

A REPORT PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL SECRETARY – DR. OGOCHUKWU T. EMIRI AT THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE

001. INTRODUCTION

It is my honor and privilege to give this report on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA). This report shall be the first from the Secretary's desk since this EXCO assumed office, therefore shall cover activities of 2023 and 2024. May I, on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Committee, thank very specially all esteemed members of our noble Association for their confidence in our ability to serve our great Association at this time. We remain grateful and committed to the ideals, beliefs, and values of our great Association. We celebrate very specially the effort of our past leaders, EXCOS and founding fathers of the LIS profession in Nigeria. You remain our heroes and mentors. Kudos to you all!

002. EXCO ACTIVITIES

Immediately after taking over in July 2022, the Executive organized a training programme for the newly elected officers of the Association. It was during this training that the individual vision of the members of the Executives were harmonized. In that meeting, the President and Chairman of Council, Pst. Dominic Omokaro rolled out his clear-cut vision/strategies for building a new NLA for the next 3 years with the caption: "I have a Vision: Setting the Agenda". Salient points of the vision include: NLA must be competitive nationally, regionally and globally; creating a database/register for the Association; creating and running a standardized NLA Secretariat; ensuring that NLA runs quality conferences and produce quality papers making all NLA conferences and AGM real business; organizing leadership workshop from time to time for members; creating and establishing a faculty stature Secretariat; work to improve NLA finances; setting targets like having officers dedicated to driving the payment of annual dues; revisiting the modules for the award of FNLA; engagement of stakeholders; and embarking on regular press conferences. It is important to note that so much has been realized within the past 2 years with the cooperation and assistance of leaders and all members.

003. VISITS/COLLABORATIONS

The President in August 2022 immediately paid a familiarization visit to NLA Secretariat to intimate the NLA staff of his vision to have a functional and more efficient Secretariat by erecting a global structure that emphasizes timeliness, discipline, respect and hard work. In addition, the President and ExcOs have engaged in a lot of visits and collaborations since this EXCOs assumed office. This essentially is as a result of the believe that we need the support and cooperation of stakeholders in the LIS sub-sector to succeed. It is in this spirit that necessitated visits to the National Library of Nigeria, Librarians Registration Council of Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Education, National Assembly, Head of Service, Federal Government of Nigeria, National Universities Commission (NUC), TETFUND, Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Center and a host of others. The EXCO will continue to work with Stakeholders and friends of the Association to build the desired NLA of our dream.

004. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The NLA through the able representation of the President have been very visible in all regional and international activities. The President attended the 2022 IFLA that took place in Dublin, Ireland from 26th to 29th July 2022 and it was a huge success. This helped to solve a lot of issues faced by the members during International trips as well as made the Association's presence to be well recognized. Also in 2023, the President represented the Association again in the 2023 IFLA that took place in The Netherlands and it was a huge success. At the regional level, the Association has also participated and excelled in all her activities. In 2023 particularly, through the assistance of Dr. Nkem Osiugwe (Director of Human Capacity Development and Training, AFLIA), five (5) Librarians were sponsored to the AFLIA Conference. They include – **Dr. Fatimah Jibril Abduldayan, Dr. Blessing Ntamu, Dr. Florence Amaka Nwafor, Dr. Basiru Adetomiwa and Omorodion Okuonghae.**

As at today, it is important to mention that the NLA is not indebted to IFLA or AFLIA in fulfilling her responsibilities. Today, all paid up members can use the Association's code when needed.

005. INDUCTION AND PARTICIPATION OF THE NLA INTO THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL BODY OF NIGERIA (APBN)

The NLA was officially inducted into the Association of Professional Body of Nigeria. This meeting, which was held in Lagos in November 2022, had in attendance the President, National Secretary, and the National PRO. Since inauguration, NLA has actively participated in all APBN activities as well as met all financial obligations that are expected of our noble Association. This has without doubt made the Nigerian Library Association to be visible and active in the Committee of professional Bodies in Nigeria. The benefits that come with the induction and full involvement of NLA in the activities of APBN are endless.

