

# Effectiveness of Public Library in Meeting the Information Need of the Community Users: A Case Study of Amuwo Odofin Local Government of Lagos State, Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

*At every level of education in a nation, Library is an essential part. It is established as a social agency of civilization and development with the sole responsibility of acquiring, processing and making available information materials that reflects the intellectual, educational, cultural, political and other needs of the society. In Nigeria, the public library is expected to play an indispensable role in life of the community they serve in order to ensure the realization of national development. Looking at the uncompromising roles of the public library, this survey looks at the effectiveness of public library in meeting the information need of the community Users in Amuwo Odofin Local Government of Lagos State. This study uses three different sets of questionnaire for collection of data from the respondents. These are a set for the Librarian/Library Officers, one for Library Users and another set for the Non Library Users. Data obtained for the were analysed using frequency count and simple percentage. The study reveals lack of awareness in the community, operation time, non conducive environment among others as some of the problems faced by the library users and the non-user inclusive. Hence, organizing enlightenment programmes to sensitize the community, reading competition among school children and much more are recommended.*

**Keywords:** Public library, information need, community Users

## INTRODUCTION

Libraries are invaluable resource oriented organizations. Effective use of libraries is expected to support the production of adequate manpower in order to manage the economical, political, educational, social and cultural affairs of a nation for its overall development. In achieving these objectives, well equipped and managed libraries are highly expected. Aguolu (1989) states that libraries are social agencies designed to conserve knowledge, preserve the cultural heritage, provide information undergird and underpin education and research and to serve as fountains of recreation. The role of the libraries especially the public library is to cater for all and sundry in the community, from highly educated people to least educated people. It enables people to acquire functional education, as well as a forum for continuing education for workers to develop their competence and broaden their intellectual horizon. Also it serves as a recreational center, facilitating informal self education and assists the people of the community to further enrich their knowledge, it promote a better environment which is expected to provide information materials, that would meet the information needs of the community. Considering the roles of the public library as the custodian and disseminator of recorded knowledge, there is need for public library to be well equipped and managed for efficiency and effectiveness. Oguntimehin and Adeyemi (2004) are of the opinion that libraries must be adequately equipped, organized, financed and interconnected,

and their resources are to be available to all people. They state further that the right information provided, when it is needed, where it is needed and in the form in which it is needed, improves the ability of individual, business, government and its agencies or and some other organizations to make informed decisions and achieve particular goals. Saliu (1999) observes that the development of public library in Nigeria was highly influenced by the colonial masters and the level of economic viability of the countries in Africa. It was also observed that before 1946, libraries of high importance such as the present day high court library and Federal ministry of Justice library launched in 1900s were in Lagos. According to Oguntimehin and Adeyemi (2004), public library development can be traced to late 1920's with the formation of Lagos book club. The book club was established by some foreigners and few literate Nigerians to circulate books among themselves. This effort led to the provision of six thousand dollar (\$6000) grant provided by the Carnegies Corporation of New York. With the grant, the Lagos Book Club metamorphosed into the Lagos Library in 1932, thus becoming the first library in Nigeria. The present Lagos State library board according to the mission statement is to provide a first class 21st century library and information services to the inhabitants of Lagos State, while the vision statement is to provide information at the shortest possible time to users by professional librarian.

Looking at the mission statement of the library board, it could be deduced that the government recognized the importance of information vis a vis the establishment of public libraries in some part of the State. Public library, according to Wikipedia (nd), can be defined as a library that is accessible by the public and is generally funded from public sources (such as tax money) and operated by civil servants. There are five fundamental characteristics associated with public libraries. These are, generally supported by taxes, governed by a board to serve public interest, accessible to every member of the community entirely voluntary in that no one is ever forced to use the services provided and provision of charge free services.

