

Province to constitute a state for the minorities before the British imperialist government should consider the grant of independence to Nigeria. The memorandum on the creation of the COR State was eventually presented to the Secretary of State for the Colonies while a copy was forwarded to Her Majesty, the Queen of England (Udoma, 1987).

At the 1957 Constitutional Conference held in London, the leaders of the COR State Movement held a private meeting with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Lennox Boyd. Also present at the meeting were, the Governor-General of Nigeria, Sir James Robertson as well as the Governor of the Eastern Region of Nigeria, Sir John Stapledon. The Secretary of State for the Colonies assured the COR State advocates of the sympathy of the Colonial Office on the issue of the creation of states. Eventually, at the Conference, the decision to set up the Minorities' Commission of Enquiry to look into the fears of the minorities and the means of allaying such fears, including the exercise of the creation of states, was reached (Udoma, 1988).

Sir Henry Willink was named as the Chairman of the Commission. Other members of the Commission were, Gordon Hadow, Philip Mason, J.S. Shearer and K.J. Hilton who served as the Secretary. On the 26th of September, 1957, the Commission was inaugurated with the following terms of reference:

1. to ascertain the factors about the fears of minorities in any part of Nigeria and to propose means of allaying those fears, whether well or ill-founded;
2. to advise what safeguards should be included for the purpose in the constitution of Nigeria;
3. If, but only if, no other solution seems to the Commission to meet the case, then as a last resort to make detailed recommendations for the creation of one or more new states, and in that case:
 - a) to specify the precise areas to be included in such state or states;
 - b) to recommend the governmental and administrative structure most appropriate for it; and
 - c) to assess whether any state recommended would be viable from an economic and administrative point of view and what the effect of its creation would be on the region or regions from which it would be created and on the federation.
4. to report its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Commission began its work in November 1957. Its sittings were held in all parts of the country and sat in Calabar for seven days in January 1958.

The COR State Memorandum to the Willink's Commission

In its memorandum to the Commission, the COR advocates defined the Calabar-Ogoja-Rivers (COR) area to embrace 15 administrative divisions, seven of which were located in the administrative province of Calabar, three in Ogoja and 5 in the Rivers Province.

1. Calabar Province – Abak, Calabar, Eket, Enyong, Ikot Ekpene Opobo (Ikot Abasi) and Uyo
2. Ogoja Province – Ikom, Obubra, Ogoja and Obudu
3. Rivers – Ahoda, Brass, Degema, Ogoni and Port Harcourt.

The “minorities” anchored their arguments for the creation of a distinct geo-political entity on the already existing legal status of the peoples of the COR area in relation to British Protectorate over the Federation of Nigeria and established that:

The 15 administrative divisions formed a contiguous and continuous territory, cover an area of some 18, 174 square miles and contained a population of 2,649,291 people...it was both a political as well as legal error, though perhaps administratively expedient to merge the Calabar-Ogoja-Rivers area with the rest of the Eastern Region, whereby an amalgam was constituted an autonomous unit. The merger...an artificial creation – a marriage of convenience – which could not endure but was bound to result in disaster because the people of the 15 administrative divisions constituted a minority against the major ethnic bloc which dominated the Eastern Region. By this artifice, designed to satisfy the political ambitions of the major ethnic group, the minorities were practically consigned to eternal servitude in the circumstance they found themselves, in view of the fact that a high sense of morality and justice was pushed to the wall and injustice, discrimination and political immorality took the field (Udoma *et al*, 1957: 11).

It was explicitly stated that the people of Calabar-Ogoja-Rivers (COR) area were bound to the British Crown by Treaties of Friendship and Protection. To that extent, they considered themselves different from the rest of the population of the Eastern Region, some of whom had been brought under the British Crown by conquest and cohesion. The evolution of the British connection with the COR area followed a regular pattern: first came travelers, traders and missionaries; then treaties of commerce and friendship; afterwards a declaration of a protection by virtue of which only external sovereignty was exercised, and finally the establishment of government according to law; and this involved the creation of consular courts, the appointment of consuls and later administrative officers.

The memorandum traced the origin of the establishment of colonial government infrastructure in the COR area and added that:

...it is quite clear that “protectorate” as conceived by the British Government implied that the COR area embraced by the term “Oil Rivers Protectorate” was a semi-sovereign entity not being dominion whose external relations was by virtue of treaties under the control for the time being of Great Britain but whose internal sovereignty was vested in the people...it has thus conclusively been established that the relationship between Britain and the people of the COR area originated in friendship, mutual trust, confidence and commercial alliance. It is manifest and crystal clear therefore that such relationship is distinguishable from that existing between the British Government and the peoples of Owerri and Onitsha Provinces whose territories came under British administration by conquest, and cession to the British Government and absorption into the COR area (Udoma, *et al*, 1957: 11-12).

