

Level of Awareness of Copyright Law and Infringement by Students of Tertiary Institutions in Niger State, Nigeria

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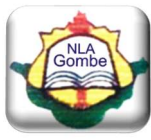
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Abstract

This study was examined to assess the Level of Awareness of Copyright Law and Infringement by students of Tertiary Institutions in Niger State, Nigeria. Survey research design was used for the study. The population of the study comprised 69,061 students as at 2015/2016 academic session. Sample size of 381 students were randomly selected for the study. A structured questionnaire was designed and used for the study. Out of the 381 copies of the questionnaire administered to students, 250 copies were filled, returned and used. Collected data were analysed using frequency counts, percentages and mean scores. The findings of the study revealed that extent of awareness of copyright law is considerably high for the use of printed/literary resources, meaning the students have a reasonable level of knowledge of the dictates of the copyright law but still go ahead to infringe on these laws, there is no adherence to the law; the awareness of copyright law reduces piracy/plagiarism, and this is to a significant extent; only 5% of students in higher institutions can afford to acquire textbooks required for study and research. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that, the management of the tertiary institutions in Niger State should derive a better means of effecting copyright law in the tertiary institutions, the copyright regulatory bodies like the Nigeria copyright Commission should be adequately funded by the government and there should be enlightenment and awareness campaigns that will be taken down to the grass root on piracy and its ills.

Keywords: Awareness of copyright law, infringement, plagiarism, tertiary institutions, Niger State, Nigeria.



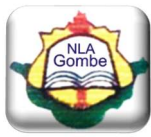
Introduction

Tertiary institutions are otherwise known as institutions of higher education. They exist to cater for post-secondary education. After students leave secondary schools, they proceed to any of polytechnics, colleges of education and universities (educeleb, 2018). Tertiary education is the educational level following the completion of a school providing a secondary education and including colleges as well as universities (Thefreedictionary, 2019). According to IFLA (n.d) stated that Copyright is a legal system that protects the creative outputs of authors by granting them exclusive rights to control the use of their creations for a limited time, subject to certain limitations, exceptions and statutory licensing arrangements allowing use and exploitation without the author's consent. Copyright is one of the two major heads of the field known as Intellectual Property and Intellectual Property.

Copyright can be defined as a person's exclusive right to authorize certain acts (such as reproduction, publication, public performance, adaptation etc.) in relation to his or her original work of authorship. The creator of the work typically owns the copyright, at least initially. However, copyright is often sold or assigned, in whole or in part, to a commercial publisher, a filmmaker, a recording studio or to someone else who will exploit the work commercially. As a consequence, copyright often benefits commercial interests more than individual authors (IFLA, n.d). Copyright law is not designed to limit public access to information but to ensure that the public has access to it by protecting the economic and moral rights of authors Copyright law is based on the assumption that an author is more likely to be motivated to embark on continuous production of intellectual products if there is the assurance that another individual can claim neither the credit nor the profit economically from the author's efforts. Copyright law does not protect ideas but exist only when the ideas are put in tangible format such as written works or other form of expression (Clifford and Oghenyerhovwome, 2014). The importance of copyright awareness can be noticed in its absence. That is to say that the absence of Copyright Awareness can be noticed when there is the problem of uncontrollable copyright infringement activities such as plagiarism and piracy within an academic setup.

Copyright infringement could be viewed as the abuse and violation, piracy or theft of a copyright holder's exclusive rights through an unauthorized usage of copyrighted materials (United States Copyright Office, 2012). Due to the need to protect the creativity and scholarship of our great thinkers and intellectuals from the sordid activities of pirates who deprive individuals and organisations of both moral and economic benefits of their labour, the Federal Government of Nigeria promulgated various Decrees. The Decrees were the legal instruments to regulate various issues relating to copyright in Nigeria. The Decrees were: Decree 61 of 1970; Copyright Decree No. 47 of 1988 which gave birth to the establishment of the Nigerian Copyright Commission. The Commission was charged with the administration, protection and enforcement of copyright and neighbouring rights matters in Nigeria (Aboyade, Aboyade and Ajala, 2015). Copyright protection begins as soon as the work is fixed (recorded), regardless of whether it is published under the 1976 act. The copyright lasts for the life of the author plus 50 years. If a work is created by an employee in the normal course of a job, however, the copyright belongs to the employer and lasts 75 years from publication or 100 years from creation, whichever comes first. Once a copyright expires, the work enters the public domain and anyone can copy it.

