

Cataloguers' Awareness and Perception of Resource Description and Access (RDA) Rules for Cataloguing Practice in Some Selected Libraries in Bauchi State of Nigeria

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Received June 4, 2018; Accepted June 25, 2018

Abstract

This study assessed cataloguers' awareness and perception of Resource Description and Access (RDA) rules for cataloguing practice in some selected libraries in Bauchi State. The study employed a descriptive survey method. The population of this study comprised all the 10 professional cataloguers in the selected academic libraries in Bauchi State. The sample size of the study was ten (10) professional cataloguers in some selected academic libraries in Bauchi State; while the sampling technique is often used when the population is so large, in this study, the entire population is manageable because it was discovered that the population was relatively small as a result the sampling technique adopted was purposive. Structured Interview was used as the instrument for data collection. It was revealed from the study most library cataloguers have little understanding and perception about the conceptual meaning of Resource Description and Access rules which is used for cataloguing practices and fund issues surrounding the adoption of RDA for cataloguing. Library cataloguer's in the selected libraries agreed that there are problems militating against their perception and involvement in resource description and

access, which includes: lack of resource description and access in their library, lack of library automation, and lack of understanding the concept and importance of RDA by the cataloguers. The recommended that there is a need for cataloguers or librarians and libraries organization in Bauchi State by extension Nigeria to create awareness about RDA and to project the significance of RDA use in academic libraries.

Keywords

Cataloguing rules; Resource Description and Access; RDA; Cataloguers awareness; Perception; Academic libraries; Nigeria

Introduction

Since mid-2010, Resource Description and Access (RDA) have been introduced as an alternative to past cataloguing practices for the electronic environment. This new rules for identifying resources has emerged from years of international collaborations. And it produces well formed, interconnected metadata for the digital environment, offering a way to keep libraries relevant on the web. Atinmo (2011) posits that Resource Description and Access is built on the traditions of the Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (AACR) the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC) recognized during the 1990s when they observed that AACR2 was not a code that would serve 21st-century users”. It was structured around card catalogues and linear displays of citation, created before the internet and well-formed metadata that could be used by computer Systems. Segun (2011) stated that the “AACR2 which provided rules for description of print, non-print and electronic resources has been found not to be very suitable for describing web resources and so is to be replaced by the Resources Description and Access (RDA) Published in 2010 and which will be fully implemented in libraries in USA from January 2013” . Carbo (2011) described “RDA as an additional tool to aid the cataloguer in supplying the right information in the right format to the researchers or patrons, who deem the information of value, library and information schools, are expected to make provision for new development in their cataloguing and classification laboratory”. The most popular among these are Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) Library of Congress Classification Scheme (LC) Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), Colon Classification and Bliss. RDA is the new standard for resource description and access designed for the digital world; with standardized subject hierarchies that most libraries adopt as standard classification scheme. The Anglo American Cataloguing Rule (AACR), which is now in its second edition, is the standard rule for document description (Cataloguing) for printed materials while Resource Description and Access (RDA) have now been introduced for the electronic environment.

To pursue professional ethics in creating timely and high quality records then the cataloguers see the need to develop a new mindset to deal with the increased complexity in cataloguing in 2004 named Resource Description and Access (RDA). Moreover, the aim is to provide reference librarians an introduction of resource description and access so that readers will learn why RDA was developed, the principle upon which RDA is based, the differences between AACR2 records and RDA records, and why is so important to catalogers. The cataloging leaders felt that there is a need to develop cataloging rules because AACR2 is seen as inadequate for the myriad types of resources that came into being after AACR2 was adopted. Resources Description and Access (RDA) emerge from the International Conference on the principles and future development of Anglo American Catalogue Rule (AACR) held in Toronto in 1997. It is published jointly by American Library Association, the Canada Library Association and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. RDA aims to be more principle - based, so that cataloguers cause more judgment rather than have to learn so many different rules (Kiorgaard & Kartus, 2006). Though it has strong links to AACR2, RDA is quite different because it is based on the theoretical framework, it is designed for the digital environment, and it has a broader scope than AACR2. RDA instructions are based on the Functional Requirement for Bibliographic Records (FRBR), Functional Requirement for Authority Data (FRAD) and IFLA's International Cataloging Principles. RDA is a standard designed to focus attention on the user and on the tasks that the carries out in the process of resource discovery.

