

The Registrar One Day Visit to Libraries in Sokoto State

INTRODUCTION

The Registrar/CEO on Wednesday, 23rd February, 2011 took advantage of the 57th National Council on Education (NCE) meeting holding at Sokoto State to visit libraries within the state. She was hosted by the Usman Dan Fodiyo University Librarian, Dr A. A. Balarabe.

Sokoto State Public Library

The Director, Alh. Aliyu Alkali and his Deputy Mallam Suleiman Dikko welcomed the Registrar/CEO to the Sokoto State Public Library. At the time of the visit, the library was closed to its numerous clientele as it was undergoing renovation.

The Sokoto State Library has the full support and recognition of the Government as shown by the appointment of a Special Adviser on Library Matters. This action will improve the status of the library and reduce the level of Illiteracy in the State. Notwithstanding the effort of the present government, the library is still tackling the issue of insufficient funds which has hindered the provision of effective and efficient library services to a certain extent.

However, the Registrar/CEO commended the Director for his effort and prudence in managing the limited resources allocated to the library. He was also encouraged to advocate for more funds from stakeholders.

Finally, she used the opportunity to sensitize the staff of the library on the benefits of registering with the Council.



Abdullahi Fodiyo Library

The Registrar/CEO was warmly received by the university librarian, Dr. A. A. Balarabe in his office.

Historical Background

The University library commenced in 1975 with four faculties namely; Arts, Education, Agriculture and Social Sciences but presently it has 11 faculties and this necessitated the construction of a new library complex to cater for the growing population of students and lecturers as well as increase in collections.

The newly built library complex was commissioned in 2010. The structure depicts a modern library with common-room for lecturers, student viewing lounge, canteen for refreshment, digital library, cyber café and other conventional units in library meant not only to educate but also for leisure. Also the library has surveillance cameras stationed at strategic positions to secure collections, properties and other valuables of the library and clientele. It has a total of one hundred and ten staff assisting in the day to day running of the library.

Interactive Session with Management and Staff of the University Library

The University Librarian and its staff had an interactive session with the Registrar/CEO on a number of issues. Some of the discussions were focused on:

1. The delay being experienced as regards the induction exercise of librarians

2. The fate of librarians with combined honor degrees in librarianship
3. The opportunities/benefits of being a registered member of the Nigeria Library Association and the LRCN
4. Staff training
5. Suggestion of a salary structure scheme for librarians
6. Sensitization on the mandates of LRCN
7. Using of ICTs facilities for workshop
8. The status of librarians in the helm of affairs

Law and Medical/Veterinary libraries

The Registrar also stopped over at the faculties of Law and Medical/Veterinary libraries of the University which shows the decentralization of services as to fasten service delivery and accessibility to faculty members. The Law Library has a new complex which has been proposed for commissioning later in the year.

American Book Corner

The staff of the Book Corner were delighted to host the Registrar in their resource centre. The American book corner is a joint partnership between the Usman Dan Fodiyo University and the United State Embassy. It houses both print and digital collections with users cutting across all ages and educational background. In addition, it organizes Information and Communication Technology workshops for pupils and students of primary and secondary schools respectively.



Historical Sites

The city of the Caliphate has numerous historical sites and alluring view to the first time visitor. The Registrar was privileged to visit the Historical and Cultural Bureau Centre where records of the past and present leaders of the country and state are preserved for posterity. Some of the notable pictures on display at the centre were those of the first premier of the northern region, Sir Ahmadu Bello, eminent Sultans , Governors, Arabic scholars etc. She also had a glimpse of the palace of the Sultan of Sokoto, city gates and the school for the inclusive Education.