

# Publication of Library-Related Articles in Selected Nigerian Newspapers from 2011 to 2016: How Much of the Media Reportage?

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## Abstract:

**Purpose:** This study was carried out to investigate the publication of library-related articles in selected Nigerian Newspapers from 2011 to 2016.

**Design/Methodology/Approach:** The study adopted content analysis as its research design. The frequency and prominence of library-related articles published from 2011 to 2016 in Nigerian newspapers were examined. Four newspapers were purposively selected from the best ten newspapers in circulation in Nigeria. A total of 8,644 editions of the newspapers constitute the population from where all the available publications in MOUAU library - 7,908 editions representing 91.5% of the population - formed the sample size. The instrument used for data collection was the code sheet while the data collected was analyzed within the context of the objectives of the study using simple frequency distribution table, percentages and numbers, for easy interpretation.

**Findings:** The results of the study reveals that library-related articles were seldom published in Nigerian newspapers. Out of the 7,908 editions of the newspapers examined, only 960 library-related articles were published. This represents one library-related article in at least every 8 editions. Other findings are that: the number of library-related articles published in the newspapers progressively decreased between 2013 and 2016; *This Day* newspaper published the highest number of library-related articles; and news articles constitute majority of the library-related articles published in the newspapers.

**Recommendations:** The study recommends, among others, that the Nigerian Library Association, the Association of University Librarians in Nigeria Universities, and other associations of heads of various libraries should, at their different fora, organize regular interactive sessions with the Nigerian Union of Journalists in general and the newspaper correspondents /journalists in particular to discuss, among others, the need for adequate coverage and proper placement of library issues in the newspapers.

**Keywords:** Library; Newspaper; Nigerian Newspapers; Library-Related Articles.

## Introduction

This research arises from the need that conscious effort should be made to project and promote libraries in Nigeria. This is because of the noble roles libraries play in the development of our Society. In addition to the information dissemination role of the library, it serves as an agent of education in our society. Libraries preserve recorded knowledge of mankind which is the earliest responsibility of any library. They preserve the records of civilization and of mankind's achievements and discoveries. Libraries preserve the culture of the people and this implies the conservation of the historical records of the society.

Libraries serve as research centres. Research is one of the means, and the only verifiable or empirical means of searching for the truth. New knowledge pre-supposes recognition of the existing knowledge. Libraries support research by enabling researchers examine or review existing knowledge organized in the library. By embarking upon an articulated programme for documentation of traditional values and for promoting literature relevant to national cultural aspirations, the library becomes a potent tool of national cultural development. Indeed, the library plays noble roles in the progress of a society such as Nigeria.

The Library, therefore, deserves adequate coverage by the mass media, particularly the newspapers. The Newspaper is in a vantage position to promote the libraries through its coverage of library business and development. Newspaper (excluding electronic version) usually refers to a set of large sheets containing printed news, stories, information, articles, advertisements etc. Newspaper is a mode of mass communication. It is very useful in creating social, economic, cultural and educational awareness. It raises voices to draw the attention of

the common man and the government to issues of its focus. Newspapers provide us with information collected from the political, economic, educational and all other sectors of the community, the nation and the globe. It also helps the people and the government to develop new ideas, and at times guide them on how to think and act regarding particular issues. It is very helpful in creating awareness in various areas of human activities.

The main purpose of newspaper, just like other mass media, is to disseminate information and knowledge, educate, and entertain. It exposes issues like the state of the libraries in Nigeria and so educates people on the same. It is a common knowledge that vast number of people across the nations and continents rely upon the newspaper for keeping themselves updated on various ongoing issues around the world. Newspapers are usually in-expensive, attractive, and easily accessible; it can be read and reread. With the help of Newspaper, we get immense knowledge on various subjects. It updates information from time to time so that the general public stays aware of what is going on around them locally and globally. Newspaper raises our consciousness and ignites awareness in us by providing information and knowledge. It provides facts, figures, and news to the readers so that they can analyze the information and can understand what is wrong and what is right. It seeks not only to inform but to capture the people's interest, to stimulate, and to excite.

It helps in reforming, reshaping, and strengthening the society. Newspaper guides the government, it makes healthy criticisms of the activities and policies of the government, and point out government mistakes and set it on the right path. They serve as the link between the people and the government. They also serve as the primary source of general information due to their local origin.