Based on this definition, public libraries are those libraries that are meant to provide information to all categories of information seekers. The provision of information by public libraries will enhance positive response to government programmes. No government programme can succeed without useful information. Hence, it is imperative that such libraries acquire and disseminate information, provide information materials in all forms possible to meet the information needs of it users. Mostert (2001) in his attempt to determine the extent to which public library has succeeded or failed in contributing towards the development and empowerment of the African people among others, observes that the initial objectives of public libraries include to provide information to development agents and agencies; to support formal and informal rural education programmes through the provision of materials to both students and teachers; and to serve as centers for community education and cultural activities. But the libraries cannot achieve these objectives due to lack of use, which he attributed to (i) introduction of an anachronistic and inappropriate colonial model (ii) inappropriate training of library staff (iii) deficiencies in determining specific needs through analysis among others, he therefore recommended among others, development of innovative ideas to accommodate their needs such as oral transmissions,

generating a do it yourself manual and information policy. Opara (2008) states that the tempo of public library development in Nigeria in the years immediately after independence and after the civil war could not be sustained due to inadequate funding, demoralized and inadequate workforce among others as the problems currently experienced by these libraries, he suggested that the problems be rectify as a way forward. In his view, Udo (1998) looks at the problems with the growth and development of public libraries in Nigeria and observes that there was low patronage, lack of current materials, lack of trained personnel and suggested that for improvement, there is need for other agencies to support the government in funding of public libraries.

Abdulkarim (2010) observes that the public libraries are expected to play an indispensable role in the life of the community they serve, one of which is the promotion of reading culture among members of the society be it in the rural or urban settings. They are also expected to provide good information and reference centre for the masses through the building of collections that relates to local interest. Iwhiwhu and Okorodudu (2012) in their study on public library information resources, facilities and services: User satisfaction with the Edo State Central Library observes that users are satisfied with some facilities but not satisfied with the information resources and services. This is as a result of the poor state of information resources and inadequate services rendered by the library among others; they recommended adequate funding, automation of the library to enhance library services provided by the library among orders.

From the foregoing therefore, it is plausible to add that if Nigeria must develop, the majority of the populace must be literate and should see reading as a source of pleasure, a source of power and ability to be a critical thinker since reading allows people to explore different ideas and opinions differently. The basis of a reading culture is an understanding and appreciation of reading which is lacking in our society. Attitudinal change has to take place. As a culture one needs to embrace the place of reading in personal lives and make it a priority in civil society since reading is essential to the well being and happiness of an individual who make up the society. Ugwu (2008) observes that Nigerians have a high concentration of formally educated minds, despite this, Nigeria as a nation has not attained national transformation and take its rightful position as the leader of Africa. Until Nigerians embrace a thorough reading culture, ingenuity of entrepreneurship and massive development remain incomplete. He states further that the sole reason for education is to develop the mind, and when the mind is well developed the society stands the chance of being developed too. Reading for the enlightened mind goes beyond the school program. It should be a way of life, to stop reading is to stop updating and to stop updating in an ever changing world is to start decaying. With each passing day, it becomes evident that the youngsters have lost the reading culture. This is evident in the huge failure recorded by candidates that sat for the November/December National Examination Council Senior Secondary Certificate Examination in 2009 in which 1.7% of those who sat for the examination actually passed. Ugwu (2008) further observes that Nigeria youths are failing examination not only because they don't read their school books but because they don't have a reading culture. Considering all these and realizing the importance of public libraries to community

development, this study was conducted to:

1. look at the effectiveness of Amuwo Odofin public library in meeting the information needs of its community users
2. establish why the public library is not used by some members of the community?
3. evaluate the problems faced by the library Users.
4. assess the problems faced by library.
5. suggest possible solutions to the identified problems.

## **METHOD**

The survey method was used for this study. The only public library in Amuwo Odofin Local Government Area of Lagos State was purposively selected for the study. Questionnaire was the research instrument. The instrument were of three sets. A total of two hundred and fifty copies of questionnaire were randomly distributed among members of the community, one set for the librarians/library officers, one for library users and the last for the non-library users. Eighty four percent were returned. The one for the librarian/library officers was divided into two sections. Section A consisted of questions which sought the background information of the respondents. Section B consisted of twenty questions which sought information on the library resources, services, infrastructure and problems faced. The remaining two questionnaires were for the library and non-library users respectively. They consisted of twenty questions each which sought information on their backgrounds, use of the public library as well as its non-usage and what needs to be done. The analysis of data was done using descriptive statistics such as frequency count and simple percentage.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Sixty two percent of the respondents indicate that they don't use the public library while only 38.10% indicate that they usually make use of the public library. Two hundred and fifty copies of questionnaire were distributed to user community out of which 84% were completely filled and returned. The high rate of returned was because the questionnaires were randomly distributed on weekend, since the researcher believed many people will be at home especially on Sunday. The analysis was based on the responses received from the respondents. Table 2 showed that majority of the respondents were between the age of 16 to 26 with 57.14% followed by age 27 to 37 with 23.81% respondents. Age 38 to 48, with 9.53% of the respondents, while age 5 to 15 and 49 to 59 respondents were the least with 4.76% of the respondents respectively. Table 3 showed that majority of the respondents were School Certificate Holder with 52.38% respondents, followed by First degree holders with 28.57%, 9.53% were professional certificate holders, 7.14% were secondary/ primary school pupils while the least users are the Masters degree holders with 2.38% respondents. Table 4 reveals that majority of the respondents were students with 59.52% respondents, unemployed with 21.45%, 9.53% of the respondents claimed to be civil servants, only 7.14% were self employed while 2.38% were retired. Table 5 indicates that 60% respondents which are students (comprised of secondary school leavers and primary schools) were the major users of the public library, most of them said they used the library

