

## Authors' Awareness of International Publishing Standards and Legal Deposit Obligations

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Received: 2020/09/15.

Accepted: 2021/05/06.

Published: 2021/05/27

### Abstract

Knowledge and practice of publishing standards and legal deposit laws are the hallmarks of today's authorship. This paper investigates Nigerian authors' awareness of international publishing standards and their legal deposit obligations which are critical variables for both Universal Bibliographic Control and Universal Availability of Publications. The descriptive research design was adopted for this study which was conducted in Enugu State in South, East Nigeria. The population was made up of 70 librarians in the Nnamdi Azikiwe Library and the Department of Library and Information Science of the University. The data collected were analyzed using frequency counts, standard deviation and mean scores. The highest level of awareness of authors of international publishing standard was that 'web resources now have DOI', followed by ISBN for books, CIP for publications, the importance of CIP and ISMN for music publications. The study revealed that authors play critical roles in the maintenance of international publishing standards. While the authors were aware of their publishers' obligations, they were not aware of the provisions of the legal deposit law. A digital nervous system of shared responsibilities for the maintenance of international publishing standards and the implementation of legal deposit provisions in Nigeria, and indeed any other country is proposed. This is the mainstay of the paper's originality. It is argued that a functional identification and integration of the burgeoning stakeholders into a digital nervous system define the future from the foreground for improved international publishers' standard and compliance with the extant depository law, for Nigeria and indeed, for most developing countries.

**Keywords:** *Authors' awareness, Digital nervous system, National Library of Nigeria, International publishing standards, Legal deposit compliance.*

### Introduction

International Publishing Standards (IPS) and Legal Deposit Laws (LDL) are two issues that are thematically related to two other global issues. These global issues are

the Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and the Universal Availability of Publications (UAP). The relationship between UBC and UAP need early contextualization before the examination of how they relate to the issues of international

publishing standards and legal deposit framework. The goal of the UBC is to make universally and promptly available, in a form that is internationally acceptable, basic bibliographic data on all publications issued in all countries. The reach of UBC is therefore worldwide. The *modus operandi* is the "promptness" of the availability of bibliographic data. The element is basic bibliographic data. The format must be internationally acceptable. The UBC must also cover all publications published in all countries. The content, context and coverage of UBC point to conditions that are critical to both universal accessibility and universal availability of publications. In essence, if publications are not bibliographically known to exist, access to them is generally jeopardized and they can hardly, therefore, be available on a universal basis. On the other hand, where every nation of the world through its National Bibliographic Agency (NBA) provides "authoritative bibliographic data for publications of its own country and makes that data available to other NBAs libraries and other communities (for instance, archives and museums) through appropriate and timely services, the possibility of access is enhanced. The goal of UAP is the widest availability of recorded knowledge to actual and potential users across the globe. It is predicated on the assumption that universal availability of recorded knowledge is a critical variable in man's emancipation and total development, mentally, educationally, physically, emotionally, socially and politically. Access to available publications is vital; otherwise, availability will achieve no instrumental value. Access can be both physical and open. Whether open or

physical, it is obvious that UBC is a functional precondition to UAP. Where UBC fails, UAP also falters. It is therefore clear that both subject or thematic and functional relationship exists between UBC and UAP. A similar nexus can be established between UBC and international publishing standards. Akidi (2017) has rightly pointed out the symbiotic relationship between bibliographic control and publishing standards. She sees this as an essential ingredient of bibliographic control. By extension, UBC is closely concerned with international publishing standards. In every nation of the world, there is a shared duty of maintaining publishing standards by the NBA and other critical stakeholders such as authors, publishers, printers, libraries, librarians and other critical links in the book chain. Understandably, the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) is the nation's apex institution charged with both bibliographic control initiatives and the maintenance of international publishing standards. As Nigeria's NBA, the NLN is responsible for introducing publishers to the international bibliographic description (IBD) and ensures compliance with other international publishing standards. What are these international standards that publications are required to conform to? They include (but not limited to) the:

- i. International Standard Book Number (ISBN);
- ii. International Standard Serial Number (ISSN);
- iii. Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) data;
- iv. International Serial Music Number (ISMN);

- v. Digital Object Identifier (DOI);
- vi. Universal Resource Name (URN);  
and
- vii. Universal Resource Locator (URL).

Publications without ISBN are in breach of international publishing standards for books. Publications without ISSN are in breach for serials, journals or periodicals. Publications without CIP cannot be said to be fully in compliance with international publication standards maintenance of uniform bibliographic records or descriptions of published works. It is fast becoming the norm that online publications are assigned DOIs. It is the online publisher who assigns DOI on the first page of the electronic journal article, often near the copyright information. The registration agency is the International DOI Foundation (IDF), which is a not-for-profit membership organization with registration authority for ISO Standard (ISO 26324). The web presence of information resources has made it imperative that they are associated with a specific uniform resource locator (URL) in terms of a particular access protocol. The Uniform Resource Name (URN) is, on the other hand, a persistent location-independent identifier assigned to "an internet resource with a static name that remains valid even if the data is moved to another location". The whole purpose of the emerging electronic identifier systems is to properly identify, access, and use them.

