Journal of Library Services and Technologies, 8(3), 224 – 236, September 2026
ISSN: 2636-7424 https://credence-publishing.com
DOI: http://doi.org/10.47524/jlst.v8i3.237

Procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria

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Abstract
Libraries and information centres play a vital role in supporting teaching, learning and research through the provision of relevant information resources, yet their effectiveness is largely determined by procurement practices within collection development divisions. This study examines procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria, focusing on practices, processes, influencing factors and associated challenges. The study adopted a qualitative research design using a descriptive and analytical approach, relying on secondary sources such as journal articles, books, theses and institutional reports. Thematic content analysis was used to synthesize recurring patterns across the literature. Four findings emerged. First, procurement practices in libraries and information centres in Nigeria remain largely traditional, with purchase-based acquisition dominating and donations and limited collaborative sourcing playing a supporting role. Second, procurement processes in Nigerian libraries are generally structured, moving through selection ordering, receiving and processing, but they are unevenly implemented because institutions differ in policy and capacity. Third, procurement practices across Nigeria are influenced mainly by ownership structure, institutional support, funding availability and technological integration. Fourth, libraries and information centres in Nigeria continue to struggle with inadequate funding, weak ICT adoption, administrative delays and scarcity of required resources. The study concludes that procurement practices are essential but constrained, requiring strategic and technological strengthening. It recommends diversified procurement approaches, improved ICT integration, enhanced institutional support and capacity building to improve collection development effectiveness in Nigerian libraries and information centres.

Keywords: Procurement, procurement practices, collection development divisions, libraries, information centres.

Introduction
Libraries and information centres occupy a central position in supporting teaching, learning and research activities through the provision of relevant and up-to-date information resources. The effectiveness of these institutions is largely determined by how well they acquire and manage their collections to meet users' evolving information needs. Procurement practices, therefore, represent a critical aspect of collection development, as they guide the processes involved in selecting ordering, acquiring and maintaining information resources in both print and electronic formats. Kolo (2025) notes that effective collection development practices are fundamental to ensuring that academic libraries provide resources that adequately support scholarly communication and knowledge production. This underscores the importance of procurement as the foundation upon which functional and responsive library collections are built, thereby creating a basis for examining how such practices are implemented across different library systems.

The manner in which procurement processes are carried out is often influenced by institutional characteristics and governance structures within library systems. Ownership arrangements, for instance, play a significant role in shaping acquisition

priorities, funding availability and decision-making processes in academic libraries. Ajayi et al. (2021) observe that private university libraries demonstrate varying approaches to collection development based on their ownership structure and administrative frameworks. Similarly, internal organizational factors such as staffing, funding and policy direction also determine the effectiveness of resource acquisition processes. Yakubu et al. (2022) found that the educational level of academic librarians in north-western Nigeria significantly shapes their awareness and knowledge of collection development policy, which in turn affects how consistently acquisition decisions are guided in academic libraries. These considerations point to the need to understand how institutional environments shape procurement practices in library and information centres.

Institutional support systems further determine the extent to which procurement activities are effectively implemented within libraries. Administrative commitment, financial backing and policy consistency all contribute to the success or failure of collection development efforts. Ajayi et al. (2021) emphasize that strong institutional support enhances the sustainability of procurement practices, particularly in private university libraries where resource allocation decisions are highly centralized. However, in practice, many libraries continue to experience constraints that hinder effective acquisition of relevant materials. Obiozor-Ekeze (2022) reports that university libraries in South-East, Nigeria contend with persistent challenges such as inadequate funding, scarcity of required materials within the country and the absence of clearly defined acquisition policies. These challenges highlight structural weaknesses within procurement systems and suggest the need to explore more efficient approaches to resource acquisition in library environments.

Modern procurement practices are also being shaped by strategic and professional competencies within the library sector. The ability of librarians to apply competitive intelligence and adopt innovative strategies has become increasingly important in improving acquisition decisions. Adetayo et al. (2021) explain that competitive intelligence enables libraries to respond more effectively to changing information demands and resource availability. In addition, professional capacity and financial stability within library systems influence how effectively procurement strategies are implemented. Adetayo and Hamzat (2021) note that librarians' financial satisfaction and professional competencies contribute to improved performance in managing collection development processes. These developments indicate a gradual shift from traditional acquisition methods toward more strategic and informed procurement approaches in libraries.