Newspapers often circulate widely amongst the populace, thereby having potential impact on large numbers of people. The work of Kwadzo (2010) attests to this. It points out that 47.2% of China's alarming population considers newspapers as their first source of information, a proportion much higher than the percentage for television and radio. Despite the fact that newspaper's first-rated status is continuously being challenged by radio, television, periodicals, websites and social media, they still remain popular and influential. The power of the press, especially the Newspaper, cannot be underrated even now. In another research work, Yanoritzky (2002) reported that on average, legislators spent 1.8 hours each day reading newspapers and 1.5 hours a day watching television news Programmes.

News stories, feature articles, advertisements, letters to the editor, editorial, among others are usually the features in a Newspaper. When topics such as Libraries and National Development receive much editorials or feature articles in newspapers, it provides an opportunity for education of the public on the topic. But when topics did not receive much publications or newspaper coverage, it means much importance was not accorded the issues, Kwadzo (2010) stated. Continuing, Kwadzo reported that beyond sheer frequency of news stories, how the stories are presented or displayed also influences the way the public interprets and responds to them. For instance, a news item which is placed on the front page of the paper in bold title attracts more reader attention than articles placed less prominently. The research work of Woodruff (2003) that examined California's major newspapers from 1998-2000 to determine how newspapers cover childhood nutrition, noted that substantive articles on childhood nutrition policy were rare. But, whatever substantive news that was available were well placed. They also realized that in-depth articles on important factors that affect children's health were mostly contributions from public health professionals.

Publishing an issue as an editorial is another way of giving prominence to the issue. Editorial comment contains the opinion of the editor or the newspaper. It provides the reader with the interpretation, comment or opinion that gives the reader added perspective on stories carried on other pages. Editorials, according Habel (2006) are viewed as the opinionated extension of what is reported in the news sections. They are regarded as the voice of a group of experts or representing the views of an informed group which can sway the public or serve as a reflection of the views of schools of thought. Habel (2006) further argued that editorials or editors are under no obligation to present both sides of arguments or to moderate other people's view. They are at liberty to challenge, rebuke or praise as they deem fit. Editorial aim to influence government policy and public opinion and can change the attitudes and behaviour of readers towards a particular matter.

Continuing, Habel (2006) examined all speeches made on the floor of the United States Congress for references made to editorials published by the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal newspapers in 1985, 1989, 1993 and 2002. He found out from his study that the frequency of citing editorials on the floor of the U.S. Congress was 595 times, with 1985 featuring the highest of 229 for the two newspapers during the periods. He stated that during the 600 days that congress was in session during the four year period, editorials were cited 331 times, roughly every other day. He reported that those references were made most often to support their position

on issues rather than to criticize opponents. In similar study, Yoo (2001) noted that editorial coverage of newspaper on older immigrants in the United States of America influenced Federal policy reform on supplemental security income to those immigrants.

Newspaper has the potential power to generally make or mar. Portrayal of people, situations, or events in the media not only affects policy or decision making but can also downgrade or enhance the image of a person, profession or event (Luthman, 2007). Whatever the newspaper publishes about a people or a profession, or an issue reveals much about how the public understands the issue. The outcome of such publications can disprove an impression existing already or perpetuate stereotypes already held. In another work more than two decades ago, Essegbey (1996) undertook a limited content analysis of some state owned and private newspaper published in Nigeria in 1995 with the aim of assessing their coverage of science and technology issues. He found that none of the stories on science and technology issues carried by the newspapers was a front page story.

### **History of Newspaper in Nigeria**

The Origin of newspaper in Nigeria can be traced to 1959. According to Ogbuoshi (2005) in Egbo (2012) a European Missionary, Reverend Henry Tennsend, established a printing press at Abeokuta in 1859 with which he printed Africa's first Vernacular newspaper called *Iwe Iroyin*. It was bilingual (Published) in English and Yoruba. In 1863, *The Anglo African Newspaper*, edited by Robert Campbell was published. It carried both local and international News. With the increase in political and social activities in Nigeria came the *Lagos Times* in November 10, 1880 which was used to aggregate public opinion on topical issues. This was followed by the publication of the *Lagos Observer* in early 1882. By March 31, 1887, *The Eagle Newspaper* was published.

