

## Disabling Knowledge from Libraries

Libraries represent different things to different people. Some think it as synonymous with education, as it offers countless learning opportunities. On the other hand, some believe that the primary objective of any library is to bring together the readers and the documents that would cater his information needs. However, to do all this work the libraries acquire literature, store it, organize and manage it to serve the users. The libraries equally perform the secondary functions by compiling catalogues and documentation; provide up-to-date comprehensive bibliographic services that allow users to identify the required information. In other words, libraries offer a means by which readers can gain access to knowledge.

As gateways to knowledge and information, libraries play a fundamental role in knowledge society. The resources and services they offer create an opportunities for learning, research and development, and to generate the new creative ideas and perspectives. The libraries also help ensure an authentic record of knowledge created and accumulated by past generations.

With the emergence of ICT, electronic information posed librarians with challenges. A great deal of information is available to anyone with a computer linked to the Internet; much of it is not authentic and organized. The authenticate information is mostly available on payment. The libraries which have skilled staff to search efficiently are able to identify authentic sites and can obtain access to resources through site licenses. Hence the users are expected to access materials through libraries.

A lot of information resources are now "born digital" and most of it never appears in print form. The electronic based resources of information are increasing every day and there are now many libraries around the world which have widespread collections of electronic journals, e-books and like.

The 'Library without Walls', was once a dream terminology is now emerging as a reality. The evolution toward an electronic/digital library produces a radical change, as the library's collection is placed outside the library itself. The library is then no longer defined simply as a building or a physical repository that houses information. Knowledge is the key asset of any organization. The better management of knowledge within an organization will lead to competitive advantage. Otherwise, it would be difficult to preserve the cumulative knowledge and heritage for future generations.

**Editor**