It was posited also that the Eastern Regional government by 1957 was dominated by the peoples of Onitsha and Owerri Provinces to the detriment of those from the COR area. Such level of dominance exercised over the people of COR area was viewed by its leaders as a breach of trust and confidence and a flagrant disregard of the provisions of the Treaties of Protection with the British Government. It was also reasoned that such was contrary to the principles of self-determination which had been recognised by the British Government. It also amounted to, not only an abdication of power, but also a grave dereliction of duty on the part of the British and a breach of the undertaking given under the hand of Consul Hewett as contained in his declaration made by King Jaja. It was again noted that the proper course to be adopted by the British government was to constitute the COR area, described as a “Treaty State” into a state of its own with its own government as a part of the Federation of Nigeria.

Issues that relate to the cultural and historical relations between the peoples of the COR and the Igbo majority were also raised in the COR memorandum. The people of the territory, the COR area, though comprising a multitude of linguistic groups, had long cultural, historical and commercial associations among themselves. The Efik-Ibibio and Ekoi of Calabar Province, the Yakur-Ekoi-“tribal” complex which inhabit the non-Igbo areas of Ogoja Province and Ijaw, originally formed part of the negro population that once inhabited the open terrain of the Western Sudan. Despite their physical separation and linguistic differences, these Negro Populations have retained a number of basic cultural features which distinguished them culturally from their neighbours. Thus, their social organization is marked by the existence in their communities of a “priest king” and a “civil political head”. Another feature of the social organization common to the people as was pointed out was the “House System”, an institution built around a corporate king group, and which, with the introduction of external trade, developed into an economic and even fighting corporation. Government by secret organisation was also identified (COR Memorandum, 1957).

Historically and commercially, the people of the COR area had long and continuous contact dating from the 16th century. They played a leading role not only in the slave trade but in the trade in pepper, elephant tusks and palm oil which developed along the Bights of Benin and Biafra towards the close of 17th century. The Ijaw and the Efik along the coast were in close contact with the peoples of the country along the Cross River Basin and beyond as early as the 16th century. This fact is supported by evidence of the widespread use of manilla or copper-bar currency which was found all

over the COR area by the Portuguese traders from the coast and exchanged for slaves and other trade goods by itinerant Aro middlemen over a great distance northeast of the Bight of Biafra.

It was pointed out that the Eastern Region had a population of about 4.5 million Igbo, while the ethnic minorities in the area numbered about 3 million. The allocation of seats in the Eastern Regional House of Assembly, Enugu, as contained in the COR memorandum is presented below.

Division	Ethnic Group	No. of Seats
Onitsha	Igbo	5
Awka	Igbo	3
	I	1
Awgu	Igbo	3
Nsukka	Igbo	4
Owerri	Igbo	4
Bende	Igbo	6
Aba	Igbo	3
Okigwe	Igbo	5
Orlu	Igbo	4
Port Harcourt	Igbo	2
Ogoni	Ogoni	2
Degema	Ijaw	2
Brass	Ijaw	2
Ahoda	Igbo/Ijaw	3
Calabar	Efik	2
Opobo	Ijaw/Ibibio& Annang	2
Eket	Oron/Ibibio	3
Enyong	Ibibio/Ekoi	2
Ikot Ekpene	Annang/Ibibio	3
Abak	Annang	3
Uyo	Ibibio	3
Total		84

The table above summarising representation based on ethnic groupings, shows that the Igbo had 51 seats while the ethnic minorities had 33 seats.

According to Udoma *et al* (1957), the fears of the minorities were listed as:

- (1) Igbo domination in all spheres of public life in the Eastern Region
- (2) Nepotism and corruption in appointments to the public service, statutory boards and corporations and awards of contracts and scholarships
- (3) Discrimination against minorities in the distribution of amenities in the Eastern Region
- (4) Igbo dictatorship in place of parliamentary democracy
- (5) Cultural extinction of the minorities.

Igbo Domination: The COR advocates alleged that the Igbo were in absolute control of the executive council, the legislature and the public service commission, the public service and statutory boards and corporations, the judiciary and the legal departments and the police force in the region.

The Executive Council: Out of 15 Ministers in the Executive Council, 12 were Igbo (six from Onitsha Province, five from Owerri Province and one from Ogoja Province, one from Rivers Province one from Calabar Province). Only three Ministers came from the minority group. In the Executive Council therefore, it was pointed out that the Igbo out-numbered non-Igbo in the ratio of 4 to 1. Out of 14 parliamentary secretaries, 13 were Igbo, leaving only one parliamentary secretary from Calabar Province. In the Council of Ministers in Lagos, three ministers and three parliamentary secretaries from the NCNC party represented the Eastern Region. The three Ministers were all Igbo, two of the parliamentary secretaries were Igbo, and the remaining one parliamentary secretary came from

Calabar Province. Also, the commissioner for Eastern Nigeria in the United Kingdom was an Igbo, from Onitsha Province.

Legislature: 51 out of 84 members of the Eastern House of Assembly were Igbo. The speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk were also Igbo.