Piracy is a cankerworm that has eaten deep into the fabrics of the society. It is a clog in the wheel of the production and growth of copyrighted works, for it has led to counterfeiting and fake products, which has contributed in no small measure to intellectual property theft and



this has affected negatively the goodwill of the original creator of a work. Today, several incidences of piracy abound in various subject matter of copyright throughout the whole world, and Nigeria in particular. They include; software piracy, cinematography film piracy, music piracy and book piracy (Nwogu, 2014). Higher and tertiary institutions are major stakeholders in the piracy debate because most of the intellectuals in these institutions are authors and editors of books and journals articles as well as other scholarly articles (Garwe, 2014). Notwithstanding the issue of violations of the copyright law, photocopying activities are crucial to the survival and functioning of Institutes of Higher Education in Nigeria.

Statement of the Research Problem

The intellectual contents of authors' work have witnessed policy tumbling among the various stakeholders in Nigeria. Preliminary investigation into the photocopying activities in the higher institutions of learning, especially tertiary institutions in Niger State revealed indiscriminate and wanton photocopy activities among the students and the teachers alike. This development is believed to have had a negative impact on the moral and economic benefits of the authors of intellectual works culminating in the abuse of copyright statute. It is also believed that in Nigeria, the copyright law is not as effective as expected since no proper mechanism is put in place to curb infringement. Various forms of infringement are still practised on a reasonable scale in higher institutions of learning despite the copyright laws. Isiakpona (2012) stated that some publishers try to reproduce multiple copies of the original copy of another author's work without prior permission. The copies reproduced are almost similar to the original copy. Majority of infringers of copyright engage in random photocopy of published works unchallenged, and many still pretend ignorance of the Nigerian copyright statute and the existence of the Nigerian Copyright Commission. It is against this backdrop that this study sought to find out the reasons for photocopying and the level of awareness of copyright law among students of tertiary institutions and photocopiers in Niger State. This study is therefore, targeted at discovering the challenges of violation of copyright law through piracy in tertiary institutions in Niger State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

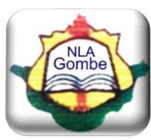
The objectives of the study are to:

1. find out the level of awareness of copyright law by students of tertiary institutions in Niger State;
2. ascertain the extent to which photocopying becomes an infringement of copyright law in tertiary institutions in Niger State;
3. investigate the causes of plagiarism as an infringement of copyright law in tertiary institutions in Niger State;
4. determine the causes of book piracy in tertiary institutions in Niger State.
5. investigate the challenges facing the National Copyright Commission (NCC).

Research Questions

The following research questions were postulated to guide the study:

1. To what level are students in tertiary institution in Niger State aware of copyright law?
2. To what extent is photocopying an infringement of copyright law in tertiary institutions in Niger State?
3. What are the causes of plagiarism in tertiary institutions in Niger State?
4. What are the causes of book piracy in tertiary institutions in Niger State?
5. What are the challenges facing the National Copyright Commission?



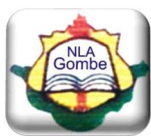
Literature Review

Aboyade, Aboyade and Ajala (2015) investigated copyright infringement and photocopy services among university students and teachers in Nigeria. In all, 800 respondents, consisting 400 undergraduates, 200 postgraduate students and 200 university teachers of the six federal universities in South-west Nigeria were involved in the study. The universities are: University of Ibadan, Ibadan; University of Lagos, Lagos; Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta; Federal University of Technology, Akure; Federal University of Technology, Oye Ekiti. The data collected were collated and analysed through the use of descriptive and inferential statistics. Specifically, the research questions were analysed with simple percentages while the hypotheses were tested using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Research found out that more than 65% of the respondents indicated their awareness of the copyright law. However, in spite of their awareness, more than 50% of the respondents photocopied whole books and journals, a scenario which runs fowl of the concept of fair use.