Assessment of cataloguers' perceptions and awareness of the emergence and use of RDA among professional and non-professional cataloguers in libraries and users is in tandem with the paradigm-shift in cataloguing of library resources" (Bernstein, Clarke-Stewart, Roy, Srull & Wickens, 2015). The perceptions may be due to many reasons, such as local practice, type of library and user population. Perceptions of cataloging quality materials may also be due to time changes in cataloging standards and rules. The situation has proving the catalogues associates in consideration with the proliferated nature of information mostly in electronic forms and formats, to come up with new cataloguing rules, called Resource Description and Access (RDA) developed in 2004. It is therefore apparent that the RDA as a cataloguing guide for modern electronic information resources is very much tied to the future and operations of libraries in general. Though it has strong links to AACR2, RDA is quite different because it is based on the theoretical framework, it is designed for the digital environment, and it has a broader scope than AACR2. RDA instructions are based on the Functional Requirement for Bibliographic Records (FRBR), Functional Requirement for Authority Data (FRAD) and IFLA's International Cataloging Principles. RDA is a standard designed to focus attention on the user and on the tasks that the carries out in the process of resource discovery. The purpose of recording data is to support the user tasks. Resource Description and Access is a standard for descriptive cataloguing initially released in June 2010, providing instruction and guidelines on formulating bibliographic data by studying cataloguer's perceptions of RDA in cataloging a greater understanding of

cataloger expectations and motivations with regards to the creation of up-to-date bibliographic records of proliferated e-resources will open a fruitful avenue for both the catalogues and library users are. Though, Le Tournea (2000) argued that individual is constantly challenged to redefine themselves based on societal and environment pressures. RDA aims to be more principle - based, so that catalogers cause more judgment rather than have to learn so many different rules (Kiorgaard & Kartus, 2006). Since the gilts of cataloguers felt that there is a need to develop new cataloguing rules apart from the AACR2 which has been considered to be inadequate for the myriad types of resources coming into the library after AACR2 was adopted. As such century cataloguers working in the Nigeria libraries and information centers in Nigeria needs to examine and be abreast on the development and emergence of RDA so as to better their services.

Statement of the Problem

Materials in traditional forms and formats created and coming into library in the 21st century are a combination of improved digital and electronic formats. It is important for cataloguers to maintain the quality of cataloguing for effective discovery of these materials, Remote access electronic resources are some of the challenge facing during cataloguing which require talented individuals orientated in the electronic area, able to identify the most valuable resources for the on-line catalogue and to create collections of well-organized information available in digital form. Hence, lack of awareness and poor understanding on how to use RDA by cataloguers, in Bauchi metropolitan libraries may affect the professional practice of cataloguers and the libraries' active utilization of the frequently released and acquired e-resources which is as one of the cardinal objectives of library services that support teaching, learning and research development of any community. The gap may be associated with lack of active collaboration among the cataloguers to relates with policy guidelines and statements reached by the Cataloguing and Classification section of the IFLA during the NLA and the activities of Cataloguing and Classification group in Nigeria. It is against this backdrop that the researchers sought to assess the cataloguers' awareness and perception of Resource Description and Access (RDA) rules for cataloguing practice in some selected libraries in Bauchi State.

Research Objectives

The study is specifically expected to achieve the following objectives:

1. To ascertain the level of cataloguers awareness of RDA rules in some selected libraries in Bauchi State.
2. To find out the level of cataloguers perception of the emergence of RDA in some selected libraries in Bauchi State
3. To ascertain the level of cataloguers involvement in using RDA in cataloguing in some selected libraries in Bauchi State.