006. CREATION OF NLA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE/REGISTER

The process of creating an NLA membership database/register has been commenced by this EXCO. Members are expected to fill an online template, which have been circulated to all State Chapters in our various platforms. As at today, over 3,000 members have fully completed this form. We encourage those who have not done so to do so immediately.

007. SECTIONS OF THE NLA

In order to streamline the activities of the various sections of the Nigerian Library Association, the office of the National Secretary came up with schedule of activities to be followed strictly by all sections for 2023 and 2024. The thirteen (13) sections of the NLA are:

1. Academic and Research Libraries (ARL)
2. Association of Government Libraries (AGOL)
3. Association of New Media in Librarians in Nigeria (ANLON)
4. Association of Women Librarians in Nigeria (AWLIN)
5. Cataloging, Classification and Indexing (CAT & CLASS)
6. Nigerian Association of Law Libraries (NALL)
7. National Association of Library and Information Science Educators (NALISE)
8. Public Libraries Section (PTS)
9. Information Technology Section (ITS)

10. Nigerian School Library Association (NSLA)
11. Association of Libraries for the Virtually Handicapped (ALVH)
12. Preservation and the Conservation Section (PCS)
13. Medical Libraries Section (MLS)

Proposed Timetable of Activities for 2023 and 2024

2023	2024
S/N	S/N
1. CAT and CLASS	1. CAT & CLASS
2. ITS	2. ITS
3. NSLA	3. NSLA
4. NALISE	4. PCS
5. ARL	5. MLS
6. AWLIN	6. PLS
7. NSLA	7. NALL
8. ANLON	8. ALVH
	9. AWLIN
	10. AGOL
	11. NALISE

Note: State Chapters are free to organize their conferences and workshops at a convenient date but not before the month of July (National Conference).

008. LIBRARY WEEK

The 2022 Library Week was well organized and publicized across the various States of the Federation. This may have been as a result of the topic of the Library Week, which was on Revitalizing School Library System in Nigeria. The 2022 Library Week was marked in several States of the Federation in form of workshops, conferences, seminars, visits to schools, press releases, press conferences, etc. Furthermore, in preparation for the 2023 Library Week, a 3-man Committee was set up to meet and propose a theme for the 2023 Library Week. The suggested and approved theme for the 2023 Library Week is – Revitalizing Public Library System for National Development. The event was held in November, 2023. The Council has

recommended a theme for 2024 Library at the just concluded Council meeting in Port Harcourt. All State Chapters are encouraged to mobilise their members as usual.

009. CORE CURRICULUM MINIMUM ACADEMIC STANDARD (CCMAS)

The NLA has secured victory in moving the LIS profession from the Faculty of Education to the Faculty of the Social Sciences. This may not be the ultimate for our profession, but it is a better placement when compared to the Faculty of Education. It is the vision of the President and EXCO to continue to dialogue for a faculty status for the Library and Information Science department in tertiary institutions in Nigeria, which has been achieved in some institutions in Nigeria such as Lagos State University (LASU). Today, about seventeen (17) Library Schools have been moved to the Faculty of the Social Sciences. It is important here to appreciate the President of the NLA, Pastor Dominic Omokaro and all distinguished leaders of the Association for their sacrifice, commitment, doggedness, in achieving this feat. We are proud of you all!

010. NLA WEBSITE/ APPOINTMENT OF A WEBMASTER

With the able leadership of our President it is noteworthy to report that a new website has been built by BoldScholar Nigeria Limited for the Association at no cost based on his goodwill. This is a highly commendable gesture by BoldScholars for the Association. EXCO and Council have approved a new webmaster for the Association in the person of Mr. Patrick U. Agwu (Chairman, IT Section). All State Chapters are advised to populate their various subdomains in the website. Furthermore, with the resignation of the Coordinator of the NLA Digital Communication Crew, Mr. David Oguche, Mr. Patrick U. Agwu, has been appointed and approved as the Coordinator of the NLA Digital Communication Crew.

