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Role of Public Libraries in the Creation of Social Capital: A Study of Northern Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Public Libraries play a vital role in the creation and bridging Social Capital. They offer a space for education, socialization and debate, which are open to the members of the society. This paper presents an overview of public libraries in Nigeria and their role, the challenges associated with the activities and programs of Nigerian Public Libraries in the creation of Social Capital. A total of 59 Public Libraries working in 12 State of Library Boards of Northern Nigeria and Federal Capital Abuja has been considered for the pilot study. The analysis has been done by frequency distribution, percentage and cluster analysis. Based on the results of the study, a few suggestions and solutions to overcome the problems in the creation of Social Capital have been listed. This paper is a pilot study of the Doctoral programme by the first author.

Keywords: Public Library, Social Capital, Northern Nigeria, Survey.

1. Introduction

Public Libraries have been recognized as universalistic trusted centres where people, irrespective of their gender, age, religion etc. fulfilled their educational, political, economic and cultural needs. They enable the immediate community they serve to fulfil their needs through the provision of various types of services and programs that bound the community and make them fill together. The public library is the local gateway to knowledge, and provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups

(IFLA/UNESCO, 1994). Today the role of public libraries are changing, they do not only bridging between people and knowledge, but also between people and community by providing spaces for facilitating social activities. For example, they provide spaces for community activities and social interactions; they also generate social capital formation through community participation (Johnson, 2010). The importance of public libraries in the creation of social capital is obvious. Public libraries have been described as producers of trust and social capital as they offer universal access to information services, treat all patrons equally, and provide a meeting place available to everyone (Varheim, 2014).

2. Geographical Zones and Public Library System in Nigeria

Table 1 presents the Geographical Zones and public libraries in Nigeria. There are six zones with 37 states including FCT Abuja covering south and north Nigeria. The data in table 1 provides the quantum of libraries in Nigeria comprising of one FCT Abuja National library (Headquarters), 37 State Public Libraries, 253 Branches of State Public Libraries and 25 Branches of National Libraries. Altogether 316 public libraries are functioning in Nigeria. Since the study is concentrated on Northern Nigeria.

Table 1: Geographical Zones and Public library System in Nigeria

Geopolitical Zones	States in Nigeria	No. of State Public Libraries Headquarters	No. of Branches of State Public Libraries in LGAs*	No. of Branches of National Libraries	Total
	FCT Abuja National library (Headquarters)				1
North Central	Benue	1	8	1	10
	Kogi	1	3	-	4
	Kwara	1	-	1	2
	Nassarawa	1	2	1	4
	Niger	1	-	1	2
	Plateau	1	2	1	4
	FCT Abuja	1	3	1	5
North East	Adamawa	1	3	1	5
	Bauchi	1	1	1	3
	Gombe	1	11	1	13
	Yobe	1	11	1	13
	Taraba	1	1	1	3
	Borno	1	8	-	9
North West	Jigawa	1	14	-	15
	Kaduna	1	9	1	11
	Kano	1	18	1	20
	Katsina	1	22	1	24
	Kebbi	1	5	-	6
	Sokoto	1	-	1	2
	Zamfara	1	1	-	2
Total libraries in Northern Nigeria		**20**	**122**	**15**	**157**
South East	Abia	1	11	1	13
	Anambra	1	10	-	11
	Ebonyi	1	2	-	3
	Enugu	1	4	1	6
	Imo	1	10	1	12
South West	Lagos	1	11	1	13

	Ogun	1	4	1	6
	Ekiti	1	-	-	1
	Ondo	1	-	1	2
	Osun	1	17	1	19
	Oyo	1	4	1	6
South-South	Akwa Ibom	1	4	-	5
	Bayelsa	1	-	-	1
	Cross Rivers	1	2	1	4
	Rivers	1	3	-	4
	Delta	1	26	-	27
	Edo	1	23	1	25
Total libraries in Southern Nigeria		**17**	**131**	**10**	**158**
Grand Total of Libraries in Nigeria		**37**	**253**	**25**	**316**

Sources: Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (2015)
*LGAs= Local Government Areas

The data in table 1 reveals that for Northern Nigeria the quantum of libraries are 157, out of which 20 are state public libraries , 122 are branches of state public libraries and 15 branches of National libraries. Altogether 157 public libraries are functioning in Northern Nigeria.

Since the study is concentrated on Northern Nigeria, the pilot study was confined to this geopolitical territory. Accordingly the data in table 2 presents an overview of the libraries selected for pilot study.