4. To find out the factors militating against the use and application of RDA among libraries in some selected libraries in Bauchi State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:-

1. What is the level of cataloguers' awareness about the RDA cataloguing rules in some selected libraries in Bauchi State?
2. What is the level of cataloguers' perception on the existence of the RDA cataloguing rules in some selected libraries in Buachi state?
3. To what extent do cataloguers use the RDA rules to catalogue information resources acquired by their libraries in some selected libraries in Bauchi State?
4. What are the factors militating against the use of RDA by cataloguers in cataloguing of library resources in some selected libraries in Bauchi State?

Materials and Methods

Descriptive Survey Design was adopted for the study; descriptive survey design is a research design in which group of people or items is studied by collecting and analyzing data from sampled people or item considered to be representative of the entire population (Sambo, 2003). The population of this study comprised all the 10 professional cataloguers in the selected academic libraries in Bauchi State. This included Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Federal Polytechnic, and Abubakar Tatari Ail Polytechnic Bauchi. The sample size of the study was ten (10) professional cataloguers in some selected academic libraries in Bauchi State; while the sampling technique is often used when the population is so large, in this study, the entry population is manageable because it was discovered that the population was relatively small as a result the sampling technique adopted was qualitative study. According to Egbule and Okobia (2001), stressed that the entire population can be studied when the population is not large, when there is enough time to conduct the study, when the sole objective of the study is to provide the accurate account of the population, when the researcher has adequate manpower to help in the collection of data. Interview was used as the instrument for data collection. This is because an interview gives the interviewee an opportunity for seeking clarification on any question that is confusing and the interviewer can also seek clarification on unclear responses from the interviewee. The instrument used during the process of interview is handwriting material and mobile phone. Interview involves eliciting information from the respondents (interviewee) through some verbal interaction between the respondents and the researchers (Nworgu, 2006).

Results

In order to establish good rapport with the respondents the researcher started by asking the

respondents their years of services as cataloguers and the experiences gained on how the library materials are being catalogued in their various libraries. They responded with regards to question one:

“I am now Nine years in cataloguing of materials in our library (Respondent A). While Respondent Y said five to six years’ experience in cataloguing and classification, But Respondent 2 said I am up to five years now in cataloguing and while (Respondent 3) said almost four years in cataloguing and classification of materials in this library. One to two years as a cataloguer in library. (Respondent B)”.

While, question two asked the respondents on the type of cataloguing and classification scheme they used in their library. They all responded in the following:

“Respondent A said We are using DDC [Dewey Decimal Classification] But Respondent C said we have being using the Dewey decimal classification in our library, while Respondent X said the Library of congress classification scheme (L C) is used in our Library and Respondent 1 said we have subject heading, schedule and the AACR2. [Anglo America Cataloguing Rule2] these are the cataloguing tool that we are using.”

Furthermore, question three of the interview schedule asked them whether they are using the different schemes mentioned to catalogued print and non-print materials in their libraries .They responded this way:

“No, we do not catalogue and classify them; [Non print materials] it is only if the library has a media section then they can use the non-printed materials. But absent of the media section in this library that is why we don’t normally purchase the non-printed material” (Respondent A). But Respondents X stated in an affirmative way the same procedure for book is also used for non-book materials. [In our library] While Respondent Y said we used AACR2 [Anglo America Cataloguing Rule2] to catalogue print and non-print materials in our library. Although contrary views are being held by some, I have never catalogue and classify non-print materials. While (Respondent, 2 and 3) said “we have the non-print material but we do not catalogue and classify them.”

Then, the researchers asked them from question four: To describe the concept of resource description and access (RDA) as a new emerging tool for cataloguing and classification of materials in library. The diversity of their opinion is presented in the following:

“Although we are yet to start using Resource Description and Access (RDA) in cataloguing and classify materials, because of the financial situation of our library. But It is very suitable for the easier description of library materials, Because the way the books are arranged and the way you as the cataloguer get subject heading of material ... Although cataloguing is very easy but difficulty is encountered in the classification due to the fact that the subject heading of the

material has to be determined before classifying the material, but this tool provides ease in determining the subject heading of the material and the classification can be done directly” (Respondent A).

“But to the view of Respondent 2 he said Resource Description and Access (RDA) is a welcome development, it is just like a subject heading but we don’t have it here and I believe with that one, it will capture the limitations one would have in the subject heading and schedule.”