Despite these improvements, procurement practices in many libraries remain constrained by structural, financial and technological limitations. Resource acquisition in several institutions is still affected by outdated policies and insufficient integration of modern systems. Jensen (2017) observes that many libraries continue to rely on conventional collection management strategies that are no longer adequate in addressing current information demands. Similarly, Khan (2016) emphasizes that organizational structures and policy frameworks significantly influence the efficiency of collection development processes in academic libraries. Furthermore, the integration of electronic resource management systems has become essential for improving procurement efficiency and ensuring better access to digital resources. Cukadar et al. (2013) highlight that technological systems play a critical role in

enhancing acquisition processes in contemporary library environments. These interrelated issues demonstrate that procurement practices are shaped by institutional, professional, financial and technological factors, thereby justifying a comprehensive examination of procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

Libraries and information centres in Nigeria are expected to provide relevant, current and adequate information resources that support teaching, learning and research; however, the effectiveness of these institutions is increasingly challenged by weaknesses in procurement practices within their collection development divisions. In many cases, resource acquisition processes are affected by inadequate funding, inconsistent institutional support, inefficient procurement procedures and limited adoption of modern acquisition strategies, resulting in collections that do not fully meet users' information needs. Despite the growing importance of strategic procurement approaches such as electronic resource management systems and competitive intelligence, many libraries still rely on outdated and fragmented acquisition methods that hinder timely and effective resource provision. Studies have also shown that ownership structures, policy frameworks and administrative bottlenecks significantly influence how library materials are procured, often leading to disparities in collection quality across different library and information centres. Consequently, users experience difficulties in accessing relevant and up-to-date materials, thereby affecting academic performance and research output. It is against this background that this study investigates procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria.

Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study is to examine procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. examine the procurement practices used in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria;
2. assess the procurement processes involved in the acquisition of information resources in libraries and information centres in Nigeria;
3. identify the factors influencing procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria; and
4. determine the challenges affecting effective procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria.

Literature review

This study is anchored on Resource Dependency Theory developed by Pfeffer and Salancik (1978), which explains that organizations depend on external environments for critical resources needed for survival and effective functioning. The theory posits that no organization is self-sufficient, as it must rely on external factors such as funding bodies, suppliers and regulatory institutions to obtain essential resources that influence its operations and decision-making processes. In relation to libraries and information centres in Nigeria, the theory provides a useful explanation of how procurement practices in collection development divisions are shaped by dependence on external sources such as

government funding, institutional allocations, publishers and information vendors. This dependence often affects the efficiency and quality of acquisition processes due to constraints such as inadequate funding, delayed budget releases and limited access to required materials. Consequently, libraries adopt various strategies such as collaboration, resource sharing and alternative acquisition methods to manage these dependencies and improve access to information resources. Overall, Resource Dependency Theory offers a clear framework for understanding how external resource limitations influence procurement decisions, collection development practices and service delivery in libraries and information centres in Nigeria.

The following part of the literature review focuses on basis concepts and other literature that are related to the study.

Procurement processes in libraries and information centres are central to ensuring the continuous availability of relevant information resources that support academic and research activities. These processes involve identifying information needs, selecting appropriate materials, sourcing them from publishers or vendors and ensuring timely acquisition within available budgets and institutional policies. Obiozor-Ekeze (2022) shows that a well-managed acquisition exercise widens the variety and improves the currency of information resources available to lecturers, students and researchers in university libraries in South-East Nigeria, which points to procurement as a critical stage of collection development. In this sense, procurement serves as the operational gateway through which libraries translate user needs into accessible information resources, thereby shaping overall service delivery. The effectiveness of procurement in libraries is often influenced by planning, policy direction and the availability of funding. Nwosu and Udo-Anyanwu (2015) note that weaknesses in procurement planning and implementation can lead to gaps in library collections, particularly in academic institutions where demand for information resources is high. Similarly, Patel (2016) observes that procurement decisions must be carefully aligned with institutional objectives to ensure that limited resources are used efficiently. These considerations highlight the need for structured procurement systems that can respond to evolving information demands, which naturally leads to the examination of procurement practices within library environments.

