

Awareness of Resource Description and Access (RDA) Among Cataloguers in Nigeria

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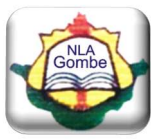
Abstract

This study investigated the awareness of Resource Description and Access (RDA) among cataloguers in Nigeria. The descriptive research approach was used for the study. The target population comprised 89 cataloguers that participated at the 2017 Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing seminar/workshop of Nigerian Library Association held at Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Oyo State. The total enumeration was used to include all the participants at the workshop. Self-constructed questionnaire was the instrument used to collect data. Out of 89 copies of the questionnaire distributed, 49 were retrieved back and used. Data collected were analyzed using both frequency and descriptive. The results revealed that majority of the respondents were aware of RDA. They were satisfied with the RDA guidelines and instructions because they have been trained on the use of RDA but the majority of the respondents (65.3%) affirmed that RDA has not been implemented in their libraries. It is recommended that RDA training and implementation must be the focus of policy makers in the libraries in Nigeria while, the professional librarians should be encouraged to attend conferences, seminars and workshops on RDA regularly in order to stay relevant professionally.

Keywords: Resource Description and Access (RDA), RDA Awareness, RDA Satisfaction, RDA Perception, Cataloguer.

Introduction

Resource Description and Access (RDA) is the new rules adapted from AACR2 designed for the digital world. According to Haliru, Sokari and Bello (2016) RDA is the new library cataloguing code, which has been developed to succeed the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules 2 (AACR2). RDA evolved to describe all types of entities and relationships in the bibliographic universe that meet the needs of users around the world (Moulaison, 2005). In October 2010, RDA was presented for the first time among professional cataloguers in Nigeria at the 30th Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Section Workshop to create awareness and sensitize cataloguers to the new developments on the cataloguing principles and standards. Since then, RDA has become an issue of discussion among librarians in Nigeria. Formerly, RDA was projected as a third edition of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, and called



AACR3 but it was renamed to Resource Description and Access (RDA). In other words, AACR2 was reviewed and developed to describe materials in a way which makes information resources more easily accessible. Jagboro (2015) affirmed that RDA employs new terms that replace some of the familiar AACR2 terms. The new terms are derived from the Functional Requirement models and the international cataloguing principles. However, RDA is a successor to Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, second edition (AACR2).

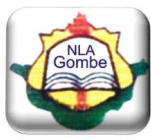
However, RDA is the new cataloguing standard, which came as a result of an innovation of the cataloguing principles from AACR2. These rules have been accepted among professional librarians in Nigeria as a standard for descriptive cataloguing for providing instructions and guidelines for formulating bibliographic data for resource description and discovery (NLA, Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Section, 2017). It is pertinent to note that RDA has become a register in the information lexicon of library and information science profession ever since RDA awareness was created in 2010 in Nigeria. Having known that RDA is a web product, providing a standard for resource description and access that is responsive to the digital environment in libraries, since then, the work of catalogers is now high, efficient and effective. However, the concept of RDA demands that a cataloguer must be able to describe the relationship that exists between resources or parts of resources, and not only works to describe the types of information resources available in a library collection because in this digital age, information must be organized to support access and retrieval. The main objectives of RDA are to increase efficiency; to help position the community for the future by making bibliographic data accessible on the web and also help catalogue users find the information they need more easily. It enables institutions to introduce efficiencies in data capture and storage retrieval. RDA Toolkit is required to achieve the aforementioned objectives. The RDA Toolkit is designed for the digital world and an expanding universe of metadata users.

