



Awareness and Compliance to Legal Deposit Law by Book Publishers in Rivers State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study investigates the awareness and compliance to legal deposit law by book publishers in Rivers State, Nigeria. There were five objectives and five research questions. One null hypothesis was formulated to guide the study. The research design for the study was the survey method. The population of the study is 47 book publishers who deposit their copies with the national library. There was no sampling as the population is considered small, accessible and manageable. The Questionnaire tagged, Awareness and compliance to legal deposit law by book publishers (ACLDLBP) is the instrument for data collection. The instrument was validated by an expert in measurement and evaluation. The reliability coefficient of the instrument is 0.77, which is considered high enough to justify the use of the instrument. The administration of the instrument was done personally by the researcher. Descriptive statistics was used to analyse the research questions, while chi-square was used to test the hypothesis. The findings of the study include that book publishers in Rivers State are aware of the legal deposit law, ways of publishing the legal deposit law among the publishers vary, the book publishers comply with the law. The problems that militate against the awareness and compliance to legal deposit law by the book publishers include that the law is not enforced, the penalty is not stiff, fake ISBN are used by some publishers and that the publishers are non-challant about the law. The study recommends that there should be conferences, workshops and seminars to create awareness on the law, there should be stiffer and enforceable penalty for non-compliance, and that there should regular raids on bookshops to ascertain ISBN not issued by the National Library.

Keywords: Awareness, Compliance, Legal Deposit Law, Book Publishers.

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INTRODUCTION

Legal deposit is an obligation on publishers, authors and distributors to place their publications with designated libraries to establish and maintain an archival record of nations published output. This has great advantages to authors, publishers, researchers and the general public, since through legal deposit, publications are made available to readers, preserved for the benefit of future generations, and become part of the national heritage.

Lariviere (2010) defines legal deposit as a statutory obligation which requires that any organization, commercial or public, and any individual producing any type of documentation in multiple copies should deposit one or more copies with a recognized national institution. Legal deposit can also be defined as a statutory provision which obliges publishers to deposit copies of their publications in libraries in the country in which they are published.

Legal deposit of the material is the responsibility of the publisher and author (for author – published work) it extends not only to commercial publishers but also to private individuals, clubs, churches, associations, societies, and organizations.

Legal deposit law according to Wikipedia (2014) is a legal requirement that a person or group of person submit copies of their publications to a repository, usually a library, the requirement is mostly limited to books and periodicals. The number of copies to be deposited varies in different countries. The essence of these laws in various countries is to ensure that the nation's published output, that is, its intellectual record and future published heritage is collected systematically to preserve the material for the use of future generations and to make it available to readers within the designated legal deposit libraries.

In Nigeria, the first publication law known as Nigerian publication ordinance No. 13 of 1950 came to effect in April 1950, which was later amended to Publication Act by Order 29 of 1951. By the ordinance No. 13 of 1950, University of Ibadan was conferred the only national depository in Nigeria. Different states of the federation enacted their own separate deposit laws but the Federal Government by a legal notice No. 112 of 1964 restricted it's law to Federal Territory of Lagos substituting Lagos University, library and University of Ibadan as legal repositories. The National Library Act of No. 6 of 1964 was improved by the National Library decree 29 of 1970 which established the National Library Board incorporating the deposit obligations in its subsection 4. This is due to the fact that the National Act of 1964 through applied to the then Federal Territory of Lagos did not designate the library as a depository library. Legal deposits law in Nigeria stipulates that all published materials in Nigeria and about Nigeria be submitted to the National Library Free of charge for preservation and for posterity (Gbadamosi, 2005).

In the light of the foregoing, this study intends to investigate legal deposit law awareness and compliance among publishers in Rivers State.

Statement of the Problem

Legal deposit law is beneficial to publishers in that deposited titles usually appear in the National Bibliography which is used by librarians and those in book trade for stock selection. Publishers at times approach the deposit libraries for copies of their own publication which they no longer have but have been preserved through legal deposit. It also supports a cycle of knowledge, whereby deposited works provide inspiration and source material for new books that will eventually achieve publication.

