

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR PUBLISHING AND LEGAL DEPOSIT COMPLIANCE

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ABSTRACT: *This paper started by encouraging participants to pour creative ideas in writing and publishing, acquiring ISBN/ISSN for easy access and depositing same for posterity. It goes on to examine the developmental stages of ISBN/ISSN and legal deposit. It discusses the benefits of ISBN/ISSN and legal deposit to librarians and those in the publishing business, it evaluates the level of compliance and concludes that, though many publishers do comply there is still a lot to be done by the National Library and the publishers. It recommends that National Library should organise more seminars and workshops to educate publishers and sensitise them on the importance of ISBN/ISSN and legal deposit, that legal deposit nothing should be tied to the issuance of ISBN/ISSN, to enforce compliance.*

KEYWORDS: international, standard, publishing, legal, deposit, compliance

INTRODUCTION

Ideas and creative works can be preserved and safe guided by putting them down through writing. One of the most beautiful book to read is “Die Empty” by Todd Henry (2013). The author was inspired to write the book after attending a business meeting. When the director asked the audience. “Where is the richest land in the world?” someone in the audience answered “oil rich Gulf States”. Another added Diamond Mines in Africa. Then the director said “No it is the cemetery. The cemetery is the richest land in the world, because millions of people have departed, and they have carried many valuable ideas that did not come to light, and benefited others. It is all in the cemetery where they are buried.” Inspired by this answer, Todd Henry wrote his book “Die empty” (Henry, 2013).

The author in his work did his best to motivate people to bring out their ideas and knowledge potential in their communities and turn them into something useful before it is too late. Likewise, many have died with self-published works and ideas that could not move beyond their immediate territory, because of lack of ISBN/ISSN, and the foresight of depositing them for publicity and posterity. Putting one’s ideas down in writing cannot be over emphasised. Authors make a lot of money and gain popularity when their books are published, well circulated and preserved for posterity and that is the role the National Library plays.

International standard book numbering for publishing and legal deposit law is beneficial to publishers in that it gives a publication an international standard and when deposited titles appear in the National Bibliography, it is used by Libraries and those in the book trade. Despite the overriding benefits of ISBN, many publishers still publish without international standard

numbers and regard deposit as an expense which they will prefer to avoid. Knowing that books inspire, motivate, build nations and the best retirement partner, it is important to establish the importance of International Standard for book publishing and legal deposit and to determine the level of compliance in Nigeria among publishers.

DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES OF ISBN/ISSN

Publication is sharing one's ideas with someone else, and when it is distributed or circulated and read one's idea enter into the reader's consciousness and resides there. This is actually why books are written and published to impact on the consciousness of readers. The same reason one speaks to be heard, to be noticed, and influence to however minutely the world around us. Countries possess publishing standard the quality of which is worthy of being called international publishing standard. The practice is that an author/writer who has a work identifies publishers, develop a manuscript, approaches publishers and introduces the work. (Abdullahi, 2018). The publisher(s) appoints editors to review the work, and if the work fits a given criterion, a contract is drawn and assignment of international standard book numberings will be made (Abdullahi, 2018). That therefore means that getting published gives your work credibility.

International Standard book number was developed in the middle of 1960s by W. H. Smith, a prominent British Book Retailer, while he was computerising management processes (Kanel, 2008). The International standard book numbering system was introduced in the United Kingdom in 1967 and in the United States in 1968. The system allows the UK and US book industries to keep track of all their titles (Kanel, 2008). The UK ISBN system was placed before a working group of the International organisation for standardisation (ISO) to investigate its potentials as an International Bibliographic tracking system (Kanel, 2008). In 1970, ISO approved the ISBN as ISO standard 2108. The standard that was in ten (10) digits, was updated in 2005 with the requirement that all ISBN be converted by 1st January 2007 (Kanel, 2008).

When the 10-digit system was adopted, people never thought (ISBN) would be used in 166 countries in e-books, online materials, individual chapters and so on Green (2015). The 10 digit ISBN identified books by computer readable numbers could be read by software and automatically checked for accuracy Kanel (2008) because of the need for expansion Kanel says ISBN was converted into 13-digit barcode identifiers by adding a 978 prefix and recalculating the check digits. Quoting (Kanel, 2008), extensively, the 13 digit ISBN consist of five parts separated by space or highest, each with a specific meaning. The number is preceded by the letters ISBN so it is easily identifiable.

