Shoring Next Generation: Unijos Library in Transition

By

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University of Jos Main Library

Overview

- Introduction
- Brief history
- Automation
- Human resources development
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- University of Jos in the National & Global scene
- What next?
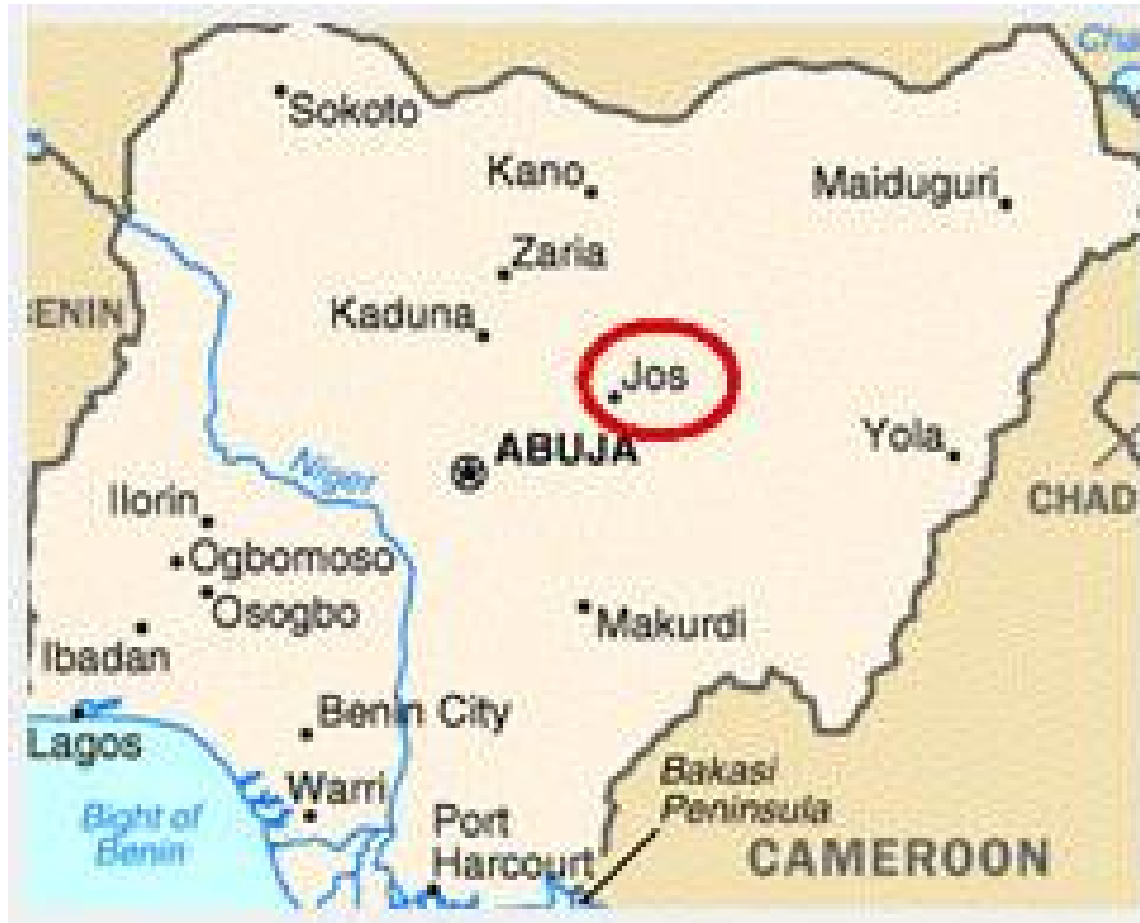- Fears & Challenges
- For Effectiveness
- Conclusion

