

NIGERIA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

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INTRODUCTION

The National Library of Nigeria was commenced in 1964 when the law enacting its existence was passed. With a staff strength of 1,017 and over 40 years of existence, the library has become highly institutionalised and has taken its leading position as the apex library in Nigeria.

THE STATE BRANCH DEVELOPMENT

It is the ultimate goal to have a state branch in all the 36 states of the federation. There were 14 branches in operation and four new branches were added this year 2004, located in Oyo, Osun, Rivers and Kano bringing the total number to 18.

SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:- the National Library is charged with the enormous task of producing the National Bibliography in Nigeria. The (NBN) 2002 issue was launched into the market. It was produced in both hard copy and CD-ROM. The 2003 issue of the NBN is already in the press.
- THE NIGERIAN ISSN CENTRE:- The National Library of Nigeria has from its inception in 1974 issued out a total of 5242 ISSNs to those who require it and ^4 between Jan 2003 and 30th April 2004.
- ISBN:-From its inception in 1974 a total of 5298 ISBNs have been issued out to those who need it, while 623 have been issued out between Jan 2003 and 30th April 2004.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Since the resolve of IFLA at Berlin 2003 was to bridge the digital divide, the National Library of Nigeria was able to provide an information resource centre with more than 20 Internet access nodes through the sponsorship of Education Tax Fund (ETF).

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- STAFF SEMINAR:- Quarterly staff seminars were kick-started this year 2004. This is to ensure that we train and retrain our librarians for their professional development and better performance.
- NIGERBIBLIOS:- Nigerbiblios, the official journal of National Library of Nigeria, was revived this year 2004.

- **READERSHIP PROMOTION CAMPAIGN (RPC):-** Readership Promotion campaign, a project which commenced in 1978 by stakeholders like Regional Centre for Book Development in Africa, National Library of Nigeria etc received a boost this year. The Education Tax Fund (ETF) sponsored the RPC activities were flagged off on 16th March, 2004 in Abuja. The theme of the campaign took cognisance of IFLA President (Kay Raseroks's) theme for the tenure 2003-2005, "Libraries: Tools for Education and Development." The Campaign theme, "Reading - Key to Life-long Development" was used to sensitise Nigerians on the need to inculcate reading habits for sustainable development.

The campaign was successfully replicated in the six geo-political zones of the country.

CONCLUSION

The National Library of Nigeria has a lot of roles to play towards the upliftment of Librarianship in Nigeria. Progress has been made within available resources, still there is room for more achievements with adequate allocation of funds.

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