Access and use are critically related to the issues of universal availability of publications and legal deposit. It has been earlier argued that Universal Bibliographic Control enhances the possibility of Universal Availability of Publications, but

progress to UBC must logically begin with national bibliographic control (NBC). In the same vein, universal availability of publications must commence from availability at the national frontier. The availability at the national frontier entails that the publications must be available, physically, in a location +in the national publications system. This is the main principle in the legal deposit system and provision. The International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (1977) has reaffirmed:

the value of legal deposit as a means of ensuring that the cultural and intellectual heritage and linguistic diversity of the state are preserved and made accessible for current and future users.

Furthermore, the Conference outlined key recommendations for national bibliographic agencies. They include:

1. Firstly, there is the need for national libraries and national bibliographic agencies to work cooperatively with other agencies while 'overall responsibility for coordination and implementation of standards should rest with the national bibliographic agency'
2. Secondly, it is vitally important that legal deposit should ensure 'that the cultural and intellectual heritage and linguistic diversity of the nation is preserved and made accessible for current and future users'
3. Thirdly, emerging legal deposit regulatory frameworks as the bedrock of a national priority of

national bibliographic services address the following issues:

- i) Re-examination of existing deposit legislation to 'consider its provisions on present and future requirements; and, where necessary, existing legislation should be revised"; and
  - ii) Introduction of legal deposit legislation in the countries without one.
4. Fourthly, it is imperative that each country should ensure national bibliography covers 'current national output, and where practicable also provide retrospective coverage.'
5. It is necessary that selection criteria be defined and published by the national bibliographic agency.
6. An ideal national bibliography must cover all disciplines, languages publications produced in the country and in all formats,

The collection and preservation of a nation's cultural and linguistic heritage are cardinal issues in legal deposits. Equally central to depository initiatives is the accessibility of collected and preserved materials to current and future users. It is vital to consider at this juncture the critical stakeholders in the matrix of maintaining international publication standards and implementing the legal deposit regime. The key players in Nigeria's bibliographic control landscape can either be institutional, corporate organizations, or individual contributors. The major institutional agency for the execution of bibliographic control practices in any

country is called a National Bibliographic Agency (NBA). The NBA has been defined by IFLA, 1998 as:

The organizational unit established within a country's library system, which undertakes responsibility for the preparation of the authoritative and comprehensive bibliographic records for each new publication issued in the country, making the records in accordance with accepted international bibliographic standards and publishing them with the shortest possible delay in a national bibliography, which appears regularly.

Three responsibilities are envisaged for the NBA:

- i. Preparation of authoritative and comprehensive bibliographic records for each publication issued in the country.
- ii. Production of bibliographic records in compliance with acceptable international standards and
- iii. Timely and regular publication of a national bibliography.

Understandably these roles fall within the legal and functional jurisdiction of the National Library of Nigeria.

Corporate bodies critical to the whole gamut of publishing standards and legal deposit activities are publishers, printers and all operators in the book chain and knowledge enterprise including educational

institutions, libraries, government, ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). In the individual category are authors, writers, poets, editors, actors, musicians and composers. They are critical to both the maintenance of publication standards and legal deposits because they are the prime creators of books, journals, magazines, newspaper articles, conference proceedings, short stories, both in hard copy and electronic formats.

The authors' target audience may be children and young adults in primary schools, secondary schools or tertiary institutions. The reasons why authors write or create a piece of intellectual output may derive from a compulsory "publish or perish culture", a desire to publish the result of scientific or scholarly research or to attain national and international visibility or respect and recognition among professional peers.

Since authors' works once released can cross national borders, it is imperative that the packaging of their products conforms to international standards. It is also critical that each piece of intellectual output possesses a unique system of international identification and recognition. Through this unique system of identification, an author's work can be easily located worldwide for acquisition and commercial transactions. Without it, an author's work could be lost in the maze of information or publication explosion or go into complete extinction.

The critical question, therefore, relates to the level of awareness of authors of these international publishing standards and the opportunities and benefits derivable from

compliance with the legal deposit obligations. It is also equally important to proffer strategies which enhances the awareness of international publishing standards and legal deposit requirement. These are the concerns of this paper.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The general purpose of this study was to investigate authors' awareness of international publication standards and the legal deposit provisions of the National Library of Nigeria Act. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Determine author's publication profile with reference to channels where they publish;
2. Examine the target audience of the author's publications;
3. Ascertain the reasons why the authors publish;
4. Determine the authors' extent of awareness of international publication standards;
5. Examine authors' role in the maintenance of international publication standards;
6. Ascertain author's awareness of legal deposit provisions and obligations; and
7. Proffer strategies and a digital nervous system for enhancing authors' awareness of international publication standard and legal deposit provision.

### **Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. In what formats or platforms do authors publish their works?
2. Who are the audience targeted by authors in their writings?
3. What are the major motivations for authorship?
4. What is the extent of authors' awareness of international standards for publications?
5. What roles can authors play in the maintenance of international publications standards?
6. What is the level of authors' awareness of legal deposit provisions?
7. What strategies can enhance authors' awareness of international publishing standards and legal deposit provision?

### **Literature Review**

The attitude of many authors and writers about the importance of publishing standards has been adequately captured by Remi Raji (2017) in a keynote lecture to the Nigerian Library Association:

As a writer I have been less concerned with how and where my published books end, into which library they are deposited and how they are stored.