Literature has shown that over ten years, RDA has been developed and its awareness created among cataloguers in Nigeria. However, some professional librarians in Nigeria are still not aware of RDA. In this era, professional librarians should be fully aware of RDA. From this premise, the present study aims to investigate the awareness of catalogers about RDA in Nigeria. Professional librarians (catalogers) were used for the study. Most were professionals working in the Technical Services Section who are considered to know more about the RDA standards.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to investigate the awareness of Cataloguers about Resource Description and Access (RDA) in Nigeria. The study has been carried out to address the following objectives: to

1. find out the level of awareness of Resource Description and access (RDA) among catalogers in Nigeria.
2. know if Resource Description and Access (RDA) has been implemented in Nigerian libraries
3. find out the sources of Resource Description and Access (RDA) awareness among catalogers in Nigeria.
4. know the satisfaction level of cataloguers about RDA in Nigeria
5. ascertain the perceptions of catalogers in Nigeria regarding Resource Description and Access (RDA)



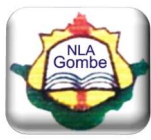
Review of Literature

Resource Description and Access (RDA) is paving the way for a richer and more performing future of library systems in regards to the way bibliographic records of information materials are now catalogued and searched. Therefore, librarians will need to think creatively about how best to carry out these new rules. RDA is based on two international conceptual models: Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) (IFLA, 1998) and Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD) (IFLA, 2009), developed by the working groups of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) with worldwide input and review. This new rule helps users to fulfil basic tasks with respect to the catalogue – enabling people to find, identify, select and obtain information they want.

The content of RDA has been developed in a collaborative process led by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC). The project is overseen by the Committee of Principals representing American Library Association, Canadian Library Association, CILIP, Library of Congress, Library and Archives Canada, British Library, and National Library of Australia. JSC stated goals for RDA as a new standard for resource description and access, designed for the digital world. In other words, RDA is a web- based tool that was optimized for use as an online product. The JSC has for the most part achieved that goal with ongoing work with special communities; and a tool that results in records that are intended for use in the digital environment – through the internet, web- OPACs, etc. – and most recently to make the descriptions useful in the linked data environment of the semantic web. The records created using RDA's metadata set of elements are intended to be readily adaptable to newly emerging data structures. These are specific goals stated for RDA, Tillett (2013):

- Assure the instructions are easy to use and interpret
- Be applicable to an online, networked environment
- Provide effective bibliographic control for all types of media
- Encourage use beyond the library community
- Be compatible with other similar standards
- Have a logical structure based on internationally agreed principles
- Separate content and carrier data

There are relatively few studies on awareness of RDA in Nigeria. Oguntayo and Akinniye (2016) examined a study on awareness, knowledge and implementation of RDA in academic libraries in Nigeria. The study revealed 78 (88%) respondents had heard about RDA while 11 (12%) had not. They were quite aware of RDA through informal means. Also, Aboyade and Eluwole (2018) carried out a study on implementation of resource description and access (RDA) in Nigeria: awareness, cataloguers' perception and challenges. The findings revealed that librarians/cataloguers in academic libraries in Southwest Nigeria are aware of, and enthusiastic about the implementation of RDA in Nigeria. On the contrary Haliru, Sokari, and Bello (2016) carried out a study on Perceptions of Resource Description and Access (RDA): A Survey of Librarians in University Libraries in Northwestern Nigeria. The study found that (40%) of the sampled population agreed that they were aware of the existence of RDA, 60% of the respondents were not aware, which suggests that awareness of RDA is low amongst the population under study. The result further revealed that attendance of local conferences, workshops/seminars was rated highest (35 participants; 45%) and through lectures in the library school was the least (5 participants; 6%) from the sources the participants got their



awareness of RDA. Therefore, the finding of Haliru, Sokari and Bello (2016) disagrees with that of Oguntayo and Akinniyi (2016), and Aboyade and Eluwole (2018)

In another study carried out by Nicholson (2013) on RDA at the National Library of Scotland. The study result found that most of the cataloguers have a good awareness of what RDA catalogue records look like. They recognize many of the new MARC fields used in RDA, such as 264 (publication details), 336 (content type), 337 (media type), 338 (carrier type), and how information is spelled out in full (e.g. place of publication not known, publisher not known, pages, illustrations) rather than abbreviated in the publication and physical description fields.

