

# Making Available Library Information Resources for Utilisation and Reformation of Prison Inmates

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## Abstract

Nigerian prisons harbour offenders who have committed offences. These are mainly youths of great strength and high intelligence within the age bracket of 18-45 years. A study on availability and utilization of library information resources and psychological well-being was carried out among prison inmates with functional libraries in Ikoyi prison, Lagos and Ijebu-ode prison, Ijebu, Nigeria. The population of convicted prison inmates in the two prisons was 744 (513 prisoners from Ikoyi prison and 231 from Ijebu prison). 305 inmates were sampled from Ikoyi prison and 138 from Ijebu-ode prison, totalling 443 (60%) of the study population. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents in the two prisons, and the 443 sample responded correctly to the questionnaire making it a 100% response rate. The study revealed that there is a poor rendition of library services in the prison library from the items tested, the mean scores obtained were weighted at  $1.31 \leq 2.00$ . The study also revealed unavailability of library information resources while the few available ones are under-utilized. Out of the 11 items tested, 9 items portrayed very poor utilisation rate, while the remaining two items; internet and video for personal development training and cassettes were not utilized at all. The paper, therefore, recommends that prison library should be equipped with relevant and updated information materials and library services be fully rendered in order to facilitate their rehabilitation and improve inmates reformation.

**Keywords:** Reformation, Information Resources, Availability, Utilization, Prison libraries, Inmates, Nigeria

## 1. Introduction

Prison inmates are people incarcerated who have been convicted of one crime or the other and are placed in prison confinement as a punitive measure, and also to reform and reintegrate them into society. In the time past, punitive measures often adopted by the criminal justice system for the punishment of offenders include fines, banishment, corporal and capital punishment, community service and in modern times; the evolution of imprisonment where inmates are placed in custody for a defined period (Mfum, 2012). In modern societies, most correctional institutions have adopted the more humane approach through confinement and the establishment of various reformatory programmes. This, obviously, is with the intent of rehabilitating the offender so that he can be reintegrated into society, become productive and self-reliant as a law-abiding citizen. In all spheres of life, individuals necessarily need quality and timely information to facilitate informed decision making in the quest for development and life satisfaction. The role of information, therefore, as an important tool for the survival of convicted persons cannot be relegated to the background as has been re-echoed in most correctional studies (Henry, 2010; Mfum, 2012). Thus, modern correctional institutions have instituted education as one of the cardinal reformation tools in instilling morality on the inmate. Prison libraries are set up with the sole aim of making adequate information resources available to inmates for the purpose of rehabilitating them as well as continuing their education while serving time in prison.

Prison libraries have the responsibility of assisting inmates to increase their learning capabilities and empower them so that upon completion of the prison term, they would be declared employable for self-actualization and reintegration into society. Information is key for individual development and capacity building as it aids the improvement of well-being. Incarcerated persons have the same reading interests and information needs of other free citizens in the larger society as such, require to know what they can do with their lives while in prison (Shirley 2004; Campbell 2005). The prison library has often served as a haven for a retreat into the world of opportunity to learn about moral development and other forms of positive behaviours. Once in prison, most prisoners quickly relapse into a world of loneliness, depression, anger, aggression, frustration, idleness and other forms of psychological disturbances. They, therefore, need regular supply of information to fill that gap of psychological need and of belongingness; where they might find help and how they could be free from the harsh reality of prison (Burt, 1977). Well-being of inmates must first be guaranteed as it is a key indicator for their successful reformatory programmes while in prison.

The availability of necessary information resources would no doubt serve as motivation and elixir in engaging inmates more productively during incarceration. It has been observed that the provision of library services to prison inmates in Nigeria has been grossly undercut; this has resulted in situations where most prison libraries are left with scanty information resources to support inmates' further education and general reading interests. The poor condition of prison library facilities which remains unaddressed overtime has prevented inmates from the effective utilisation of information resources and the consequence of its negative effects on their reformation process.

Inmates often face that critical point whereby they are at a crossroad to take major decisions that could impact their lives positively; such that would enable them to move further and progress in life, particularly, after prison experience. Prisoners, thus, tend to find solace in the use of library where adequate books made available exists to satisfy their reading desires. It is the opportunity they perceive as a window to turn a new leaf and adopt positive attitudinal posture about life. In order to be integrated into society with the sanity of mind, and have emotional and physical health balance, therefore, inmates require pieces of information during incarceration for their daily living and continuing education for self-development. It is, nevertheless, not enough to say that the availability of information resources and reading have positive impact on the well-being of inmates, but it is imperative to ascertain the content and quality of available information resources for use at any particular time that should help prepare and empower them for a more productive life afterwards. The aim of this study, therefore, is to assess the level of library information resources available in prison libraries for utilisation and improved reformation of prison inmates.