mostly when they were preparing for the School Certificate Examinations. This claim was attested to by the staff of the library. Table 6 reveals that 46.15% of the respondents who were students were the highest respondents among those that don't use the library, followed by civil servants with 23.08%, unemployed were 15.39%, while self employed and retired were 7.69% of the respondents each. Table 7 shows that 37.5% of the respondents indicated that they use the public library once in two days, 16.25% indicated they use the library daily and once in a week, while 15% identified with twice in a week and once in two weeks. The highest number of frequency were those who used the library once in two days, these were students and they use the library mostly during the external examination (May/June and Nov/Dec. General Certificate Examination) followed by 16.25% also for professional examination such as Institute of Chartered Accountant of Nigeria examination.

Table 8 indicates that 56.25% of the respondents did not use library materials while only 43.75% indicated use of library materials. When asked type of library materials used, eight respondents said they do read story books, while 27 respondents said they usually visit the library to read Newspaper to keep them inform on current happenings, vacancies and other information. Forty-five respondents come to the library with their personal information materials because most of the books are not current. Table 9 shows how the users choose their books for use. Analysis showed that browsing of books on the shelves is the most widely used in locating required information material with 66 respondents followed by consulting library staff with 57 respondents, those who use help from friends came third with 17 respondents and none of the respondents use the library catalogue as an access point to the library collections. One can conclude that searching the library collection can be difficult and time consuming. Also some materials may not be use at all since it may not be possible for the library staff to have information on all the information materials available in the library collection off hand.

Table 10 shows level of satisfaction on library users of library resources, facilities and services. On Resources, 81.25% respondents were satisfied with Newspapers provided while 18.75% were dissatisfied. On children books, only 22.5% of the respondents were satisfied while 77.5% respondents indicated that they don't use children books so cannot comment on that. On textbooks 86.25% respondents were dissatisfied while only 13.75% were satisfied. On reference materials all the respondents were dissatisfied with the available reference materials because most of them were outdated. On journal and audiovisual materials the respondents indicated that these important library resources are not available. On Facilities, 85% of the respondents were dissatisfied with the available reading tables and chairs available in the library and described them as not conducive for reading while only 15% were satisfied. Toilet facilities 58.75% indicated that they were not satisfied with the available toilet facilities because most of the time, the library do not have water. On space (within the library and the parking space), Fans and Air conditioner, Lighting, Ventilation, photocopying and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities all the respondents were dissatisfied. They complained there is no space to move around in the library, whenever there is no electricity supply the fans stop working, the library become dark since there is no functional generator, there is no adequate ventilation

all these makes the whole place not conducive for learning. There is only one computer system in an office which is not even working, photocopying as well as facilities for the disable are not available. On loan service, all the respondents were not satisfied with the loan service, since the library do not borrow users books, due to cumbersome procedure involved. Reference service 73.75% respondents are dissatisfied while 26.25% were satisfied. Readers Advisory Services 67.5% respondents were satisfied while 32.5 % were not satisfied. All other services such as Storytelling, Photocopying, Adult literacy education, Bindery, Current awareness service, Exhibition and display, Selective dissemination of information are not available hence all the respondents were dissatisfied.

Table 11 indicates that inadequate electricity supply and lack of information and communication technology has the highest number of responses with 100% as their problems. With inadequate electricity supply, the library is always very hot and dark which make it not conducive for reading. Poor library resources are another challenged with 96.25% respondents. It was indicated that most of the books on the shelves were outdated and lack current information. The only information material with which they are satisfied with is the daily Newspaper with 81.25% respondents. The implication is that, users who patronize the library do not have access to current information materials to meet their information needs. Library facilities such as tables and chairs are the problems to 87.5% respondents. The tables and chairs are old, unkempt and not conducive for reading. Poor ventilation was recognized by 85% respondents as a problem. There is no cross ventilation in the library due to lack of space.