In spite of these benefits, there are speculations among the general public that publishers in Rivers State seem not to be aware of the legal deposit law. These conflicting opinions remain story in the absence of empirical evidence in this regard which therefore gives room to all manner of speculations and opinions. In the midst of these unsubstantiated speculations and opinions, this study will empirically collaborate or refute whether there is legal deposit awareness and compliance among publishers in Rivers State.

Objectives of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to study awareness and compliance to legal deposit law by book publishers in Rivers State. Specifically it seeks:

- To ascertain the level of awareness of deposit law by book publishers in Rivers State;
- To highlight the methods of publicizing the legal deposit law in Rivers State;
- To ascertain the level of compliance with the legal deposit law by publishers in Rivers State;
- To identify means of enforcing legal deposit law among book publishers in Rivers State;
- To find out book publishers perceptions of the legal deposit law; and
- To identify the problems that militates against the awareness and compliance with legal deposit law by publishers in Rivers State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were posed to guide the study:

- What is the level of awareness of legal deposit law by book publishers in Rivers State.
- What are the methods of publishing the legal deposit law in Rivers State.
- What is the level of compliance with legal deposit law by book publishers in Rivers State.
- What are the problems that militate against the awareness and compliance with legal deposit law by publishers in Rivers State.
- What are the means for enforcing legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State?
- What are the book publishers' perceptions of the deposit law?

Hypothesis

The research formulated one null hypothesis to guide the study:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the awareness and compliance with legal deposit law by book publisher in Rivers State.

Significance of the Study

The outcome of this research would be beneficial to the following persons; researchers, academics, book publishers, the National Library of Nigeria and the government. It will also add to the existing literature in this field of study.

The findings of the research are hoped to enlighten researchers on the legal deposit law in Nigeria and those who may in the near future channel their investigation towards the issue of legal deposit law in Nigeria.

This study adopted the descriptive survey research method in carrying out the investigation. This method was chosen because it permits one to describe systematically a situation or area of interest factually and accurately.

METHODS

Instrumentation

The main instrument for data collection were the questionnaire titled, “Awareness and compliance in legal deposit law by Book Publishers Questionnaire (ACLDLBPQ)”. The questionnaires has two sections and was structured using modified Likert four point rating scale. These instrument were validated. To test the reliability of the instrument of the instrument 10 copies of the questionnaire were given to the respondents in Imo State. The data obtained were tested for reliability through the use of Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The result of the reliability test showed reliability coefficient 0.77 which is high enough and adequate to justify the use of the instrument.

Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

The researcher, with four trained assistants administered the instrument to the respondents. Data collection lasted for a period of three weeks. Data collected were analyzed using mean scores for the research questions. The cut off mark for the mean scores was the significant mean score were accepted. Chi-square was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS

Forty-seven (47) copies of the questionnaire were distributed and forty-four (44) were completed, returned and found to be in usable form. This showed a 93.6% return rate. Table 1 shows the questionnaire distribution and return rate.

Table 1: Questionnaire Distribution and Return Rate

Number Distributed	Number Returned	% of Return
47	44	93.6

Data Analysis According to Research Questions

Research Question One

What is the level of awareness of legal deposit law among book publishers in Rivers State?

Table 2: Level of awareness of legal deposit law

S/N	Item Statements	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total	Mean	Decision
1.	I have the knowledge of legal deposit law	28 (112)	10 (30)	3 (6)	3 (3)	44 (151)	3.43	Accepted
2.	I am aware of the office of the legal deposit	24 (96)	13 (39)	3 (6)	4 (4)	44 (145)	3.29	Accepted
3.	I get ISSN and ISBN from bigger publishers	10 (40)	4 (12)	20 (40)	10 (10)	44 (574)	2.32	Rejected
4.	The sensitization should go beyond the point of ISSN & ISBN collection	30 (120)	10 (30)	3 (6)	1 (1)	44 (157)	3.56	Accepted
5.	I am aware of ISSBN and ISBN	31 (124)	11 (33)	2 (4)	-	44 (161)	3.66	Accepted
6.	Attending of conferences, seminars, regularly for book publishers to enhance our knowledge	23 (92)	16 (48)	2 (4)	3 (3)	44 (147)	3.34	Accepted
7.	I am aware of book publisher's benefit from legal deposit law	26 (104)	13 (39)	3 (6)	2 (2)	44 (151)	3.43	Accepted

Significant means score: 3.29

Result in Table 3 shows that all the question items such as knowledge of legal deposit law, awareness of the office of legal deposit law, attending of conferences, seminars and workshops among others are accepted of level of awareness of legal deposit law among book publishers in Rivers State, except 'I get ISSN and ISBN from bigger publishers'. This is shown by their scores which are equal to or above the significant mean score of 3.29.