Table 2 Zone wise Distribution of Public Libraries in Northern Nigeria

Geopolitical Zones	States in Nigeria	No. of State Public Libraries Headquarters	No. of Branches of State Public Libraries in LGAs	No. of Branches of National Libraries	Total
	FCT Abuja National library (Headquarters)				**1**
North Central	Benue	1	3	1	5
	Kogi	1	2	1	2
	Nassarawa	1	1	1	3
	FCT Abuja	1	1	1	3
North East	Adamawa	1	1	1	3
	Gombe	1	5	1	7
	Yobe	1	5		6
	Borno	1	2		3
North West	Jigawa	1	4		5
	Kaduna	1	3	1	5
	Kano	1	5	1	7
	Katsina	1	5	1	7
Total		**12**	**37**	**9**	**59**

3. Social Capital

The concept of social capital emerged in 1993, with the publication of the book 'Making Democracy Work' by Robert Putnam won a great recognition. Putnam (2000) mentions that the term social capital was first used in 1916 in an article by L.J.Hanifam (1916). Social capital refers to links between people in society "networks, norms and trust" (Putnam,

1996) which produce positive outcomes for the community as a whole. Social Capital is a strong predictor of individual health and human well – being. In the literature search it was found that public institutions, in this context public libraries, have greater roles for the creation of Social Capital. It is more associated with positive societal development. Although the concept of social capital can be traced back to 1916, in the past 10 years social capital theory has been linked increasingly to the public library (Miller, 2014). Social capital according to Putnam (2000) refers to the connection between individuals as norms of reciprocity and social trust that facilitate co-ordination and cooperation for mutual benefit. It acts as the glue that holds the social fabric of contemporary social together. The emergence of libraries and social capital is one of the dynamic changes of library and information science profession which attracts researchers to find out whether public libraries are developers of social capital (Ferguson, 2012). It is accumulated as an additional product of these interactions that contribute to the community or social group who realize that access to information, such as a library, increases their operability within the larger society. On the other hand, these spaces provide social capital that possibly contributes to the unification of the social fabric, even if they are not registered or recognized.

4. Literature Review

Researchers in library and Information Science believe that public institutions such as hospitals, shopping malls, schools and public libraries generate social capital and trust in most people (Varheim, 2008 and 2009). Ladan, Rajendran and Auyo (2019) have traced the historical development in Public Library System and Services in Nigeria, and analyzed the barriers of public libraries and visualized the future of public libraries in Nigeria. Nwofor and Ilorah (2015) surveyed the public libraries in Nigeria as an indispensable instrument and as an agent of social and political transformation in Anambra State. The authors revealed that public libraries will serve as catalyst and dynamic force for pervasive and complete cultural and political revolution capable of nurturing the psychosocial and political new dawn of individuals, the clan, the community and the entire nation. The paucity of funds, inadequate manpower development, and high rate of illiteracy, lack of basic infrastructure, inadequate policy formulation/implementation and socio-cultural factors were highlighted as hindrances to the success of public libraries. Miller (2014) stated that public libraries in Edinburgh and Copenhagen facilitate the creation of social capital by providing a public sphere, promoting culture, providing space for groups; being a third place; being welcoming; treating people equally; and up skilling the community. Griffis and Johnson (2013) reported the qualitative findings of a three-year study of public libraries and social capital conducted in Ontario, Canada. The study sought to establish whether library use was related to levels of social capital. It was found that while rural libraries have high potential to create social capital, the overlap of social networks in rural communities renders the library's influence redundant.

While Ferguson (2012) identified main strategies in which public libraries contribute to the generation of social capital as community outreach to remote communities and hospitalized people. On the other hand Kerry et al (2004) stated that outreach library services to rural communities in England provide impact in social inclusion and generate social capital by linking several rural communities together. Lucky, Umeji and Obue (2014) identified the challenges associated with the use of ICT facilities in public libraries of Nigeria. Many Nigerian public libraries which are out-dated have been able to procure information communication technologies to its services. Abubakar (2013) discussed the strategies roles of public libraries in Nigeria in poverty alleviation programs and examined the strategic roles of the public libraries in reducing the rate of poverty in Nigeria. The author provided suggestions that can be by public libraries in Nigeria to contribute in the poverty eradication programs.

Varheim (2014, 2009, 2008, 2007 a & b) has conducted an extensive research on the role of public libraries in the creation of social capital states that libraries provide a relevant case for studying the mechanism that generate social trust and social capital.   Further argues why studies on public libraries, regarding their possible contribution in creating social capital, are important for social capital research in general, and are important for library practice in particular. Building on the latest theoretical developments and empirical findings of social capital research, the role of the public library as a potential creator of social capital was highlighted.   The author strongly believes that librarians and public libraries create social capital and trust in most people. From the point of view of social capital theory, public libraries are interesting cases because libraries are both universalistic institutions and social meeting places. Public libraries have been described as producers of trust and social capital as they offer universal access to information services, treat all patrons equally, and provide a meeting place available to everyone.   Library participation in voluntary activities or working with voluntary associations and promotion at local events is another mechanism public library can use to promote trust and generate social capital. Finally emphasize the significance of institutions in generating social capital. Theoretical perspectives on social capital will undoubtedly benefit the study of social capital's creation in and by the library.