Locating information materials from the library collection is another problem with 85% respondents. Lack of adequate parking space was identified by 80% respondents, where the library is situated does not provide enough room for parking. Inability to borrow library books is a problem to 73.75% respondents, the implication include inability of the users to have access to information materials as at when needed. Poor maintenance of the library was identified by 72.5% as a problem, the library is not fascinating and uninviting. Poor convenience and shortage of staff are challenges to users. Lack of enough water supplies makes it difficult for users to use the convenience provided. Since the library is short of staff, there is a limit to what can be achieved. Table 12 reveals that 46.15% respondents are not aware of the existence of public library in their domain as reason for non usage of the library. Problem of opening and closing hours was identified as another reason. The library opens 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday do not open on weekends, 43.85% respondents stated that, the library working hours are not convenient for them because they will be in their workplace within that hours. 40% respondents identified unsuitable location as reason for non use of the library, the library is not conspicuously centrally located, it is hidden without conspicuous sign post to direct people to the library. Thirty four percent of the respondents revealed that, they are not interested in the use of any library at all they have more pressing need than using the library this shows that the level of reading culture is gradually fading away 30.77% respondents identified other reasons which they believed is personal as their reasons for non usage of the library. Presence of social networks such as yahoo, google was giving as reasons by 26.92% respondents,

they believed if they can browse the internet, they will be able to meet their information needs hence there is no need for going to the library while lack of enough time was identified by 10.77% respondents as reason for not using the library. It is pertinent to know that lack of awareness of the library existence highly contributed to non usage of the library.

**Table 1:** Gender of respondents

<b>Gender</b>	<b>No of questionnaire received</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	72	34.29
Female	138	65.71
Total	210	100

*Source:* Survey, 2013

**Table 2:** Age of respondents

<b>Age range</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
5-15	10	4.76
16-26	120	57.14
27-37	50	23.81
38-48	20	9.53
49-59	10	4.76
Total	210	100

*Source:* Survey, 2013

**Table 3:** Educational Qualification of the respondents

<b>Educational Qualification</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Ph.D	None	0
Masters	05	2.38
First Degree	60	28.57
Professional Certificate	20	9.53
School Certificate	110	52.38
Secondary/Primary education	15	7.14
Total	210	100

*Source:* Survey, 2013

**Table 4:** Employment Status of the respondents

<b>Employment status</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Civil servant	20	9.53
Self employed	15	7.14
Retired	05	2.38
Students	125	59.52
Unemployed	45	21.43
Total	210	100

*Source:* Survey, 2013

**Table 5:** Those who are using the Public Library

<b>Category of Users</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Civil servant	10	12.5
Self employed	05	6.25
Retired	02	2.5
Students	48	60.00
unemployed	15	18.75
Total	80	100

*Source:* Survey, 2013

**Table 6:** Those who don't use the Public Library

Category of respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Civil servant	30	23.08
Self employed	10	7.69
Retired	10	7.69
Students	60	46.14
Unemployed	20	15.39
Total	130	100

*Source:* Survey, 2013**Table 7:** Frequency and category wise of respondents

Frequency	Students	Civil servant	Self employed	Retired	unemployed	Total
Daily	13(27.08%)	None	None	None	None	13(16.25)
Once in two days	27(56.25%)	None	3(60%)	None	None	30(37.5)
Once a week	08(16.67%)	None	None	2(100%)	03(20%)	13(16.25)
Twice in a week	None	None	None	None	12(80%)	12(15)
Once in two weeks	None	10(100%)	2(40%)	None	None	12(15)
Once in a month	None	None	None	None	None	None
Total	48	10	5	2	15	80

*Note that figures given in parenthesis indicate percentage in respective category of users.**Source:* Survey, 2013**Table 8:** Use of Library Materials

Category of Users	Yes	No	Total (%)
Students (48)	14(29.17)	34(70.83)	48(60%)
Civil Servants (10)	04(40%)	6(60%)	10(12.5%)
Self Employed (05)	05(100%)	-	05(6.25%)
Retired (02)	02(100%)	-	02(2.5%)
Unemployed (15)	10(66.67%)	5(33.33%)	15(18.75%)
Total	35(43.75%)	45(56.25%)	100(100%)