## 2. Literature Review

The main objective of the prison system ought to be the support of reformation of inmates, and not the just passive hoarding of societal offenders. Attention should be given to inmates, to assist them to internalize the prison programmes as a catalyst to their behaviour modification from socially unacceptable norms to positive behaviours. Omagbemi and Odunewu (2007) asserted that in Nigeria, the prisons being characteristically a closed system receive little attention and care from the public and policymakers. As such, the prison library stock is grossly inadequate. Ogundipe (2006) and Eze (2008) harped on the decayed state of prison infrastructure and equipment noting that Nigerian prison infrastructure, equipment and logistics have experienced decades of neglect. For instance, prison library furnishing which includes shelves, book stacks, reading carrels and chairs are completely in a state of disrepair. Imade (2005) submitted that a twenty-five (25) capacity cell has about eighty-six (86) inmates, the prison is congested and is only opened once in a week; no regular bath is allowed, inmates are underfed, meals are not well prepared. No doubt, when inmates are subjected to such conditions, using the library cannot readily come to mind. Glennor (2003) posited that when ex-offenders return to the society, they face the digital divide because while incarcerated, they had no access to the internet and thus his or her knowledge is limited to exaggerated concepts or complete ignorance of its possibilities. He further explained that prison libraries with computer and internet access, have stringent rules governing the use by inmates. According to Omolola (2015), information is essential in prisons due to the vital role it plays in reformation and rehabilitation of inmates. For this reason, prisons, like other segments of social institutions deserve functional libraries geared towards the provision of information resources for beneficial use to inmates.

### 2.1 Information and Reading during incarceration

The Business Dictionary defined information as data that is accurate and timely, specific and organized for a purpose, presented within a context that gives it meaning and relevance. Thus, information is power; it is paramount in every aspect of human action. Being informed, therefore, disposes the mind for sound decision making and equips individuals' coping and problem-solving ability. The world today is saturated with information of all kinds, and formats yet the yearning for information as an essential and veritable commodity continues to thrive. This is because information is a stimulus that has the propensity to effect change (increase in understanding and decrease in uncertainty) - the ability to influence behaviour and predict a positive outcome. Next, to labour, reading is the most valuable and extensive means of improvement. Reading is a multifaceted activity that involves word recognition, comprehension, fluency and motivation (Sullivan, 2000). Leipzig (2001) noted that reading entails weaving together word recognition and comprehension in a fluent manner. Good readers, therefore, share consensus qualities of being mentally engaged, motivated to learn, socially active and strategic monitoring the interactive process that assists comprehension (Baumann and Duffy, 1997). Psychologically, reading serves as an emotional fortification and personality restructuring; it is a powerful tool in every walk of life and, hence, it acts as a receptive skill for acquiring and internalizing information.

This paper acknowledges the views of Hakemulder which has been re-stated by Jordet (2008) that reading changes the reader from inside out, thus reading is beneficial to inmates. Information and reading have been found to be a very powerful tool in every walk of life and it takes a special significance for the inmates. It, not only builds their knowledge and vocabulary base, it also develops their capacity for internal reflection – a crucial skill often lacking among criminals (Jordet 2008). Prison libraries play a positive role in the lives of the prisoners through the provision of information resources which assist and enhance them in the skills acquired as well as help them address their psychological problems and attitudinal behaviour (Omolola, 2015). Cunningham et al., (2003) observed that reading is a proven exercise in vocabulary building, a skill that would benefit many inmates. Jordet (2008) expressed the view that if a reader identifies with a character in a story it can affect self-concept; if an inmate reads a story that engages him in role-playing in his mind, he is invited to reflect upon who he once was, who he thinks he is, or who he might become. This is much more powerful than rational judgments about a

character's choices outside the pages of a book.”

