	N3500.00	N5000.00	N10,500.00

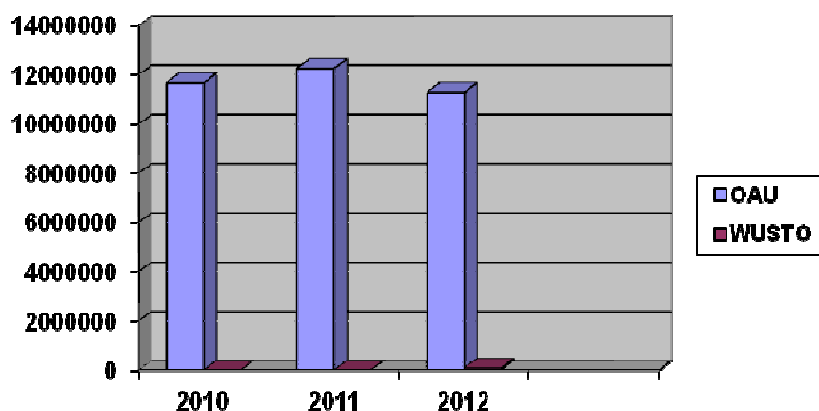
Source Field survey, 2013

**Table 5** Amount accruable to both institutions in other sources which were untapped in the last three years.

(a) Bindery

	2010	2011	2012	Total
O.A.U., Ile Ife	N11,648,000	N12,261,000	N11,264,000	N35,178,000
Thesis@N500 each x4 copies per student N2,000				
WUSTO, Ondo	Nil	Nil	N86,500	N86,500

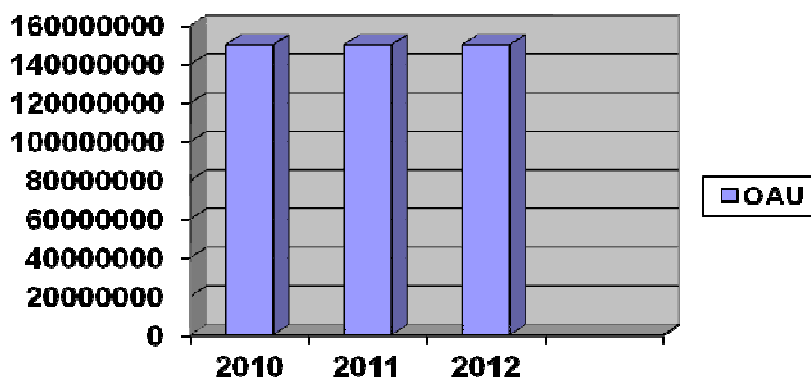
Source Field survey, 2013



(b) Library consultancy services

(Indexing and abstracting, reference services, information brokerage and training.)

	2010	2011	2012	Total
O.A.U., Ile Ife.	N1.5m	N1.5m	N1.5m	N4.5m
Indexing of book @ N30, 000 per book. An average of 50 books per year including training and others jobs.				



## (c) Court Records

	2010	2011	2012	Total
O.A.U., Ile Ife. Search fee @N2,000, Certify true copy @N1,000 per page, Court Representation @ N50, 000.	Total no. of requests 31 N62,000	Total no. of requests 20 N40,000	Total no. of requests 17 N34,000	68 Requests N136,000
WUSTO, Ondo	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

**Table 6** Alternative sources of funds to be explored by both institutions

Items	OAU	WUSTO
Binding of projects	√	√
Consultancy	√	√
Printing	√	√
Court records and representation	√	X
Indexing and Abstracting of books.	√	√

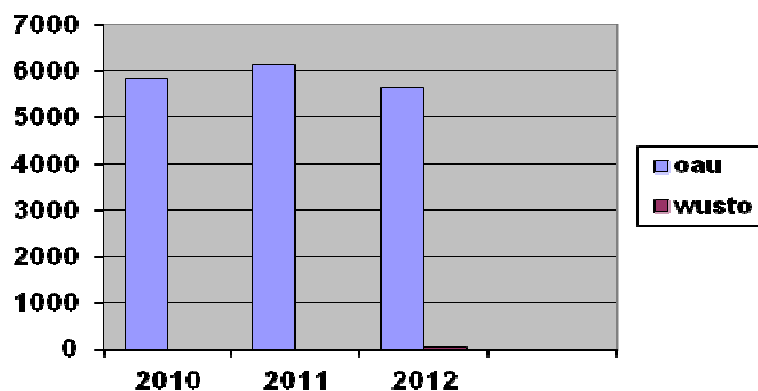
Source Field survey, 2013

**Table 7** Total amount that could have accrued to both institutions in the last three years from alternative sources.

1. Binding of Theses

(a) N500 X 4 (N2000.00)

Institution	Years	No of graduates	Amount expected
OAU Ile-Ife	2010	5,824	N11,658,000
	2011	6,133	N12,266,000
	2012	5,632	N11,264,000
	Total	17,589	N24,138,600
Institution	Years	No of graduates	Amount expected
WUSTO	2010	Nil	
	2011	Nil	
	2012	43	N86,000
	Total	43	N86,000

**Table 8** Cloak Room: N5 per bag. 10% of the total number of readers per annum

School	Years	No of graduates	Amount expected
OAU Ile-Ife	2010	12116	N60584
	2011	13064	N6534
	2012	23877	N119386
	Total	49057	N186,504
School	Years	No of graduates	Amount expected
WUSTO	2010	105	N525
	2011	125	N625
	2012	178	N890
	Total	408	N2040