The lack of concern about an author's work could result to the work not travelling far in the vehicle of intellectual and knowledge conception, production and transfer. Motivation to comply with publishing standards may be minimal and adherence to publishing standards may be the exception rather than the rule. It is contended that the

book as the major symbol of expression of accumulated civilization and experience, the output of a national, intellectual, cultural and research heritage, needs the best care and treatment possible in terms of packaging or finishing as well as preservation for current and future reference and utilization. Raji (2017) has pointed out the consequences:

The book is the receptacle of wisdom and ingenuity of civilization..., where it is absent, a nation with the history of its intelligences, is committed to forgetfulness, or rather a civilization without the evidence of a saved text is soon condemned or diminish; the book is an important material of the HDI, the Human Development Index, the measure of a nation's intellectual development.

The twin issues of international publication standards and legal depository obligations are critical to the future of a nation's intellectual output, and also to its national human capacity development. These issues are not the exclusive responsibility of a single institution like a national or designated department but rather that of all stakeholders in the publishing and knowledge enterprise. As rightly pointed out by Akidi (2017):

The maintenance of publishing standards in any country is the exclusive role of the bibliographic control agency, publishers and authors as they form the chain of the book trade.

In this regard, the bibliographic agency liaises with the publishers, authors and other stakeholders in the book trade to ensure that international standards of publishing are maintained to enhance effective bibliographic control practices. (p. 91)

It is vital at this point to consider the issue of legal deposit provision and obligation. It is important to mention that depository can be statutory-when it has an enabling law, voluntary where it is not compelled by law or mixed where it combines both statutory and voluntary critiques. By definition, therefore, legal deposit is a statutory enactment that compels creators of intellectual property or output to deposit a specified number of their works with a designated depository centre or institution. In this case, the depository is both mandatory and obligatory. Provisions for legal deposit can be in a stand-alone legal framework or incorporated as a part of a larger legal framework. In Nigeria, the latter is the case. The legal depository provision is contained in Section 4 of the National Library Act of 1970.

A brief critical review of this law is appropriate here. Firstly, the law requires publishers to deposit three copies of the published works with the National Library of Nigeria for permanent preservation. Secondly, the delivery of the copies must be done within three months at the depositors' expense. Thirdly, the quality of the copies to be delivered must be perfect copies of the whole books, bound, sewed or stitched together and in the best paper possible. Fourthly, federal and state governments'

officers responsible for government publications are obligated to deliver 25 and 10 copies respectively, to the National Library.

Fifthly, failure to comply with the law by a publisher attracts a fine not exceeding ₦100,000. The big question here is whether this amount can compensate for the legal fees and time committed to the legal proceedings leading to the conviction of the defaulters. Sixthly, the categories of works to be delivered to the National Library include all literary works such as books, pamphlets, sheets of music, maps, charts, plans, tables and companions. Others are dramatic works, collective works such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, yearbooks, similar works, newspapers, magazines and similar periodicals. Also required to be deposited are works written in distinct parts by different authors or in which a part or parts of works of different authors is or are incorporated and every part or division of such a work; and all forms in which documentary or oral records are published.

It is important to point out that the law did not envisage the rapid paradigm shift which digital technology has brought to the nature and format of electronic or digital publications. What happens to publications that are in the electronic frontiers? These and other reasons are the compelling necessities for a review of the Nigerian legal depository provisions in particular, and the National Library of Nigeria Law in general. Such a review must identify the critical stakeholders in the maintenance of international publishing standards and the implementation of the legal deposit laws and the provisions therein.

Several studies had examined the issues of international publication standards and legal depository practices. For example, Akidi (2017) assessed the bibliographic control practice of the National Library of Nigeria in a digital age. Out of the 11 research objectives, only two covered legal depository practice and compliance of publishers and authors to depository obligations. Only one aspect of the research instrument dealt with the extent to which the national library has been effective in maintaining international publication standards. The research design was descriptive and the area of study was the Federal Capital Territory, the Headquarters of the National Library of Nigeria. The population of the study was 736 staff of the National Library of Nigeria while the sample size of 177 was selected using the purposive sampling technique. With a cluster mean of 221, the extent of the National Library of Nigeria's effectiveness in legal depository practices was rated low. The National Library of Nigeria was equally rated low in enhancing compliance of publishers and authors with legal depository effectiveness. The study however scored the National Library high for the extent to which it has been effective in maintaining international publishing standards. This and other studies did not cover the specific subject of awareness of authors of international publishing standards and legal depository obligations among authors. This is what this study intends to cover.

## **Methodology**

The descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The area of study was Enugu State in South-East Nigeria. Specifically, the institution of the authors was the University of Nigeria, Nsukka which historically and population-wise is the oldest and largest institution in the South East. The population is made up of 70 librarians in the Nnamdi Azikiwe Library and the Department of Library and Information Science of the University. The sampling approach was purposive. The critical justification for the purposive was the respondents must be authors. Using this approach, it was possible to get 50 respondents who filled and returned the questionnaire. This number was considered adequate for a micro-level study of this nature given the limited time available for the researcher to submit the final results of the study. Furthermore, since the study is thematically related to an aspect of librarianship, it was justifiable that librarians are at this preliminary level of investigation, most qualified to respond to the subject of this study. A seven cluster Likert-styled questionnaire titled Awareness of International Publications Standards and Legal Deposit among Authors (AIPSALDAAS) was the main instrument for data collection. The response range was in two categories of Strongly Agree, (SA) Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree and Highly Aware (HA), Aware (A), Less Aware (LA) and Not Aware (NA), with scores of four (4) to one (1). The



data collected were analyzed using frequency counts, mean scores and standard deviation. The basis for the decision was 2.50 for both the upper and lower scores.