Research Question Two

What are the methods of publicizing the legal deposit law in Rivers State?

Table 3: Methods of publicizing the legal deposit law

S/N	Item Statements	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total	Mean	Decision
1.	Through a letter from the National Library	3 (12)	5 (15)	14 (28)	22 (22)	44 (77)	1.75	Rejected
2.	Through colleagues	12 (84)	16 (48)	4 (8)	3 (3)	44 (143)	3.25	Accepted
3.	Through workshops and conferences	18 (72)	17 (51)	4 (8)	5 (5)	44 (148)	3.36	Accepted
4.	Through meetings of book publishers association	20 (80)	10 (30)	8 (16)	6 (6)	44 (132)	3.00	Accepted
5.	Through the Authors	17 (68)	18 (54)	6 (12)	3 (3)	44 (137)	3.11	Accepted
6.	Through the Book sellers	6 (12)	4 (12)	13 (26)	21 (21)	44 (83)	1.88	Rejected

Significant mean score: 2.73

Result in Table 3 shows that all the question items such as through colleagues, through workshops and conferences, through meetings of book publishers association, through the authors are accepted as the methods of publicizing legal deposit law in Rivers State, except. ‘Through a lesser from the National Library and through the book sellers.’ This is shown by their scores which are equal to or above the significant mean score of 2.73.

Research Question Three

What is the level of compliance of legal deposit law by book publishers in Rivers State?

Table 4: Level of Compliance with Legal Deposit Law

S/N	Item Statements	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total	Mean	Decision
1.	I comply each time I publish my book	27 (108)	11 (33)	4 (8)	2 (2)	44 (151)	3.43	Accepted
2.	I deposit the required number of legal deposit law	30 (120)	12 (36)	2 (4)	- (-)	44 (160)	3.64	Accepted
3.	I comply only when task force comes around	25 (100)	13 (39)	3 (6)	3 (3)	44 (148)	3.36	Accepted
4.	I comply to legal deposit law during book fairs	6 (24)	4 (12)	9 (18)	25 (25)	4 (79)	1.80	Rejected
5.	I comply when I publish books for sale	24 (96)	13 (39)	3 (6)	4 (4)	44 (145)	3.30	Accepted
6.	I deposit usually after receiving claim and demand letters	6 (24)	68 (24)	10 (20)	20 (40)	44 (88)	2.00	Rejected

Significant means score: 2.92

Result in Table 4 shows that the publishers indicated that they always deposit the required number of copies (3.64), comply each time they publish their books (3.43), comply with the legal deposit when there is use of taskforce (3.36), and when they publish books for sale (3.30). However, they do not comply during book fairs (1.80) and do not deposit when they receive claims and demand letter (2.00).

Research Question Four

What are the effective strategies for enforcing legal deposit law among book publishers in Rivers State?

Table 5: Effective Strategies for Enforcing Legal Deposit Law

S/N	Item Statements	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total	Mean	Decision
1.	There should be regular collection by the National Library	26 (104)	11 (33)	4 (8)	3 (3)	44 (148)	3.36	Accepted
2.	Penalties should be stiffer for defaulters	24 (96)	14 (42)	2 (4)	4 (4)	44 (146)	3.32	Accepted

3.	There should be publishers association in the state	8 (32)	4 (12)	20 (40)	12 (12)	44 (96)	2.18	Rejected
4.	Monitoring of ISBN usage	22 (88)	14 (42)	5 (10)	3 (3)	44 (143)	3.25	Accepted
5.	Regular conferences and Seminars for authors and publisher in the state	23 (92)	16 (48)	3 (6)	2 (2)	44 (148)	3.36	Accepted
6.	Mushroom printers should be checked	24 (96)	13 (39)	4 (8)	3 (3)	44 (146)	3.32	Accepted
7.	I am aware of book publisher's benefit from legal deposit law	26 (104)	13 (39)	3 (6)	2 (2)	44 (151)	3.43	Accepted

Significant mean score: 3.13

Research Question Five

What are the book publishers' perceptions toward legal deposit law?