Source Field survey, 2013

**Table 9** Library consultancy

Indexing, Abstracting, reference services, information brokerage, training

School	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Total
OAU. Ile-Ife Indexing of book (N30,000 per book) an average of 50 books per annum training and others.	1.5m	1.5m	1.5m	N4.5m
Consultancy (N100,000) per year. Catchment areas a.Oduduwa University, Ipetumodu b.Wesley Univeristy of Science & Technology Ondo. c.The Polytechnic, Ile-Ife. d.College of Education, Moro. Fountain University Osogbo.	N500,000	N500,000	N500,000	N1.5m

Source Field survey, 2013

**Table10** Other sources that could be worked upon in both libraries

Institutions	Use of carrels	Increment of registration fees	Increment of fines	Grants Aids	Court records	Use of carrels	printing	Indexing and abstracting	Reference services
O.A.U, Ile-Ife	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
WUSTO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Source Field survey, 2013

makes use of fine as sources of revenue for the library.

Both institutions stand to garner a lot of money from bindery. Total amount accruable to the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife runs into millions of naira yet it remains untapped despite the cash crunch bedeviling the university. WUSTO stands to rake in reasonable amount to augment the meager resources at the disposal of the Library. This source can be worked upon and it is quite feasible.

It is quite evident that a lot of money could be generated from other sources such as customary court records that were kept in the custody of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife. People from all walks of life do come for consultation of these important documents that comprise all customary court proceedings of the Western Region of Nigeria from 1900-1960.

The table above indicates the list of alternative sources of funds for both institutions. These alternative sources are yet to be explored but they are viable alternatives to assist the library to keep afloat.

From table 7 above, it is quite revealing that OAU, Ile Ife could have generated a sum of N24, 138,600 from binding of theses alone. This amount could have been utilized on other areas that could have advanced the course of the library. In addition to this, the bindery section of OAU has enough personnel and equipment that could have been put into optimal use during the period.

WUSTO on the other hand could have equally realized a sum of N86, 000 from binding of theses. This is a reasonable amount which can increase within a short time.

The cloak room is a place where bags and personal belongings of the users can be kept while in the library. It must be noted that books are only allowed into the library and it becomes necessary for the users to keep their belongings in a safe place whenever they are in the library. The sum of N5 can be charged for such service and it can boost the revenue base of the library within a short time. It has been observed that at least 10% of the total number of users have something to keep in the library in a day and this can be translated into money if such service is being monetized.

Library consultancy is another money spinning venture which any library with requisite personnel like the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, could embark upon. It is quite obvious from the analysis that if the library consultancy is well utilized it can provide a respite in the time of financial crisis.

From this table, it has been discovered that other sources for income generation for both institutions such as grants, increase in registration fees and fines and charging of fees for the use of carrel could as well assist both institutions to remain afloat. These areas are to be considered by the management of both institutions.

## DISCUSSIONS

From the study, it has been discovered that alternative sources of money for both libraries are many. Income generation must not be limited to imposition of fines and registration of users. It was quite obvious that final year students in both institutions bind their projects outside despite presence of a standard bindery in Obafemi Awolowo university, Ile Ife although, WUSTO library, Ondo does not have a bindery yet efforts should be made to establish the section in the library in order to generate more revenue for the library. Other alternative sources that were untapped include, court records, reference services, consultancy services, use of carrels, Grants/Aids, printing, indexing and abstracting and use of e-resources and internet search.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this study have indicated that academic libraries in Nigeria must of necessity find alternative funds for their survival and this action must be vigorously pursued as a matter of duty because governments at all levels are gradually disengaging in the funding of social services in the country. This is equally peculiar to private universities whose survival squarely rests on income generation because they are private establishment. In view of this, management of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, and Wesley University of science and technology, Ondo must have a written policy on how to generate money in their libraries. This becomes imperative because students have to be properly briefed in order to avoid crises in the ivory tower which may be volatile. The second reason has to do with the need to provide a legal backing for the library management in the discharge of their duty.

Then management of both institutions must properly sensitize their staff on the importance of this exercise such that seriousness will be attached to it and there will be accountability.

The management must be ready to give certain percentage of the income generated to the staff at the end of the year as a way of encouragement.

The study revealed that there must be training and re-training of staff especially in the area of grants proposal writing and financial management and business administration. These courses will effectively empower them to perform optimally and transform the library within a very short time.

## REFERENCES

- Abubakar BM(2011). "Academic libraries in Nigeria in the 21<sup>st</sup> century"  
Cited 14/4/2013. <http://unllib.unl.edu/Lpp>



Nwafor BU (1990). "Funding for university libraries in the third world" World libraries  
Okon Uya (2013). "Schools without libraries" Being a paper presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian library Association held at Calabar in June ,2013.  
Ola Christopher O (2011). "Funding Nigerian university libraries: a perpetual albatross" KDLNews: a publication of Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Vol2 Pp.5-8.

Popoola SO (2005). "Library and information science profession: the new direction in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Nigeria." Being a paper presented as a guest lecturer at the annual general meeting (AGM) Osun State NLA at the college of health sciences auditorium, Osogbo on 30thDecember, 2005. Ubogu JO and Okiy RB (2011). "Sources of funds in academic libraries in Delta state, Nigeria" [Http://unllib.unl.edu/Lpp](http://unllib.unl.edu/Lpp)  
Vol.1, No.1