### Findings and Discussion

The findings of the study are presented in Tables 1 – 7 based on the research questions.

**Research Question 1:** In what formats or platforms do authors publish their works?

**Table 1: Author's publication platform**

| S/N | Response items  | SD | D  | A  | SA | Mean | Std. Deviation | Rank             | Decision |
|-----|---|----|----|----|----|------|----------------|------------------|----------|
| 1   | I have authored books   | 6  | 1  | 28 | 15 | 3.02 | .78            | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | A        |
| 2   | I have authored e-journal articles                                    | 3  | 21 | 19 | 7  | 2.60 | .81            | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | A        |
| 3   | I have authored books chapters  | 7  | 16 | 20 | 7  | 2.54 | .91            | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | A        |
| 4   | I have authored short communications                                  | 10 | 12 | 21 | 7  | 2.50 | .97            | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | A        |
| 5   | I have served/ is serving as a journal editors/editorial board member | 20 | 2  | 24 | 4  | 2.24 | 1.08           | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | DA       |
| 7   | I have authored workbooks   | 16 | 19 | 3  | 12 | 2.22 | 1.15           | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | DA       |
| 8   | I have authored journal articles                                      | 7  | 30 | 9  | 4  | 2.20 | .78            | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | DA       |
| 9   | I have authored magazine articles                                     | 13 | 26 | 6  | 5  | 2.06 | .89            | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | DA       |
| 10  | I have authored in conference preceding                               | 20 | 13 | 11 | 6  | 2.06 | 1.06           | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | DA       |
|     | I have authored technical reports                                     | 28 | 8  | 11 | 3  | 1.78 | 1.00           | 10 <sup>th</sup> | DA       |
| 11  | I have authored newspaper articles                                    | 20 | 25 | 2  | 3  | 1.76 | .80            | 11 <sup>th</sup> | DA       |
| 12  | I have authored workshops chapters                                    | 23 | 18 | 8  | 1  | 1.74 | .80            | 12 <sup>th</sup> | DA       |
| 13  | I have authored in blogs  | 18 | 28 | 4  |    | 1.72 | .61            | 13 <sup>th</sup> | DA       |
| 14  | I have authored published monograph                                   | 28 | 11 | 9  | 2  | 1.70 | .91            | 14 <sup>th</sup> | DA       |
| 15  | I have authored e-books   | 30 | 11 | 5  | 4  | 1.66 | .96            | 15 <sup>th</sup> | DA       |
| 16  | I have authored in professional websites                              | 37 | 5  | 4  | 4  | 1.50 | .95            | 16 <sup>th</sup> | DA       |
| 17  | I have authored an encyclopedia article                               | 32 | 15 | 2  | 1  | 1.44 | .67            | 17 <sup>th</sup> | SD       |

The findings revealed that the e-journals (2.60), book chapters (2.54) and short communication were the publication channels where the works of the authors appeared. In other words, platforms such as books, e-books (1.66), journals (2.20), newspapers (1.76), magazines (2.06), encyclopedia, monographs (1.70), technical reports and conference

proceedings were not critical as the authors' publication outlets. Authors' contributions to professional websites, blogs and as editors or editorial board member were below 2.50 or average.

**Research Question 2:** Who are the audience targeted by the authors in their writing?

**Table 2: Target Audience of Authors**

| S/N |                           | SD        | D         | A         | SA        | Mean | Std. Deviation | R               | D  |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|----------------|-----------------|----|
| 1   | Primary school pupils     | 15(30.0%) | 14(28.0%) | 19(38.0%) | 2(4.0%)   | 2.94 | .98            | 1 <sup>st</sup> | A  |
| 2   | Secondary school students | 30.0%     | 28.0%     | 38.0%     | 4.0%      | 2.70 | .99            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | A  |
| 3   | Professional group        | 10.0%     | 20.0%     | 36.0%     | 34.0%     | 2.54 | .73            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | A  |
| 4   | Children                  | 13(26.0%) | 11(22.0%) | 13(26.0%) | 13(26.0%) | 2.52 | 1.15           | 4 <sup>th</sup> | A  |
| 5   | General                   | 26.0%     | 22.0%     | 26.0%     | 26.0%     | 2.16 | .91            | 5 <sup>th</sup> | DA |
| 6   | Tertiary institution      | 5(10.0%)  | 10(20.0%) | 18(36.0%) | 17(34.0%) | 1.36 | .88            | 6 <sup>th</sup> | SD |

Table 2 revealed primary schools (2.90), secondary school students (2.70), professional groups (2.54) and children (2.52) were the major publics of the authors' studied. Tertiary institutions were not

among the critical publics reached by the authors.

**Table 3: Authors' motivation for writing**

| S/N |   | SD        | D         | A         | SA        | Mean | Std. Deviation | R               | D |
|-----|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 1   | Publishing is a requirement for my promotion and career progression | 0(0%)     | 9(18.0%)  | 19(38.0%) | 22(44.0%) | 3.26 | .75            | 1 <sup>st</sup> | A |
| 2   | To positively influence society                                     | 6(12.0%)  | 3(6.0%)   | 19(38.0%) | 22(44.0%) | 3.14 | .99            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | A |
| 3   | I have to publish the results for my research                       | 49(98.0%) | 0(0%)     | 12.0%     | 0(0%)     | 3.02 | .94            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | A |
| 4   | To motivate and inspire   | 11(22.0%) | 7(14.0%)  | 8(16.0%)  | 24(48.0%) | 2.90 | 1.23           | 4 <sup>th</sup> | A |
| 5   | To contribute and extend the frontier of knowledge in my field      | 7(14.0%)  | 9(18.0%)  | 24(48.0%) | 10(20.0%) | 2.74 | .94            | 5 <sup>th</sup> | A |
| 6   | For national and international visibility                           | 7(14.0%)  | 11(22.0%) | 22(44.0%) | 10(20.0%) | 2.70 | .95            | 7 <sup>th</sup> | A |