All these studies have empathetically established the role of public libraries in the creation of social capital. But there are no studies reported on this area in the context of public libraries in Nigeria. Hence this study reported in this paper bridges the gap.

5. **Need for the Study**

The role of public library is changing from a place to go for reading books and other information resources to the place for meeting people, interactions and other social activities. The role of public libraries in the creation of social capital is the field that attracts researcher in Library and Information Science (LIS) especially in European countries. Despite the number of researches in public library and social capital, still the literature is

inadequate, "not much is known about whether and how libraries contribute to creating social capital" (Varheim, 2007) especially with regard to the role of public libraries in Africa in the creation of social capital. Studies in this area for public libraries are still beginning. This motivated the researcher to examine the role of public libraries in the creation of social capital, in the context of Northern Nigeria.

6. Scope and Methodology

The scope for this pilot study comprising of 59 state libraries of Northern Nigeria and Federal Capital Abuja. The research design of this study was survey method using questionnaire. A questionnaire was designed based on the research objectives to collect the data from the 12 States of Northern Nigeria and Federal Capital Abuja Library.

7. Objectives

This study has been conducted with the following objectives:

- To examine the concept of social capital and its relation to Public Library System
- To present the state-of-the-art of public libraries in Northern Nigeria
- To examine the role and strategies for the creation of social capital by public libraries in Northern Nigeria
- To ascertain the challenges associated with the activities and programs of public libraries in the creation of Social Capital
- To provide the solutions to overcome the problems in the creation of the social capital.

8. Analysis and Discussion

In this pilot study a total of 59 Public Librarians working in the 12 State Libraries of Northern Nigeria and Federal Capital Abuja, were considered. The data in Table 3 provides the distribution of the respondents based on the geopolitical zones in Northern Nigeria, and the background information of the respondent librarians which shows that more than 3/4th of the respondents are male librarians. About 52.5% are in the age group between 42 and 60 years, followed by 40.7% fall between 34 and 41 years. From this analysis it is interpreted that, the library staff under study are having considerable years of experience and hence their responses are based on their experience in the respective public libraries. Regarding qualifications of the respondents it was found that, only a meagre percent (18.6%) do possess Master's degree in the Library and Information Science. On the other hand, nearly half of the respondents (47.5%) possess Bachelor's Degree in Library and Information Science. About 1/3rd of the respondents possess Diploma in Library and Information Science.

Table 3 - Background Information of Public Librarians in Northern Nigeria

S.No	Variables	Description	Frequency	%
1	Gender	Male	45	76.3
		Female	14	23.7
		Total	**59**	**100**
2	Age	Between 26 and 33 Years	4	6.8
		Between 34 and 41 Years	24	40.7
		Between 42 and 60 Years	31	52.5
		Total	**59**	**100**
3	Qualifications	Diploma in LIS	20	33.9
		Bachelor's in LIS	28	47.5
		Master's in LIS	11	18.6
		Total	**59**	**100**

The data in Table - 4 provides the quantum of collection available in the Public Libraries of Northern Nigeria. Generally collection in public libraries are meagre and in this study it is found that more than half of the libraries under study has collection below 5000 books. On the other hand, 18.64% of libraries do have collection between 10001 and 50000 books. It is interesting to note that only two libraries have about one lakh books. In the recent years the proliferation of electronic resources are taking place throughout the world and most of the libraries irrespective of their nature and type do acquire those e-resources in large numbers to cater to the changing needs and expectation of the dynamic user community. But in this study, it is observed that a majority of the libraries (84.75%) do not have e-resources in their collection.

Table 4 - Quantum of Collection

S.No	Description	Range	No of Libraries	%
1	Books	Below 5000 Books	33	55.93
		Between 5000 and 10000	9	15.25
		Between 10001 and 50000	11	18.64
		Between 50001 and One	4	6.78
		Above One Lakh Books	**2**	3.39
		Total	**59**	**100**
2	Journals	Below 100 Journals	12	20.34
		Between 101 and 1000	26	44.07
		Above 1000 Journals	21	35.59
		Total	**59**	**100**
3	E-	No E-Resources	50	84.75

	Resources	Below 1000 E-Resources	8	13.56
		Above 1000 E-Resources	1	1
		Total	**59**	**100**