Public Service: The Igbo held all the key posts in the public service of the region including the post of permanent secretaries. An Igbo was also the director of the Medical Services and two Igbo were specialists in the Medical Department. Out of 35 Nigerian medical officers, 23 were Igbo. There were 57 Easterners holding senior appointments in the administration department: of these, 46 were Igbo – 36 from Onitsha Province, 10 from Owerri Province. Out of the remaining 11, eight came from Calabar Province, one from Ogoja Province and two from Rivers Province. This figure 57 as at October 1957 was made up of 33 direct appointments and 24 promotions within the service. The 33 direct appointments were as follows: 22 from Onitsha province, seven from Owerri Province and four from Calabar Province. The 24 promotions within the service were as follows: 14 from Onitsha Province, three from Owerri Province and four from Calabar Province, one from Ogoja Province and two from Rivers Province. In the Education Department, there were 68 Easterners in the senior cadre grade as follows: 21 from Onitsha Province, 21 from Owerri Province, 15 from Calabar Province, eight from Rivers Province and three from Ogoja Province

Statutory Boards and Corporations: with the exception of the printing, the tourism and Information Corporation and the Library Board, Igbo were chairmen of all the statutory boards and corporations in the Eastern Region namely: the Eastern Region Development Corporation, the Eastern Region Marketing Board, the Eastern Regional Scholarship Board, the Eastern Regional Board of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, the Cinema Corporation and the Pharmaceutical Corporation.

Udoma *et al.*, (1957) also submitted that membership and appointments to these boards and corporations were filled by Igbo with very few exceptions. Indeed, no member of the opposition parties in the region was appointed to any of the boards and corporations. It was the policy of the NCNC government to fill all the appointments (membership and staff) with NCNC party supporters. In pursuance of this policy, the NCNC supporters in the Western Region, who were personal valets of Dr. Azikiwe, were made Chairmen of the Printing and Information Service Corporations. Mr. Fashanu, chairman of the Printing Corporation, was the President-General of the Zikist National Vanguard and political secretary of Dr. Azikiwe. A.K. Disu, Chairman of the Information Service Corporation, was the former sub-editor of *The West African Pilot* (Dr. Azikiwe's newspaper) and studied journalism in the United States of America, under Dr. Azikiwe's scholarship.

Besides the regional boards and corporations the Igbo represented the Eastern Region on all boards and corporations of the Federal Government namely: the Central Marketing Board, the Nigerian Marketing Company, the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria (an Igbo Chairman), the Railway Corporation, the Coal Corporation, the University College Council, the Board of Directors of the Nigerian Cement Company, the Ports Authority. In the case of the Ports Authority, one of the two Eastern members was an Igbo and the other from Calabar Province.

The Judiciary: The only Nigerian judge in the region was an Igbo. Easterners who held the posts of Chief Magistrate were all Igbo. Of all Easterners who held the post of Magistrate, only two were non-Igbo and came from the Rivers Province

Legal Department: The newly appointed Attorney-General (1957) of the Eastern Region was an Igbo from Onitsha and only Igbo held the posts of Senior Crown Counsel, with only one from the Rivers Province.

The Police Force: More than 70 percent of the Police Force in the Eastern Region were Igbo.

Scholarships: Between 1952 and 1957, the Eastern Regional government awarded 604 post-secondary scholarships. Of these, 393 went to the Igbo and 211 to Calabar-Ogoja-Rivers Provinces. The details submitted to the Willink's Commission by the COR advocates showed that scholarships of higher quality went mostly to Igbo. This was regarded as a subtle attempt by the scholarship board dominated by the Igbo to perpetuate the dominance of Igbo in the region's public service. For instance, all trainees selected from the Eastern Region for the nucleus of the Nigerian Foreign Service were all Igbo.

Award of Contracts: Government contracts and contracts awarded by the various statutory boards and corporations went to the Igbo. In very rare cases had contracts been awarded to non-Igbo in the region.

Loans: Government loans and loans given by the Eastern Region Corporation went to Igbo. In very rare cases had loan been given to non-Igbo.

Development: As far back as 1950, there was a proposal by the central government to generate electricity at Kwa Falls in Calabar Division to supply electricity to parts of the Eastern Region. But in 1952, the then Minister of Mines and Power, who happened to have been an Igbo, dropped the proposal for Calabar and chose Oji River in Onitsha Province instead. By 1957, the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria had a power station at Oji River that supplied electricity to Onitsha, Enugu and Abakiliki, with a proposal to extend it to Owerri and Umuahia-Ibeku in Owerri Province. Thus, Calabar and Rivers Provinces were denied the amenity. The loan of £500,000 to Onitsha enabled Onitsha to build the largest market in West Africa and all trade in the Eastern Region was directed from Onitsha and Aba (COR Memorandum, 1957).