| S/N |  | SD        | D         | A         | SA        | Mean | Std. Deviation | R                | D  |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|----------------|------------------|----|
| 7   | It brings recognition among peers              | 8(16.0%)  | 17(34.0%) | 9(18.0%)  | 16(32.0%) | 2.66 | 1.10           | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | A  |
| 8   | To entertain                                   | 10(20.0%) | 10(20.0%) | 17(34.0%) | 13(26.0%) | 2.66 | 1.08           | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | A  |
| 9   | To document experience gathered over the years | 15(30.0%) | 5(10.0%)  | 17(34.0%) | 13(26.0%) | 2.56 | 1.18           | 10 <sup>th</sup> | A  |
| 10  | It is a delightful hobby                       | 7(14.0%)  | 23(46.0%) | 13(26.0%) | 7(14.0%)  | 2.40 | .90            | 11 <sup>th</sup> | SA |

positively influence the society (3.14), the need to publish results of research (3.20), to motivate and inspire (2.90), to contribute and extend the frontiers of knowledge (2.74). Other vital motivations were to attain national and international visibility (2.70) recognition among peers (2.66) to entertain (2.66) and to document experience gathered over the years (2.56). Writing as a delightful hobby was scored

lowest (2.40).

**Research Question 4:** What is the extent of the authors' awareness of international standards for publications?

Results in Table 4 showed that the authors were aware that web resources now have digital object identifier (3.04), the international requirement for every book to have ISBN (3.02), the meaning of CIP

**Table 4: Authors' level of awareness of international publishing standards**

| S/N |  | Not Aware | Less Aware | Aware     | Highly Aware | Mean | Std. Deviation | R               | D  |
|-----|--|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|------|----------------|-----------------|----|
| 1   | Web resources now have DOI   | 0.0%      | 19(38.0%)  | 10(20.0%) | 21(42.0%)    | 3.04 | .90            | 1 <sup>st</sup> | A  |
| 2   | The international requirement for every book to have an international standard book number                               | 2(4.0%)   | 11(22.0%)  | 21(42.0%) | 16(32.0%)    | 3.02 | .84            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | A  |
| 3   | The meaning of CIP cataloguing in publication  | 4(8.0%)   | 14(28.0%)  | 12(24.0%) | 20(40.0%)    | 2.96 | 1.01           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | A  |
| 4   | The importance of CIP  | 7(14.0%)  | 5(10.0%)   | 23(46.0%) | 15(30.0%)    | 2.92 | .99            | 4 <sup>th</sup> | A  |
| 5   | International standard music number for all music publication  | 1(2.0%)   | 18(36.0%)  | 19(38.0%) | 12(24.0%)    | 2.84 | .82            | 5 <sup>th</sup> | A  |
| 6   | The agency with statutory responsibility to prepare or process the CIP   | 9(18.0%)  | 14(28.0%)  | 13(26.0%) | 14(28.0%)    | 2.64 | 1.08           | 6 <sup>th</sup> | A  |
| 7   | The agency sign ISSN   | 12(24.0%) | 5(10.0%)   | 23(46.0%) | 10(20.0%)    | 2.62 | 1.07           | 7 <sup>th</sup> | A  |
| 8   | The international requirement for every journal;/Magazines/ newspaper / periodical; to have international serial; Number | 6(12.0%)  | 20(40.0%)  | 16(32.0%) | 8(16.0%)     | 2.52 | .91            | 8 <sup>th</sup> | A  |
| 9   | The agency that issue / assign ISBN  | 23(46.0%) | 4(8.0%)    | 20(40.0%) | 3(6.0%)      | 2.06 | 1.06           | 9 <sup>th</sup> | LA |

(2.96), and the importance of CIP (2.82). They were equally aware of the agency that issues ISSN (2.62) and the international requirement for every journal/magazine/newspaper or periodical to have ISSN (2.52). Surprising, the lowest score (2.06) indicated a lack of awareness of the agency that issues or assigns ISBN.

**Research Question 5:** What roles can authors play in the maintenance of international publications standards?

Table 5 showed the level of agreement of authors as their roles in the maintenance of international publishing standards. The highest score (2.96) was in respect of authors ensuring that publishers of their

**Table 5: Authors' roles in the maintenance of international publishing standards**

| S/N |  | SD        | D         | A         | SA        | Mean | Std. Deviation | R               | D |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 1   | I ensure that my publisher use ISSN for a journal where my work appears                                    | 3(6.0%)   | 10(20.0%) | 23(46.0%) | 14(28.0%) | 2.96 | .86            | 1 <sup>st</sup> | A |
| 2   | I ensure that the books I publish or containing my chapter have/obtain CIP                                 | 15(30.0%) | 1(2.0%)   | 13(26.0%) | 21(42.0%) | 2.80 | 1.28           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | A |
| 3   | Authors are key player /stakeholders in Bibliographic control practices in the National Library of Nigeria | 0(.0%)    | 22(44.0%) | 17(34.0%) | 11(22.0%) | 2.78 | .79            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | A |
| 4   | I ensure that my publisher use ISBN for books where my work appear   | 8(16.0%)  | 5(10.0%)  | 30(60.0%) | 7(14.0%)  | 2.72 | .90            | 4 <sup>th</sup> | A |
| 5   | I have checked whether online journal containing my publication have DOI                                   | 19(38.0%) | 2(4.0%)   | 14(28.0%) | 15(30.0%) | 2.50 | 1.28           | 5 <sup>th</sup> | A |

journal articles use ISSN, followed by ensuring that books have CIP (2.80), authors are key players in bibliographic control practices of the National Library of Nigeria (2.78), ensuring that use of ISBN (2.72) and checking whether online journal where they published had DOI.