Table 5 - Manpower in the Public Libraries in Northern Nigeria

S.No	Description	Range	No of Libraries	%
1	Librarians	Nil	21	35.59
		One Librarian	6	10.17
		Between 2 and 9 Librarians	26	44.07
		Above 9 Librarians	6	10.17
		Total	**59**	**100**
2	Library Officers	Nil	1	1.69
		One Officer	3	5.08
		Two Officers	11	18.64
		Between 3 and 9 Librarians	30	50.85
		Between 10 and 36 Librarians	12	20.34
		Above 100 Librarians	2	3.39
		Total	**59**	**59**
3	Supporting Staffs	No Supporting Staff	3	5.08
		One Supporting Staff	7	11.86
		Two Supporting Staffs	14	23.73
		Between 3and 9 Supporting Staff	24	40.68
		Above 9 Supporting Staffs	11	18.64
		Total	**59**	**100**

The man power position in the Public Libraries of Northern Nigeria has been provided in Table 5. Three categories of manpower has been noticed namely Librarians, Library Officers and Supporting Staff. It is observed from Table 5 that, more than 1/3rd of the Libraries do not have Librarians. On the other hand 44.07% do have Librarians ranging between 2 and 9. It is interesting to note that 6 Libraries have more than 9 Librarians.

All the Libraries have Officers with an exception to one library. It is observed that more than half of the Libraries do have officers ranging between 3 and 9 and about 1/5th of the Libraries do have Officers ranging between 10 and 36. Significantly two libraries have more than One Hundred Library Officers. For the effective functioning of the libraries, supporting staff also plays a vital role. While three Libraries do not have supporting staff, on the other

hand, 40.68% (24 Libraries) do have supporting staff ranging between 3 and 9. It is interesting to note that 11 Libraries have more than 9 supporting staff.

Table – 6 Roles of Public Libraries in the Creation of Social Capital

S.No	Roles of Public Libraries in the creation of social capital	SA	A	U	DA	SD	Total	WAM	Rank
1	As Place for community meetings	16 (27.12)	23 (38.98)	12 (20.34)	4 (6.78)	4 (6.78)	59	3.73	5
2	As Community information centre	35 (59.32)	20 (33.9)	2 (3.39)	1 (1.69)	1 (1.69)	59	4.47	2
3	As a voting centre	1 (1.69)	8 (13.56)	13 (22.03)	19 (32.9)	18 (30.51)	59	2.24	11
4	As pleasant and inviting place for reading and individual study	29 (49.15)	21 (35.59)	6 (10.17)	3 (5.08)	-	59	4.29	3
5	As place for job training programs	14 (23.73)	17 (28.81)	14 (23.73)	11 (18.64)	3 (5.08)	59	3.47	7
6	As community bulletin boards	18 (30.51)	26 (44.07)	11 (18.64)	3 (5.08)	1 (1.69)	59	3.97	4
7	As arena for cultural/festivals activities	8 (13.56)	20 (33.9)	16 (27.12)	10 (16.95)	5 (8.47)	59	3.27	8
8	As documentary film show centre	13 (22.03)	15 (25.42)	13 (22.03)	11 (18.64)	7 (11.86)	59	3.27	9
9	As public place for computer/ internet services	13 (22.03)	14 (23.73)	2 (3.39)	10 (16.95)	20 (33.9)	59	2.83	10
10	As a place providing universal services	33 (55.93)	23 (38.98)	3 (5.08)	-	-	59	4.51	1
11	As a place for virtual meeting on the web	2 (3.39)	-	8 (13.56)	16 (27.12)	33 (55.93)	59	1.68	12
12	As provision of library training programs	19 (32.2)	14 (23.73)	8 (13.56)	15 (25.42)	3 (5.08)	59	3.53	6

SA = Strongly Agree   A = Agree   U = Undecided
DA = Disagree   SD = Strongly Disagree   WAM = Weighted Arithmetic Mean

The potential role of Public Libraries is to create Social Capital. In other words, public libraries contribute to the generation of social capital. In this study (Table 6) 12 roles have been identified for the Public Libraries in the Northern Nigeria that contribute for the creation of Social Capital. The respondent Librarian's opinion on the variables have been analysed on Five Point Scaling Technique, with the parameters as strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. The variables have been ranked based on WAM (Weighted Arithmetic Mean) value. The first five variables based on the WAM value in the order of preference are as follows:

1. As place providing universal services (4.51)
2. As community information centre (4.47)
3. A pleasant and inviting place for reading and individual study (4.29)
4. As community bulletin boards (3.97)
5. As a place for community meetings (3.73)

8.1 Cluster Analysis for Roles of Public Libraries in the creation of Social Capital.

The hierarchical cluster analysis has been applied for the roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital and the resulting Dendrogram is shown as Figure 1. The Dendrogram which has been derived, at 66% distance level, results in two meaningful clusters. The two clusters can be termed as:

1. Most significant roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital
2. Least significant roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital
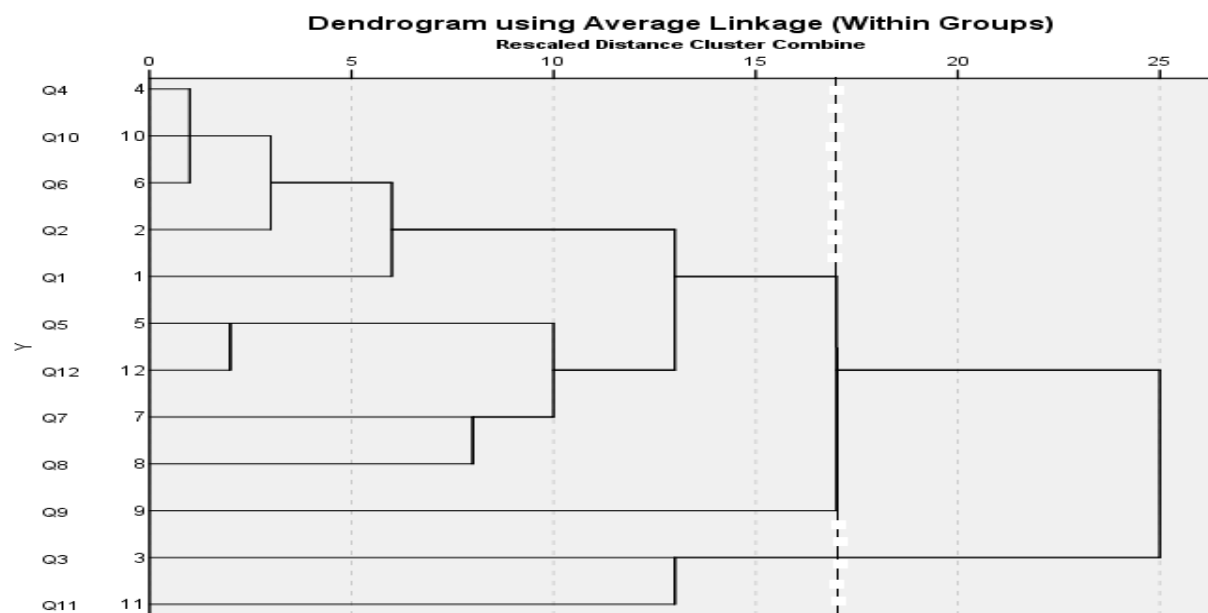

Figure 1: Dendrogram for Roles of Public Libraries in the creation of Social Capital

8.2 Cluster 1: Most significant roles of public libraries in the creation of Social Capital

In cluster 1 (Table 6.1) ten variables have been grouped and named as most significant roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital

Table 6.1: Cluster I most significant roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital

Code	Variable	Agree	Disagree
Q1	As Place for community meetings	51	8
Q2	Community information centre	57	2
Q4	A pleasant and inviting place for reading and individual study	56	3
Q5	Place for job training programs	45	14
Q6	As community bulletin boards	55	4
Q7	Arena for cultural/festivals activities	44	15
Q8	Documentary film show centre	41	18
Q9	As public place for computer/ internet services	29	30
Q10	As a place providing universal services	59	0
Q12	Provision of library training programs	41	18
	Total	**478**	**112**

n=59

Agree = 478   Disagree = 112
Agree ratio   :   478/59 = 8.10   Disagree ratio:112/59 = 1.89
Agree and Disagree ratio (8.10: 1.89) = 4.28:1

The agree and disagree ratio for these variables shown in the Table 6.1 has been arrived at 4.28:1 which implies that the variables reveals most significant roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital as expressed by the respondents. Hence this cluster has been named as *"Most significant roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital"*.

Table 6.2: Cluster II: Least significant roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital

Code	Variable	Agree	Disagree
Q3	Library as a voting centre	22	37
Q11	As a place for virtual meeting on the web	10	49
	Total	32	86

In cluster 2 (Table 6.2) two variables have been grouped and can be named as *"Least significant roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital"*

Agree = 32   Disagree = 86
Agree ratio: 32/59 =   0.54   Disagree ratio:86/59 = 1.46
Agree and Disagree ratio (0.54:1.46) = 0.37: 1

The agree and disagree ratio for these variables shown in the Table 6.2 has been arrived at 0.37:1 which implies that the variables reveals least significant roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital as expressed by the respondents. Hence this cluster has been named as "Least *significant roles of public libraries in the creation of social capital"*.

Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
0.71083	0.688816	12

Cronbach's alpha test has been conducted to examine the reliability of multiple-question Likert scale survey. Normally, the reliability coefficient value ranges between 0 and 1: closer to 1.0, the greater the internal consistency of the items in the scale. The value for Cronbach's alpha calculated for the 12 variables under the topic Role of public libraries in the creation of Social Capital to 0.71 which reveals that the survey variables on this topic are acceptable.

George and Mallery (2003) provide the following rules of thumb: "_ > .9 – Excellent, _ > .8 – Good, _ > .7 – Acceptable, _ > .6 – Questionable, _ > .5 – Poor and _ < .5 – Unacceptable".