Corruption: Prior to this period, two ministers, both Igbo, were found guilty of corruption by a commission of enquiry and removed from their ministerial posts, but despite repeated demands, the Igbo who dominated NCNC government of the Eastern Region stoutly refused to publish the reports of the commission. Following widespread allegations of bribery, corruption, nepotism and fraud in the Eastern Regional Development Corporation, which handled some £6, 500,000 of public money, two commissions of enquiry were set up by the government to investigate and report on these allegations. But, because almost all those holding key posts in the corporation, and who would be adversely affected by the findings of the commission, were Igbo and supporters of the government party, the reports of the two commissions were shelved by the government (COR Memorandum, 1957).

The Findings of the Commission

The whole exercise, especially in the Eastern Nigeria was marked by intrigues by the NCNC in an attempt to frustrate the creation of state. The NCNC leadership resorted to the use of “divide and rule” tactics to break the ranks of the minorities. In the course of doing this, they succeeded in setting one minority ethnic group against the other. One consequence of this was that many new groups suddenly emerged demanding for the creation of Cross River State, Ogoja State separately, in addition to COR and Rivers State. Consequently, the NCNC used the fact of many voices from the sidelines to mar the chances of the COR State Movement (Akpan, 2004).

The Commission in its report noted part of the position of the Eastern Regional Government to thwart that COR agenda thus:

The government adhered to the view, which has always been the doctrine of the NCNC party, that Nigeria needs a strong federal government and should consist of an increased number of smaller states with lesser powers than the present regions; if this principle were accepted and other regions were to be treated in the same way, they would agree to the creation of smaller states within what is now the Eastern Region. They insist, however, in the first place that this process must apply equally to all regions and secondly, that no state should be created unless it satisfied the four outlined principles (Willink's Report, 1958: 46-47).

The principles were as follows:

- (a) the principle of self-determination; each state should wish to be separate and to be one single state
- (b) the principle of ethnic homogeneity; each state should be as nearly as possible homogenous
- (c) the principle of geographical contiguity; each state should consist of one continuous and compact territory
- (d) the principle of viability; each state should be large enough to administer itself and as nearly as possible should be self-contained economic unit.

In applying these four principles, “the Eastern Region Government stated that it would not object to the creation of an Ogoja State, nor of Rivers State, nor of Cross River State, provided only that similar states were created from other Regions. It however objected in strongest terms to the

creation of the COR State, which satisfied none of the first three principles”. The government opined that the COR demand “was inspired only by a negative dislike of the Igbo, and would do much harm to the rest of the region” (Willink’s Report, 1958).

The Willink’s Commission reports cited the personal intrigues of Dr. Azikiwe, through his “hurried” sponsorship of the creation of Cross Rivers State out of the Eastern Region thus:

....discovered that the agitation for the creation of Cross River State “has no history of continuous pressure or strong popular support behind it. We received no evidence of any support for the proposal from Ogoja. Counsel on behalf of the Cross River State and the signatories to the memorandum we received came from Calabar and were supporters of the NCNC party...when asked whether the government approved of the proposal for this state, its principal exponent replied that he had the personal approval of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, the Premier of the Region; we were shown a telegram from the Premier: “Memorandum- Cross River, excellent, go ahead”. We asked to see the covering letter with which this memorandum had been sent to Dr. Azikiwe, and found that it stated that the motive for submitting the memorandum was to break the atmosphere in the unanimity of the COR demand on the one hand and to save our faces with our people on the other hand”, we believe this to be the truth Willink’s Report, 1958: (48)

In its report dated 30th of July 1958, the commission acknowledged the fact that fears of the minorities of perpetual domination, discrimination and marginalisation were indeed genuine. It, however, refused to create states. Instead, it made the following recommendations:

1. that Calabar Province should be constituted a Minority Area to be known as the Calabar Area.
2. that in the Minority Area, there should be a Council with a chairman from the area nominated by the regional government and a membership of which a substantial number be elected or nominated by local bodies
3. that the council should make an annual report to the House of Assembly of the Region and House of Representatives
4. that the duties of the Council should be to foster the well-being, cultural advancement, economic and social development of the Minority Area and to bring to the notice of the Regional Government any discrimination against the area.

As a result of this development, the Ibibio State Union had a meeting to deliberate on the report, and consequently, passed a unanimous resolution rejecting it and also described it as a fraudulent document (Udoma, 1987).

The NCNC moved further to inject divisive tendencies among the people of the six Ibibio districts, particularly between the Ibibio and Annang. In 1959, the party ignored a well articulated request for the creation of a distinct Ibibio Province out of the Old Calabar Province, to include the Ibibio and Annang, which had received the approval of the colonial government since 1951. Rather, the Eastern Regional Government with Dr. Azikiwe as the Premier, created the Ibibio which he later renamed Uyo Province and Annang Provinces, out of the Old Calabar Province. Remarkably, only Annang Province was named after an ethnic group and not the town that served as the headquarters of the province, like Owerri, Ogoja, Afikpo and Degema. By not naming the new province “Ikot Ekpene” Dr. Azikiwe deliberately created a schism between the Ibibio and Annang (Abasiattai, 1991; Brown 2008).