Korletey (2014) examined the level of copyright awareness in educational institutions from the context of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) MAP student of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). The research perspective of this study is the Mixed Approach. The study generated both qualitative and quantitative data. Research questions were used for the study which are: what Students, Lecturers and Administrators of KNUST know about copyright law; what measures are there to prevent infringement of copyright law at KNUST and what good practices are being followed to ensure that copyright law is properly observed at KNUST. Results showed that exactly half of the Students, representing 50% (which is not up to 100% as expected) were found to have satisfactory knowledge about copyright, Most of the Lecturers interviewed knew about copyright (72.5%), The study indicated that more than half of the total student respondents, representing 67% (n=335) are aware of plagiarism as an aspect of copyright law.

Apronti Tetteh (2014) investigated on the awareness of the copyright law among library users in tertiary institutions in Ghana. Research question were centred on the extent to which library users in tertiary institutions in Ghana are aware of the copyright law. Six research questions were used for the study which are: aware of the requirements of the copyright law, the extent to which library users utilize photocopy facilities, the level of compliance with 'fair use', reasons for reproducing literary materials, and how the copyright law is enforced in tertiary institutions in Ghana. The entire population of 250 students, 50 respondents in each of the 5 institutions. Out of the 250 questionnaires distributed, 239 were retrieved and 238 were found suitable for analysis. Data collected revealed that, most library users, for that matter students, are aware of copyright law and the consequences of violating the law, yet compliance with the law is low. It was also revealed that even though photocopying is a number one activity which violates the copyright law on campuses of tertiary institutions, not much is being done to enforce the law. Based on these findings, it has been recommended that, all stakeholders in education should ensure that adequate information resources are made available. Also, all stakeholders including librarians must support the implementation of the Reprographic Rights Organizations' (RROs) license in their institutions to create fairness between right holders and users in the literary and the print industries.

Clifford and Oghenyerhovwome (2014) in a study titled Violation of Copyright Law through Photocopying in Tertiary Institution in Delta State: Case Study of Delta State University Abraka. Five research questions were used for the study which are: meaning of copyright law. find out if photocopying is a violation of copyright law, find out the roles of the library on copyright law, investigate the penalties for copyright violation and investigate

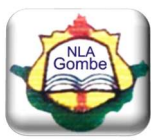


on the challenges of copyright commission in Nigeria. A Survey research method was adopted for the study. A population of 3489 and 77 students were sampled. Questionnaire was the main data collection instrument used for the study. The 77 copies of the questionnaire were administered by the researchers. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse data. Findings revealed that 77(100%) respondents agreed that textbook is the highest abused information materials through photocopying.

Ibrahim (2014) investigated the assessment contributions of the Nigerian Copyright Commission towards controlling book piracy in Nigeria by MLS students at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Five research questions were formulated as thus: what are the causes of book piracy in Nigeria? What types of books are being pirated? What measures are taken by the Nigerian Copyright Commission against book piracy in Nigeria? How effective are the measures taken by the Nigerian Copyright Commission to curb book piracy? What are the effects of book piracy on book business in Nigeria? Survey research method was used for this study. The population of this study is made up of NCC offices in Kano, Anambra and Lagos states and the publishing industries in the three selected states. The population of the study is one hundred and seventeen (117). Purposive sampling was used to select the three states as sample of the study. The whole population was used two sets of questionnaires was used to collect data for this study. 51 copies of the questionnaires distributed to the managers of the publishing companies in the selected states, 48 (94.1%) were returned. While On the part of NCC, 46 questionnaires were distributed to the Copyright Inspectors, and 42 (91.3%) were returned. The data collected were presented and analyzed using frequency distribution tables and percentages. 42 (100%) NCC respondents claimed that the copyright enforcement which comprised raids, arrest and prosecution are effective in curbing the menace of book piracy in the state studied. This 48 (100%) publishers and 42 (100%) NCC agreed that educational books are the highest pirated books.

Charbonneau and Prihs (2014) investigated Copyright awareness, partnerships, and training issues in academic libraries. A survey method was used and a total of 226 respondents working in academic libraries (N=226) in the United States responded to the survey. The respondents included academic librarians (60.6%, n=123), library administrators (24.1%, n=49), and library staff members (13.8%, n=28). A significant portion of survey respondents (93.3%, n=209) indicated that their current position involved providing copyright-related information or consisted of copyright duties.