Similarly, (Respondent X) said that *it is an update of Anglo America Cataloguing Rule2, but it has not reached us yet but it was generally agreed to be a wonderful progress in the field of library. I think resource description and access (RDA) has come out to replace the old method that is the AACR2”* (Respondent Z). The finding showed that most of the cataloguers have low understanding of RDA due to its implementation in their various libraries and it is based on library financial situation.

In addition to that an attempt was made by the researchers to identify the level of awareness of the respondents which they were asked whether they were aware about the existence of Resource Description and Access. Which they all responded in the following:

This respondent said *“My level of awareness towards the Resources Description and Access ranges from low, since I have never get access to it [RDA] ... just like a new tool in the aspect of cataloguing instead of using AACR2* (Respondent A). [While] Respondent Z said *we are not yet into the implementation of RDA, even in Nigeria the system is in the infancy stage.”* In a similar way Respondent 3 stated that *“NO we do not have Resource Description and Access in our library ... but it is very easy when catalogue and classify materials unlike AACR2, I only make use of it once somewhere”* [In addition to that] But Respondent X affirmed that *I have gotten a soft copy of the Resource Description and Access and going through and most especially the subject heading but have not used it for any practical work.”*

Most of the respondents have low awareness on RDA tool due to its unavailability in their various libraries and those that are aware do not have adequate skills on how to make use of tool.

Question six then goes further to asked the question; what is your perception towards the RDA rules in cataloguing and classification? They defined the concept of RDA from their views as:

“The resource description and access is a welcome development we want it and we like to have it in our library; it will be suitable because it will be easy to use and save time of both cataloguers and users (Respondent 2). [But] to the view of Respondent A *...this new system of cataloguing and classification of materials is a very good system because you can easily retrieve books in the shelving. ... He further stated that when it is fully implemented or start working, it will help a lot in the process of describing our information resources, particularly now we have a lot of digital resources which you hardly find provision for them in AACR2.* Meanwhile (Respondent Z) said it

is an update towards other new areas that are coming up.”

Most of the respondents need change toward cataloguing standards; they need the adoption of RDA in their various libraries especially in this 21century which will help in the area of cataloguing and classification of materials. Meanwhile, question seven of the schedule posed to the respondents on what they think should be the importance resource description and access (RDA) and should be used in cataloguing and classification of materials. Their wordings are presented as follows:

This respondent stated that *“the world of knowledge is undergoing metamorphosis and the knowledge is dynamic we need to have that, so we can compete with the trend in information explosion. We can organize our materials I believe the resource description and access will cater for that (Respondents 1). But, to the view of respondent Y he stated that it will help the cataloguer to catalogue their materials easily because it is truly electronic and it will help even the library users to retrieve library materials.”*

“It is very important to use Resource Description and Access (RDA) in cataloguing and classification of materials, it helps the new areas of technology that comes up. They will be able to have access to classes being emerge for a particular document! So that is my view” (Respondent A).

The use of RDA is very important in this modern age especially in the area of technology towards cataloguing and classification of libraries materials. Moreover, question eight asked the respondents on the extent they think that Resource Description and Access should be used in cataloguing and classification of library materials. Their individual submission reads as follows:

“Actually, I can say that when the library is fully automated (Respondent X). While In my opinion the Resource Description and Access (RDA) should use when staffs are trained to use the software. (Respondent3). While, Respondent B stated that there is need to take special note of connectivity of the library to the internet. But respondent Z said it should be used always when cataloguing and classifying library materials.”

Some of the respondents want RDA should be used whenever cataloguing and classification been done while in the opinion of others it should been used when library is automated and trained of staff. However, to ascertained the respondents’ level of the involvement in the use of resource description and access (RDA) in their various libraries when asked. They reported that:

“The Resource Description and Access (RDA) have not reached us here, I have just my personal copy of that document but I have not been putting it into practice. ... It is a new, recent, updated subject heading (Respondent X). While Respondent Y stated, in our library, we are still using the old edition that is the AACR2 [Anglo America Cataloguing Rule 2] so I do not have much to say about involvement.”