The facilitative effect of information and reading in every phase of life and the capacity to impact behaviour, further buttress its importance to prison inmates. Information and reading, hence, offer a connection to a wider culture for prisoners who often feel isolated, alienated and cut-off from the outside world. In such secluded situation, events that create a sort of connection with the outside world become highly valued. For the inmates, therefore, information and reading create a cathartic experience and consequently, assist them to develop an empathic mind; this is sometimes not common among incarcerated people whose mind is often characterized by sinister and clandestine thoughts. Therefore, inmates are further presented with the chances of achieving a lot through information and reading as follows:

#### *2.1.1 Rehabilitation*

At a minimum, reading books especially those with strong narrative arcs reconfigures the brain networks (Bernset *al.*, 2013). Ideas gotten from active reading allow readers to freely express themselves because reading equips people with up-to-date information. To the mind (thought processes) of an inmate, such information creates cognitive dissonance that brings about a transformational experience. It is based on this premise that most societies have shifted their focus from the punishment of prisoners to education, rehabilitation and the meaningful use of their time while serving in prison (Lehman and Locke, 2005). Omolola (2015) observed that prison library becomes an important environment in its support for educational, recreational and rehabilitative programmes. Prison inmates are often occupied with the thought of getting through the rigours of the prison regiments and its environment, but, with the availability of information resources reading then provide insight into their own actions and thoughts (internal reflection). Jordet (2008) noted that reading is a powerful tool for people in every walk of life, but it takes special significance for inmates. Reading books not only build their knowledge and vocabulary, but it also develops their capacity for internal reflection – a crucial skill often lacking among criminals.

Incarceration period becomes a valued defining period for inmates as it provides the window to think and ponder about life outside the prison and most importantly their crime life - the ability to organize their thoughts, judging from their previous experience. This enables them to arrive at a more rational resolve to pursue a crime-free life and be self-reliance. Thus, reading facilitates behaviour modification and prepares inmates for reintegration into the society upon their release.

#### *2.1.2 Social behaviour*

The prison environment houses varying degree of criminals from the subtle to volatile ones. At all time, empathy and pro-social skills are required of an inmate so as to make them deviate from their erroneous means, thus, reading culture, if optimally utilized to achieve social behaviour. Payton (2014) asserted that reading is a huge part of our development as human beings, as well as part of how we become civilized and cultured. Just as flight simulators help pilots in training learn to fly, reading helps strengthens our empathy towards others (Oatley, 2001). Reading acts as a harbinger to happiness by isolating readers from their day-to-day troubles and help to transport them to a fantasy world. In 2016, for instance, researchers found that people who read can easily decipher the emotions of others. This ability when cultivated by criminals, their tendency towards the life of crime would drastically decrease (Hogan, 2003). According to Payton (2014), reading books bring together inmates who might otherwise be associated with rival gangs and not get to know each other without some kind of social activity connecting them and talk. Thus, the promotion of pro-social behaviour among them will assure and further strengthen peaceful coexistence within the four walls of the prison and out there in the society when they get out.

#### *2.1.3 Cognitive exercise*

Information is power and reading as the precursor to information helps to flex the imagination in a way similar to the visualization of a muscle memory in sports. Information and reading have the capability to reshape the brain and improve the theory of the mind. Inmates stand to gain a lot from reading; this is true because most criminals hardly engage in cognitive tasking activities other than normal prison routines – before and during the time in prison. It is for this reason that reading is encouraged among inmates that would engage their cognitive domain, which allows them little or no time to bask in the glory of their reprehensible past behaviour; thereby, serving as a behaviour modifier. This has profound implications in reshaping their chart of action and mind theory.

#### *1.1 Availability of information resources and Reformation*

The world as a global village derives so much power through information, therefore, to be informed is to be formed as a wholesome being. Whereas, the absence of information makes one powerless and thus, cannot make adequate decisions nor have access to the resources that are necessary for survival. Information is a vital resource tool for world economics and certainly forms the basic component of education for all. It is elemental to technological and scientific changes that occur in our everyday lives at all levels.

However, even as the need for information continues to expand, it still poses several challenges to individuals from all works of life. The situation is somewhat different and even more difficult for those in a confined environment. This is because their information needs in their current situations and for the future (reintroduction into the society) as they have to depend solely on whatever information that is being provided for them. Consequently, the Reading Reduces Recidivism group (2002), in recognition of the importance of the availability

of reading materials in prisons made it a mandate upon themselves to provide and restock the prison libraries with updated and current books; when the budget line item for library materials was removed. In addition, circulation materials (distinct from legal materials, which are required by law), stagnated, leaving the libraries with few up-to-date books and little recourse for replenishing them. Also, some developed cities of the world like Texas, Arizona and New York have relegated to sentencing convicts to reading books instead of being sent to prison, and have recorded scores of positive outcomes (<https://www.theguardian.com>).

