



L R C N Bulletin

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LRCN DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING: PSD STEPS UP

The LRCN departmental briefing continues to roll on as Professional Services Department (PSD) took its turn on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 in the series of presentations from various Departments of Council. The PSD briefing was presented by Mr. Dele Omotoso, the Director of the Department and entitled - Achieving



Mr. Dele Omotoso, Director (PSD) during his presentation

the LRCN Mandate: The Role of the Professional Services Department. As expected, the presentation was very informative and succinctly described the role of PSD towards the actualization of the mandate of LRCN. The presentation addressed issues ranging from LRCN mandate; vision and mission; activities of the PSD; its achievements; challenges; future plans; and recommendations. Mr. Omotoso in his presentation noted that LRCN is a regulatory agency of government charged with the responsibility to regulate the practice of Librarianship in Nigeria by determining who is a Librarian and registering such qualified person as professional librarians; setting and maintaining standards for all categories of libraries; and accreditation of library school programmes in Nigeria. Mr. Omotoso reiterated that the mission of LRCN is to pursue the attainment of professional excellence by

determining who librarians are; the standard of knowledge and skills required for registration and practice; guidelines for accreditation and minimum standards for libraries; and maintenance of professional discipline among librarians. The vision of LRCN which is to become a world class regulatory body that provides a platform for the delivery of quality library and information service in Nigeria was also explained.

In providing a basis for the understanding of the work of the PSD, the Director informed the staff that his department has a staff strength capacity of 27 professionals, 6 supporting staff, 3 NYSC members making a total of 36. From the presentation it is noted that PSD comprises of the following Divisions: Certification and Licensing, Education and Accreditation, Regulation and Special Duties Division, and Planning, Research and Statistics. Each division is made up of a number of Sections. For example the Certification and Licensing Division is made up of Certification, Licensing, Field Operation, and Computer Services Section. Education and Accreditation Division has Education, Continuous Profession Development, and Accreditation Sections. Regulation and Special Duties Division includes the Professional Regulation and Special Duties Sections. Lastly, the Planning, Research and Statistics Division is made up of Planning, Library and Publication, and Research and Statistics Sections.

The duties of each of the Sections were highlighted. Certification Section is responsible

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for keeping custody of completed registration forms from applicants. It checks and verifies credentials of applicants, computerization of librarians' data and produces report on registration activities of Council. The section also prepares the librarians register, and handles the production and issuing of certificates to registered librarians.

Licensing Section ensures the granting and renewal of licenses to registered librarians, and in conjunction with legal unit publishes in gazette list of qualifications in the profession and also attending to inquiries from librarians and other stakeholders on status of registered librarians. Field Operation Section allocates registration forms, handbooks, leaflets and other materials; distributes them and collect completed forms so as to compile and prepare periodic report on the registration exercise. It places requests for procurement of registration materials.

It is the duty of the Computer Services Section to develop and manages LRCN's website, liaise with external consultants for the development and maintenance of LRCN website. This Section also coordinates inputs from department for update of the contents of Council's website, supervises e-mails, Internet services, data entry of records and back-up of databases. Education Section is responsible for monitoring and supervising LIS education courses and programmes in LIS schools in Nigeria. This section also organizes internship programmes and conduct professional qualification examinations.

The Continuous Professional Development Section coordinates continuing library education programmes, organizes staff seminars, oversees the training needs of staff, coordinate staff training

for higher qualifications and cooperates with other stake holders to organize training workshops for librarians.

Accreditation Section is responsible for accrediting LIS education courses and programmes in training institutions in Nigeria. It also accredits and prepares orientation programme for foreign trained librarians.

Professional Regulation Section sets and compiles minimum standards for various types of libraries in Nigeria. It produces standard manual, review guidelines on minimum standard for library education and also organizes professional qualifying examination.

Special Duties Section sensitizes and mobilizes stake-holders with necessary information to librarians' disciplinary committee. The section liaises with development partners, associations and unions for LIS development initiatives in Nigeria.