Other Newspapers began to emerge afterwards. *The Nigerian Chronicle* came out in 1908, the *Nigerian Daily Times* in 1926, and the *West African Pilot* established by Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe in 1963. Chief Obafemi Awolowo started the *Nigerian Tribune* in 1946.

Currently, Nigeria is blessed with myriads of daily newspapers spread across the nation. Arguably, the best ten (10) newspapers in circulation today in Nigeria are : *The Guardian, The Vanguard, Punch, Nigerian Tribune, This Day, Daily Sun, The Nation, Daily Champion, The National Mirror, and Daily Independent* (Nigerian Finder, 2017).

### **Methodology**

This study adopted content analysis as its research design. Content Analysis, according to Wimmer and Dominick (2011, p.156), is a "method of studying and analyzing in a systematic, objective and quantitative manner for the purpose of measuring variables". It is also a scientific method used in the analysis of the media contents for the purpose of ascertaining the status and character of a given phenomenon. Ohaja (2003, p.14), writes that "content analysis refers to the examination of the manifest content of communication to discover the patterns existing therein". Such manifest content could be advertisements, news stories, features, opinion articles, editorials, letter-to-the-editor, cartoons, photographs, and other illustrations in a newspaper or magazine. This informed the use of content analysis in determining newspaper coverage of library-related articles in this study.

The population of a study in an organized research is determined by the problem under investigation (Nwogbo, 2015). The population of this study therefore, comprises all editions or issues published by the four selected national newspapers namely: *The Guardian, Vanguard, Daily Sun, and ThisDay* from January 2011 to December 2016 which amounted to 8, 644 editions. The papers were selected for analysis based on their national spread or circulation strength, wide coverage of issues, and popularity. A total of 7,908 (91.5%) editions of the four selected newspapers out of the 8,644 population size formed the sample size of this study. The procedure for arriving at the sample size is by selecting all the available editions of the newspapers in MOUAU library without sourcing for the non-available editions in other libraries.

The instrument for data collection was the code sheet which is the most appropriate tool for analyzing manifest contents of messages and information. The code sheet was used to cover all the variables necessary for achieving the objectives of the study. The data collected were analyzed within the context of the objectives of the study using simple frequency distribution table, percentages and numbers, for easy interpretation. News stories whose headlines had the word "library" in it were selected and analyzed. The categories of library-related news items covered were: feature articles, news articles, editorials and general articles. Advertisements were excluded. The library-related articles or stories were examined to determine the type of libraries covered, the type of articles presented, and the kind of prominence given to the articles.

### Analysis and Results:

Data generated in the course of this study/work were presented in frequency distribution tables with figures and simple percentages. This study sought to examine newspaper coverage of library related/based article in Nigeria. The researchers relied on the newspapers available in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike Library from where four newspapers were purposively selected based on their national spread. The period studied was January 2011 to December 2016. However, newspapers of July 2013 to January, 2014 were not available in the library. Therefore, newspapers of the period were not part of the study. The publication frequency or edition of all the newspapers in the study was daily (that is, daily newspapers).

Table 1: Number of Days/Editions.

Newspapers	Years/Editions						
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	Total
The Guardian	366	365	334	181	366	365	1,977
Vanguard	366	365	334	181	366	365	1,977
Daily Sun	366	365	334	181	366	365	1,977
This Day	366	365	334	181	366	365	1977
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>7,908</b>

Leap year with 29 days in February 2012 and February 2016.

From table 1 above, a total of 7,908 dailies/editions of the four newspapers for the six years under review were examined. Out of this figure, 1,460 editions were examined in each of 2011 and 2015. In 2012 and 2016 which were leap years, 1,464 editions were examined in each of the years. All library-related articles or stories in all the editions were studied, analyzed and categorized. These categories were carefully chosen to determine the direction and frequency of coverage.

**Yearly Frequency of Coverage** - Table 2 below shows that the 1,460 editions examined in each of the 2011 and 2015 years represent 18.5% in each of the years. Similarly, the 1,464 editions recorded for each of the 2012 and 2016 years represent 18.5% in each of the years also.

Table 2: Frequency of Library Related Articles.