011. FELLOWSHIP OF THE NIGERIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (FNLA AWARDS)

In 2023, the FNLA award was taken over by Council and the following distinguished members of the Association emerged as Fellows of the Nigerian Library Association.

- i. Prof. (Mrs.) Chinwe Anonubi – National Librarian
- ii. Alhaji Wase Jafaru – Registrar LRCN

- iii. Dr. (Mrs.) Nkem Osiugwe
- iv. Dr. (Mrs.) A. Aboyade
- v. Dr. (Mrs.) Adetoun Oyelade
- vi. Prof. (Mrs.) Roseline Echezona
- vii. Dr. (Mrs.) G. N. Onyia.

In the bid to address several complaints from members especially leaders of the Association, the EXCO decided to embark on a review of the FNLA award. This review was not intended to water down on the prestige/honour that this highest award received by members of the Association who have distinguished themselves over the years, but was intended to critically look at some grey areas associated with the award.

The Committee members for the review of the award of FNLA includes:

- i. Hajia Namat Abdulraham – Chairperson
- ii. Dr. Lawal Umar – Member
- iii. Dr. A. Adeleke – Member
- iv. Prof. Munir Kamba – Member
- v. Mr. Patrick Ugwu – Member
- vi. Dr. Sophia Adeyeye – Member

Specific recommendations approved by Council are as follows:

- i. Must have at least TEN (10) years post qualification experience in Library and Information Science practice/teaching.
- ii. Must have contributed immensely to the frontiers of knowledge/practice in the Library and information profession, either through professional publications or in other ways such as practical Library Services that impact on users and the society. That is, he or she should have made some outstanding innovations in the profession.
- iii. Must be seen to be participating actively in the Association’s activities at all levels. For the candidate to have held elective position at the State/National level will be an added advantage.

- iv. The candidate must have been a paid up member of the Association for 10 consecutive years, having paid the dues as at when due according to the National Treasurer's records applications with gaps in payment of membership dues shall NOT be processed.
- v. Who has held or is holding a national/international position, and has used or is using same to help/benefit individual members and/or the Association in general, either at state or national level, with documented evidence, could be considered for the award if nominated by his/her chapter or section.
- vi. Must be of proven integrity and highly respected by colleagues within and outside the LIS profession.
- vii. Shall not be a current/sitting member of Council, EXCO or Awards committee.
- viii. Must have attended a minimum of five out of ten national conferences before his/her nomination could be considered.
- ix. Any information found to be false disqualifies the candidate.

Other recommendations:

- i. Fellowship shall automatically be confirmed on an elected President who is not a fellow by the immediate past President.
- ii. Fellowship award shall be withdrawn from members in active service who stopped paying NLA annual dues, attending conferences for consecutive three (3) years after receiving award.
- iii. NLA Fellows Award can be withdrawn by the Association on account of professional misconduct or behavior unbecoming of a Fellow.

012. OTHER AWARDS WON IN 2023

- 1. **Library Week Award**
The Library week award was won by Edo and Niger States.
- 2. **Best State Chapter Award**
This Award was won by Rivers State.
- 3. **Best PhD Thesis for 2021**
This award was won by two distinguished members: Dr. Fatimah J. Abduldayan and Dr. Ngozi Osinchukwu.