Plateau State

From: http://www.plateaustategov.org/visit/jos.html

University of Jos

˝ Public university established in 1971 as a campus of University of Ibadan

˝ One of 106 universities in the country

˝ University of Jos (Unijos) a 'traditional' university

˝ Disciplines offered at undergraduate & postgraduate levels

˝ Student population: **19,524**

. 15,833 undergraduates

. 2,641 postgraduates

. 1,050 sub-degree students

Staff

˝ Come from all states of Nigeria, Africa, America, Europe, Middle East, & Asia

˝ Total of 2,394

. **870 academic staff**

˝ Source: Academic Planning Unit, University of Jos

Staff
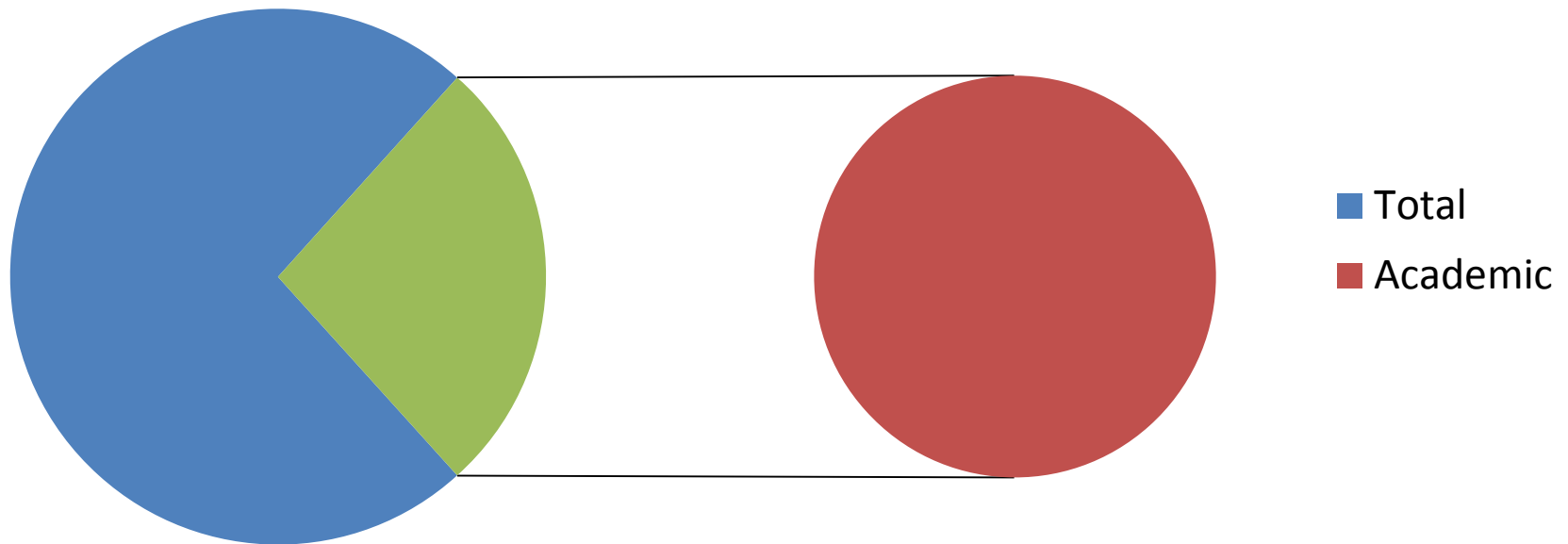
■ Total
■ Academic

Webometrics World Ranking of Universities – July 2010

˝ World – 5882 (7000th in January 2010)

˝ Africa – 66 (74th in January 2010)

˝ Nigeria – 3th (4th in January 2010)

. http://www.webometrics.info/top100_continent.asp?cont=africa

University Library

˝ Evolved from Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan in 1972

˝ Became autonomous in 1975/76 academic session

˝ Operational Philosophy: Subject Libraries

˝ Current collections:

. Books: 169,404 volumes

. Theses: 4,550

. Government Publications: 12,835

. Serials: 25,607

. Current Serials Titles: 149

University Library

˝ Operating from three campuses:

. **Bauchi Road**: Law, Environmental Sciences, Natural Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Medical Sciences

. **Naraguta**: Arts, Education, Social Sciences

. **Township**: Medical Sciences, Centre for Continuing Education

Institutional Repository

˝ Created in June 2009:
http://dspace.unijos.edu.ng/

˝ Contains research outputs of university community as well as other institutional

˝ Self-archiving

˝ Unijos among Top 800 in the world

. 668 by July 2010 (712th in January 2010)

˝ http://repositories.webometrics.info/top800_rep_inst.asp?offset=650

Automation

˝ This started in the mid-80s with feasibility studies of proposed systems for the library

. Consultation was made with IITA Ibadan

˝ In early 1990s there was impetus of the Nigerian 'Federal Universities World Bank Books Project'

˝ From 1998, became part of 'Internet in a Box', eGranary revolution

. eGranary now used in libraries in both developing and developed world

Automation

˝ In the new millennium, momentum fully gathered and automation became the norm

. Library Administration invested in ICT

. Library initiatives attracted interest of Carnegie Corporation (2002) as a potential leader in library automation

. Support received from Jos-Carnegie Partnership first for human resources development and subsequently, for consortium building and software acquisition

Automation

˝ Unijos Library was the 'show-piece' at the 2007 meeting of the software suppliers and Nigerian partnership institutions in Abuja

˝ Unijos catalogue records being retro-converted

˝ On-line public Access Catalogue almost ready for launch – 85%

˝ Integrated Library System 75% ready for operations

Automation

˝ Unijos Library one of the 2 Nigerian institutions participating in the Database for Theses & Dissertation (DATAD) project of the Association of African Universities, Accra, Ghana

  . Active participant. Over 3,000 records contributed. See http://www.aau.org/datad/database/

Automation

˝ Other initiatives is the subscription to online literature databases such as Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (Hinari), Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA), ebscoHost, Journal Storage (JSTOR), Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE), etc.