**Research Question 6:** What are the authors' level of awareness of legal deposit

**Table 6a: Authors' level of awareness of the legal deposit law**

| S/N |  | SD        | D         | A         | SA        | Mean | Std. Deviation | R                | D  |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|----------------|------------------|----|
| 1   | My awareness came through a sensitization /enlightenment campaign of the National Library of Nigeria | 3(6.0%)   | 11(22.0%) | 16(32.0%) | 20(40.0%) | 3.06 | .93            | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | A  |
| 2   | I am aware of my obligation/ obligation of my publisher  | 3(6.0%)   | 6(12.0%)  | 27(54.0%) | 14(28.0%) | 3.04 | .81            | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | A  |
| 3   | My awareness level is very high  | 2(4.0%)   | 7(14.0%)  | 28(56.0%) | 13(26.0%) | 3.04 | .75            | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | A  |
| 4   | My awareness came through my publisher   | 3(6.0%)   | 7(14.0%)  | 26(52.0%) | 14(28.0%) | 3.02 | .82            | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | A  |
| 5   | My awareness came through a colleague  | 4(8.0%)   | 8(16.0%)  | 26(52.0%) | 12(24.0%) | 2.92 | .85            | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | A  |
| 6   | My awareness was from a librarian  | 11(22.0%) | 4(8.0%)   | 18(36.0%) | 17(34.0%) | 2.82 | 1.14           | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | A  |
| 7   | My awareness level is high   | 7(14.0%)  | 11(22.0%) | 20(40.0%) | 12(24.0%) | 2.74 | .99            | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | A  |
| 8   | My awareness came as a result of conference/ participation   | 18(36.0%) | 1(2.0%)   | 15(30.0%) | 16(32.0%) | 2.58 | 1.28           | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | A  |
| 9   | My awareness level is low  | 11(22.0%) | 11(22.0%) | 18(36.0%) | 10(20.0%) | 2.54 | 1.05           | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | A  |
| 10  | I am aware of the legal deposit provision of the National Library of Nigeria Acts                    | 17(34.0%) | 0(0.0%)   | 25(50.0%) | 8(16.0%)  | 2.48 | 1.13           | 11 <sup>th</sup> | DA |
| 11  | My awareness level is very low   | 17(34.0%) | 5(10.0%)  | 24(48.0%) | 4(8.0%)   | 2.30 | 1.04           | 12 <sup>th</sup> | DA |

provisions?

The level of agreement of the respondents as to the strategies for enhancing awareness of international publishing standards and legal deposit provision obligations is reflected in Table 7. The first among the strategies is that the National Library of

Nigeria should synergize with Librarians in Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government to ensure smooth implementation of legal deposit provision of the NLN Act (3.44). Secondly is the need for synergy between NLN and librarians in Nigeria's tertiary institutions (3.26); thirdly,

**Table7: Strategies for enhancing awareness of International Publishing Standards and Legal Deposit Provisions/Obligations**

| S/N |  | SD        | D         | A         | SA        | Mean | Std. Deviation | R               | D  |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|----------------|-----------------|----|
| 1   | National Library should synergize with librarians in MDA of government to ensure smooth implementation of legal deposit provision              | 3(6.0%)   | 6(12.0%)  | 16(32.0%) | 25(50.0%) | 3.44 | .64            | 1 <sup>st</sup> | A  |
| 2   | National Library should synergize with librarians in tertiary institutions to ensure smooth implementation of the legal deposit provision      | 8(16.0%)  | 8(16.0%)  | 18(36.0%) | 16(32.0%) | 3.26 | .90            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | A  |
| 3   | More publicity is required by the depository Library - the National Library of Nigeria   | 13(26.0%) | 7(14.0%)  | 10(20.0%) | 20(40.0%) | 2.84 | 1.13           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | A  |
| 4   | Awareness of the importance/benefit of legal deposit should be increased   | 7(14.0%)  | 13(26.0%) | 14(28.0%) | 16(32.0%) | 2.84 | 1.06           | 4 <sup>th</sup> | A  |
| 5   | Multiply deposit law (deposition at state and federal level) should be harmonized  | 10(20.0%) | 6(12.0%)  | 16(32.0%) | 18(36.0%) | 2.78 | 1.06           | 5 <sup>th</sup> | A  |
| 6   | Authors need more education on the provision and obligation of the legal deposit law   | 21(42.0%) | 7(14.0%)  | 13(26.0%) | 9(18.0%)  | 2.74 | 1.24           | 6 <sup>th</sup> | A  |
| 7   | Authors need more education on the importance of ISBN and ISSN   | 6(12.0%)  | 9(18.0%)  | 24(48.0%) | 11(22.0%) | 2.20 | 1.18           | 7 <sup>th</sup> | DA |
| 8   | National Library should synergize with librarians in state and public libraries to ensure smooth implementation of the legal deposit provision | 0(0.0%)   | 4(8.0%)   | 20(40.0%) | 26(52.0%) | 2.20 | 1.18           | 8 <sup>th</sup> | DA |

is the requirement for more publicity by the NLN (2.84); other strategies include an increase in the awareness of the importance of benefits of legal deposit, (2.84) harmonization of the multiple depository legislation in Nigeria (2.78) and author's need for more education on the provision of the legal depository law. However, the authors' need for more education on the importance of ISBN and ISSN (2.20) and NLN synergy with state/public libraries (2.20) were not considered as critical strategies for enhancing international publishing standards and legal depository,

respectively.