Procurement practices in libraries refer to the methods, procedures and strategies adopted in acquiring information resources for collection development purposes. These practices include selection procedures, vendor negotiations, budgeting approaches, approval processes and acquisition of both print and electronic resources. Okolo et al. (2019) emphasize that procurement practices are a fundamental component of collection development exercises, as they determine how effectively libraries are able to build and sustain their collections. In this regard, procurement practices reflect the operational realities of libraries in managing information resources under varying institutional conditions. In many academic libraries, procurement practices are influenced by user involvement, technological integration and institutional policies guiding acquisition decisions. Mwilongo (2018) notes that involving library users in collection development improves the relevance of procurement decisions, especially in hybrid academic libraries where diverse information needs exist. Similarly, Oltmann (2016) highlights that procurement practices are also shaped by ethical considerations such as censorship policies and professional judgment in selection

processes. These dynamics show that procurement practices are not only technical procedures but also strategic and user-oriented activities, which connect directly to the structure within which these activities are carried out, namely collection development divisions.

Collection development divisions represent specialized units within libraries responsible for planning, acquiring, evaluating and maintaining information resources. These divisions ensure that library collections are aligned with institutional goals and user information needs through systematic acquisition and management processes. Khan (2016) observes that the organizational structure of collection development units significantly influences how effectively libraries are able to coordinate procurement and resource management activities. This highlights the central role of these divisions in ensuring that procurement practices are properly implemented within library systems. The effectiveness of collection development divisions is often determined by policy frameworks, staff competence and resource availability. Sasikala et al. (2014) note that structured collection development patterns enhance consistency in acquisition decisions and improve overall library performance. Similarly, Williams-Ilemobola et al. (2021) emphasize that human factors such as emotional intelligence and conflict management skills among librarians also affect the efficiency of collection development processes. These factors demonstrate that collection development divisions operate within a complex environment where administrative, professional and interpersonal dynamics shape procurement outcomes, thereby linking them to the broader functioning of libraries.

Libraries function as organized systems that provide access to information resources in support of education, research and community development. They serve as custodians of knowledge, ensuring that information is collected organized, preserved and made accessible to users. Okolo et al. (2019) explain that libraries play a key role in coordinating collection development activities that determine the availability and accessibility of information resources. This makes libraries central to the procurement and dissemination of academic and scholarly materials within educational institutions. The effectiveness of libraries is largely determined by how well they manage their collections through structured policies and procurement systems. Onwudinjo et al. (2015) note that well-developed library collections significantly enhance academic performance by improving users' access to relevant materials. Similarly, Morris and Presnell (2019) emphasize that libraries must balance traditional and modern resources to maintain comprehensive collections that support research needs. These insights show that libraries depend heavily on efficient procurement and collection development systems, which naturally extend into broader information service environments such as information centres.

Information centres are specialized facilities designed to collect, process, store and disseminate information to support decision-making, research and knowledge development. Unlike traditional libraries, information centres often focus on targeted and specialized information services tailored to specific user groups or institutional needs. Mondal and Maity (2016) explain that modern information centres increasingly rely on electronic resource procurement and digital acquisition systems to meet the growing demand for timely and accurate information. This highlights their evolving role in managing both physical and digital information resources. The effectiveness of information centres depends on how well they integrate procurement systems with

technological tools and user needs. Cukadar et al. (2013) note that electronic resource management systems have significantly improved the acquisition and organization of digital content in modern information environments. Similarly, Gulnaz and Fatima (2018) emphasize that collection development practices in information centres must be responsive to changing user demands and technological advancements. These developments show that information centres are closely aligned with libraries in their reliance on effective procurement practices, thereby reinforcing the interconnected nature of collection development divisions across information systems.

Kolo (2025) investigated collection development practices in academic libraries in Niger State. The objective is to determine the various methods adopted for collection development, to identify the persons who participate in it, to determine the problems of collection development and to identify agencies that donate reading materials to the library. It is also to determine their community analysis, weeding and evaluation practices. The research instruments used are questionnaires, observation and documentary sources. The population of the study is seventeen (17) academic libraries, while seven (7) were sampled. The researcher used simple percentages and table to analyse the data. Findings revealed that 88.9% of the libraries studied still use the method of purchases only. The study also showed that 95.9% of the libraries employed purchases, gifts and donations. Findings as well revealed that collection development still remains a professional responsibility of librarians (51.4%) in academic libraries studied. It was also discovered that information and communication technologies (ICTs) were not used in collection development activities in all the libraries studied.

Ajayi, Oketunji, Adetayo and Oyeniyi (2021) explored the Ownership structure and collection development practices in private university libraries in South-West, Nigeria The purpose of this study was to assess the influence of ownership structure on collection development practises in private university libraries in SouthWest Nigeria. The qualitative research design was used in this study. The population consisted of 57 key informants from 31 Private University libraries, including library heads and acquisition librarians. The total enumeration approach was utilized in the investigation. The tool utilized for data collection was a Key Informant Interview. Content analysis was used to examine the data. The findings indicated that collection development practises are influenced by ownership structure, even if the responsibility of purchasing library resources falls on the head of libraries and acquisition librarians. Faith-based institutions have greater levels of collection development practises than non-faith institutions. Participation in collection development was shown to be more favourably connected to joint ownership.

