

Current Research

Research

(a) **Completed Research:**

Listed below are completed research works designed and carried out by me. Some of the studies were carried out with my colleagues in Nigeria and in some African countries. My doctoral degree students also participated in some of the studies.

1. **The use of audiovisuals in instruction in Nigeria universities, polytechnics and schools.** Most of these studies were singly conducted. One of the studies focused on the use of instructional media by lecturers in some Nigerian universities. This study highlighted the value of multi-media instruction in the universities and found that lecturers in Medicine and Science were more disposed to use of instructional media than their colleagues in other faculties. The study on the attitudes of undergraduate students to learning with media showed that the majority had positive attitudes. The findings and recommendations of these studies have been useful to lecturers in universities. The papers have also been well cited in literature.

2. **The use of audiovisuals in non-formal instruction.** Three monographs were published from the research project sponsored by Michigan State University, U.S.A. 1975. This research project aimed to introduce African culture to African American youths. It was financed by the 4H of the American government through Michigan State University which employed me as a research officer to carry out the project. The multi “media approach in instruction was adopted as it would enable the Afro- American youths to more easily appreciate African culture. Photographic slides, pictures and monographs were produced for the project. Kits were distributed to all the youth centres in Michigan State in the 70s.

3. **The problems and prospects of creating oral archives in Nigeria and Indigenous knowledge Systems study.** One of my early areas of study was oral archiving and information collection. Considering that African culture is to a large extent oral, there is the need to document a lot of the valuable information on African culture, tradition etc. This research was done much with the assistance of students who collected the data for archiving. Recently, African governments and institutions have encouraged studies on indigenous knowledge systems. This has encouraged me to do more studies in this area. I went to present some of my research findings at an international conference of South, Eastern and Central African Library Associations in Johannesburg, South Africa. My studies in this area have been published and well cited in literature.

4. **The use of audiovisuals in health education and health information dissemination to the grassroots in Nigeria:** I conducted a study of methods of health information transfer from the government and other agents to the people. The study was financed by the University of Ibadan Senate Research Grant. 1980. I got another Senate research Grant in 1997 which I used to study the possible role of the information professionals in providing health information to the grassroots people in Oyo State as a case study. The findings of both studies were communicated to policy makers in the state and should have been quite useful for their health programmes implementation. They were also quite useful to health workers and other change agents.

5. **Characteristics, trends and future directions of the literature of the information profession in Anglophone Africa.** The papers published from these studies mostly conducted with a colleague at the University of Botswana have been frequently cited by academics in the

profession all over the world. The studies have shown the developments and the changing focus of research and the need for library schools to review their curricular accordingly.

6. **Audiovisual media management in academic, research and special libraries and in Distance Education in Nigeria.** More recently, more studies were done on library and information technology use in libraries and for Distance Education in Nigeria. The findings would be quite useful for policy makers in education to pay more attention to development of library, information and technology resources for effective part-time and distance education programmes. Also, the National Open University will no doubt find some of the recommendations useful.

7. **Studies on information needs of and use by various groups and professionals in Nigeria.** I did studies on the information needs of women, artisans and of legal professionals. Not much studies have been done on the information needs of artisans and lawyers in Nigeria. The findings of the study with Dr Haruna of the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria, have shown the distinct areas of interest and information needs of lawyers in Nigeria. The papers have been frequently cited on the Internet by authors from all over the world.

(b) Research in Progress:

1. **A study of Indigenous knowledge Systems and oral information archiving in African societies.** The study commenced in 2000. This is a new era for research in information science because the global trend is to focus on the oral nature of the African cultures and indigenous practices of the people. **“The story so far”**: Using my background knowledge in information technology, the research has already identified the knowledge systems in health and agriculture and data has been collected on information practices and documentation in these areas.

2. **The role of library and information professionals in promoting indigenous knowledge publishing in Nigerian languages is also being studied.** The study is developed for no 1 above as it is aimed at investigating publishing of indigenous knowledge information materials in Nigeria. Presently, most commercial publishing houses concentrate on publishing information materials in the English language. But a lot of indigenous knowledge materials are written in the local languages. **“The story so far”**: So far, data has been collected on the activities of publishing houses. Also, some research has been done on using the information technology resources for documenting data and historical facts collected from the indigenous and non literate people.

3. **Information technology and library use by lecturers and students for distance education in Nigerian universities.** As all educational institutions are adapting the use of technology in the teaching and learning process, there is the urgent need for studies to determine the benefits of the IT resources in instruction. The results of such findings would also be relevant to policy makers and all stakeholders in the educational institutions. The study thus aims to evaluate, specifically the application of IT in distance education in Nigerian university. **“The story so far”**: I have collected data from all Nigerian universities offering sandwich and part-time degree and non degree courses with a view to determining areas of human resources, manpower and infrastructural needs. I have also obtained relevant data to compare the situation in other African universities with the universities in Nigeria.

Â© **Dissertation and Thesis:**For the doctoral degree in the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, my dissertation title was:Mabawonku, lyabo Motolagbe. Determinants, use and non-use of instructional media by lecturers in two selected Nigerian universities. A thesis submitted to the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of Ibadan. Ibadan. July, 1987.