#### **Summary of Findings: Awareness of IPS**

1. The highest level of awareness of authors of international publishing standard was that 'web resources now have DOI', followed by ISBN for books, CIP for publications, the importance of CIP, ISMN for music publications, the agency with statutory responsibility to prepare CIP, the agency that assigns ISBN, the requirement for ISSN for journals.
2. They were however not aware of the

- agency that assigns ISBN.
3. The study revealed that authors play critical roles in the maintenance of international publishing standards.
  4. The authors studied agreed they ensured that their publishers use ISSN and process CIP for books.
  5. They agreed that they are key players in national bibliographic control practices.
  6. They also checked whether online journals containing their works had DOI.
  7. The majority of the authors agreed that their awareness levels were very high and high respectively, for their awareness of legal deposit obligations.
  8. The study also revealed that the greatest source of awareness came through sensitization or enlightenment programmes, followed by publishers, librarians, conference participation in that order.
  9. While the authors were aware of their publishers' obligations, they were not aware of the provisions of the legal deposit provision.

***Actionable Submission 1: Reasons for Writing***

1. The issues of publishing standards and legal deposit do not arise or apply where publications are not in existent. While the National Library of Nigeria is likely to see more compliance with the deposit of items published by authors, the contrary would be the case where publications are low or non-existent. This position is supported by the findings of Akidi

(2017) which revealed that while the NLN collection of books in compliance was largely effective, the opposite was the case with the collection of serials.

2. It is submitted that the most critical issue with compliance with international publications standards may relate to the narrow publications' latitude of authors.

It is further submitted that expanding the author's publication latitude is critical to assessing their works' compliance with both international publications' standards and compliance with legal deposit provision.

***Actionable Submission 2: Authors Targets***

Authors target children and young adults. Publications for tertiary institutions are dominated by foreign authors. Children's literature must conform to international publishing standards and deposited with the legal depository agency. It is submitted that efforts should be intensified by Nigerian authors to cover the users at the tertiary level.

***Actionable Submission 3: Reasons for Writing***

1. In a culture where the major motivation for writing is to overcome career stagnation or retrogression, the goal of publishing may not be driven by the desire to conform to publishing standards but to get the number of publications that will satisfy the requirement for career achievement.
2. It is submitted that where authors are compelled to publish abroad in

impact factor journals, such an intellectual property becomes a loss to the nation's bibliographic and depository heritage.

#### ***Actionable Submission 4: Awareness of IPS***

While authors' awareness of international publication standards is commendable, their low awareness of national agency that issues ISBN needs to be corrected especially given the fact that authors' publications profile or output was highest for books. It is recommendable that the NLN organize a sensitization workshop for stakeholders to acquaint themselves with issues relating to international publication standards.

#### ***Actionable Submission 5: Awareness of Legal Deposits***

1. NLN sensitization – The greatest source of awareness of the legal deposit provisions and obligations is through the sensitization programmes of the NLN. The publisher – author nexus is a vital link in the enhancement of authors' awareness of the legal deposit provisions. Participants at various professional workshops organized by the NLN for stakeholders on this issue should share the lessons of their experience with their colleagues.
2. It is submitted that librarians should scale up their awareness level of the deposit law in order to become disseminators of the same. Workshops, seminars and conferences are credible avenues for

the NLN and the Nigeria Library Association to disseminate information on the legal deposit provisions.

#### ***Actionable Submission 6: Strategies***

1. A synergy between departments and agencies of the Nigerian State and National Library of Nigeria is a vital contact that would ensure that government publishers reach the National Library of Nigeria. These agencies are required by the legal depository provisions contained in Section 4 of the National Library Act of 1970 to deposit the highest number of publications generated by the government and its numerous agencies. These agencies include agriculture, health, justice, education, information, commerce and industry.
2. The next synergy is between the NLN and Librarians in tertiary institutions. Nigeria has currently 92 universities (NUC, 2019), 159 Colleges of Education (NCCE, 2020) and 502 institutions under the National Board Technical Educations. The sheer thought of the number of publications emanating from these institutions is mind-boggling. These publications emanate from University printing presses, academic and public relation departments of tertiary institutions in form of theses, textbooks, journals, news magazines and bulletins and conference proceedings. Yet it would appear that they hardly become part of Nigerian's bibliographic and intellectual heritage. Librarians in these institutions can easily serve as



- desk officers of the National Library for coordinating the collection of publications in compliance with their depository obligations and ensuring conformity with international publication standards.
3. It is further submitted that expanding authors' publication latitude is critical to assessing their works' compliance with both international publications' standards and compliance with legal deposit provision.
  4. The results of this study have revealed that the sensitization programmes of the NLN have been critical in increasing the author's awareness of both the IPS and legal deposit provisions and obligations. More publicity will certainly increase the awareness of authors about these issues.
  5. Conflicts between State and Federal legal deposit laws create double deposit obligations on the part of authors and publishers. Harmonization of Federal and State deposit laws are vital in resolving the conflict areas and minimizing the financial and operational costs associated with stakeholders' fulfillment of deposit obligations.