Although, the Universal Rights of all individuals, including prisoners, to freedom of expression and freedom of access to information have been repeatedly asserted in several high-level international documents (Council of Europe, 1953; Council of Europe, 1987; United Nation, 1948, United Nations, 1955); inmates are still regarded as those excluded from the society. With this basic need for information, we live in a time of information abundance. Yet, there is a mismatch between the information needed and that which is available (Faibisoff and Ely, 1974), this has always been the lot of inmates. It is said that information in itself is not sufficient, therefore, inmates as non-rational individuals were rarely informed before incarceration. Consequently, incarceration as corrective measure becomes a period for increased information need by inmates. In confinement, they are incapacitated to provide information resources for themselves, therefore, availability of information resources becomes the fulcrum to their reformation in incarceration.

According to Bajic (2015) majority of inmates partake in reading books as a favourite leisure activity, however, they are relatively unsatisfied with the selection of reading materials in the prison library. That is to say, the available information materials do not meet the expectations of their information needs. Several studies (Emasealu 2015, Atanda et al 2017) have linked information as a precursor to the well-being of inmates it, therefore, goes to prove that non-availability of relevant information resources to inmates have a negative effect on their rehabilitation as they are being starved of information and cannot attain self-actualization. Hence, the process of reformation cannot be said to have taken effect. The non-availability of information materials in Nigerian prisons, therefore, makes the prisons more of custodians than the rehabilitation of offenders (Adegboye, 2015).

### *1.2 Utilisation information resources and Reformation*

Reformation is a multifaceted construct, which is directly linked with entire individual well-being. Well-being is something more than just a physical issue. It entails a process of change and development of mental and social well-being (World Health Organization, 1946). Emotional and social dimensions of wellness are just as important (Hermon & Hazler, 1999). Hermon & Hazler (1999) made a particularly strong call for filling the research gap with studies on the relationship between wellness and other constructs. Well-being is an internally focused method of attaching value to the quality of life and effective experience generally accepted as a scientific construct with long-term (propensity or disposition); and short-term (mood) components similar in design to the trait-state distinction in anxiety (Hermon & Hazler 1999). The phenomenon of well-being thus has an enduring implication for emotional and physical health of every individual. This is because it is believed to be a key factor for the development and utilisation of inert strength. Roughly, it is an accumulated effect resulting from early childhood experiences, parenting styles, and personality types (holistic approach) of the individual.

In 1996, Martin Seligman advocated for good health through the promotion of the study of the human psychological domain, which he regarded as the scientific study of the strengths and virtues that enable people to flourish and thrive' (Crous, 2007). This intervention termed 'Emotive Positive Psychology' focuses on repairing the worst persons in life and building positive qualities to increase individual happiness and mental health. Satcher (1999) noted that promoting mental health will require scientific know-how but, even more importantly, a societal resolve that we will make the needed investment. This investment does not call for massive budgets; rather, it calls for the willingness of each of us to educate ourselves and others about mental health and mental illness, and thus, to confront the attitudes, fear, and misunderstanding that remain as barriers before us. In this regard, the inmates by definition are societal offenders and require all the rehabilitative help to assist them to conform to societal norms. It is, therefore, the prison's role as a rehabilitative home and not custodial edifice to embrace fully, as other developed states, services that are bibliotherapeutic in nature, so as to educate them as well as the general populace, in order to facilitate the reformation process and reduce recidivism among offenders.

There is a positive relationship between self-efficacy and well-being (Witmer, et al 1996, Hermon and Hazler 1999, Archer et al 1999). These studies found strong relationships between important life variables such as work, recreation, leisure etc., and wellbeing support, and has expanded previous findings that life satisfaction is a good predictor of longevity (Hermon & Hazler, 1999). Reformation is somewhat difficult to achieve as a single goal; this is because of the multifaceted nature of the variables that could bring about the condition of wellness. Some of these variables have little or no effect, where others have the possibility to make a huge impact (Le Roux, 2008). Thus, well-being as a concept in the life of inmates poses a greater significance. There is a link between information and reading, and reformation of inmates.