Table 6: Book Publisher's perception towards legal deposit law

S/N	Item Statements	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total	Mean	Decision
1.	It enhances the National Library	20 (80)	14 (42)	5 (10)	15 (15)	44 (137)	3.11	Accepted
2.	It creates national development any book publishers	18 (72)	17 (51)	6 (12)	3 (3)	44 (138)	3.14	Accepted
3.	It creates access to information about national bibliography	22 (88)	12 (36)	6 (12)	4 (4)	44 (140)	3.18	Accepted
4.	The deposit office is far from my office	8 (32)	6 (18)	14 (28)	16 (16)	44 (94)	2.14	Rejected
5.	Sensitization is far from being reached	20 (80)	16 (48)	4 (8)	4 (4)	44 (140)	3.18	Accepted
6.	Deposit copies should be reduced	10 (40)	8 (24)	14 (28)	12 (12)	44 (104)	2.36	Rejected
7.	There should be regular sharing of ideas, session between publishers and the National Library	21 (84)	14 (6)	3 (6)	6 (6)	44 (138)	3.14	Accepted

Significant mean score: 2.89

The Result of Table 6 shows that enhancement of National Library, creation of national development amongst publishers, creation of access to information about National bibliography, sensitization is far from being reached, and regular meetings between the National Library and the publishers are the publishers' perception towards office is far from their offices and that deposit copies shod be reduced because these items have mean scores below the significant mean score of 2.89.

Research Question Six

What are the problems that militate against the awareness and compliance with legal deposit law among publishers in Rivers State?

Table 7: Problems militating against the Awareness and Compliance with Legal Deposit Law by Publishers in Rivers State

S/N	Item Statements	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total	Mean	Decision
1.	I don't have knowledge of the legal deposit law	8 (32)	4 (12)	14 (28)	18 (18)	44 (90)	2.05	Rejected
2.	The law is not enforced	24 (96)	11 (33)	4 (8)	5 (5)	44 (142)	3.23	Accepted
3.	The penalty is not stiff	21 (84)	13 (39)	6 (12)	4 (4)	44 (139)	3.16	Accepted
4.	The publishers are non-challant about the law	22 (88)	14 (42)	5 (10)	3 (3)	44 (143)	3.25	Accepted
5.	Publishers can use ISBN that is not issued by the National Library	18 (72)	16 (48)	5 (10)	5 (5)	44 (135)	3.06	Accepted
6.	The National Library cannot detect fake ISBN	20 (80)	16 (48)	3 (6)	5 (5)	44 (135)	3.16	Accepted

Significant mean score: 2.99

Table 7 shows that the publishers accepted that 'the law is not enforced, the penalty is not stiff, the publishers are non-challant about the law, Publishers can use ISBN that is not issued by the National Library, and the National Library cannot detect fake ISBN' as problems that militate against the awareness and compliance with legal deposit law in Rivers State.

Hypothesis Testing

Research hypothesis one

There is no significant difference in the mean scores of level of awareness and level of compliance with legal deposit law among book publishers in Rivers State.

Table 8: Summary of Chi-Square analysis on the awareness and compliance with legal deposit law by book publishers in Rivers State

Variable	No of Items	Cal - χ^2	Tab - χ^2	DF	P	Decision
Awareness and compliance with legal deposit law	6	38.50	28.87	18	0.05	Significant

From the result, we can see that the cal- χ^2 (38.50) is greater than the tab - χ^2 (28.87) at 0.05 level of significance, so the null hypothesis (H_0) that there is no significant relationship between the awareness and compliance with legal deposit law by book publishers in Rivers State is rejected. This means that we shall accept the alternate hypothesis (H_1) and conclude that there is

significant relationship between the awareness and compliance with legal deposit law by book publishers in Rivers State.

DISCUSSION

The results of the study in Table 1 show that knowledge of legal deposit law, aware of the office, attending of conferences, seminar and workshops are the level of awareness of legal deposit law among book publishers in Rivers State. This result is in accordance with the findings of Akidi's (2012) research that shows that the highest level of awareness was recorded for those authors who have been associated with research and authoring for more than twenty-six years with (22.3%). Shuaibu-Adamu (1999) reported that some publishers who claimed ignorance of the deposit law showed outright refusal to comply even when handed with the copy of the law.