But, to the view of respondent A *Resource Description and Access is not available in our library ... due to library automation, so when it is automated I think we will engage to adopt it. Due to lack of resource description and access (RDA) we have never involve in the use.*” (Respondent3).

This means that there was no real involvement of the respondents on the use of resource description and access (RDA) in their libraries because they have not used it before and all of the libraries used in the study were still using the old method of cataloguing because the implementation of the library automation has not been completed. In other, to find out the likely factors inhibiting the adoption of Resource Description and Access (RDA) for cataloguing of information resources in the libraries studied. The respondents were therefore asked to identify some of the factors they think are affecting the use of RDA in their respectively libraries. Thus, they responded as follows:

“The major factors affecting the adoption of resource description and access are lack of funding to obtain/purchase the tools of Resource Description and Access (Respondent 3). While Respondent X said library automation is affecting the adoption of RDA we still catalogue and classify using the manual way. . . We are still waiting for the management to implement.” But Respondent Z stated that *economic factor is one of it because up till now, the library could not acquire any one and it is costly [the library could not acquire the RDA tools] people are running away from cataloguing and classification, so for them to even have the zeal of having other resource that can help during the up-date and the interest, shortage of cataloguers.”* Since our library is not connected with the internet; local method of cataloguing and classification is still being used.” (Respondent A)

When considering the diverse views of the respondents on the factors they think are inhibiting the use of RDA for cataloguing in the libraries studied. They were able to identify some of the factors which include funding of library, library automation; as well most of the library staff does not have interest in cataloguing and classification of library resources in all the respective libraries. Lastly, question eleven asked the respondents on the obstacles they may faces in the use and application of the Resource Description and Access in their libraries. They respond as follows:

“The obstacles against the use and application of the Resource Description and Access are much, unavailability of the tool which is not available and we have shortage of staff. (Respondent A). While Respondent 1 said that *funding is the major obstacles with fund, the library can acquire more materials and use the RDA. [While] “In my own opinion the obstacles are Lack of library automation which is one of the library problems, power supply and also the network . . . like now, I think the university does not even subscribe the internet facilities so that we can have the network very visible”* (Respondent X).

Discussion of Findings

The finding showed that most of the cataloguers in Bauchi State have low awareness and little understanding of the concept and application of RDA in cataloguing. The situation is not unconnected with the non-availability of functional automated library systems in the libraries studied within Bauchi State. Though some of the respondents who formed the sample of the study claimed to be aware of the emergence of RDA but they do not have the tools. The qualitative data result of this study has justifies the result of the interview as the challenges may be associated to lack of the available RDA tools in the libraries. This finding is in line with the study conducted by Adesoji (2014) on impact of ICT on cataloguing and classification of library materials and found that ICT could bring a lasting relief to the stress of manual classification and cataloguing, which is prone to human error, but are not well utilized due to cost, technical know-how and management issues.

Meanwhile, the qualitative data of this study further proved the low level of perception of the RDA rules for cataloguing practice in some selected libraries in Bauchi State. As some respondents stressed that the advent of RDA in cataloguing is a welcome development in cataloguing and classification of libraries materials, because it will ease work and save time of both cataloguers and users in this 21st century which justifies the result of the interview as revealed by respondents 2, & Z. They further stated that when it is fully implemented it will help a lot in the process of describing the information resource. The above respondents' views have justified the result of the study conducted by Snow (2011), on a study of the perception of cataloguing quality among cataloguers in academic libraries, in North American [many]...Interview participants focused on the necessity of changing cataloging standards, the possible benefits of the change, and the idea that change can be difficult Overall, interview responses mirrored survey responses in regards to the uncertainty many cataloguers feel about the development and implementation of RDA in North American libraries. Even though there were definitely strong opinions (positive and negative) about RDA, many cataloguers noted their attempts to learn more about RDA and their willingness to adapt their cataloguing practice once RDA is implemented on a wider scale.