Rogers (1959), a prominent psychologist in his Humanistic approach (Client-centered theory), assumes that 'the interpretation one gives to situations (stressors) that encircle him determines his well-being'. Such interpretation is largely influenced by the amount of information an individual is disposed to. He opined that the



approach to assisting individuals entails the act of giving valued information to those that lack it and need it for a better understanding of self, environment and reformed decision making (all aspect of well-being). Information and reading, therefore, has the capacity to affect positively, the psychological aspects of every human being (Wigtil and Henriques, 2015). Thus, information resources in prison environment can enhance the reformation process of inmates.

Rogers (1959) asserted that for information to be effective, it must be current, adequate in scope and appropriate for users of information. This is true because as the societies become more complex (both in prison and the outer world), it becomes very necessary to provide the opportunity for inmates to take advantage of adequate and accurate information through reading so as to enable them make informed decisions as they proceed through their new status. Prison inmates mostly suffer from traumatic feelings as a result of being incarcerated coupled with the social stigma of imprisonment. They, as well, face emotional disharmony (disrupted well-being) as most of them feel, that life is meaningless and not worth living, thus, mental instability. Therefore, reading and information serve as a transitional activity for them towards complete (physical and emotional) reformation.

### 3. Methodology

The study was conducted in two selected prisons in south-western Nigeria, which are Ikoyi prison, Lagos State and Ijebu-Ode prison, Ogun State. A total population of 744 convicted prison inmates in the two prisons (513 prisoners from Ikoyi prison and 231 from Ijebu prison) was used for the study. 305 inmates were randomly sampled across sexes from Ikoyi prison and 138 from Ijebu-ode prison, totalling 443 (60%) of the study population. The study adopted a self-designed questionnaire for the inmates to collect data from the respondents in the two prisons, and the 443 sample responded correctly to the questionnaire making it a perfect (100%) response rate. Official approval was obtained for the study from the command headquarters of the Nigerian Prison Services having explained the research objectives. Other ethical considerations were strictly adhered to. Data were analyzed using the descriptive method of analysis such as frequency count, percentages, means and standard deviations.

Table 1. Population of the Study

Prison	Total Population of inmates	Sample size	Number of responses	Percent (%)
Ikoyi (Lagos State)	513	305	305	68.8
Ijebu-ode (Ogun State)	231	138	138	31.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>100</b>

### 4. Results and Discussion

Results obtained from the study are presented, as shown in the tables below;

Table 2: Availability of Library and Information Services in the Prisons

N=443

S/N	List	Readily Available	Occasionally Available	Not Available	Mean	Std Dev
1	Information Consultancy Services	66(14.9)	81(18.3)	296(66.8)	1.48	0.01
2	Loan Services	44(9.9)	43(9.7)	356(80.4)	1.30	0.76
3	Compilation of Reading List Services	74(16.7)	65(14.7)	304(68.6)	1.48	0.94
4	Readers' Advisory Services	67(15.1)	46(10.4)	330(74.5)	1.41	0.90
5	Reference Services	52(11.7)	60(13.5)	331(74.7)	1.37	0.82
6	Extension Service	48(10.7)	59(13.3)	336(75.9)	1.35	0.79
7	Document Delivery Services	59(13.3)	45(10.2)	339(76.5)	1.37	0.85
8	Inter Library Loan Services	40(9.0)	31(7.0)	372(83.0)	1.25	0.75
9	Book Discussion Services	65(14.7)	50(11.3)	328(74.0)	1.41	0.90
10	Film Show/Video and Viewing	28(6.3)	30(6.8)	385(86.9)	1.19	0.66
11	Radio/TV Services	18(4.1)	19(4.3)	406(91.6)	1.12	0.58
12	Internet Services	17(3.8)	12(2.7)	414(93.5)	1.10	0.53
13	CD-ROM Search Services	15(3.4)	13(2.9)	415(93.7)	1.10	0.51
14	Current Awareness Services	51(11.5)	41(9.3)	351(92.2)	1.32	0.78
15	Educational Support Services	100(22.6)	63(14.2)	280(63.2)	1.56	0.05
16	Services to Inmates in Restricted Areas e.g. Hospitals	52(52.7)	79(17.8)	312(70.4)	1.41	0.01
17	Photocopy Services	30(6.8)	29(6.5)	384(86.7)	1.20	0.71
18	Typing and Printing	39(8.8)	21(4.7)	383(86.5)	1.22	0.77