The Planning and Publication Section is involved in developing strategies, programmes and plans of action to move the Council forward in pursuit of its mandate. The section also monitors policy implementation and budget preparation for the Council. It acquires, processes, stores retrieves and disseminates relevant information materials to staff of the Council involved in research. The Section develops and acquires relevant software for LRCN library collections.

Lastly, the Research and Statistical Section has the function of conducting and coordinating relevant research, compilation of statistics and publication of directory, journals etc. ...continued on page 3

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CERTIFICATION SECTION'S FUNCTION TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF LRCN MANDATE

The Professional Service Department of LRCN is poised to carry out the mandate of LRCN. It is in view of this that the Certification Section of the Department was assigned to perform the following responsibilities:

- Receipt and custody of duly completed registration forms from applicants;
- Checking and verification of credentials of applicants;
- Production of reports of registered librarians;
- Preparation of Librarians Register; and
- Production and issuing of certificates to registered librarians.

The unit has received four hundred and sixty four (464) applications, from January to October, 2011. However, One hundred and twenty eight applications (128) were received/checked and duly verified for the 2nd Induction Ceremony held in August this year, as part of its functions.

Sambo Atanda, PSD

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The presentation highlighted the achievements of PSD so far. They include the successful organization of capacity building programmes for Teacher-librarians in two geo-political zones of the country. PSD has also designed and developed a Teacher-Librarian Manual to be used to improve library



The Registrar/CEO of LRCN, Ms. Victoria Okojie, addressing the staff at the briefing services in primary and secondary school libraries. The PSD has successfully maintained the LRCN Database and is looking into ways of even making it more resourceful. The PSD successfully conducted the 2nd Batch Induction of 1177 Librarians and has published the LRCN Bulletin and Newsletter regularly. Finally the PSD has made tremendous strides in the sensitization of Council's stakeholders through its various communication tools.

Mr. Omotoso went on to mention that despite the successes recorded by the PSD in support of the actualization of the LRCN mandate, the PSD is facing challenges which include inadequate office facilities and computer systems; lack of efficient and regular internet access; inadequate office furniture, official vehicles, non-conducive office environment caused by situations such as roof leakages, inadequate lighting and no air conditioned office spaces. PSD is also faced with lack of internal communication facilities.

Although the above challenges persist, the presentation noted that the PSD aspire to register all qualified librarians in Nigeria, improve on its collaboration with stakeholders and to better market LRCN activities and programmes through the initiation of a scholarly publication, online forum and other LRCN publications.

As part of its future plans, Mr. Omotoso mentioned that PSD will soon embark on accreditation and standardization of LIS Education courses and programmes in Nigeria, and also start LRCN's Mandatory Continuing Professional Development

(MCPD) programmes for registered librarians in Nigeria. It is also envisaged that the PSD will in future conduct professional examinations for prospective librarians, organize internship programmes for librarians, and prosecute unqualified librarians found to be practicing librarianship anywhere in the country. PSD is also making plans to encourage professional ethical behaviour of its members through institution of the Investigation Panel and Disciplinary Committee of Council. The PSD also plans to hold future induction of prospective librarians at the point of graduation.

Mr. Omotoso in his presentation recommended that more capacity building programmes should be initiated for LRCN staff. He also recommended that the welfare of staff need be enhanced to ensure motivation of staff at all levels. It was also recommended that LRCN database be reviewed and enhanced for optimal performance. The Director, PSD proposed electronic registration of librarians and recommended further that electronic infrastructure of the Council be improved and that the LRCN office be better furnished to create a conducive working atmosphere for all LRCN staff.