9. Challenges of Public Libraries in the Creation of Social Capital

Public Libraries in Nigeria have been facing challenges in the provision of services and in the creation of social capital as well (Opara, 2008). There are 16 challenges of public libraries in the creation of social capital which are enumerated in Table 7.

Table – 7 Challenges of Public Libraries in the creation of Social Capital

S.No	Challenges	SA	A	U	DA	SD	Total	WAM	Rank
1	Lack of proper meeting hall/room to host or organize community meetings	21 (35.59)	25 (42.37)	7 (11.86)	5 (8.47)	1 (1.69)	59	1.98	14
2	Non availability of open space for festival, social gatherings and parking spaces	13 (22.03)	27 (45.76)	13 (22.03)	5 (8.47)	1 (1.69)	59	2.22	9
3	Inadequate furniture for reading and meetings	17 (28.81)	17 (28.81)	13 (22.03)	11 (18.64)	1 (1.69)	59	2.36	5
4	Traditional library layout and un-conducive atmosphere of the library environment to provide library programs and activities	9 (15.25)	24 (40.68)	18 (30.51)	6 (10.17)	2 (3.39)	59	2.46	2
5	Lack of community awareness of library functions and services	13 (22.03)	25 (42.37)	15 (25.42)	4 (6.78)	2 (3.39)	59	2.27	8

6	Inconvenience distance of the library from the community members	10 (16.95)	18 (30.51)	20 (33.9)	5 (8.47)	6 (10.17)	59	2.64	1
7	Inadequate and out of date of library collections	17 (28.81)	25 (42.37)	11 (18.64)	6 (10.17)	-	59	2.10	11
8	Lack of governments' concern towards library	17 (28.81)	22 (37.29)	15 (25.42)	5 (8.47)	-	59	2.14	10
9	Inadequate ICTs infrastructure and facilities for library services and programs	14 (23.73)	25 (42.37)	12 (20.34)	5 (8.47)	3 (5.08)	59	2.29	7
10	Lack of library understanding and role to be played in the services and programs contributing to social capital creation	14 (23.73)	22 (37.29)	16 (27.12)	5 (8.47)	2 (3.39)	59	2.31	6
11	Inadequate financial support for public libraries to provide resources and facilities for social capital activities	21 (35.59)	26 (44.07)	12 (20.34)	-	-	59	1.85	16
12	Limited library working days and working hours	11 (18.64)	23 (38.98)	17 (28.81)	6 (10.17)	2 (3.39)	59	2.41	4
13	Lack of children's' materials and facilities	15 (25.42)	29 (49.15)	12 (20.34)	3 (5.08)	-	59	2.05	13
14	Lack of constant power supply to support library services and programs	18 (30.51)	29 (49.15)	8 (13.56)	3 (5.08)	1 (1.69)	59	1.98	15
15	Poor ICT knowledge, its compliance and lack of internet facilities	13 (22.03)	33 (55.93)	9 (15.25)	3 (5.08)	1 (1.69)	59	2.08	12
16	Inability of the library heads to adopt strategies for the social capital activities	10 (16.95)	25 (42.37)	16 (27.12)	3 (5.08)	5 (8.47)	59	2.46	3

The respondent Librarian's opinion on the variables have been analysed on Five Point Scaling Technique, in the parameters as strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. The variables have been ranked based on WAM (Weighted Arithmetic Mean) value. The first five variables based on the WAM value in the order of preference are as follows:

1. Inconvenience distance of the library from the community members   (2.64)
2. Traditional library layout and un-conducive atmosphere of the library
3. environment to provide library programs and activities   (2.46)
4. Inability of the library heads to adopt strategies for the social capital activities (2.46)
5. Limited library working days and working hours   (2.41)
6. Inadequate furniture for reading and meetings   (2.36)