Year/No of Editions			No of library-related Articles	% of library-related Articles/% of editions	
Year	No of Editions	% of Editions		% of articles	% of editions
2016	1,464	18.5		173	18.0
2015	1,460	18.5	174	18.1	18.5
2014	1,336	16.9	175	18.2	16.9
2013	724	9.1	54	5.6	9.1
2012	1,464	18.5	194	20.2	18.5
2011	1,460	18.5	190	19.8	18.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,908</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The frequency or number of the Library-related articles published during the period under study is also shown in Table 2 above. There were a total of 960 library-related articles or stories during the sixth year period. The highest number of library-related articles, which was 194 (20.2%), were published in 2012 while the lowest – 54 (5.6%) - were published in 2013. It should, however, be noted that in 2013, newspaper covering the months of July to December were not available in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike Library, therefore, they were not included in the study. The number of articles published progressively decreased over the years from 2011 to 2016 as it dropped to 173 (18%) in 2016 from 190 (19.8%) in 2011.

The rate or frequency of Library-related articles in the newspapers was very low. For instance, out of 1,464 edition of the newspaper in 2016, only 173 (18%) articles were published in them. This shows that the Library-related articles or stories were not frequent, indeed they were very low. This may be because newspapers focus

on political and crime issues more than other issues. A similar reason could be that Journalists or other persons who wrote stories for the newspapers were just not interested in library issues. Factors such as the Journalists interests, cultural ties and proximity, among others affect the selection and presentation of articles in newspapers (Yanovitzky, 2002).

**Number of Articles published by different Newspapers -**

Table 3: Library-related Articles by the Newspaper.

Year	Guardian	Vanguard	Daily Sun	This Day	Total	(%)
2016	14	26	35	98	173	(18.0%)
2015	20	20	56	78	174	(18.1%)
2014	22	14	52	87	175	(18.2%)
2013	15	3	21	15	54	(5.6%)
2012	86	28	45	35	194	(20.2%)
2011	60	31	47	52	190	(19.8%)
Total	217 (22.6%)	122 (12.7%)	256 (26.7%)	365 (38.0%)	960	(100%)

The table above shows that out of 960 library-related news items or articles, *This Day* and *Daily Sun* carried greater number of the articles. For the sixth year period, *This Day* published 365 (38%) library-related articles while *Sun* published 256 (26.7%) library-related articles. *The Guardian* published 217 (22.6%) while *Vanguard* had 122 (12.7%) library-related articles within the period. The difference in the number of library-related articles published by the four newspapers for each of the six years was close. In 2016, a total of 173 (18%) of the articles were published, 194 (20.2%) were published in 2012 while 2011 recorded a total of 190 (19.8%) of the articles. The non-availability of newspapers for the months of July to December 2013 must be responsible for the 54 (5.6%) library-related articles published in 2013. One could not explain why the number of articles published in 2016, 2015 and 2014 were almost the same while the numbers published in 2012 and 2011 were also almost the same.

**Types of Libraries Covered by the Articles -** The Library-related articles covered all types of Libraries. They are the: Academic, Public, School, National, Special, Community and Private (home) Libraries. The articles that cover a combination of the above types of Libraries or that did not mention a particular type of library were placed in the General category.

Table 4: Categories of Libraries Covered.

Libraries	No. of Articles	Percentages (%)
Academic	172	17.9%
Public	24	2.5%
School	90	9.4%
National	8	0.8%
Community	13	1.4%
Special	563	58.6%
Private home	16	1.7%
General	74	7.7%
Total	960	100%

Table 4 above shows that out of the 960 articles published on library issues, Special Library received the most coverage newspapers articles during the period, this accounted for 563 (58.6%) of the articles. This was distantly followed by the Academic Library, which accounted for 172 (17.9%) of the articles, School Library 90 (9.4%) , and the General category accounted for 74 (7.7%) of the articles. The next was the Public Library 24 (2.5%) followed by the Private Library 16 (1.72%) and the Community Library 13 (1.4%). The least was the National Library that received 8 (0.8%) coverage of the articles.

**Types of Information Reported -** The types of information reported in the newspapers, in terms of the content of the library-related articles, are mainly based on four categories namely: features articles, news article, editorials and general articles as shown in table 5 below.



Table 5: Frequency of Types of Information Reported.