In his conclusion, Mr. Omotoso appreciated the support and contribution of all other Departments



A cross section of LRCN staff at the briefing and Units of Council. He was also grateful to the Registrar/CEO's office for the encouragement it is giving PSD in order to improve its service delivery. The presentation was followed by a question and answer section where staff that raised a number of issues or had questions regarding the operations of the PSD had the opportunity to seek further clarification. The presenter, Mr. Omotoso took time to respond to the questions and issues raised. He was commended for concluding his presentation within the time allotted. The office of the Registrar/CEO will be making the next presentation in the last quarter of the year.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE STUDENTS, BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO CHAPTER VISITS LRCN

The National Association of Library and Information Science Students Bayero University, Kano Chapter came on an excursion to LRCN. Their first place of call was the office of the Registrar, Ms Victoria Okojie. The aim was to familiarize themselves with the activities of the Council. The visits by 27 Students were



The Registrar/CEO, LRCN presenting a gift to ABU student delegates

accompanied by one of their lecturers Mallam kabiru Abbas.

The lecturer, Mallam kabiru Abbas in his opening remarks briefed the Registrar on the purpose of the visit and appreciated the manner in which they were received by the Registrar. The Registrar took time to highlight some of the efforts being made by the Council to improve the practice of Librarianship in Nigeria. These include: compilation of School Library Manual and Teacher Librarian Workshops at Katsina and Ibadan respectively.

In his contribution the Director PSD, Mr.

Dele Omotoso addressed the students on the mandate of the Council which includes among other things to:

- Determine who is a librarian
- Determine the level of knowledge and skills

- required to be a librarian
- Register all qualified librarians
- Set and maintain standards for all categories of libraries
- Maintain discipline within the LIS profession
- Accredite library school programmes.

He later informed the students about the position of the Council on the registration of applicants with combined honours certificate. He said BUK was among the Institutions that answered the request of the Council to forward their academic course content for Council analysis and decision.

In appreciation, the President National Association of Library and Information Science Students BUK Chapter, Mr. Auwal Mukhtar Usman appreciated the reception accorded to them by the Council and commended the effort of the Registrar for the long term agitation to ensure the Council was fully on ground. He said librarians should be proud like other professionals for having a statutory regulatory body. He further appealed to the Registrar to consider the applicants with combined honours for registration if not they too, will be affected.

In her response to the President's appeals the Registrar promised the students that she will do her best to accommodate every qualified librarian. She said that the essence of sending request to institutions offering Library Science programmes was to measure the Library Science courses offered by such institutions before deciding the fate of their products. She said that as far as BUK applicants are concerned they don't have any problem.



The delegates pose with the Registrar/CEO, LRCN and Director, PSD

The Registrar presented a gift to the students in appreciation of their visit and wish them safe journey back to their destination, after which the students had a group photograph with the Registrar.

Kabiru Ubale, PSD

LRCN'S MANDATORY CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MCPD)

Many professional librarians are complacent about continuous building of their capacity to deal with the evolving nature of requirements for LIS work, owing to new and emerging tools involved in current information management practice.

The application of relevant ICT in Library and Information Science practice, coupled with the rapid advancement of these technologies, require that professional librarians be involved in continuous professional training to build their capacity routinely, to cope with current and emerging skills acquisition and challenges in LIS practices.

LIS employers must invest in the personnel training of their staff to improve their work performance. Librarians themselves must not wait for their employers for training opportunities. They must invest personal resources in improving on their skills and knowledge by attending seminars, workshop and other training programmes available.

Lack of continuous personnel training results in staff's inability to perform effectively culminating in lack of user satisfaction and low productivity. Efficiency and effectiveness in LIS service delivery in Nigeria is the hall mark of LRCN's mandate. LRCN is therefore committed in her pursuit of Mandatory Continuous Professional Development (MCPD) for all librarians in Nigeria.

The Mandatory Continuous Professional Development of Librarians in Nigeria is meant to identify gaps in the professional development of Nigerian Librarians to provide necessary training programmes to bridge such gaps. Under this programme, Registered Librarians are expected to attend a certain number of training programmes in a particular period of time. This is intended to update librarians with current trends in the profession to improve their knowledge and service delivery.

LRCN in collaboration with other stakeholders will coordinate its MCPD initiative through seminars, workshops and conferences to build adequate and comprehensive competency and standards for optimal professional proficiency for registered librarians in Nigeria.