Mansor and Ramdzan (2014) and Pazooki, Zeinolabedni and Arastoopoor (2014) examined RDA perceptions among Malaysian cataloguers. The study found that communication channels used in propagating RDA play a formidable role in the levels of awareness acquired and perceptions. While, the study carried out by Haliru, Sokari, and Bello (2016) found a high score on perceptions of librarians on RDA in the university libraries of North-western Nigeria. The implication is that the librarians surveyed are favourably disposed towards RDA. It further revealed that the mean scores for all variables concerning RDA's connection with AACR2 are above 2.5 which suggest that familiarity with RDA amongst librarians studied is as a result of their familiarity with AACR2. This is in line with the findings of a similar study carried out in Iran, where it was discovered that most librarians who were familiar with RDA gained the familiarity because of their recognition of some of the AACR2 principles in RDA (Pazooki, Zeinolabedini, & Arastoopoor, 2014).

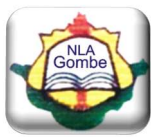
Panchyshyn, Lambert, and McCutcheon (2019) studied resource description and access adoption and implementation in public libraries in the United States. The study found that the majority of catalogers know about RDA, while 22 percent of respondents still had not heard of the RDA standard. Duchevea and Pennington (2019) researched on the implementations and perceptions of the Resource Description and Access (RDA) cataloguing standard in Europe. The result reviewed that some European countries are not adopting RDA but are still working towards an alignment with RDA. Furthermore, RDA was perceived as one of the bridges between the various cataloguing communities.

However, Atılgan, Özel, & Çakmak (2014) agreed that the future of library catalogs lies with RDA, its implementation should be internalized and encouraged and problems about cataloging should be reviewed. Aboyade and Eluwole (2018) recommended that adequate funds should be made available to libraries so as to train librarians and to further acquire RDA toolkit as well as functional and steady power system for the smooth implementation of RDA in Nigeria.

As explained earlier in this study, not many studies have been carried out in Nigeria on RDA. Studies done on RDA did not combine awareness, familiarization, satisfaction and perceptions. It is believed that this present study will fill this gap.

Methodology

The descriptive research approach was used for the study. The population comprised 89 participants at the 2017 Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Section of Nigerian Library Association held at Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Oyo State. The total enumeration was used as all the population was used due to the manageable size of the population. Self-constructed and evaluated questionnaire was used for data collection. A self-developed questionnaire tagged Awareness, Satisfaction, Familiarity and Perception of Resources Description and Access (ASFPRDA) for Catalogers in Nigeria was used for data



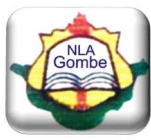
collection. It was divided into parts. Part A deals with personal information of the respondents such as name of their institution, designation, gender, age highest educational qualification. Part B measures awareness of RDA of respondents. Part C measures RDA Satisfaction of Librarian with 5 items statement. The response formats are: Extremely satisfied (ES) = 5, Very Satisfied (VS) = 4, Satisfied (S) = 3, Slightly Satisfied (SS) = 2 and Not Satisfied (NS) = 1. Also, there is a comments section on RDA Perceptions among Nigerian Catalogers in Nigeria. All registered participants were given the opportunity to participate in the study. Out of 89 copies of the questionnaire distributed, 49 copies (55%) were completed and returned. Data collected were analyzed using frequency counts, percentage and mean. The data collected include demographic information of the librarians, awareness of RDA, RDA satisfaction, and familiarity about RDA among Nigerian Catalogers.

Results and Discussion

These subsections present the analysis and interpretation of the responses from the questionnaire.