\*Weighted mean: 1.31

The analysis on the table shows that there are very few library services provided in the prison environment. The mean scores gotten from the tested items (library services) were low, none of the mean score obtained got above the criterion mean of 2.00. They are as follows in ascending order of mean scores, CD-ROM search service 1.10, Internet services 1.10, Radio/TV services 1.12, Film show/video and viewing 1.19, Photocopy services 1.20, Typing and printing services: 1.22, Inter-Library loan services 1.25, Loan services 1.30, Current awareness services 1.32, Extension service 1.35, Documentary delivery services 1.37, References services 1.37, Readers' advisory services 1.41, Services to inmates in restricted areas e.g. Hospitals 1.41, Book discussion services 1.41, Compilation of reading 1.48, Information consultancy services 1.48, and Educational support services 1.56. The entire mean scores were weighted at  $1.31 \leq 2.00$ . This is below the expected average, and as such proved that library services provided in Nigerian prisons are abysmally poor. This finding concurs with the findings by Omagbemi (2007) that Nigerian prison libraries are inadequately stocked, and are managed by non-librarians. No doubt, Enuke (2000), opined that Nigerian prisons are perceived to be custodians than rehabilitation centres because little and scant attention is given to the needs of the library in prisons.

Table 3: Utilisation of Library Information Resources by Inmates

N=443

S/N	List Information resources	Easily Accessible	Occasionally Accessible	Not Accessible	Mean	Std Dev
1	Dictionary	21(4.7)	41(9.3)	381(86.0)	1.19	0.16
2	Encyclopedia	12(2.7)	35(7.9)	396(89.4)	1.13	0.22
3	Bibliography	39(9.0)	51(11.5)	353(79.7)	1.29	0.17
4	Handbook and Manual	65(14.7)	122(27.5)	256(57.8)	1.57	0.06
5	Novel	9(2.0)	12(2.7)	422(95.3)	1.07	0.20
6	Newspaper	6(1.4)	13(2.9)	424(95.7)	1.06	0.08
7	Newsletter	2(0.5)	5(1.1)	436(98.4)	1.02	0.68
8	Internet	0	0	443(100)	1.00	0.11
9	Journal	5(1.1)	8(1.8)	430(97.1)	1.04	1.32
10	Video personal Development Training Cassette	0	0	443(100)	1.00	0.02
11	Bulletin	100(22.6)	246(55.5)	97(21.9)	2.01	0.07

\*Weighted mean: 1.22

The analysis revealed that utilisation among inmates in Nigerian prisons is disturbingly low, as a weighted mean of  $1.22 \leq 2.00$  was obtained. This is in line with the position by Omagbemi and Odenuwu (2007), that the terrible states of Nigerian prisons hamper library use among inmates. The results obtained from both access and utilisation of internet as an information resource is constant and stagnant, which proves that it is either that it is a forbidden item as an information resource or that prison officials have a preconceived negative attitude on internet usage among inmates. In support of this, Glennor (2003) posited that when ex-offenders return to the society, they face the digital divide because while incarcerated, they had no access to the internet and thus his or her knowledge is limited to exaggerated concepts or complete ignorance of its possibilities. The realized result of this analysis, individually were as follows; bulletin 2.01, handbook and manual 1.57, bibliography 1.29, dictionary 1.19, encyclopedia 1.13, novel 1.07, newspaper 1.06, journal: 1.04, newsletter 1.02, internet 1.00, and video personal development training cassette 1.00.

## 5. Conclusion

Information is power and reading is the precursor to knowledge and development. Reading is a social activity and a life-long learning process thus; information is a driving tool that enables the individual to attain their life goals. The study has documented the inadequate provision of information resources in most prison libraries. The provision of library services to prison inmates in Nigeria has been grossly undermined which has led to unavailability of information resources in prison libraries that should cater for inmates' reading interests. This, invariably, has hindered effective information utilisation and the consequence of the negative impact on inmates' psychological well-being and by implication their reformation for reintegration. Library resources if made available would ignite prison inmates utilisation of materials would address their reading needs, thereby solving the psychological problems that are associated with incarceration. Prison authorities and other stakeholders such as Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) must ensure that prison library collections are developed and periodically updated to reflect standard library collection development policy. This ultimately would support and complement prison education programme which is an essential component of prison objective towards inmates' meaningful reintegration into society.

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