Ray Peace M., PSD

Poor use of School Libraries in Nigeria

The declining reading culture in Nigeria especially among students has been tied to poor use of libraries and lack of books on diverse knowledge areas to enrich the knowledge of the Nigerian child. The concept of a library use and reading culture was lost on the students. The notion of the library as a conducive place to read and study has given way to an era in which pupils see the library as a venue for group discussions. Today, many students no longer bother about research as a means to enhance their knowledge but rather rely solely on their class notes. Students now depend solely on classroom teachings and never broaden their capacity and horizon of learning in order to enhance their academic performance. Teachers also contribute to the poor use of libraries by not teaching the students the importance of the library.

Government intervention is needed especially in public libraries to put facilities in place for a conducive reading atmosphere in our public libraries. I find out that most of our school libraries have nothing on the shelves except a few textbooks. In some schools there is no library structure let alone the necessary facilities to run an effective school library. No wonder there is mass failure in our primary and secondary schools. Government through Librarians' Registrations Council of Nigeria must take necessary steps to address the reading culture problems in our schools.

Abdulkadir Jibrin Harbau, PSD

BIRTHDAYS

MR. VICTOR IGIAMOH 03RD October
MR. IKWEN JONATHAN JAMES 04TH October
MR. JAGA A. PAUL 10TH October
MRS. AISHA RAJI RUFAL 18TH October
MR. DUROJAIYE AJIBOLA 27TH October

LRCN Management and Staff celebrate with you all for adding an extra year to your lives.

Compiled by:
Mrs. Njideka Nwawih, PSD

LRCN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY COMES UP WITH SALLAH AND CHRISTMAS PACKAGES

With the successful take-off of the various committees appointed to oversee and run the affairs of the LRCN Multi-Purpose Co-Operative Society, both Goods/Product and Loan Committees have designed Sallah/Layya and Christmas/New Year packages to ensure a financial stress free Christmas and Sallah celebrations for its members.

The Sallah/Layya products is to give our Muslim members access to soft and short-term loans repayable within three (3) months. The product is tailored towards assisting our members with money to purchase rams for their Sallah obligations while the Christmas/New Year is for our Christian members accessing short-term loans for their Christmas/New

Year celebration. In the same vein, the Product/Goods Committee also has rice and groundnut oil for sale to all members to be paid within a stipulated period. Prior to this, electronic appliances such as laptops, handsets, television sets and the likes had already been extended to our members. The Society is welcoming suggestions from all members in the area of developing our products and packages.

We wish our Muslim members happy Sallah in advance.

Zubairu D. Babale, Ag. President
Nasiru Baba, Ag. Secretary General

DID YOU KNOW!

1. Did you know that in a group of 23 people, at least two have the same birthday with the probability greater than $\frac{1}{2}$.
2. Did you know that dogs can't sweat? They don't have sweat glands. They pant when they feel hot, to let the heat escape from their body.
3. Did you know that in 1975, JUNKO Tabei from Japan became the first woman to reach the top of mountain Everest?
4. Did you know that Greek astronomer ARISTARCHOS said in the 3rd century BC that earth revolves around the sun but the idea was not accepted?
5. Did you know that Golf is the only sport played on the moon on 6th February 1971? ALAN SHEPARD hit a golf ball.
6. Did you know that a newborn gray whale drinks enough milk in one sitting to fill more than 2000 bottles?
7. Did you know that a compass does not point to the Geographical North or South Pole, but to the magnetic poles?
8. Did you know that for more than 3,000 years, carpenter ants have been used to close wounds in India, Asia and South America?
9. Did you know that Mercury is the fastest Planet? It zooms around the world in only 88 days, at an incredible 107,000 mph. faster than any space rocket.
10. Did you know that sharks get very excited at the smell of blood? They can smell the drop of blood, diluted millions of times, half a mile away.

Mahmud M. Mustapha, P.S.D