013. NLA BRAND AMBASSADORS AWARDS

In the bid to enhance greater participation and recognition of esteemed members of the Association in various areas in the LIS subsector, this EXCO ably led by Pastor Dominic Omokaro initiated an award called NLA Brand Ambassadors. As an NLA Brand Ambassador, recipients are expected to hoist the NLA flag in their offices after their investiture in a special yearly dinner night hosted separately from the Annual Conference/General Meeting. In 2023, nine (9) distinguished members were considered. They include:

1. Dr. (Mrs.) Neemat Abdulrahim – (Director, FCDE, Abuja)
2. Prof. (Mrs.) Chinwe Anonubi - (National Librarian/CEO National Library of Nigeria)
3. Mr. Wase Jafaru – (Registrar/CEO, Librarians Registration Council, Abuja)
4. Dr. Justina Kotso - (Rector, Isa Mustapha Agwai Polytechnic, Lafia, Nasarawa State)
5. Otunba Olarewanju Adesuyi – (Founder/CEO Havillah Group of Companies)
6. Prof Abdullahi Musa - VC KSU
7. Hon Sagir Musa - Hon Commissioner, Jigawa State
8. Prof Adeniran Adetoro - VC
9. Dr Nathaniel Agbo Oche

Five of them were at the Investiture while other are been decorated whenever they are available.

014. REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE/ANNUNAL GENERAL MEETING (Akure 2023)

In preparation for an impeccable annual conference/general meeting, the EXCO led by Pastor Dominic Omokaro set up a high-powered national organizing committee as follows:

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|---|----------|
| i. | Dr. Lawal Umar | – | Chairman |
| ii. | Dr. Juliet Alex-Nmechia | – | Member |
| iii. | Dr. Amogu Uma Kalu | – | Member |
| iv. | Dr. Pius O. Olaojo | – | Member |
| v. | Dr. (Mrs.) Omoh Aisenokhai | – | Member |

vi. Dr. Ogochukwu T. Emiri – Secretary

The National Organizing Committee, Dr. Lawal Umar, after the 2023 National Organising Committee gave a comprehensive report of the conference. The report was well applauded by all members because of its professional and comprehensive nature.

a. Introduction

The 61st Nigerian Library Association, National Conference & Annual General Meeting was held from Sunday 2nd July to Friday 7th July, 2023 at the International Culture and Events Centre (The Dome), Alagbaka, Akure, Ondo State. The Conference was the first held under the new leadership of Mr. Dominic Omakaro.

b. Pre-Conference Planning Activities

In order for the conference to succeed, some vital activities were planned and executed in preparation for a world-class conference that eventually took place in Akure. Under this section, the following items were briefly highlighted: -

c. Conference Themes and Sub-themes

The theme of the 61st Conference “Promoting Library Collaboration in a Changing World” was developed and subsequently approved by the Council at the first Council meeting held on Thursday, 26th January, 2023 at Akure. The subthemes were later reviewed and approved by the EXCO and Council for announcement respectively.

d. Call for Conference papers

After the approval of the themes and subthemes, the National Organizing Committee sent out fliers and posters inviting interested participants for the conference to write and submit their papers for presentation at the conference. These notices were released on our various platforms and social media outlets in February, 2023. A duration of 3 months was allowed for the submission of full papers for the conference in conformity with the theme and subthemes of the conference. At the expiration of the dateline for the submission of papers, additional 10 days extension were given to enable those members who pleaded for extension to complete and submit their papers. At the end, a total of 77 papers were received for the 61st national conference.

015. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony for the conference was held on Thursday, 4th July, 2023 with participants, invited guests and dignitaries in attendance. The executive Governor of Ondo State, H. E. Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu CON, SAN ably represented by the Acting Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa was the Chief Host and Special Guest of Honour; the Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Akure ably represented by the University Librarian was the Special Guest. Professor Adeniran Abimbola Adetoro presented the key note address during the ceremony. While, the Deji of Akure, Oba Aladetoyinbo Ogunlade Aladelusi Odundun II was the royal father of the occasion.

At the opening ceremony, there were several speeches and presentations such as the NLA President gave his welcome address. Presentation by Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) on consumer protection initiatives as well as good will messages from invited guests/dignitaries and friends of the Association. To mark the end of the ceremony, the Special Guest of Honour declared the 61st conference open thereafter, plaques were given to the Special Guest of Honour and other dignitaries as a token of appreciation for their support.