Factors militating against the adoption and the obstacles in the use of application of RDA in their libraries and in this study, it has been deduced from the data analysed that the major factors affecting the adoption and the obstacles of resource description and access are lack of fund to obtain/purchase the RDA tools and lack of library automation which result in people running away from cataloguing and classification. In the ICT driven society, other issues were identified as shortage of staff and lack of technical knowledge among the librarians especially those that are responsible for carrying out the activities of cataloguing. The finding of this study is in agreement with the result of a study conducted by Dadzie (2008) affirmed that having more practical sessions could be one of the solutions to the problems students are having in

comprehending the core courses. Since most of these courses are technical in nature and having only theoretical sessions make it difficult for students to appreciate the value of the course taught. This is also applicable to practicing librarians. Training and retraining must be frequently put in place to enable cataloguers master the use of RDA for cataloguing and classifying library materials.

Summary of Findings

Based on the analyzed data from respondents of the study, the research has shown that:

1. Most library cataloguers have little understanding and perception about the conceptual meaning of RDA rules which is used for cataloguing practices and fund issues surrounding the adoption of RDA for cataloguing.
2. The study revealed that cataloguers' have low interest in cataloguing and classification of materials in the selected libraries studied in Bauchi State. If such a situation exist it will affect the way information resources are acquired into the library particularly the non-print materials and other print that are accompanied with soft copies or accessed electronically.
3. Library cataloguers agreed that the resource description and access should be adopted to enhance effective cataloguing of library material that cataloguers must understand the concepts and components of RDA with the financial support to make available new technology in cataloguing practices. Also, to organize in-house seminar and training to expose library staff to cataloguing and classification of electronic resources.
4. Library cataloguer's in some selected libraries in Bauchi State agreed that there exist a number of problems militating against their perception and involvement in resource description and access, which includes: lack of resource description and access in their library, lack of library automation, and lack of understanding the concept and importance of RDA by the cataloguers.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, the libraries are growing organisms and would continue to adapt to new circumstances to remain relevant day in day out. It is concluded that RDA is not adopted in selected libraries studied in Bauchi State. Most of the cataloguer does not have adequate understanding on the concept of RDA. Nevertheless, the problem is inadequacy of fund and also low interest in cataloguing and classification of materials which is mostly serious and this affect other students not only cataloguers, librarian-in-training have unfavorable attitude to cataloguing and classification. They showed non-challant attitude when it comes to cataloguing and classification of information materials. Many cataloguers need it in their library but lack of automation, lack of skill personal, high cost of tools and poor funding. Efforts must be made to

ensure that librarians- in- training are made to understand that cataloguing and classification is the core of Librarianship.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following are recommended:

1. There is a need for cataloguers or librarians and libraries organization in Bauchi State by extension Nigeria to create awareness about RDA and to project the significance of RDA use in academic libraries.
2. Considering the fact, that most of the libraries are not automated librarians and libraries should make more efforts towards the library automation and other internet facilities which will enable cataloguers employ RDA in their cataloguing activities.
3. Libraries should train cataloguers on the emerging trend of RDA and how to make use of RDA during cataloguing of library resources by organizing programme like workshops, conferences, in-house seminar and lectures that will educate them on RDA.
4. The chief cataloguer should write to the library management on the need to procure adequate resources and adopt RDA tools to enhance cataloguing and classification of materials.
5. The libraries cataloguers should update them self with the use of RDA gradually because we are in digital era, especially non-print materials. The old system of cataloguing such as LC, DDC, and AACR2 are not reliable compared to RDA.
6. The library management should made provisions for media section in their library for these will make their work easier.
8. Library cataloguers should encourage making use of RDA for both print and non-print materials when it's fully implemented.

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Bibliographic information of this paper for citing:

- Oni, Osaheni, Oshiotse, John Odion, & Abubakar, Tawaletu G. (2018). "Cataloguers' awareness and perception of Resource Description and Access (RDA) rules for cataloguing practice in some selected libraries in Bauchi State of Nigeria." *Webology*, 15(1), Article 168. Available at: <http://www.webology.org/2018/v15n1/a168.pdf>
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