*Source:* Survey, 2013**Table 9:** Locating required information materials in the Library

Locating Inf. Mat	Students (48)	Civil Servants (10)	Retired (02)	Self Employed (05)	Unemployed (15)	Total (80)
Through catalogue						
Browsing books on the shelves	41(85.41%)	08(80%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	10(66.66%)	66(82.5%)
Consulting library Staff	32(66.66%)	08(80%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	10(66.66%)	57(71.25%)
Through help from friends	08(16.66%)	02(20%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	-	17(21.25%)

*Source:* Survey, 2013**Table 10:** Level of satisfaction on resources, facilities and service available in the library

Items	Students 48	Civil Servant 10	Self Employed 05	Retired 02	Unemployed 15	Total 80
Textbooks	Yes 06(12.5%) No 42(87.5%)	02(20%) 08(80%)	05(100%) 01(20%)	13(86.67%) 02(100%)	11 13.75 02(13.33%)	69 86.25
Journals	Yes No					Not available
Newspapers	Yes 38(79.17%) No 10(20.83%)	08(80%) 02(20%)	04(80%) 01(20%)	02(100%) 01(20%)	13(86.67%) 02(13.33%)	65 81.25 15 18.75
Reference materials	Yes No	48(100%) 10(10%)	05(100%) 05(100%)	02(100%) 02(100%)	15(100%) 10(100%)	80 100% 18 22.5
Children books	Yes 08(16.67%) No 04(8.33%)	10(10%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	05(33.33%)	62 77.5
Audio/visual materials	Yes No					Not available

Reading Table	Yes	05(10.41%)	02(20%)			05(33.33%)	12(15%)
	No	43(89.58%)	08(80%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	10(66.67%)	68(85%)
Sitting Chairs	Yes	05(10.41%)	02(20%)			05(33.33%)	12(15%)
	No	43(89.58%)	08(80%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	10(66.67%)	68(85%)
Toilet	Yes	20(41.66)	05(50%)	02(40%)	01(50%)	05(33.33%)	33(41.25%)
	No	28(58.33)	05(50%)	03(60%)	01(50%)	10(66.67%)	47(58.75%)
Space within & Outside the lib.	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Fans/ Air-conditions	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Lighting	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Ventilation	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Photocopier	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
ICT facilities	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Facilities for disable users	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Loan service	YES						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Reference service	YES	36(75%)	08(80%)	03(60%)	02(100%)	10(66.67%)	59(73.75%)
	No	12(25%)	02(20%)	02(40%)		05(33.33%)	21(21.25%)
Story Telling service	YES						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Photocopying	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Adult Literacy edu. Service	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Service to the disable	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Bindery service	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Current Awareness service	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Reader Advisory service	Yes	32(66.67%)	06(60%)	04(80%)	02(100%)	10(66.67%)	54(67.5%)
	No	16(33.33%)	04(40%)	01(20%)		05(33.33%)	26(32.5%)
Exhibition service	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
S. D. I	Yes						
	No	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)

**Source:** Survey, 2013

**Table 11: Challenges faced by users of the library**

Reasons	Students	Civil servants	Self employed	Retired	Unemployed	Total
Poor lib. resources	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	12(80%)	77(96.25%)
Poor lib facility	48(100%)	07(70%)	03(60%)	02(100%)	10(66.66%)	70(87.5%)
Lack of parking space	41(85.42%)	08(80%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	08(53.33%)	64(80%)
Poor conveniences	40(83.33%)	06(60%)	03(60%)	02(100%)	04(26.67%)	55(68.75%)
Inability to borrow	32(66.67%)	08(80%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	12(80%)	59(73.75%)
Poor ventilation	40(83.33%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	12(80%)	69(86.25%)
Lack of adequate electricity supply	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Lack of ICT facilities	48(100%)	10(100%)	05(100%)	02(100%)	15(100%)	80(100%)
Lack of adequate personnel	36(75%)	08(80%)	03(60%)	02(100%)	06(40%)	55(68.75%)
Locating information from the shelves	42(87.5%)	08(80%)		02(100%)	12(80%)	68(85%)