Vasudevan and Suchithra (2013) investigated on copyright awareness of doctoral students in Calicut University Campus. The entire population of 120 doctoral students in the Department of A structured questionnaire was distributed among 120 doctoral students in the Calicut University campus. The study revealed that majority of the doctoral students are aware about copyright law and its importance, but the study also revealed that a good number of the doctoral students are less aware about plagiarism. Descriptive statistics was used to analyzed the data. Results showed that majority (56.3 per cent) of the science and non-science respondents depend upon internet to become aware about copyright. A few (28.6 per cent) of the respondents go for instruction classes. A few (23.2 per cent) of them preferred reading



books on copyright and a very few (10.7 per cent) use guides. A few (16.1 per cent) depends on library professionals.

Methodology

This study adopted survey research. The population of the study comprised 69,061 undergraduate students for 2015/2016 academic session in the thirteen government owned tertiary institutions in Niger State. The data on population of the students were gathered through the internal records of these institutions as at December 2016. The sample size for the study consisted of 381 undergraduate students. The sample size of the respondents for the study were determined by using the sample size calculator given by Raosoft (2004). Stratified sampling technique was used to group the tertiary institutions into four strata: Universities, Colleges of Education, Polytechnics, and Monotechnics. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistical tools such as frequency counts, percentages and mean scores to answer the research questions. Statistics package for social sciences (IBM's SPSS version 23) was used for the analyses.

Results and Discussion

Research Question One: To what level are students in tertiary institution in Niger State aware of copyright law?

Table 1: Level of awareness of copyright law by students in tertiary institution in Niger State (students)

S/N	Statements	HA 4	MA 3	LA 2	NA 1	\bar{x}	Remark
1	Copyright law prohibits me from making photocopy of whole book or journals without permission of author or publisher.	72 (28.8%)	153 (61.2%)	21 (8.4%)	4 (1.6%)	3.17	Moderately Aware
2	It is illegal to assume ownership of material photocopied/ reproduced without permission of the author.	97 (38.8%)	132 (52.8%)	16 (6.4%)	5 (2.0%)	3.28	Moderately Aware
3	Copyright does not protect ideas, facts, theories, procedures and methods.	--	--	148 (59.2%)	102 (40.8%)	1.76	Not Aware
4	I am aware that copyright allows one to produce copies of copyright protected work under the fair use provision such as review, research and comment.	76 (30.4%)	115 (46.0%)	39 (15.6%)	45 (18.0%)	2.69	Moderately Aware
5	Copyright infringement occurs when a party who doesn't own the copyright to a work exploits one of the rights without permission.	44 (44.0%)	121 (50.8%)	38 (15.2%)	9 (3.6%)	3.08	Moderately Aware
6	Presenting as new or original an idea or product derived from an existing source.	51 (20.4%)	115 (46.0%)	80 (32.0%)	11 (4.4%)	2.77	Moderately Aware
7	Reproducing the copyright material for purposes other than teaching, reviewing and literary criticism.	51 (20.4%)	103 (41.2%)	81 (32.4%)	15 (6.0%)	2.76	Moderately Aware
8	Stealing and passing off the idea of author's production without crediting the source.	53 (21.1%)	136 (54.2%)	34 (13.6%)	27 (11.1%)	2.85	Moderately Aware

Key: 4= Highly Aware, 3= Moderately Aware, 2= Low Aware, 1= Not Aware, \bar{x} = Mean.

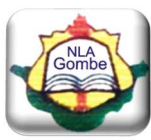


Table 1 showed that out of eight items listed for students to respond regarding the extent of awareness of copyright law by students of tertiary institutions in Niger State. The responses indicated that seven items produced high mean scores which were above 2.50 benchmark while one item produced low mean score of 2.50 benchmark. Almost all these items showed that students have moderately awareness of copyright law but still go on to infringe on the copyright laws, such as photocopying the whole text book.

Research Question Two: To what extent is photocopying an infringement of copyright law in tertiary institutions in Niger State?