The NCNC government did not appoint any Ibibio as a Minister in the Eastern Region, but favoured the Annang with such positions. Moreover, it focused development in Ikot Ekpene and not in Uyo. This was done to punish the Ibibio for their role in agitating for the COR State and for forging an alliance between the UNIP and the AG, a dominant party in the Western Region (Brown, 2008).

In the general elections of December 1959, the NCNC unleashed its arsenal to “demolish” Dr. Udoma, the vanguard of the minorities’ emancipation in the Eastern Region and frustrated his re-election bid into the House of Representatives under the platform of the UNIP/AG alliance. The result of the general elections in Opobo-South Federal Constituency (Udoma’s constituency) was unquestionably rigged. In fact, there was no election properly so-called in the constituency as there

was organized rioting everywhere in the constituency during the whole period of the election, the NCNC party took advantage of the fact that the majority of registered voters in the area were non-Ibibio elements. The Chief Electoral Officer and Returning Officer was Mr. Tagbo, an indigene of Onitsha. He was hurriedly transferred to the constituency by the NCNC led-government at Enugu to replace Mr. Hammond, an expatriate administrative officer, who was known to be fair and honest. The results of the elections were therefore a foregone conclusion. Ironically, apart from Dr. Udoma, all the candidates belonging to UNIP in alliance with the AG swept the polls in the whole of the constituencies in Calabar Province, including the newly created Annang Province. The impression was thus, wrongly created that Dr. Udoma, with his robust pedigree in community mobilization was not a very popular candidate (Udoma, 1987; Brown, 2008).

The NCNC candidate who defeated Dr. Udoma in the said election was one unknown person, one Chief O.U. Ekenekot from Obolo (Andoni). His victory was facilitated by the Igbo dominated NCNC to spite the Ibibio. Obviously, without the rigging effort of the NCNC, he would not have won the election. The fact that his victory was a big surprise to all is documented by Ejituwu, an Obolo (Andoni) scholar thus:

This victory at the polls catapulted Obolo (Andoni) into prominence...it put them on the map of Nigeria as the people asked and wondered about the defeat of Dr. Udoma, one of the greatest men in Nigeria. He was the first West African to earn PhD in Law from a university in Britain and his defeat was revolutionary...Chief Ekenekot was a favourite of the NCNC leaders in the First Republic. As a favourite, he was carried along by the leaders of the party. He frequently toured the federation with the Prime Minister and the President, separately. In 1962, the parliamentary team toured the USA...(Ejituwu, 2010: 43)

To dissuade Dr. Udoma from contesting the 1959 general elections, the government had offered him a slot in the Supreme Court. After losing the election he again turned down the offer to the Supreme Court in 1960; he thought of remaining in private business and taking part in public debates of a political nature (Udoka, 1996). However, Dr. Udoma eventually, joined the bench as judge of the High Court of the Federal Territory of Lagos in May 1961, preparatory to joining the Supreme Court of Nigeria (Udoma, 2008).

According to Udoma's account, he did not have any prior knowledge that the government had decided to appoint him as a judge. He records the account thus:

...In May 1961, I received a message from Justice L.N. Mbanefo, Chief Judge of Eastern Nigeria, that I was wanted in Lagos and that it was very important that I must be in Lagos the following Monday...the purpose for which my presence was required in Lagos was not stated...I drove all the way throughout the night and arrived in Lagos at about 7.30 a.m. on Monday. I met the Prime Minister that morning in his office. He welcomed me... and then directed me to see the Honourable Chief Justice of Nigeria, Sir Adetokunbo Ademola. I called on the Honourable Chief Justice who directed me to see the Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Territory of Lagos, Sir Clement de Lastang, which I did. Immediately, on receiving me, Sir Lastang exclaimed with excitement, "Thank God you are here at last!". Without having any discussion with me at once sent for his chief registrar. On arrival of the chief registrar, he instructed me to get in touch at once with the Governor-General's Office for my swearing in as a judge of the High Court of the Federal Territory, Lagos (Udoma, 2008: 117-118).

Udoma notes further that:

...Sir Lastang, in conversation, asked to know my relationship with Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, the Governor-General. In answer, I said "somewhat cordial". I then pointed out to him, however, that Dr. Azikiwe had a high opinion of me, just as I had of him, but that often times we agreed

to disagree on issues and that was all. On arrival at the State House, the Governor-General greeted us with a smile...shortly thereafter we were sworn in...we were said to be the first judges to be sworn in by the Governor-General since his assumption of office. During the entertainment, the Governor-General in conversation with me asked what I felt like to be a judge. Without hesitation, I answered that having just been sworn in, I did not consider myself a judge as yet since I had then not tried a single case. We both laughed it off but I believe that, in his heart of hearts, Dr. Azikiwe, the Governor-General was saying "thank God they have caught this man at last". That must have been so because when Dr. Azikiwe was the Premier of the Eastern Region, it was his desire that I should abandon politics and accept judgeship. He would have preferred to see me a judge than a politician in parliament in the opposition (Udoma, 2008: 118-119).