A typical ISBN 13 digit looks like this 978-0-313-33040-7 the first part the 978 prefix is the European Product Number (EAN) product code indicating a unique title, edition, digital publication, or other items. Its counterpart is the 12-digit Universal Product Code (UPC) used in America (Kanel 2008). The second part of the ISBN is the group or country identifier. It indicates where the publication was produced; O is for the United States, while 978 is for Nigeria. It is one to three digits long, to accommodate the hundreds of countries now using the ISBN system (Kanel 2008).

The third part of the ISBN is the publisher identifier, its length depends on the number of titles that the publisher intends to print (Kanel 2008).The fourth group is the title identifier which is

assigned by the individual publisher to each title. Publishers must purchase blocks of 10,100 or 1000 numbers from the National ISBN Agency which is the National Library in the case of Nigeria. The length of the publisher and title identifiers depend on the size of the block purchased. The publisher identifier and title identifier must total eight digits (Kanel 2008). A publisher with a large number of printed materials will have a short publisher identifier to allow for a large block of title identifier. A small publisher will have a long identifier and a small block of titles. The final digit is the check digit obtained through a mathematical formula based on all previous digits in the ISBN, the check digit indicates whether the ISBN is correct or otherwise. The formula is built into all software that handles ISBN (Green 2015). It is there so the coding are automatically checked on entry to detect number transpositions or other typographical errors * destination

International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) do for serials what ISBN do for books. It provides serial publishers, subscription agency and Librarians a tool for communicating basic information efficiently without error (Rajan and Ramaswami, 1972). The ISSN aids ordering, shipping, issues, claiming and billing. Both International Standard book numbering and legal deposit are the statutory roles of National Library which they carry out in order to ensure universal and equitable access to information materials, and this is a cornerstone in the development of a knowledge based society.

Legal Deposit Law

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 be Publication Act by order 29 of 1951 (Gbadamosi, 2005). By ordinance No 13 of 1950, University of Ibadan was conferred the only National depository in Nigeria (Gbadamosi, 2005). Different states of the Federation enacted their own legal deposit laws but the Federal Government by a legal notice No 112 of 1964 restricted its law to Federal Tertiary of Lagos substituting Lagos University Library and University of Ibadan as legal depositories (Mmejiri, 2018). The National Library Acts No.6 of 1964 was enhanced by the National Library decree do 29 of 1970 which established the National Library Board, incorporating the deposit obligations in its subsections. Legal Deposit 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). Legal deposit helps to ensure that the published record of human memory, creativity and discovery is acquired by the nation, so that it can be preserved and made available to future generation. Lariviere (2000) defines legal deposit as a statutory obligation which requires that any organisation, commercial, or public and any individual producing any type of documentation in multiple copies should deposit one or more copies with a recognised National Institute. In Nigeria, legal deposit stipulates that three copies of any document published should be deposited to the National Library (Besser and Malssen, 2010). It is accepted that the purpose of legal deposit is to ensure that the nation's published output and its intellectual property and future published heritage is preserved as an archive for research purposes and the use of future generations.

The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 reaffirmed existing provisions for the deposit of printed publications whereby a copy of each book or serial or other printed publication which is published in the UK is required to be deposited free of charge, in the British Library (Tibane, 2005). In addition, five other libraries (the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales, and the

University Libraries of Oxford, Cambridge and Trinity College Dublin) are each entitled to receive on request, one free copy of any book or other printed publication published in the UK. These libraries together with the British Library, are collectively known as the Legal Deposit Libraries (Tibane, 2005). The author noted that the distribution of published materials to the depository is the responsibility of the publisher and author (for author – published work).

Deposit Laws vary widely with respect to the number of copies required for legal deposit purposes. Instances range from one copy to 18 copies (Tibane, 2005). The time allowed for deposit varies, in present laws from pre-distribution to as much as nine months' post distribution. For example, Italy, Luxembourg and Russia specify delivery of copies before distribution or sale (Tibane, 2005). The Swedish Law directs that copies of books produced during every half calendar year are to be deposited within three months. The period most commonly quoted by most legal deposit laws is one month after publication.

Tibane (2005) states that, the earlier the deposit the better; both to meet the expectations of users who assume that the national library is bound to have a copy of a national imprint upon publication, and to permit prompt listing in the national bibliography. Even if the national bibliography is published as frequent as quarterly or yearly, the longer the delay on deposit, the greater the time lag before the appearance of the record on the bibliography. Tibane(2005) asserts that there is no valid reason for the delay in deposit by commercial publishers . IFLA (2002:11) suggests that the sooner the item is deposited the better, both to meet the needs of the users seeking new publications and to permit prompt listing in the national bibliography.