Obiozor-Ekeze (2022) looked at the prospects and challenges of acquiring information resources in university libraries in South-East Nigeria. A descriptive survey design was adopted and all 157 librarians in the cataloguing sections of the ten public university libraries in the zone were studied because the population was small enough to be covered fully. Two questionnaires, one on prospects and one on challenges, were rated on a four-point scale and the mean scores analysed against a cut-off of 2.5. The prospects reported included a wider variety and better currency of books and other resources, improved availability of materials for teaching, learning and research and the chance to weed out less useful items. The challenges included inadequate funding, scarcity of required materials within the country, over-protection of government

documents, poor allocation and utilization of resources, lack of a clearly defined acquisition policy, outsourcing, changes in publication dates and the need to observe due process. The author recommended that acquisitions be guided by a well-articulated collection development policy.

Yakubu, Yanti Idaya and Samsul Farid (2022) assessed how aware Nigerian academic librarians are of the importance of collection development policy, how much they know about it and whether educational level and working experience make a difference. The study used a survey design and drew 136 academic librarians at random from three selected federal university libraries in the North-Western zone of Nigeria. A questionnaire built on the IFLA guideline for collection development policy was used and the data were analysed with descriptive statistics and Spearman correlation. The librarians showed a high level of awareness and knowledge of the policy. Educational level had a significant influence on both, while working experience had none. The authors suggested continuing education and training on collection development policy for library professionals.

Ajayi, Adetayo, Gbotoso and Salvador (2021) explored institutional support and collection development practices in private university libraries in South-West Nigeria. This study adopted the qualitative research design. The population comprised 57 key informants made up of heads of the libraries and acquisition librarians from 31 Private University libraries. The total enumeration technique was used for the study. A Key Informant Interview was the instrument used for data collection. Data were analyzed using content analysis. Findings revealed that institutional support had an impact on collection development practices. The predominant institutional support received was the prompt release of the library's budget allocation during accreditation, regular salary payment and provision of work-related infrastructural facilities. Administrative bottlenecks and delayed institutional support until the accreditation period were the major obstacles to collection development practices in academic libraries.

Bello and Liasu (2025) explored how funding affects the acquisition of information resources in academic libraries in Nigeria. A descriptive approach was used and responses were collected through an online form from 35 library staff working in 28 academic libraries, with the data analysed through frequency counts. The libraries were found to rely mainly on their parent institutions for funding rather than on donors or other sources. Funding shortages had hindered the acquisition and upkeep of both print and electronic resources and the respondents pointed to difficulty in persuading individuals and organisations to donate and to limited institutional support for fundraising. The authors concluded that unpredictable funding leads to inconsistent acquisition practices and slows the growth of up-to-date collections.

Methods

The study adopted a qualitative research design using a descriptive and analytical approach to examine procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria, as this approach allows for an in-depth interpretation of institutional processes, professional experiences and operational realities shaping resource acquisition in library systems. Kolo (2025) notes that collection development practices in academic libraries are best understood through analytical approaches that explore how resources are selected, acquired and managed within institutional contexts. Primary data were not collected; instead, the study relied on secondary sources such as journal articles,

textbooks, conference papers, theses and dissertations that focus on procurement practices, institutional support, ownership structures and collection development processes in libraries and information centres. Special attention was given to studies by Ajayi et al. (2021), Obiozor-Ekeze (2022), Yakubu et al. (2022), Ajayi et al. (2021), Bello and Liasu (2025) and Adetayo et al. (2021), which provide relevant insights into acquisition challenges, institutional influences and strategic procurement approaches in Nigerian library environments. Secondary sources were considered appropriate due to the conceptual and interpretive nature of the study. Data collection involved a desk-based review of literature sourced from academic databases and institutional repositories, focusing on studies addressing procurement processes, funding mechanisms, policy frameworks and technological integration in collection development. Data analysis was conducted using thematic content analysis, which involved identifying and interpreting recurring themes such as procurement strategies, institutional support, ownership influence, acquisition challenges and resource management practices, thereby enabling a coherent synthesis of existing literature on procurement practices in libraries and information centres in Nigeria.