Table 2: Extent to which Photocopying becomes an infringement of copyright law by students of tertiary institutions in Niger State

S/N	Statements	HA 4	MA 3	LA 2	NA 1	\bar{x}	Remark
1	When a whole book/work is photocopied without the permission of the author/publisher	71 (28.4%)	141 (56.4%)	29 (11.6%)	9 (3.6%)	3.10	High Extent
2	When I make 10 copies of the book	106 (42.4%)	109 (43.6%)	21 (8.4%)	14 (5.6%)	3.23	High Extent
3	When one assumes ownership of the photocopied documents	80 (32.0%)	129 (51.6%)	37 (14.8%)	4 (1.6%)	3.14	High Extent
4	When materials are photocopied, repackaged and bound for gaining financial advantage.	85 (34.0%)	111 (44.4%)	50 (20.0%)	4 (1.6%)	3.11	High Extent
5	When photocopies are made to be sold at cheaper rates than the original without the permission of the author.	91 (36.4%)	126 (50.4%)	30 (12.0%)	3 (1.2%)	3.22	High Extent

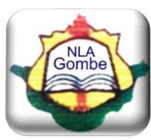
Key: 4= Very High Extent (VHE), 3= High Extent (HE), 2= Low Extent (LE), 1= Very Low Extent (VLE), \bar{x} = Mean.

Table 2 showed that five items were listed for students to respond regarding the extent to which photocopying becomes an infringement of copyright law. The responses indicated that all the five items produced high mean scores which were above 2.50 benchmark. All the items show that the students are highly aware of photocopy as an infringement of copyright. Studies have demonstrated that only 5% of students in higher institutions can afford to acquire textbooks required for study and research and therefore, (they) tend to engage in the act of photocopying, thereby infringing on the copyright of the author.

Research Question Three: What are the causes of plagiarism in tertiary institution in Niger State?

Table 3: Causes of plagiarism in tertiary institutions in Niger State

S/N	Statements	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	\bar{x}	Remark
1	Students may fear failure or fear taking risks in their own work.	98 (39.2%)	113 (45.2%)	33 (13.2%)	6 (2.4%)	3.21	Agree
2	Students may view the course, the assignment, the conventions of academic documentation, or the consequences of cheating as unimportant.	62 (24.8%)	135 (54.0%)	45 (18.0%)	8 (3.2%)	3.00	Agree
3	Instructors and institutions may fail to report cheating when it does occur, or may not enforce appropriate penalties.	57 (22.8%)	125 (50.0%)	52 (20.8%)	16 (6.4%)	2.89	Agree
4	Students may not know how to integrate the ideas of others and document the sources of those ideas appropriately in their texts.	70 (28.0%)	122 (48.8%)	46 (18.4%)	12 (4.8%)	3.00	Agree



5	Instructors may assume that students have already learned appropriate academic conventions of research and documentation.	95 (38.0%)	115 (46.0%)	28 (11.2%)	12 (4.8%)	3.01	Agree
6	Instructors may not support students as they attempt to learn how to research and document sources; instead, instructors may assign writing that requires research and expect its appropriate documentation.	55 (22.0%)	135 (54.0%)	32 (12.8%)	28 (11.2%)	3.00	Agree

Key: 4= Strongly Agreed (SA), 3= Agreed (A), 2= Disagreed (D), 1= Strongly Disagreed (SD), \bar{x} = Mean.

Table 3 revealed that out of the six items listed for students to indicate the causes of plagiarism. All the six items yielded high mean scores above the 2.50 benchmark. These results indicated that the causes of plagiarism have effect on copyright law and copyright infringement in tertiary institutions in Niger State. This finding varies from the study carried out by Peter and John (2009) the study indicated that students have insufficient knowledge about plagiarism as well as proper sophisticated mechanisms for assessing the academic work to determine whether there is any dishonesty involved or not.

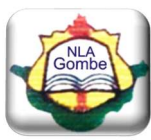
Research Question Four: What are the causes of book piracy by students of tertiary institutions in Niger State?