Conclusion

Ethnicity as a phenomenon associated with colonialism consolidated the majority/minority syndrome in Nigeria and became very corrosive in Eastern Nigeria after the introduction of regionalism by the Richard's Constitution. In the region, the Igbo ethnic group formed the majority, while there were other minority groups among them. The Ibibio, whom this study examines, were subjected to unfair treatment by the majority ethnic group. The ignominious removal of Prof. Eyo Ita, an ethnic minority from present-day Akwa Ibom State, as the Leader of Government Business (a precursor of the Regional Premier) in 1953, resulted in the escalation of tension in the region.

Following this unhealthy development, the Ibibio people mobilised the other minority ethnic groups and resolved to secure a distinct state for themselves within the framework of the Nigerian federation. The minorities outlined their fears to include Igbo domination in all spheres of public life in the Eastern Region, nepotism and corruption in appointments to the public service, statutory boards and award of contracts. Discrimination against them in the distribution of amenities by the Igbo-led Eastern Regional Government and Igbo dictatorship in place of parliamentary democracy and threat of cultural extinction (Udoma *et al*, 1987).

As noted, the colonial government responded to the call by the minorities in the country with the appointment of the Willink's Minority Commission. The Commission did not recommend the creation of state as stoutly canvassed by the Ibibio, but agreed that genuine fears existed in the Eastern Region. It, however, recommended that the Calabar Province be constituted as a Minority Area to be known as Calabar Area as well as the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Board, to address the issue of development. Unfortunately, issues of underdevelopment of the Niger Delta have lingered for 60 years after the Willink's Commission fueling the spate of insurgency in the region. The solution to the nation's problems can be found in the practice of "true federalism" where federal character principle as enshrined in the constitution is upheld to protect the interests of the minorities.

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LIBRARY 2.0 TECHNOLOGIES: TOOLS FOR SUSTAINING ACADEMIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE 21ST CENTURY NIGERIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

BY

ENO TOROSCO

Abstract

The only way Nigerian academic libraries can remain relevant in this information age and satisfy the teeming users who patronize the library on a daily basis is for them to keep abreast with recent technologies. One of such technologies is library 2.0. This paper defines and conceptualized library 2.0. It explores the present state of academic library services in Nigeria. The different types of library 2.0 technologies and its ways of sustaining library services were identified. The paper concludes that if library 2.0 technologies are applied in Nigerian academic libraries, it will promote collaborative learning, improve study and enrich research output, thus enhancing the educational and economic development of the country. It therefore recommends among others that library management and government should provide adequate funds for the provision of the technologies. Library staff should be trained on effective handling of the technologies.

Keywords: Library 2.0, Information technology, Educational system, Economic development

Introduction

The 21st century is referred to as an information age. A period characterised by unequivocal information explosion where the internet and its associated technologies are being used to disseminate information for accelerated societal and economic development. Technology has indeed been applied in every sector of the economy and its presence have influence remarkable transformation in day to day performance of activities. Academic libraries being the heart of academic institutions need to keep in touch with the emerged technologies for them to be germane in this present information age and serve the teeming library users who patronize the library daily for educational and research information.

Besides being abreast with recent technologies, academic libraries need to re-double its effort in the application of technologies to sustain library services. Apparently, library's patronage have decline in recent years, due to the emergence of technologies because several students and researchers prefers the use of personal laptops and other electronic device at the comfort of their homes, classrooms, offices and cybercafés to patronage of libraries. They frequently termed academic libraries as archaic and completely obsolete, thus could not measure up with their information needs. To reposition the library and as an intellectual hub with teeming users patronizing its resources and services on a daily basis, there is need for application and sustenance of library 2.0 technologies.

Library 2.0 is the application of interactive, collaborative, and multi-media web-based technologies to library services to aid effective use of the library. It uses the web in creation, collection, storage, process, communication and retrieval of information. Mannes (2006) defines library 2.0 as the application of interactive, collaborative, and multi-media web-based technologies to web-based library services and collection. Casey (2006) described it as a set of innovative technologies and

services that are integrate with the library, facilitating the use of library resources and services, allowing library user to participate and keeping the librarians updated in their field. Makori (2012) view it as a second generation of web-based services that include social networking sites (such as, Facebook, YouTube, My Space, Flickr, Twitter, and so on) and support systems (like, online help desk) that allows online collaboration, participation, sharing of information and communication services. Peltier-Davis (2009) enumerates library 2.0 tools as blogs, wikis, flickr, social networks, instant messaging, RSS feeds, taggings, podcast etc. These tools will help reposition and sustain Nigerian academic libraries and make it relevant in the 21st century educational system. This is based on the fact that today's educational system is user oriented which allows users to participate in the creation of content, keeping the user constantly updated and building services based on users' feedback.