9.1   Cluster Analysis for Challenges of Public Libraries in the creation of Social Capital
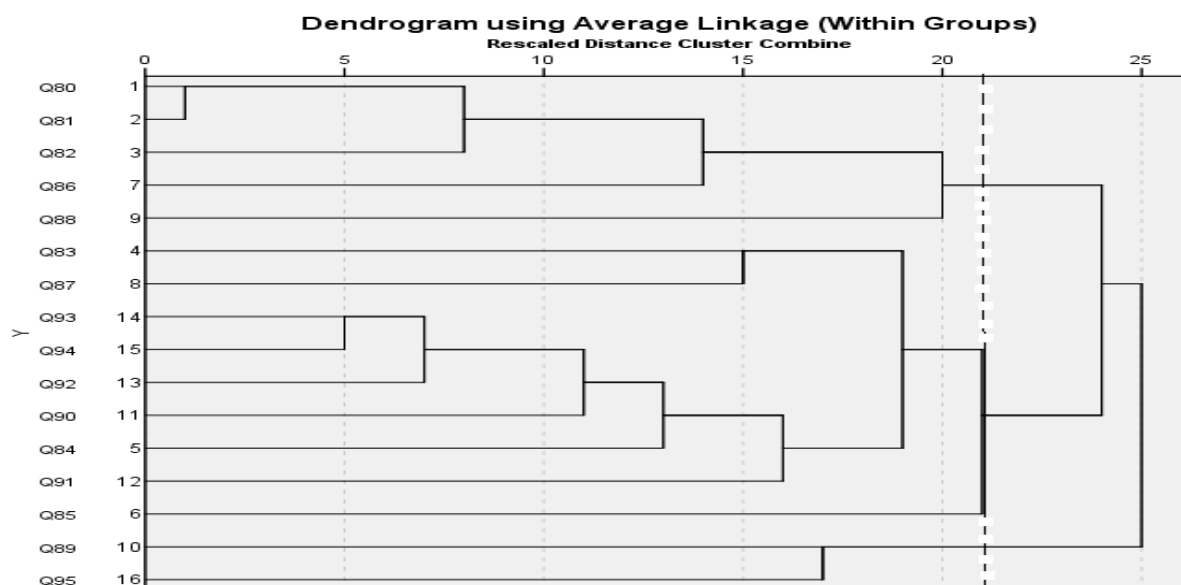

Figure 2 Dendrogram for Challenges of Public Libraries in the creation of Social Capital

The hierarchical cluster analysis has been applied for the challenges of public libraries in the creation of social capital and the Dendrogram is shown as figure 2. The Dendrogram which has been derived at 84% distance level results in three meaningful clusters. The three clusters can be termed as:

1.   Physical facilities challenges
2.   ICT and Library environment challenges
3.   Managerial Challenges

9.1.1 Cluster I: Physical Facilities Challenges of Public Libraries in the Creation Of Social Capital

In cluster 1 (Table 7.1) five variables have been grouped and named as Physical facilities challenges of public libraries in the creation of social capital

Table 7.1: Cluster I: Physical facilities challenges of public libraries in the creation of social capital

Code	Variable	Agree	Disagree
Q80	Lack of proper meeting hall/room to host or organize community meetings	53	6
Q81	Non availability of open space for festival, social gatherings and parking spaces	53	6
Q82	Inadequate furniture for reading and meetings	47	12
Q86	Inadequate and out of date of library collections	53	6
Q88	Inadequate ICTs infrastructure and facilities for library services and programs	51	8
	Total	257	38

Agree = 257   Disagree = 38
Agree ratio: 257/59 = 4.36   Disagree ratio:38/59 = 0.64
Agree and Disagree ratio (4.36:0.64) = 6.81: 1

The agree and disagree ratio has been arrived at 6.81:1 which implies that these variables representing physical facilities that offer most significant challenges for public libraries of Northern Nigeria in the creation of social capital. Therefore it is named as *"Physical facilities Challenges of public libraries in the creation of social capital"*

9.1.2 Cluster Ii: Cluster Ii: ICT and Library Environment Challenges of Public Libraries in the Creation of Social Capital

In the Cluster II (Table 7.2) 9 variables have been grouped and named as ICT and Library environment challenges of public libraries in the creation of Social Capital.

Table 7.2: Cluster II: ICT and Library environment challenges of public libraries in the creation of social capital

Code	Variable	Agree	Disagree
Q83	Traditional library layout and un-conducive atmosphere of the library environment to provide library programs and activities	51	8
Q84	Lack of community awareness of library functions and services	53	6
Q85	Inconvenience distance of the library from the community members	48	11
Q87	Lack of governments' concern towards library	54	5
Q90	Inadequate financial support for public libraries to provide resources and facilities for social capital activities	59	0
Q91	Limited library working days and working hours	51	8
Q92	Lack of children's' materials and facilities	56	3
Q93	Lack of constant power supply to support library services and programs	55	4
Q94	Poor ICT knowledge, its compliance and lack of internet facilities	55	4
	Total	482	49

Agree = 482   Disagree = 49
Agree ratio: 482/59 = 8.17   Disagree ratio:49/59 = 0.83
Agree and Disagree ratio (8.17:0.83) = 9.84: 1

The agree and disagree ratio has been calculated at 9.84:1 which implies that these variables representing ICT and Library environment challenges for public libraries of Northern Nigeria in the creation of social capital. Therefore it is named as "*ICT and Library environment challenges of public libraries in the creation of social capital*"

9.1.3 Cluster III: Managerial Challenges of Public Libraries in the Creation Of Social Capital

IN Cluster III (Table 5.3) two variables have been grouped and named as managerial challenges of public libraries in the creation of Social Capital.