Table 4: Causes of book piracy by students of tertiary institutions in Niger State

S/N	Statements	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	\bar{x}	Remark
1	Poverty is responsible for book piracy	95 (38.0%)	115 (46.0%)	28 (11.2%)	12 (4.8%)	3.17	Agree
2	Scarcity of the original books are responsible for book piracy	55 (22.0%)	135 (54.0%)	32 (12.8%)	28 (11.2%)	2.87	Agree
3	High cost of original books are responsible for book piracy	26 (10.4%)	139 (55.6%)	71 (28.4%)	14 (5.6%)	2.71	Agree
4	Ignorance of copyright law is responsible for book piracy	64 (25.6%)	133 (53.2%)	37 (14.8%)	16 (6.4%)	2.98	Agree
5	The get-rich syndromes are responsible for book piracy	83 (33.2%)	103 (41.2%)	45 (18.0%)	19 (7.6%)	3.00	Agree

Key: 4= Strongly Agreed (SA), 3= Agreed (A), 2= Disagreed (D), 1= Strongly Disagreed (SD), \bar{x} = Mean.

Table 4 revealed that out of the five items listed for students to indicate the causes of book piracy in tertiary institutions in Niger State. All of the five items yielded high mean scores above the 2.50 benchmark. These results indicated that poverty, high cost of the original books, scarcity as well as get rich syndromes, are the major causes of book piracy in tertiary institutions in Niger State. Ibrahim (2014) corroborates the finding of this study they found out that high cost of original books, get-rich-quick syndromes and scarcity of original books are the reasons for book piracy in the states studied and that book piracy affects investment in publishing business; discourage creativity among Nigerians; increased unemployment in publishing sector; lowers income generation to publishing companies, as it retards their yearly turnovers and by extension profitability and denies revenue generation to the government.



Research Question Five: What are the challenges facing the National Copyright Commission?

Table 5: Challenges facing the National Copyright Commission (NCC)

S/N	Statements	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	\bar{x}	Remark
1	Alot need to be done to enforce copyright law in Nigeria	77 (30.8%)	122 (48.8%)	39 (15.6%)	12 (4.8%)	3.06	Agree
2	Nigerian copyright commission has been ineffective over the years	56 (22.4%)	143 (57.2%)	38 (15.2%)	13 (5.2%)	2.97	Agree
3	Language is a barrier to copyright law console and education in Nigeria	43 (17.2%)	152 (60.8%)	44 (17.6%)	11 (4.4%)	2.78	Agree
4	Nigerian Copyright Commission has been carrying out its statutory functions very effectively.	56 (22.4%)	105 (42.0%)	67 (26.8%)	22 (8.8%)	3.00	Agree
5	Nigerian Copyright Commission needs to put more efforts in the areas of enlightenment and enforcement of the copyright law.	89 (35.6%)	109 (43.6%)	35 (14.0%)	17 (6.8%)	2.84	Agree

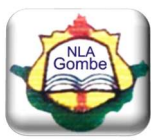
Key: 4= Strongly Agreed (SA), 3= Agreed (A), 2= Disagreed (D), 1= Strongly Disagreed (SD), \bar{x} = Mean.

Table 5 revealed that five items were listed for students to respond regarding the challenges facing National Copyright Commission (NCC) in tertiary institutions in Niger State, responses indicated that all the five items produced high mean scores that were above 2.50 benchmark. This indicate that National Copyright Commission has challenges and copyright law is not properly enforced; they have not been effective in tertiary institutions in Niger State. Nwogu (2014) the challenges of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) in the fight against copyright piracy in Nigeria as: poor financing, corruption, enforcement, culture, mobility of officials, insecurity, language barrier, information and communication technology (ICT), provision on punishment under the copyright act, favouritism.

Discussion

Research question one sought to find out the level of awareness of copyright law by students of tertiary institutions in Niger State. The result showed that Almost all these items showed that students have moderately awareness of copyright law but still go on to infringe on the copyright laws, such as photocopying the whole text book. This is because a reasonable number of students cannot afford to purchase textbooks. They therefore look for alternative means of acquiring these learning resources. In a related study Isiakpona (2012) that the level of awareness of the copyright statute is high among the undergraduate students of university of Ibadan, Nigeria but their knowledge on the provisions of the copyright law on the use of printed/literary materials appeared low. The finding of this study is in line with the findings of Korlety (2015) students were found to have satisfactory knowledge about copyright. However, their knowledge portrayed copyright as an instrument that prohibits others from using copyrighted works without the authors' permission did not reveal that they know about the aspect of the copyright that talks about permitted use of works protected by copyright.