**Note:** Total percentage will not be hundred because responses are more than one.

**Source:** Survey, 2013

**Table 12: Reasons for none usage of the public library by some members of the community**

Reasons	Category of Users				
	Students 60	Civil servants 30	Self employed 10	Retired 10	Unemployed 20
Problem of working hours	25(41.67%)	16(53%)	04(40%)	05(50%)	07(35%)
Unsuitable location	20(33.33%)	16(53%)	04(40%)	05(50%)	07(35%)
Lack of awareness of library existence	35(58.33%)	10(33.33%)	04(40%)	03(30%)	08(40%)
Lack of enough time		10(33.33%)	04(40%)		
Presence of social network	35(58.33%)				
Not interested	30(50%)	04(13.33%)	02(20%)	02(20%)	
Others	20(33.33%)	10(33.33%)	03(30%)	03(30%)	

**Source:** Survey, 2013

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The library is an invaluable resource center with the main purpose of providing relevant and up to date information/information materials that can meet the information needs of users community, it effective usage is expected to support the production of the needed manpower, so as to manage the economical, political, educational, social and cultural affairs of the nation, which will enhance the overall development of the a nation. To achieve this, well organized, equipped and managed public library is needed. Considering the vision and mission statement of the Lagos State Library Board for establishing public library in the State, looking at the findings of this study, it is clear that actually, some members of Amuwo Odofin Local Government are making use of the public library provided but are faced with some challenges which include poor electricity supply, inability to borrow books, outdated materials, lack of awareness, operation hours among others while majority of them are not due to some reasons. In other for Amuwo Odofin Public Library to meet the information needs of it citizenry in the 21st century; the following recommendations are made:

1. The library should increase it operation hours (it may be extended till 7.p.m) and open for services on weekend to enable members of the community have access to the library. Akparobore (2011) observes that public library can richly complement educational activities by assisting adult which are no longer of school age to develop their attitudes, expand their knowledge horizon and acquire needed technical or vocational skills. In this way, the adult educational product will emerged as responsible members of the society.
2. The present stock of the library should be upgraded, if need be, some outdated materials should be weeded out of the collection, so that only relevant and up to date materials are on the shelves and current reading materials provided. Apotiade (2002) states that for any societal development there is need to develop an effective information system mechanism and for adequate collection and dissemination of information , there is the need for formal communication channel whereby members of the public can be informed of the development in terms of programmes, innovations, changes taking place in the society where they live. Public library helps in achieving this responsibility.
3. The Government through the local government should carry out some enlightenment programmes that will draw the attention of members of the public to the value of the public library such as exhibition, reading competition where winners are rewarded, storytelling hour, child oriented website with online educational games. This will encourage the children and develop their reading culture as well as enrich the quality of life of individual. Ogunleye (1997) notes that if Nigeria is to develop, the majority of the populace must be educated. Since human resources are the most important indicator of a nation building, public library is very important in the life of any Nation.
4. If possible the library should be relocated from its present position, it is difficult for people to know where it is, there should be sign post conspicuously display to

create awareness and the structure should be beautified , with serene environment which will be conducive for learning and the disable should be taken into consideration right from the planning stage.

5. The facilities in the library need to be totally overhauled, to make the library conducive for reading and learning.
6. Nigerian Library Association, Lagos State branch should redouble their effort with the Lagos State government for better development of public libraries in the State.
7. Provision of ICT facilities should be facilitated; this will enhance, services rendered by the library.
8. Parents should learn to encourage their children to read books especially motivational books; this will shape their mind to greatness.
9. Librarians and other members of staff need to be proactive, follow the trends to keep tract of relevant information that are needed for the transformation of men, women and youths of Nigeria, so that the country can truly be transformed. It is pertinent for library staff to learn how to package and repackage the numerous information resources to suit the literates, illiterates, the rich and the poor, the able and the less privileged. In addition there should be training and retraining of staff such as attending conferences, seminars, in-service training among others, in other to enhance their productivity and achieve effectiveness in service delivery.
10. For the public library to occupy its place in society, it needs more funding, the Lagos State Government cannot do it alone, hence, non governmental organisations and other well to do private individuals should invest in public libraries development. If this is done the system will function effectively.

It is evident that low level of literacy partly contribute to low level of development in any society. Public libraries are vital institutions which cannot be separated from the societal development. Provision of functional public libraries cannot be compromised if national greatness must be achieved; therefore whatever needs to be done to improve the public libraries should be done in other to improve the society at large.

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