Results

The results are reported objective by objective. They come from the reviewed studies of libraries and information centres in Nigeria, which is the study area for this work.

Objective 1: To examine the procurement practices used in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria. **Finding:** In the libraries and information centres in Nigeria covered by the reviewed literature, procurement practices are mostly traditional. Purchase is the main method of acquisition and gifts, donations and collaborative sourcing come in as supplements. In the academic libraries of Niger State, Kolo (2025) found that 88.9% of the libraries studied still used purchase only, while 95.9% employed purchases, gifts and donations together and that collection development remained mainly the responsibility of professional librarians. Among private university libraries in South-West Nigeria, Ajayi et al. (2021) found that the level of engagement in collection development activities varied with ownership structure, with faith-based and jointly owned institutions doing more than the others.

Objective 2: To assess the procurement processes involved in the acquisition of information resources in libraries and information centres in Nigeria. **Finding:** In the Nigerian libraries and information centres reviewed, procurement moves through a set order of selection ordering, receiving and processing and is expected to be guided by a written collection development policy, although how well this is done differs from one institution to another. Obiozor-Ekeze (2022), studying public university libraries in South-East Nigeria, reported that a clearly defined acquisition policy and adherence to due process are part of the acquisition exercise and that the lack of such a policy was itself a problem. In three federal university libraries in north-western Nigeria, Yakubu et al. (2022) found that librarians had high awareness and knowledge of collection development policy, the document that governs selection, acquisition and weeding, while noting from earlier studies that some Nigerian academic libraries still operate without a policy or do not put it into effect.

Objective 3: To identify the factors influencing procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria. **Finding:** Across the libraries and information centres

in Nigeria reviewed, procurement practices are shaped mainly by ownership structure, institutional support, funding and the level of technological integration. Ajayi et al. (2021) found that faith-based and jointly owned private university libraries in South-West Nigeria took a stronger part in collection development and, in a related study, that prompt release of budget allocations, regular salary payment and work-related infrastructure affected how well collection development was carried out. Kolo (2025) found that ICTs were not used in collection development in any of the academic libraries studied in Niger State. Yakubu et al. (2022) added that the educational level of academic librarians in north-western Nigeria influenced their awareness and knowledge of collection development policy.

Objective 4: To determine the challenges affecting effective procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria. **Finding:** The libraries and information centres in Nigeria reviewed are held back mainly by inadequate funding, weak ICT adoption, administrative delays and scarcity of required resources. Obiozor-Ekeze (2022) listed inadequate funding, scarcity of needed materials within the country and the absence of a clearly defined acquisition policy among the challenges facing university libraries in South-East Nigeria. Bello and Liasu (2025) found that academic libraries in Nigeria depend mainly on their parent institutions for funding and that shortages have hindered the acquisition of both print and electronic resources. Kolo (2025) reported no use of ICTs in collection development in the Niger State academic libraries studied and Ajayi et al. (2021) reported that administrative bottlenecks and delayed institutional support constrained collection development in private university libraries in South-West Nigeria.

Discussion

Procurement practices in libraries and information centres in Nigeria are largely shaped by traditional acquisition approaches that prioritize purchase-based methods, often supplemented by gifts and donations. Kolo (2025) reveals that a significant proportion of academic libraries still depend mainly on purchases for collection development, while a smaller but notable proportion combine purchases with gifts and donations. This pattern reflects a procurement culture that is still heavily dependent on conventional acquisition methods rather than diversified sourcing strategies. The finding also indicates that collection development remains primarily a professional responsibility of librarians, suggesting limited participatory procurement structures in many institutions. In contrast, Ajayi et al. (2021) demonstrate that procurement practices vary across institutions depending on ownership structure, with private university libraries showing different levels of engagement in collection development activities. These variations imply that procurement practices are not uniform but are shaped by institutional governance frameworks, which provides a basis for examining the actual procurement processes used in acquiring information resources.

Procurement processes in libraries in Nigeria follow structured stages that include selection, acquisition, processing and integration of information resources into library systems. Obiozor-Ekeze (2022) points to a clearly defined acquisition policy and adherence to due process as part of acquisition in university libraries in South-East Nigeria, emphasizing that procurement is a systematic procedure rather than a single administrative act. This indicates that effective procurement depends on adherence to well-defined workflows that ensure resources are properly acquired and made accessible. Yakubu et al. (2022) further

support this view by tying collection development policy to selection, acquisition and weeding, showing that procurement is interconnected with broader collection management functions that influence the usability of library materials. These processes collectively determine how efficiently libraries respond to user information needs. However, the effectiveness of these processes is influenced by institutional conditions and resource availability, which leads to an examination of the factors shaping procurement practices.

