

Chapter 17

The Library at the Centre of Academic Development

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Introduction .

The University of Lagos Library came into existence soon after the University of Lagos Act was enacted in April, 1962. This library which opened to readers in 1965 has built over the years, a fine and comprehensive collection of research and teaching materials in all the major fields of knowledge in support of the three cardinal foci of the University of Lagos, viz: Teaching/Learning, Research and Community Services.ⁱ This role has enabled it to occupy its rightful place as an academic library. Its importance as the nerve centre of academic activities has continually made it one of the targets of meaningful development in the University.

The library which first started on the third floor of a former secondary school building at Idi - Arab a, where the university main campus was temporarily located moved to its present building in August, 1965. The purpose built building was designed to house library information resources and accommodate 800 readers. Various sections including a bindery section, photocopying unit, audio-visual section and other basic facilities expected in a University Library of best standing were accommodated in the library design. The first University Librarian was Miss Elizabeth Mary Moys. She held the office from 1963 to 1965. She began the development of the library collections with the active collaboration of some academic staff. Other senior members of the library staff, who worked with her at this early stage, included Mr. C. C. Momoh, Mr. S. A. Orimoloye, Mr. H. A. Odetoyinbo, Mr. A. Nitechi, Mr. B. Amaechi, Miss Adediji, Odunlade, Olatise