Table 1: Demographic Information of the Respondents of Cataloguer Librarians in Nigeria

Demographic Information	Demographic Items	No of Respondent Frequency (N=49)	Percentage %
Designation	Assistant Librarian	12	24.4
	Librarian II	6	12.2
	Librarian I	13	26.5
	Senior Librarian	6	12.2
	Principal Librarian	11	22.4
	University Librarian	1	2.0
	Total	49	100.0
Gender	Male	15	30.6
	Female	34	69.4
	Total	49	100.0
Age	21-30	3	6.1
	31-40	20	40.8
	41-50	15	30.6
	51-60	11	22.4
	Total	49	100.0
Highest Educational Qualification	Diploma	5	10.2
	BLIS/B.Sc/BA	11	22.4
	MLS/Mphil	28	57.1
	Ph.D	5	10.2
	Total	49	100.0
Years of experience as a cataloguer:	1-5	7	14.2
	6-10	18	36.7
	11-15	11	22.4
	16-20	5	10.2
	21-25	4	8.2
	26-30	1	2.0
	31-35	2	4.1



	36-40	1	2.0
	Total	49	100.0
Years of professional experience	1-5	10	20.4
	6-10	16	32.7
	11-15	10	20.4
	16-20	6	12.2
	21-25	3	6.1
	26-30	2	4.1
	31-35	1	2.0
	36-40	1	2.0
	Total	49	100.0

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The Table reveals that most of the respondents were within the rank of librarian I 13(26.5%), followed by Assistant librarian 12(24.2%); Principal librarian 11(22.4%); Librarian II and Senior Librarian 6(12.2%); while a least number 1(2.0%) of the respondents were of the rank of University Librarian. The result shows that the majority of the respondents had practiced as librarians for over 10 years,

In the aspect of the gender of cataloguers, the result shows that out of the 49 librarians that participated in the study, 34(69.4%) were females whereas only 15(30.6%) were males. This implies that there are more female respondents than male in the survey.

Age range of librarians shows that a total of 20(40.8%) were within the age of 31 to 40 years, 15(30.6%) were of the age of 41 to 50 years, 11(22.4%) were of the age of 51 to 60, whereas the least involved age group is 21 to 30 years which accounted for 3(6.1%).

The educational qualification of the respondents revealed that 5(10.5%) had Ph.D degree 28(57.1%) had Masters degree; 11(22.4%) had Bachelor degree; while 5(10.2%) had diploma. This result indicates that the highest respondents are those with Masters degree.

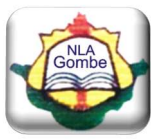
It is evident, as indicated in Table 1, that staff who served as catalogues for 6 to 15 years are the most involved in the study, as they accounted for 29 (59.1%) of all the respondents. The least were those under 26 to 40 years category, which made up 13(28.52%) only. The result also shows that the respondents according to their working experience. Majority of the respondents 26 (69.3%) indicated that they have worked for 1-15 years. While 6(12.2%) of the respondents have worked for 16-20 years.

Table 2: Awareness of RDA among Nigerian cataloguers

Awareness of RDA	Frequency	Percentage
Aware	34	69.4
Not Aware	14	30.6
Total	48	98

Table 2 shows that 34(69.4%) of the respondents were aware of the new internationally accepted cataloging code for the organization of library resources which replaces AACR2. While, 14(30.6%) said they were not aware. This implies that the majority of the respondents were aware of Resource Description and Access (RDA) in the library. This is in agreement with the findings of Nicholson (2013); Oguntayo and Akinniyi (2016) & Aboyade and Eluwole (2018).