Research question two sought to find out the extent to which photocopying becomes an infringement of copyright law in tertiary institutions in Niger State. The result showed that All the items show that the students are highly aware of photocopy as an infringement of copyright. Studies have demonstrated that only 5% of students in higher institutions can afford to acquire textbooks required for study and research and therefore, (they) tend to engage in the act of photocopying, there by infringing on the copyright of the author. The finding of this study is in line with the findings of Aboyade, Aboyade and Ajala (2015) in a study on copyright infringement and photocopy services among University students and



teachers in Nigeria. The results of their findings showed that shortage of books especially for the higher institutions of learning in Nigeria is another potent factor that encourages photocopy of published works. As a result, books meant for the higher institutions of learning are imported which make their procurement a herculean task

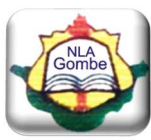
Research question three sought to find out the causes of plagiarism as an infringement of copyright law in tertiary institutions in Niger State. The result showed that that the causes of plagiarism have effect on copyright law and copyright infringement in tertiary institutions in Niger State. This finding varies from the study carried out by Peter and John (2009) the study indicated that students have insufficient knowledge about plagiarism as well as proper sophisticated mechanisms for assessing the academic work to determine whether there is any dishonesty involved or not.

Research question four sought to find out the causes of book piracy in tertiary institutions in Niger State. The result showed that that poverty, high cost of the original books, scarcity as well as get rich syndromes, are the major causes of book piracy in tertiary institutions in Niger State. Ibrahim (2014) corroborates the finding of this study they found out that high cost of original books, get-rich-quick syndromes and scarcity of original books are the reasons for book piracy in the states studied and that book piracy affects investment in publishing business; discourage creativity among Nigerians; increased unemployment in publishing sector; lowers income generation to publishing companies, as it retards their yearly turnovers and by extension profitability and denies revenue generation to the government.

Research question five sought to find out the challenges facing the National Copyright Commission (NCC). The result showed that National Copyright Commission has challenges and copyright law is not properly enforced; they have not been effective in tertiary institutions in Niger State. Nwogu (2014) the challenges of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) in the fight against copyright piracy in Nigeria as: poor financing, corruption, enforcement, culture, mobility of officials, insecurity, language barrier, information and communication technology (ICT), provision on punishment under the copyright act, favouritism.

Conclusion

Copyright is the exclusive right of an author to restrict others from copying his work. Copyright awareness is essential in academic and scholarly environment where the people use others work to create their own works. The development in technology facilitates the easiest way of accessing information resources and reproducing them. It will lead to the great problem of copyright infringement or copyright violation. From the findings of the study it could be deduced that students attitude to copyright law and copyright infringement is worrisome in tertiary institutions in Niger State, Nigeria. It is observed that copyright law in tertiary institution is a good step at making authors to enjoy the fruit of their labour, adequate penalties is placed on every defaulter and the institutions management should step up in their role to ensure an effective functioning of copyright law. It is also observed that a lot needs to be done by the Nigerian copyright commission to effectively to effectively maintain the rules and regulations guiding copyright law operation by ensuring that penalties is given to every offender. The study concluded that the level of copyright awareness is not up to the level expected. In fact, one revelation that calls for concern is the fact that most of the institutions have no copyright awareness policy to effectively educate, regulate, monitor and protect its intellectual property, academic and institutional values and defend its teaching, research and service mission.



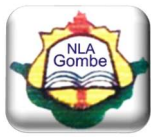
Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researchers recommended the following to proffer solution to identified challenges of copyright law:

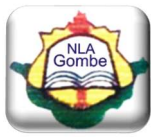
1. The management of the tertiary institutions in Niger State should derive a better means of effecting copyright law in the tertiary institutions.
2. The copyright regulatory bodies like the Nigeria copyright Commission, the National Film and Video Censors Board should be adequately funded by the government to be well equipped to effectively and efficiently carryout the piracy raids.
3. Right owners and the general public should monitor pirated works in contradiction with genuine and original products, so as to report incidences of piracy to copyright inspectors, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.
4. There should be enlightenment and awareness campaigns that will be taken down to the grass root on piracy and its ills.
5. The Government should give incentives to right owners of well written and highly demanded products, in addition to giving them subventions or assistance in monetary form to reduce the production costs of the works.

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