Importance of International Standard Numbering And Legal Deposit

International Standard Book Number/International Standard Serial Number (ISBN/ISSN) help authors and publishers to track their intellectual output. The introduction of ISBN has made ordering of information materials simple for librarians and those in the book trade (Elfi-Ip handbook on copyright and related issues for libraries 2009). The chaotic manual labour and intensive order forms upon which all details of titles, authors, publishers etc. that had to be carefully reproduced has been eliminated by the introduction of ISBN/ISSN which offers a basic identifier with a common structure that could be easily used by all participants of the book trade.

The introduction of ISBN/ISSN has made it possible for each edition of books produced by a particular publisher to be identified by a unique numerical string. The string remains associated with that specific book for all time, and can be used reliably to order it in any country. ISBN/ISSN has helped to facilitate electronic data exchange by distinguishing between particular editions and series. It highlights specific qualities in a publication for example differentiating between paper back and hardback and it is also used to differentiate between book and serial materials (Grifsiths, 2013).

ISBN/ISSN give a publication credibility, for example, in my institution your publication is adjudged to be reputable when it contains International Standard numbers. The ISBN/ISSN is machine readable in the form of a 13 digit EAN 13 barcode. This is faster and reduces mistakes. ISBN/ISSN facilitates compilation and updating of book-trade directories and bibliographic databases, such as books-in-print, catalogues, etc. Information on available books can be found easily (Elfi-Ip handbook on copyright and related issues for libraries 2009). Correct use of the ISBN/ISSN allows different product forms and edition of a book, whether printed or digital to

be differentiated clearly, ensuring that customers receive the version that they require (Elfi-Ip handbook o copyright and related issues for libraries 2009).

Benefits of Legal Deposit

The National Libraries and other deposit libraries have the legal right to preserve all materials lodged with them, therefore legal deposit ensures that:

Works of authors and publishers survive for the use of future generation (legal deposit Australia 2012). Information materials deposited are made available through National Bibliography. Commercial and self-published works receive wide exposures. Librarians can access and order Bibliographic records for published works. Titles are included in online indexing databases.

The National Library provide the cataloguing in publication (CIP) services free of charge to publishers. Realising the benefits of ISBN/ISSN and Legal Deposits one can agree that they are too important for an author or publisher to ignore or avoid.

Challenges of Compliance in Nigeria

Evidences from literatures and interviews conducted by the authors revealed that about 94% of publishers comply with International Standard Book Numbering and Legal Deposit, hence they cannot deposit materials without ISBN/ISSN. Mmejiri (2018), Akidi (2012) and Tabane (2005) agreed that a good number of authors and publishers comply with the legal deposit law and that they get the awareness and encouragement through seminars, workshops. 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. This group reported in 1999 are still in existence till date, who decides to follow shortcut in publishing. Mmejiri (2018) who agreed that majority of the publishers comply stated that most of them comply only when visited by National Library taskforce, during book fair or when demand letters are served. Lariere (2000) asserted that a very important question related to the implementation of legal deposit legislation is the issue of enforcement. He added that for the law to be effective it must be enforceable, and to be enforceable a law must include penalty if contravened. Adamu (2006) states that section 4(4) of the Act which provides for the penalty clause for noncompliance, has never been enforced and should be reviewed and vigorously enforced in a more stringent way by prosecuting defaulters to serve as deterrent to others. Ogundipe (2005), Gbadamosi (2005) Lariere (2000) and Mmeji (2018) conclude that the low level of compliance to legal deposit law and by extension ISBN/ISSN in Nigeria is caused by the non-enforcement of penalty on publishers and authors non-challant attitude about the legal deposit law.

CONCLUSION

Legal deposit and ISBN/ISSN are beneficial to publishers in that deposited titles appear in the National bibliographies which are used by librarians and those in the book trade for selection and ordering. Publishers at times approach National Library for copies of books which they no longer have but have been preserved through Legal Deposit. They also support a cycle of knowledge whereby deposited information resources that are accessed by the use of ISBN/ISSN provide inspiration and source materials for new books that will eventually be published. Therefore, failure to acquire ISBN/ISSN for your publications and to deposit same in the Deposit Libraries will lead to valuable information being lost and becoming inaccessible to the public now and in future.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are hereby made; -

1. Legal Deposit laws should be reviewed and enforced in a more stringent way.
2. Authors and publishers acquired ISBN/ISSN for publications without depositing same. Hence the researchers recommend that legal deposit should be tied to ISBN/ISSN since, ISBN/ISSN identifies the edition, title, and can be used to track materials published;
3. Authors/publishers that fail to deposit copies of publications should not be issued ISBN/ISSN for further publications.

National bibliography should be made readily available to Librarians, Book Vendors and everybody in the book trade, that will help make quick market for those that deposited and defaulters should be religiously disciplined through established legal procedures.

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