More so Result in Table 2 shows that the use of taskforce, book fair, during claim and demand of letters are the level of compliance with legal deposit law among book publishers. This result is in conformity with the findings of Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) who opined that book publishers should deposit three copies of every publication with the National Library.

Lariervere (2010) asserted that a very important question related to the implementation of legal deposit legislation is the issue of enforcement. Thus to be effective, a law must be enforceable, and to be enforceable, a law must include penalty it contravened.

Also, result in Table 3 shows that Regular drive, penalties, Book Publishers Association, organizing conferences, and seminars are effective strategies for enforcing legal deposit law among book publishers in Rivers State. This result agreed with Edoka (2000) who opined that libraries are authorized by law to receive free of charge from publishers or printers specified number of copies of all new publication/editions within the country. But this is not adhered to so in most cases, regular drives and penalties are used. This agrees with Shuaibu-Adamu and Essien (2007) who opined that Section 4(4) of the Act, which provides for the penalty clause for non-compliance, has never been enforced and should be reviewed and vigorously enforced in a more stringent way by prosecuting defaulters to form a deterrent to others.

Gbadamosi (2005) stated that in consideration of the weak enforcement of legal deposit legislation, all the stakeholders (publishers, authors, printers, etc.) should partake in strategies adopted for effect implementation of legal deposit obligations.

Result in Table 4 show that enhancing National Library, creating national development, creating mutual understanding, creating information, access and preservation are the book Publisher's perception towards legal deposit law. This result is in accordance with Davidson (1981) who identified the benefits obtainable from legal deposit scheme when he stated that the scheme was to create a comprehensive. Collection of the national publications in various formats and to support the compilation and publication of an authoritative national bibliography, so as to ensure their preservation and easy access to them. Also Ofodile (2007) is of the view that it helps in creating awareness of the publishing output of the country.

Finally, the problems militating against the awareness and compliance with legal deposit law by publishers in Rivers State include that 'the law is not enforced, the penalty is not stiff, the publishers are non-challent about the law, publishers can use ISBN that are fake, and the National Library cannot detect fake ISBN' are problems that militate against the awareness and compliance with legal deposit law in Rivers State. These items collaborate the works of Ogunidipe (2005), Gbadamosi (2005) and Lariervere (2010). However, the finding of this study refutes the work of Shuaib-Adamu (1999) that having no knowledge of the legal deposit law is a

problem for non-compliance. This is because every book published has an ISBN and therefore, every publisher is aware of the law.

CONCLUSION

This study investigated the awareness and compliance to legal deposit law by book publishers in Rivers State of Nigeria. The study concludes that book publishers in Rivers State are aware of the legal deposit law in Nigeria. This can be seen in their responses in Table 1 where the level of acceptance is higher than the level of non-acceptance. The methods of publicizing legal deposit law in Rivers State are through colleagues, workshops and conference, meetings of book publishers association, and authors.

The book publishers in Rivers State do comply with the legal deposit law. This can be seen in their responses in Table 2. However, some of them comply only when force is applied (only when the task force comes around). The book publisher in Rivers State indicated that the effective strategies adopted in enforcing legal deposit law among them include regular drive, having book publishers association, organizing conferences, and seminars, and mushroom printers should be checked. The book publishers' perception towards legal deposit include enhancement of the national library, creation of national development among the publishers, creating access to information about national bibliography, sensitization about the law is far from being reached, and regular sharing ideas sessions with the national library.

The problems that militate against the awareness and compliance with the legal deposit law among book publishers in Rivers State are majorly that the law is not enforced, the penalty is not stiff, the publishers are non-challent about the law, publishers can use ISBN that is not issued by the national library; and the national library cannot detect fake ISBN.

Recommendations

From the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

- Workshops, seminars and conferences should be organized to enable book publishers to be aware and understand the importance of the legal deposit law of the National Library of Nigeria.
- There should be a book publishers association to enable members to be aware of and also know those who comply with the law.
- The National Library should have sessions where they share ideas with book publishers.
- There should be stiffer and enforceable penalty on non-compliance with the legal deposit law.
- There should be a law on regular raids on bookshops to ascertain ISBN not issued by the National Library.

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