Table 3: Implementation of Resource Description and Access (RDA) in Nigerian Libraries



Implementation of RDA in Libraries	Frequency	Percentage
Implemented	12	24.5
Not yet implemented	32	65.3
I don't Know	5	10.2

Table 3 reveals that RDA has not been implemented in most libraries. Majority of the respondents 32(65.3%) affirmed that RDA has not been implemented in their libraries. 12(24.5%) of the respondents opined that it has been implemented. While 5(10.2%) of the respondents indicated that they do not know. This result implies that 75% of libraries in Nigeria have not implemented RDA. However, Atılgan, Özel, & Çakmak(2014) opine that the future of library catalogs lies with RDA, its implementation should be internalized and encouraged

Table 4: Sources of the participants' awareness of RDA

Sources of RDA Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
Through international conferences	2	4.1
International workshops/seminars	2	4.1
In-house training	2	4.1
NLA conference	6	12.2
Workshops/seminars organized by Nigerian Library Association Cataloguing Classification and Indexing Section	26	53.1
Class room lectures	4	8.2
NLA online forum	7	14.2

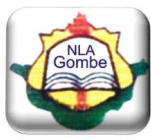
Table 4 shows the sources of the participants' awareness of RDA. It confirms that majority of the respondents 26 (53.1%) got their awareness of RDA from attendance of local workshops/seminars organized by Nigerian Library Association Cataloguing Classification and Indexing Section. Followed by NLA Online forum 7(14.2%), through lectures in the library school 4(8.2%). Through international conferences/ workshops/ seminars and in-house training was the least 2(4.1%). Obviously, the participants were aware of RDA through workshops/seminars organized by Nigerian Library Association Cataloguing Classification and Indexing Section.

Table 5 : Cataloguers' level of satisfaction with RDA

RDA Satisfaction among Nigerian Cataloger Librarians	NA	SS	S	VS	ES	\bar{X}	SD
I am satisfied with the new internationally accepted cataloging code (RDA)	12 (24.1)	6 (12.2)	22 (44.9)	3 (26.5)	6 (12.2)	3.71	1.49
I am satisfied with RDA documentation, instruction and training	3 (26.5)	8 (16.6)	18 (36.7)	5 (10.2)	5 (10.2)	3.63	1.55
I am fulfilled with the RDA for the organization of library resources.	14 (28.5)	8 (16.6)	19 (38.8)	4 (8.2)	4 (8.2)	3.63	1.57
I am satisfied with RDA terms and rules	14 (28.5)	9 (18.4)	18 (36.7)	4 (8.2)	4 (8.2)	3.61	1.59
As a librarian, I am satisfied with RDA implementation in your library	20 (40.8)	7 (14.3)	12 (24.5)	6 (12.2)	4 (8.2)	3.55	1.79

Key: NS= Not Satisfied, SS= Slightly Satisfied, S= Satisfied, VS= Very Satisfied, ES= Extremely Satisfied, Mean = (\bar{X}) Standard deviation = (S.D)

Table 5 shows the levels of satisfaction towards RDA among Nigerian Cataloguers Interestingly, it reveals that majority of the respondents were satisfied with RDA - the new



cataloguing standard. These include: They are satisfied with RDA- the new internationally accepted cataloguing code with (\bar{X} =3.71), RDA documentation, instruction and training with (\bar{X} =3.63), RDA terms, rules and for the organization of library resources with (\bar{X} =3.63). RDA implementation in their library with (\bar{X} =3.55). The result shows that most librarians are satisfied and ready to use RDA.

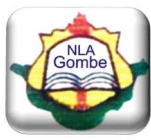
Cataloguers' Perception of RDA

The following comments were made from 18 respondents out of 49 respondents under the comments section in the questionnaire used for the study. They perceive that:

1. RDA is very good for organization of library resources.
2. RDA is simpler than AACRs, so it should be adopted by libraries in Nigeria.
3. Periodic training on RDA should be organized.
4. It is a welcome idea but needs more time to take up, due to new innovation challenges
5. It is a good tool which would enhance cataloguing and it is user friendly.
6. RDA is costly.
7. It should be implemented and used for easy access of information materials in the libraries.
8. It is introduced to suit the new generation libraries.
9. RDA is internationally accepted to replace AACR2, so we have to comply in order to continue sharing bibliographic information with other libraries.
10. Librarians in Nigeria need a lot of training and retraining to be able to implement RDA.
11. Financial support is required and compulsory.
12. It is a good innovation in the aspect of bibliographic description of resources
13. Compulsory training required to implement RDA should be available to all cataloguers in Nigeria.
14. It is a simplified kind of rule that makes the library operation more easy
15. Not aware about RDA and need to be trained on it
16. Aware about RDA, but neither trained, nor work with it
17. I have not used it in my library; I cannot really make comment and my library is not automated
18. Hope that RDA will enhance great productivity in cataloguing and classification of information materials

