

# NIGERIA

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA**

**O.O. OMOLAYOLE — NATIONAL LIBRARIAN**

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003**

### **GROWTH**

The growth and expansion of the National Library of Nigeria since the last meeting of the CDNL is most discernable from the perspective of State Branch Development.

It may interest members to note that one of the statutory imperatives reposed in the National Library of Nigeria is the location of a Branch in every state of the Federation. This is to enable the National Library of Nigeria to foster as well as complement library development endeavours at the grassroots and to provide professional leadership.

In pursuance of the State Branch service objectives, five additional branches are at the verge of being opened to the reading public and information seekers in Oyo, Rivers, Kano, Sokoto and Osun States. This will raise the number of the operating branches from thirteen (13) to eighteen (18). Four of these operate in prototype buildings, which had been especially designed by the board for library services in every State Branch. The others render services in temporary buildings, which were provided by the State Governments.

The existing branches have been organized into four zonal offices with the prototype branch buildings at Kaduna, Jos, Akure and Enugu serving as the Zonal co-ordinating centers. The long-term objective is to network the Headquarters and the Branches when the operations of the national Library of Nigeria are fully computerized

### **OTHER ASPECTS OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

The National Library of Nigeria has continued to offer reference services in the past year. The highlights include the following:-

#### ***DIGITIZATION PROJECT***

A digitization project was initiated to convert some of our holdings to the electronic format. These include the old colonial documents, the newspapers that are no longer in print and historical photographs capturing events of our political past.

The project is progressing in spite of inadequate funding and limited technical capability. However, efforts are being made to secure improved funding for the project both from within and outside the country. Capacity building has also remained the thrust of policy action.

#### ***NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NIGERIA***

Arrangements are in progress to publish the National Bibliography of Nigeria on CD-ROMs. The 1971-1995 twenty-five year cumulation is now ready for the press while 1996-2002 has reached an advanced stage of production. The National Union Catalogue (NUC) and the

Union List of Serials (NULOS) are also to be published for the first time on CD-ROMs and on-line.

#### ***CLIENTELE SERVICE***

Consequent upon continued clientele growth, the Institution has intensified efforts to gather and stock more information materials. Efforts in this regard include:

- Collection of 2,500 volume of Hansard from the National Assembly and their organization for easy accession by public;
- Production of digitized information on members of Federal and State Executive Council; and
- Mounting of exhibitions on topical issues for public education.

#### ***INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR***

Owing to our association with the Nigeria Book Fair Trust, the National Library of Nigeria participated actively in the International Book Fair, which took place in Lagos, Nigeria from 8-12 May, 2003. The theme of the fair was "Women Empowerment Through Publishing" and the National Library mounted an exhibition of books written by Nigerian women and about women in various fields of endeavour.

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