016. THE FOOD COURT INITIATIVE

It would be recalled that, the present EXCO had introduced what is called “the food court” as an innovation to address the perennial challenges faced by participants in getting their lunch during our past conferences. I am happy to report that the food court initiative was a huge success. It was implemented successfully at the Akure conference. Four (4) food vendors were accredited and participated in serving food to the duly registered conference participants. It is gratifying to note that throughout the conference food availability, accessibility and quality was assured and participants were highly excited with the innovation as they innovated very orderly, flexible and memorable. It is therefore suggested that the food court initiative should be sustained and implemented at the next conference.

017. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following were the major recommendations:

- i. Conference preparation should commence in earnest at least six (6) months to the conference.
- ii. The newly introduced food court initiative should be sustained and upheld at the Garden City 2024 Conference
- iii. EXCO should prioritize choosing a befitting subsidized edifice as venues for our national conferences going forward.
- iv. Concurrent sessions adopted at Akure should serve as model for our subsequent Conferences.
- v. Adequate and relevant ICT gadgets required to achieve concurrent sessions as well as virtual presentations should be deployed for the subsequent Conferences.
- vi. There is a dire need for the conference expenditure to be critically reduced.
- vii. Conference report should be compiled and presented to the EXCO within 3 weeks after the conference.

In conclusion, the Conference was generally successful.

018. POSTIVES OF THE AKURE 2023 CONFERENCE

Arising from the conference, It was observed that:

- i. The venue of the 61st Conference was superb, elegant and of international standard
- ii. The concurrent sessions adopted for paper presentation was plausible and very impressive
- iii. The opening ceremony was superb and rich in terms of attendance of dignitaries and that had projected the image of the Association
- iv. The food court initiative was highly fascinating and satisfactory
- v. Despite the economic woes and other uncertainties in the country the conference attendance was commendable
- vi. The aggressive fund-raising approach adopted by the present EXCO was top notch and highly commendable

019. SPONSORS AND DONORS FOR THE CONFERENCE

The 61st NLA conference had enjoyed support from 13 organizations and individuals. They are listed as follows:

S/ N	DONORS/SPONSORS	NATURE OF DONATION	AMOUNT/ITEM DONATED (₦)
1.	Reynold Construction Company (RCC)	Money (converted to Conference bags)	5,500,000.00
2.	Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC)	Money	1,000,000.00
3.	Library Technology Ltd	Money	1,000,000.00
4.	Progressive Books	Money	1,000,000.00
5.	Havilah Group (Conf. 2023)	Money	2,000,000.00
	Havilah Group (pledge for conf. 2022)	Money	1,000,000.00
6.	Book company	Money	400,000.00
7.	Fellows	Money	500,000.00
8.	COMPLIN	Money	50,000.00
9.	NALISE	Money	50,000.00
10.	Book2Net	Money	660,000.00
11.	Bamboo house Investment	Money	1,400,000.00
12.	EXCO/Council Members	Money	1,190,000.00
13.	Dr. Justina A. Kotso	Money	1,000,000.00
	Total		16,750,000.00

More details of the conference expenditures/finance can be found in the Treasurer's Report

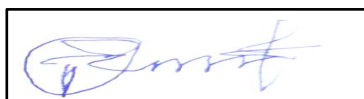
020. CHAPTERS AND SECTIONS REPORTS

All Chapters and Sections Reports are captured in the NLA Newsletter

021. CONCLUSION

Permit me to respectfully use this opportunity to thank distinguished leaders and all amiable members of our Association for the support, love, and prayers that have been extended to this EXCO. On behalf of the President, I enjoin every member to be resolute in our efforts to take the Association to higher heights.

Thank you.



Dr. Ogochukwu T. Emiri (CLN
National Secretary/Secretary to Council
Date