Content Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Feature Article	217	22.6%
News Article	662	68.9%
Editorial	66	6.9%
General	15	1.6%
Total	960	100%

Feature article is detailed report on a person, an issue, or an event. It is an article that concentrates on a particular subject. Feature article is a type of story that develops the writing from the angle of human interest. News article or story refers to in this study as informational news, a story about an event that has just taken place. News story give an account of events that have recently happened; the story aims to keep the readers up-to-date on important events, in this case, library events. News article or story usually have very little or no background information and analyses. As shown in table 5 above, majority of the articles, that is 662(68.9%), were news stories pertaining to book donations to libraries, inauguration and commissioning of new libraries, library week programme of libraries, and on-going library projects. These were usually reported after the event. Next to the news stories were feature articles with 217 frequencies, representing 22.6%, editorial articles had 66 (6.9%), while the general articles were 15 (1.6%).

Myhre (2002) in Kwadzo (2010) stated that news stories with background data leads readers to focus on solutions. Furthermore, Kwadzo (2010) emphasized that library-related news stories should be written by individuals with knowledge rather than reporters working for the various newspapers. He observed that news most often reflected the reporter's lack of background information about the subject. He recommended that issue-oriented articles should be part of event-related news so that a broader perspective of issues would be reported.

**Frequency of Types of Information Reported by the Newspapers -**

Table 6: Types of Articles Reported by the Newspapers.

Type of Articles	The Guardian	Vanguard	Daily Sun	This Day	Total (%)
Feature Article	25 (11.8%)	37(17.0%)	58(26.6%)	97(44.6%)	217(22.6%)
News Article	163(24.6%)	157(23.7%)	160(24.2%)	182(27.5%)	662(68.9%)
Editorial	34(51.5%)	5(7.6%)	11(16.7%)	16(24.2%)	66(6.9%)
General	2(13.3%)	2(13.3%)	6(40%)	5(33.3%)	15(1.6%)
Total	224(23.3%)	201(20.9%)	235(24.5%)	300(31.3%)	960(100%)

From Table 6 above, *This Day* and *Sun* published most of the library-based feature articles. Out of the 217 feature articles for the six year period, *This Day* published 97 of them representing 44.6%, *Daily Sun* published 58 of the feature articles representing 26.6% while *The Guardian* published the least feature articles, that is, only 25 representing 11.8%. This was followed by *Vanguard* with 37 feature articles representing 17%. These showed that a total of 217 (22.6%) feature articles were identified out of the 960 articles examined.

News articles constitute the highest number of articles examined. Out of the 960 articles examined, 662 articles, representing 68.9% were news articles. *This Day* provided the highest number of news articles - 182 representing 27.5% while *Vanguard* provided the least News articles - 157 of them representing 23.7%. Similarly, editorial articles constitute only 66 (6.9%) of the total articles examined. Out of the 66 editorial articles, *The Guardian* contributed 34 (51.5%) articles while the *Vanguard* provided only 5 (7.6%). The total general articles were 15 representing 1.6% of all the articles examined in the study. *Daily Sun* contributed 6 (40%) of the general articles. *The Guardian* contributed only 2 (13.3%) of the general articles.

Finally, the table also shows that out of the total 960 library-related articles published in the newspapers during the period, *The Guardian* published 224 (23.3%) of the articles, *Vanguard* published 201 (20.9%), *Daily Sun* published 235 (24.5%) and *This Day* published 300 (31.3%) of the articles.

Table 7: Placement of Article (Level of Prominence)

Position of Articles	Guardian	Vanguard	Sun	This day	Total (%)
Front Page	-	-	-	-	0(0%)
Back Page	-	-	-	-	0 (0%)
Inside Page	217	118	256	357	943
Centre page	5	11	-	8	17
Total	217	122	256	365	960

Table 7 above shows that all library-related articles were placed on one of the inside pages of the newspapers. None was placed on the front or back pages of the newspapers. None was also found on the centre page.

Table 8: Direction (Negative or Positive) of Articles

Direction of Articles	The Guardian	Vanguard	Daily Sun	This day	Total (%)
Positive	201	109	237	343	890 (92.7%)
Negative	-	-	-	-	0 (0%)
Neutral	16	13	19	22	70 (7.3%)
Total	217	122	256	365	960 (100%)

From Table 8 above, 890 of the 960 articles were positively reported. This represents 92.7% of library-related articles examined in the study. None of the articles were negatively reported while 70 of the activities representing 7.3% were neutral in their reportage.