#### ***Actionable Submission 7: Emerging International Numbering Systems***

New international numbering systems have emerged. It is submitted that the NLN has the statutory responsibility to domesticate these emerging trends and provide the necessary leadership about their implementation. These include:

1. ISRC-International Standard Recording Code: ISO 3901:2008, 1992;
2. ISRN-International Standard Technical Report Number: ISO 10444:1993;
3. ISWC: International Standard Musical Work Code: ISO 15707:2001;
4. International Standard Audio-Visual Number: Draft ISO 15706;
5. V-ISAN-Version Identifier for Audio Visual Works: Draft ISO 20925; and
6. ISTC: International Standard Text Code: ISO 21047.

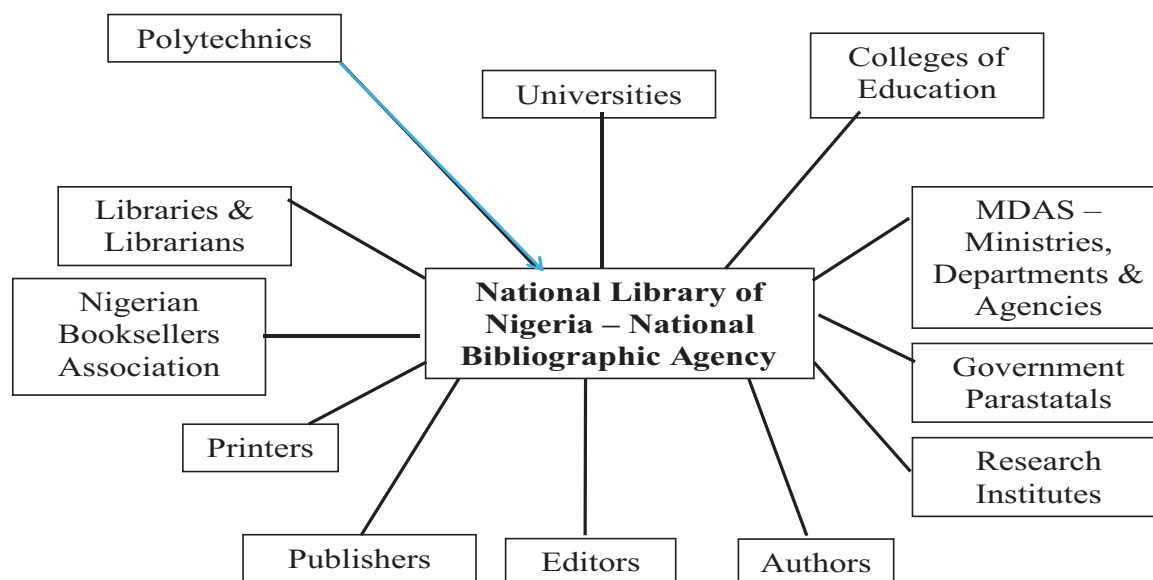
These standards are yet to be contextualized in the operation and activities of the National Library of Nigeria as the nation's bibliographic agency.

#### ***Actionable Submission 8: International Publishing Standards and Legal Deposit Nervous System for Nigeria***

It is proposed that Nigeria needs a digital nervous system (DNS) for the improvement of publication standards and the implementation of legal deposit in the country.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

Authors are critical stakeholders in the publication's generation and production chain. They may be located in tertiary institutions, government agencies or the private sector. There is a functional relationship among authors, publishers, printers, libraries, librarians, booksellers, and the National Bibliographic Agency in Nigeria, the National Library of Nigeria. Authorized by the National Library Act of 1970, the NLN is responsible for the



**Figure 1:** A Conceptual Framework of Digital Nervous System of Shared Responsibility for the Maintenance of International Publishing Standards and Implementation of Legal Deposit Provisions in Nigeria.

maintenance of international publishing standards (IPS) and compliance with the deposit obligations by authors and publishers. Authors and other stakeholders must be aware of what these international standards are and the demands of the deposit law. Where they are not, publications cannot be expected to conform to international standards and compliance with the legal deposit law will be compromised or jeopardized.

This study, however, revealed that while authors were aware of most international publishing standards, they were not aware of the agency that issues ISBN. This implies that most publications are likely to be without ISBN, a major setback in the attainment of international publishing

standards. It is, however, noteworthy that the sensitization workshops of the National Library of Nigeria have largely contributed to the increased awareness of both the IPS and depository obligations of stakeholders. This study has seven actionable submissions. It was deliberate not to call them recommendations; they are clarion call for actions because every nation must scale up to international publishing standards for publications. The critical submissions highlight the need for the National Bibliographic Agency (NBA), the National Library of Nigeria, to synergize with critical stakeholders to achieve improved international publishing standards and compliance with legal depository obligations. Nigeria has a huge publications production capacity

emanating from hundreds of tertiary institutions, government agencies and private sectors. Functional identification and integration of these burgeoning stakeholders into a digital nervous system define the future from the foreground for improved IPS and compliance with the extant depository law, for Nigeria and indeed, for most developing countries.

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