Concepts of Library 2.0

The term "Library 2.0" was coined by Michael Casey on his blog LibraryCrunch as a direct start off of the terms Business 2.0 and Web 2.0. Casey (2006) suggested that libraries are at a crossroads where many of the elements of Web 2.0 have applicable value within the library community, both in technology-driven services and in non-technology based services. In particular, he described the need for libraries to adopt a strategy for constant change while promoting a participatory role for library users.

Library 2.0 made its conference debut at Internet Librarian 2005 in October, 2005, when Michael Stephens of Saint Joseph County Public Library addressed the idea in relation to the typical library website. A September 2006 article in *Library Journal* titled, "Library 2.0: Service for the next-generation library," begins by expressing the benefit of Library 2.0 to library administrators and taxpayers as providing "more efficient ways of delivering services to achieve greater returns on financial investments. The article continued by asserting that the much discussed Library 2.0 is important for librarians as it may radically change our customer service and interaction. (Casey & Stephens, 2006).

Library 2.0 facilitate user participation and creation of library services. The user is considered important in library 2.0 because the technology encourage complete participation of the user with the librarian. With library 2.0, information and ideas flows in both directions; from the library to the user and from the user to the library. Kwanya et al. (2011) therefore point out that library 2.0 harnesses the power of emerging information and communication technologies to create a dynamic physical and/or virtual library platform which is defined and controlled by the users and librarians and which facilitates the delivery of a superior library experience for the users: anytime and anywhere.

Library 2.0 Technologies and their strategies for sustaining library services in the 21st education system

Blog (Web Log)

The term Blog is a contraction of *web-log*. This is an online programme that allows the automatic creation of a Web page. A Blog can be compared to a personal diary. The difference between a personal diary and blog is that diary is a personal document exclusively utilised by the owner. Other people may not be allowed to accessed information on the diary. A blog permit thousands of people access to information available on it. Other information users can access and contributes to an individual personal page. Each blog entry has a *thread* which allows the readers to write their comments. To alert that there are new entries on the Blog, the author or blogger can provide a subscription to a *feed*. The easiest way to create a blog is to use an online platform like Blogger. This service is free and allows the inclusion of images and links.

Blogs can be used to sustain library services and enhance increase patronage of library resources and services through several ways. They can be used to promote Current Awareness Services (CAS) in academic libraries. Current Awareness Service is a major strategy used in intimating library user of the existence of current information resources in the library. Library users are notified of the

availability of new resources that serves their information needs. Librarians can blog users informing them of library's new arrival. Users can also send a blog to librarians stating their information needs and how to obtain it.

Librarians can also carry out Selective Dissemination of Information services (SDI) through blogs. This is one major way of resuscitating and sustaining library services in this information age. Library users will view the library as citadel to their learning if librarians selects and send needed resources to them. Besides, there are several students who finds it increasingly difficult to retrieve information resources from the library's shelf. The process of selecting and sending resources to users through blog will arouse their interest in the library and improve learning and research, thus equipping students with resources needed to succeed in this present information age.

Libraries can also provide online reference services to users irrespective of location. Users can send query to reference librarians and get instant reply through blog. Since blog is among the fastest way of communication in this present day, library users are assured of receiving answers to their reference questions. Assignments, term paper, literature review and other educational and research work can be performed using blog. Librarians can provide useful information on their web page and allow users access to the document. This means library users do not need to be physically present in the library in order for them to utilized library's resources. The resources can still be accessed and retrieved electronically irrespective of distance.

Wikis

Wikis are essentially open web-pages, where anyone registered with the wiki can publish any form of information. Wiki is presently the most used web site for accessing and retrieving information resources because it's easy to access and do not require financial subscription in order for users to access it. Wikis is also the most current web page where current information resources could be accessed. Registered users can send and edit document on a daily basis. This makes wikis very current. Although information in most cases in wikis are not reliable because they do not undergo any peer review process, the document could still be useful for students and researchers.

Wikis are essential in sustaining library services in this present information age. A web page is open for users where registered library users can send their query to the library. These query are addressed and send back to users. This help in resolving user's difficulty in retrieving and using library resources. The library also inform users of opening and closing time, registration processes, charging and discharging of information resources. As users share information and ask questions, answer questions, and librarians do the same within a wiki, a record of these transactions is archived perhaps for permanence. And these transcripts are in turn resources for the library to provide as reference.

Wikis could be used in sustaining library services through display of information. In the past, library occasionally display their resources to users. The reasons why library display resources is to create awareness of its resources and services. Library users do not need to wait occasionally for resources to be displayed occasionally. Through wikis, they can access library collection at any given point in time.

Also, wikis form a basis for collegial interaction where students and researchers can share ideas. It is also the fastest means where researchers publish views and opinion papers. Although it is not review but it still form the basis for literature review.

Flickr

Flickr is an image and video hosting website used for sharing photographs used by students, researchers and bloggers to host images in blogs and social media. It is one of the best known of several Web 2.0 photo-sharing sites. It is best known and easiest ways to share and store photos electronically.