## Discussion

The importance of libraries, as stated in the introductory part of this study, cannot be over stressed. Unfortunately, from this research, it is evident that the major national newspapers in Nigeria did not carry many library-related or library-based stories during the period under review. There were only 960 stories on Libraries out of the probably hundreds of thousands of stories that were published in the various editions of the news papers during 2011 to 2016 period. This finding is related to those of Nwogbo (2015), Opemipo and Koblower (2013), and Egbo (2012) which showed that agriculture, malaria and sexual violence - the subject of their study respectively - were not covered or reported often in Nigerian newspapers. The finding is also related to that of Kwadzo (2010) which showed that library-related articles were seldom published in Ghanaian Newspapers. However, the finding of Myhre (2002) in Kwadzo (2010) which revealed that alcohol was mentioned often at least once a day in the daily newspapers serving communities in California – is in contrast with this study. This gave the newspaper readers the opportunity to read news on alcohol daily. By contrast, the finding of the present study implies that Nigerian newspaper readers and public policy makers would not have the opportunity to read and be educated about libraries frequently.

Another finding of the present study is that in the last four years of the period under study, that is, 2013 - 2016, the number of library-related articles was progressively decreasing. This is in contrast with Kwadzo (2010) which showed that the number of library-related articles in Ghanaian newspapers from 2001 to 2006 progressively increased. Similarly, in the last three years of the period under review, *This Day* newspaper consistently published the highest number of library-related articles amongst the Nigerian newspapers used in the study.

News articles (which entail mere recounting of facts) increased with a frequency of 68.9% constituting majority of the stories published in the newspapers as shown in Table 5. Unfortunately, only 22.6% feature articles and 6.9% editorials or editorial articles were published. This finding shows that less attention is attached to the publication of the library-related articles in the newspapers. This is because features and editorial articles which are not many in the library-related articles entails not only reporting the fact, but also analyzing and possibly injecting emotional slant into it, to make the message stronger so as to precipitate societal appreciation of the contribution of libraries in National development. This attests to Nigerian Newspapers' poor interest in reporting library matters. This finding is in tandem with those of Opemipo and Koblome (2013), Egbo (2012) and Kwadzo (2010).

Another related finding is that *This Day* published more feature (44.6%) and news (27.5%) articles than the other newspapers; *The Guardian* published the highest number of editorials (51.5%) while the *Sun* published more general articles (33.3%) than the other Newspapers. The study shows that Nigerian newspapers, as represented by the four national dailies used in this study, do not attach importance to library matters. This is premised on the non-placement of any library-related reports or articles prominently on the front pages, centre spread pages, or back pages of the newspapers. Newspapers accord prominence to a story by placing it on strategic pages for audience attention and also to influence peoples' perception of such story or issue as being important.

Finally, one of the findings of the research show that 890 (92.7%) of the articles were positively reported with regard to the need for library development and the usefulness of libraries to the society while 70 (7.3%) of the articles were neutral in their reportage. None of the articles were negatively reported.

### Recommendations

The findings of this study have significant implications for the journalists, library advocates and the librarians. The Nigerian Library Association, the Association of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities, and other associations of heads of various libraries should, at their different fora, organize regular interactive sessions with the Nigerian Union of Journalists in general and newspaper correspondents /journalists in particular to discuss, among others, the need for adequate coverage and proper placement of library issues in the newspapers. Individual librarians, Nigerian Library Association, the Association of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities, Heads of Public Libraries in Nigeria, and other associations of heads of various libraries should also sponsor and ensure the publication of regular and periodic library-based articles in the major newspapers in Nigeria. Library administrators should ensure that newspaper journalists are invited to witness major library occasions/ceremonies, developmental activities, and librarians' major meetings/conferences with a view to their prominent reportage in the newspapers.

### Conclusion

It is worrisome that not many library-based articles are published in Nigerian newspapers despite the important roles libraries play in national development. The newspapers also do not carry the few library-related articles on strategic pages. Moreover, the few library-based articles were mainly news items which merely recounted facts and events. There were few library-based feature articles and editorials in particular. All these point to the fact that Nigerian newspapers do not attach importance the reportage of library-related issues. Therefore, librarians in particular should rise to the occasion and influence newspaper journalists to show adequate interest in publishing library matters and indeed cause them to publish many library-based articles in their news, feature and editorial forms, placing them on strategic pages of the newspapers.

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