Table 7.3: Cluster III: Managerial Challenges of public libraries in the creation of social capital

Code	Variable	Agree	Disagree
Q89	Lack of library understanding and role to be played in the services and programs contributing to social capital creation	52	7
Q95	Inability of the library heads to adopt strategies for the social capital activities	51	8
	Total	103	15

Agree = 103   Disagree = 15
Agree ratio: 103/59 = 1.75   Disagree ratio:15/59 = 0.25
Agree and Disagree ratio (1.75:0.25) = 7: 1

The agree and disagree ratio has been arrived at 7:1 which implies that these variables representing Managerial Challenges for public libraries of Northern Nigeria in the creation of social capital. Therefore it is named as *"Managerial Challenges of public libraries in the creation of social capital"*

10.   Solutions to Overcome the Problems In the Creation of Social Capital

Table – 8 Solutions to overcome the problems in the creation of social capital

S.No		SA	A	U	DA	SD	Total	WAM	Rank
1	Provision of meeting rooms/halls to host or organize community meetings	17 (28.81)	25 (42.37)	8 (13.56)	9 (15.25)	-	59	2.15	4
2	Provision of open space for festivals, social gatherings and parking	10 (16.95)	27 (45.76)	14 (23.73)	7 (11.86)	1 (1.69)	59	2.36	2
3	Provision of adequate furniture for meetings and movable furniture readings	19 (32.2)	22 (37.29)	8 (13.56)	10 (16.95)	-	59	2.15	5
4	Provision of adequate library collections and facilities including children's materials	19 (32.2)	27 (45.76)	10 (16.95)	3 (5.08)	-	59	1.95	8

5	Provision of ICTs infrastructure and facilities for library services and programs	29 (49.15)	26 (44.07)	4 (6.78)	-	-	59	1.58	9
6	Provision of adequate financial support to public libraries	17 (28.81)	31 (52.54)	6 (10.17)	5 (8.47)	-	59	1.98	7
7	Extension of library working days and working hours	13 (22.03)	19 (32.2)	20 (33.9)	6 (10.17)	1 (1.69)	59	2.37	1
8	Provision of constant power supply to support library services and programs	11 (18.64)	30 (50.85)	14 (23.73)	3 (5.08)	1 (1.69)	59	2.20	3
9	Provision of enough ICT facilities and qualified library personnel to handle them for effective activities	17 (28.81)	27 (45.76)	10 (16.95)	3 (5.08)	2 (3.39)	59	2.08	6

In this study 9 variables have been considered as the possible solutions to overcome the problems in the creation of Social Capital. The respondent Librarian's opinion on the variables have been analysed on Five Point Scaling Technique, in the parameters as strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. The variables have been ranked based on WAM (Weighted Arithmetic Mean) value. The first five variables based on the WAM value in the order of preference are as follows:

1. Extension of library working days and working hours   (2.37)
2. Provision of open space for festivals, social gatherings and parking   (2.36)
3. Provision of constant power supply to support library services and programs   (2.20)
4. Provision of meeting rooms/halls to host or organize community meetings (2.15)
5. Provision of adequate furniture for meetings and movable furniture readings (2.15)

11.   Suggestions

From the foregoing analysis of public libraries in Northern Nigeria and their role, challenges comprising of physical facilities, ICT and Library environment challenges and managerial challenges that come in the way of the creation of Social Capital, the following suggestions have been enumerated:

- In view of the present conditions prevailing in public libraries in Northern Nigeria, three major strategies have been suggested for the creation of Social Capital. Firstly public libraries can collaborate with voluntary associations to participate in the local

community activities. Secondly they can develop their capacity as informal meeting places for public. Thirdly they can create social capital as providers of universal services to the public at large.

- Considering the importance of Social Capital creation and its possible benefits, it is suggested to convene annual meeting of all the public library heads / directors / librarians to meet and share ideas and provide constructive framework for the delivery of information services and products and in the direction of creating Social Capital and to carry out their role in the relation building.

- In view of the significant role of library staff including the heads of the libraries in the creation of Social Capital, it is suggested that more qualified staff need to be appointed including computer scientists.

- Considering the need for the provision of innovative and outreach services by public libraries to design and implement certain programs to promote the growth and support their communities, it is suggested that public libraries in Northern Nigeria can collaborate with experts on various fields such as health, environment, internet, banking, marketing etc., to drive community growth and sustainable development.

12.   Conclusion

From the point of future of Librarianship in Nigeria, there is need for librarians to be prepared to take the future. Librarians are passing through transformation, both in terms of the social infrastructure they provide and a variety of services offered. They have an important role in the development and maintenance of a democratic society by giving the individual access to a wide variety range of knowledge, ideas and options. They build social capital by providing public places where people can come together to work toward personal or community goals. They provide resources that enable people and groups to establish and nurture relationships, and they also facilitate people from different groups and perspectives coming together in pursuit of common goals.

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