Discussion

One of the major findings of this study is that the majority of the participants were aware of Resource Description and Access (RDA) - the new internationally accepted cataloging code for the organization of library resources. This finding is in line with the findings of Oguntayo and Akinniyi (2016) and Aboyade and Eluwole (2018) who established in their study that the respondents have heard about RDA. The result also revealed that RDA has not been fully implemented in all the libraries in Nigeria. The result further established that librarians in Nigeria support the implementation of RDA. The study also confirmed that the main sources of awareness of RDA were attendance to local workshops/seminars organized by Nigerian Library Association Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Section and through NLA Online forum. This finding corroborates with the findings of Oguntayo and Akinniyi (2016) that the sources from where the participants got awareness of RDA was through the attendance to local conferences, workshops/seminars being the highest (35 participants; 45%) and through lectures in the library school being the least (5 participants; 6%). The study further revealed that



respondents satisfied in the statements listed on the RDA satisfaction among Catalogers in Nigeria as majority satisfied that RDA is the new internationally accepted cataloguing code for proper documentation for the organization of library resources.

Conclusion and Recommendation

In investigating the RDA awareness among cataloguers in Nigeria, this paper examined the implementation of RDA and found out the sources of RDA awareness. Research further looked at the satisfaction level and perception of cataloguer in Nigeria regarding RDA. This study has established that the majority of cataloguers in Nigeria were aware of RDA - the new internationally accepted cataloguing code for the organization of library resources. They got their awareness of RDA from attendance of local workshops/seminars organized by Nigerian Library Association, Cataloguing Classification and Indexing Section and followed by NLA Online forum. The result further showed that most librarians are satisfied with RDA, while some of the respondents have neither been trained, nor worked with it. Finally, the respondents perceived that there is need to train and re-train the cataloguers as RDA enhances great productivity in cataloguing and classification of information materials; simplify cataloguing rules that makes the library operations more easy; share bibliographic information with other libraries; encourage easy access of information materials in the libraries.

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that:

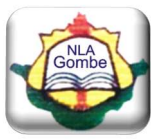
1. Heads of Libraries should advocate and support the procurement of RDA toolkit; implementation and use of RDA because the benefit outweighs the cost.
2. Catalogers should be trained and re-trained on the practical use of RDA Toolkit; and the necessary training materials should be available to all trainee librarians.
3. Professional librarians should be encouraged to attend conferences/seminars/workshops organized by NLA, LRCN, IFLIA and Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Section of Nigerian Library Association regularly in order to be aware and properly informed with new concepts in cataloguing. It is also necessary for cataloguers to register to join all Nigerian Library Association (NLA) online forum and social media (WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest etc.) as it serves as an avenue for creating awareness on new ideas and current trends in librarianship.
4. Awareness of RDA should be created through lectures in the library school and during library-in-house training, while Nigerian Library Association Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Section should be more proactive in creating awareness about RDA.

Acknowledgements

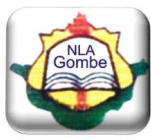
The authors would like to give their special thanks to the organizers of the 37th Nigeria Library Association Cataloguing, classification and Indexing section, especially the Executive and Local Organizing committee (LOC 2017) for their warm welcome. Further thanks to all participants for their support and kind gesture as they agreed to respond appropriately to the questionnaire on Awareness of Resource Description and Access (RDA) among Cataloguers in Nigeria.

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