

Developing Countries and the Need for Virtual Libraries: Problems and Prospects

L. A. Ogunsola and T. O. Okusaga*

Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile – Ife, Nigeria

E-mail: logunsola@yahoo.com

**Fatiu Ademola Akesode Library, Lagos State University, PMB 001,*

Lasu, Ojo, Lagos State, Nigeria

E-mail: okusagato2005@yahoo.com

KEYWORDS Virtual libraries; digital libraries; electronic libraries; library facilities- developing countries

ABSTRACT The paper examines the poor state of library facilities in developing countries' educational system and concludes that standard libraries are either non-existent or are in a deplorable state. This has resulted in the poor quality of graduates of developing countries' universities, and the competencies demonstrated by university graduates are "lowering at an alarming rate". The poor state of academic libraries was implicated as a major cause. The plan to implement a national digital library for developing countries' higher institutions is as timely as significant. The concept and necessity for virtual (digital) library and its advantages are carefully examined. The paper points out that this type of electronic library resources can be shared by all institutions at a fraction of the total cost required to support all the physical libraries within the higher education system in the country. The problems to be faced by the introduction of virtual libraries in our institutions were enumerated and solutions proffered. In conclusion, the paper suggests some measures to be taken by various governments in developing countries like Nigeria for successful execution of virtual (digital) libraries.