. See http://www.unijos.edu.ng/library/?q=Services

Human Resources Development

˝ Library Strategy is making human capacity development topmost priority:

  - It is paying off: all Library staff have varying degrees of competencies in the use of Information & Communications Technology to provide library services

  - Subject librarians regularly sensitize staff and students on new electronic resources and their uses

  - Library provision of e-resources has facilitated the positive outcome of accreditation visits to many disciplines

Human Resources Development

- ICT Directorate, Cataloguing and Systems staff trained in Ghana
- Several others systematically trained towards the implementation of the Integrated Library System – Virtua from Virginia Tech Library Systems (VTLS)
- Many others sponsored to conferences
- Seventy – five per cent of sponsorship for the above trainings and conferences in the last six years came from the Jos-Carnegie partnership

Role of Interventions

˝ Library Development Fund from the University's annual budgets has been the main source of funding

˝ The Jos-Carnegie Partnership has also been principal sponsor of many of the library initiatives in the new millennium

Role of Interventions

˝ The Widernet organization through its 'techno-tour' programme and donations of eGranary digital library, has also played significant role

˝ The Mortenson Centre for International Library Program, Urban-Champaign has been effective as a strategic automation technical partner

. Training and advice provided for developing capacity for automation in Unijos Library

Library – Community Relationship

- Library staff profile has increased in the university community because of her ability to provide ICT-driven library services that meet the real need of staff, especially academics

- The trainings and sensitization programmes offered to staff by library staff have proved useful to researchers, especially in locating materials on the World Wide Web

- The creation of Institutional Repository where staff can self-archive has increased good interaction between library staff and the rest of the academic community

National and Global scene

˝ Unijos library has played host to not fewer than 10 Nigerian university libraries who have come to learn about 'automation' in the last 5 years

˝ Not fewer than 8 national librarians conferences have been hosted at the University of Jos in the last 5 years because of the perceived prominence of the Unijos Library

National and Global scene

˝ Presently, two Unijos librarians are among the newly constituted '**Presidential Think Tank**' of the Nigerian Library Association

˝ One is **Chairperson** of the Nigerian Library Association, Plateau State Chapter

˝ One of the Librarians of Unijos represents West and Central Africa in the 12-person **Library & Information Network Steering Group** of the Association of Commonwealth Universities

. See http://www.acu.ac.uk/member_services/professional_networks/libraries_network/steering_group

National and Global scene

˝ Another Librarian in Unijos is e-resources specialist for the Committee of University Librarians consortium - NULIB

˝ Yet another is country Coordinator for eifl.net FOSS. See - http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/eifl-foss/people

What Next?

˝ Librarians fully embraced paradigm shift from being the 'sage' on stage to being the 'guide' by the side

. Possibilities of ICT redesigning and repositioning librarians and the library not only at the University of Jos, but globally

˝ A fully developed librarian in any Nigerian organization can provide leadership for the country, Africa, & the world

Fears and Challenges

˝ Will librarians render ICT 'techies' redundant?

˝ Can we trust librarians to handle ICT jobs:

  . Such as creating and maintaining library websites, hardware, software?

˝ Do librarians have the capacity to drive change?

˝ Can they play any role in the design and implementation of e-learning?

Fears and Challenges

˝ Librarians operate in a systemic environment

. They are specialists at information gathering, packaging, and dissemination

˝ Working in today's ICT environment requires a collaborative approach involving all relevant specialists with equal respect

. 'No man is an island, entire of itself' – John Donne

For effectiveness

″ Nigerian libraries will increasingly need dedicated bandwidth as they become fully automated

″ Maintaining library servers will need to be resolved based on effectiveness

″ Prioritizing the development of libraries can facilitate the general development of ICT deployment, especially in academic institutions

Conclusion

˝ The success story of the University of Jos Library is a collaborative story:

. The University Management

. The ICT Directorate

. Jos-Carnegie Partnership

. Widernet organisation

. Willing members of the academic community

   ˝ Staff, students, and other researchers

˝ There is still more land to be conquered!

Thank you!