Librarians use this tool to share and distribute new images of library collections. With these tools, librarians can constantly evaluate and update content to meet the changing needs of users. Librarians can use flicker to scan and send essential part of an information resources to users. It can as well be used for Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) Services. Photographs needed for research can be uploaded by librarians and disseminated to researchers.

Tagging

Tagging essentially enables users to create subject headings for the object at hand. Shanhi (2006) describes tagging as library 2.0 tools because it allows users to add and change not only content (data), but content describing content (metadata). Tagging simply makes lateral searching easier.

Abstracting and indexing services can be performed by simply tagging the keywords an information resources and send to user. Users can easily peruse the content of a publication because the essential words needed have been tagged. Tagging also aid easy identification and retrieval of library resources. A library users whose information needs bothers on information technology is expected to concentrate on the tagged IT resources by librarians. Other ways library serve users are to selectively disseminate resources (SDI) to users.

Really Simple Syndication (RSS 2.0)

RSS is an abbreviation of *Really Simple Syndication* or *Rich Site Summary* and is one of the tools used for the distribution of information electronically with cell phones, handhelds, database, etc. It is a web feed used for syndicating content from the internet. It informs users of updates to the subscribed sites. Many web-browsers have built-in-feed readers or aggregators that easily add feeds to web page.

Really Simple Syndication could be used in the library to notify library users of new arrivals of information resources. Immediately a new book arrives the library, after processing, the librarian can apprise users of the availability of the new book. It could also be used to inform users of library's collection in different field. This will enable users know that library has in stock resources needed for their research and study.

Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) services is one paramount role RSS plays in sustain library services in the present information age. Since students and researchers are increasingly reluctant to patronize the library, librarians could encourage library users to subscribe to educational site and send updates of relevant information to them. This process will help improve study and research by students and other information users available in an academic institution.

Instant messaging (IM)

This is real-time communication between two or more people based on typed text, or images. It is a popular mode of communication because of its quick response time, ease of use and the ability of a librarian to multitask. Musangi (2015) stated that it is a popular mode of communication because of its quick response time, ease of use and the ability of a librarian to multitask. IM is vastly being used for online reference services in libraries. Ask a librarian service is provided by instant messengers all over the world.

Instant messaging could be used to sustain library services in this information age though provision of electronic reference services to library users. Library users can query reference librarians pertaining their area of information needs. The reference librarians can send an instant reply to the user. This process facilitates easy reference and utilisation of library's collection. It enables students perform research and other academic work without delay. Library user can also interact and share ideas with one another using this tool. The circulation librarian can use instant messages to recall loan books by users.

Twitter

The concept of Twitter relies on messaging service, whether it uses a cell phone, instant messenger, such as Yahoo Messenger or MSN Messenger, or through specific websites. It allows the user to send messages to friends and family quickly and easily. Twitter only asks one question, "What are you doing?" As long as an answer is 140 characters or less, it is possible for thousands of people to see the answer immediately (Marion & Omotayo, 2010). In Waddell & Barnes (2012) submission, the ease of posting and sharing information on Twitter makes it an essential tool for libraries to reach their users.

Library user can easily get reply to their query using twitter. They can ask the reference librarian questions relevant to them and obtain instant reply. The circulation librarian can use twitter to charge and discharge resources in the library. Twitter can also be used to inform borrower of expiration of loan period. Twitter can be used to notify library user of current resources available in the library.

Constraint Facing the Use of Library 2.0 Technologies in Nigerian Academic Libraries

- ✚ **Lack of Awareness:** management of some academic libraries in Nigeria are not fully aware of the existence of the technology in library practice. This lack of awareness have prevented the application of the technology in library practices.
- ✚ **Information Literacy:** Several librarians are unable to use these technologies. Some librarians are not ICT compliance. These affects the provision of the services to users.
- ✚ **Internet Connectivity:** Nigerian academic libraries are faced with the challenge of providing constant internet connections to library users.
- ✚ **Power Supply:** The country is plague with inconsistent power supply. Without adequate power supply, the provision and sustenance of library 2.0 technologies will not be tenable.
- ✚ **Shortage of ICT facilities:** Several academic institutions in Nigeria lacked adequate ICT facilities to facilitate the provision of these technologies in libraries.

Conclusion

Today's educational system has shifted from passive to active where learners participate in creating and disseminating knowledge. Therefore, Nigerian academic libraries should not be left behind in this information wave. There is the urgent need for the application and sustenance of library 2.0 technologies in library services as it will help address the decline of library patronage in Nigeria academic institutions. These tools will help increase library patronage and enable users participate in the learning process.

Recommendations

1. Utilisation of library 2.0 tools should be included in library and information science curriculum to educate librarians on the use of the applications.
2. Librarians should be trained and retrained on effective ways of providing library services using library 2.0 technologies.
3. Adequate ICT facilities should be provided by management of academic institutions to enable libraries keep abreast with this current information age.
4. Constant electricity should be available in academic libraries to facilitate the provision of uninterrupted services to library users.
5. Management of academic institutions in Nigeria should provide adequate funds for the provision of library 2.0 technologies in libraries.

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