Procurement practices in Nigerian libraries and information centres are influenced by a combination of institutional, structural and administrative factors that determine how libraries acquire and manage resources. Ajayi et al. (2021) emphasize that ownership structure significantly affects collection development practices, with faith-based and jointly owned institutions demonstrating stronger procurement engagement compared to others. This suggests that governance structure plays a critical role in shaping acquisition priorities and decision-making processes. Similarly, Ajayi et al. (2021) highlight that institutional support, including budget allocation, staffing and infrastructural provision, directly impacts the effectiveness of collection development activities in private university libraries. These factors indicate that procurement practices are highly dependent on the level of institutional commitment and resource availability. Kolo (2025) further shows that the absence of ICT integration in many libraries limits the efficiency of collection development activities, suggesting that technological capacity is also a key influencing factor. Yakubu et al. (2022) add that professional education shapes librarians' grasp of collection development policy, which suggests that staff capacity is another influencing factor. These combined influences contribute to various operational challenges that affect procurement effectiveness.

Procurement practices in libraries and information centres in Nigeria are constrained by several persistent challenges, including financial limitations, technological gaps and resource scarcity. Obiozor-Ekeze (2022) identifies inadequate funding, scarcity of required materials within the country and the absence of a clearly defined acquisition policy as major obstacles affecting acquisition processes in university libraries in South-East Nigeria, which weaken the efficiency of resource procurement. These challenges are often compounded by reliance on external funding sources and inconsistent institutional support systems and Bello and Liasu (2025) similarly report that academic libraries in Nigeria depend mainly on their parent institutions for funding, with shortages hampering the acquisition of both print and electronic resources. Kolo (2025) further highlights the absence of ICT utilization in collection development activities, indicating that many libraries still operate without modern procurement tools that could enhance efficiency and accuracy. This technological gap reduces the ability of libraries to manage resources effectively in a rapidly evolving information environment. Additionally, Ajayi et al. (2021) note that administrative bottlenecks and delayed institutional support negatively affect collection development practices, further limiting procurement efficiency. These challenges collectively demonstrate that procurement practices are hindered by structural, financial and technological constraints that require systemic improvement.

Across all objectives, the findings consistently show that procurement practices in libraries and information centres in Nigeria are largely traditional, institutionally influenced and constrained by structural challenges. While structured procurement processes exist, their effectiveness varies

depending on ownership structure, institutional support and resource availability. Furthermore, although libraries continue to rely on conventional acquisition methods such as purchases, there is evidence of gradual diversification through donations and institutional collaboration. However, persistent challenges such as inadequate funding, weak ICT integration and administrative delays continue to limit procurement efficiency. Overall, the findings highlight the need for more strategic, technology-driven and well-supported procurement systems in Nigerian libraries and information centres.

Conclusion

The study concludes that procurement practices in collection development divisions of libraries and information centres in Nigeria are still largely traditional, with purchase-based acquisition remaining the dominant approach, occasionally supported by gifts and donations. Procurement processes are generally structured and sequential, involving selection ordering, receiving and processing of information resources; however, their effectiveness is uneven across institutions due to differences in operational capacity. The study further establishes that procurement practices are significantly influenced by institutional ownership structures, levels of administrative and financial support and the extent of technological integration within library systems. Despite the existence of defined procedures, procurement activities are hindered by persistent challenges such as inadequate funding, limited ICT adoption, administrative delays and scarcity of specialized resources. Overall, procurement practices in libraries and information centres remain constrained yet essential, requiring strategic improvement to ensure effective collection development and optimal service delivery.

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Libraries and information centres should adopt more diversified procurement practices that combine traditional acquisition methods with modern sourcing strategies, including electronic procurement systems and collaborative acquisitions, to improve resource availability.
2. Library management should strengthen procurement processes by fully implementing structured acquisition workflows supported by modern ICT tools to enhance efficiency in ordering, receiving and processing information resources.
3. Government bodies, parent institutions and library governing councils should improve funding allocation and institutional support mechanisms to ensure stable and sustainable procurement practices across libraries and information centres.
4. Libraries should prioritize capacity building and policy reforms aimed at addressing procurement challenges such as administrative bottlenecks, technological limitations and resource scarcity in order to improve overall collection development effectiveness.

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