NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA (NLN)

National Library of Nigeria (NLN) came into effect in the mid-1960s, with the enactment of the National Library Act 1964. Prior to the passage of the National Library Act, a series of educational conferences conducted in Ibadan laid the intellectual basis for the creation of a network of libraries funded by the government to provide accessibility of educational materials to Nigerians. A government advisory committee was later created due to the necessity for the development of a local repository of knowledge. The committee was charged with finding a way to aid the government in bringing to prominence the intellectual foundations of its policies, creation of a national bibliographic center and to provide an arena for the promotion of knowledge. The committee was the first major formal body that called for a National Library as part of its recommendations. The government accepted the demands of the advisory committee and undertook the necessary steps to build a National Library.

The construction of the Library began in 1962 and the Library was finally opened in November, 1964. The headquarters was moved from Lagos to Abuja in 1995.

Mission

The library is aided financially by the Federal Government of Nigeria. Originally, the Ford Foundation was involved with the project. The foundation brought professionals, donated books and funded the library's expansion. The library over the years has built on its original mission. Today, it is vital organ that acts as the intellectual memory of the nation. The library provides the intellectual ammunition to aid government officers in policy implementation. However, the general policy instability due to the military incursion to power sometimes created an imbalance between the intellectual memory of prior policies and the intellectual foundation of a new government. The library also stays afloat intellectually by receiving

copies of books published in the country by both the government and private authorities, it is today one of the largest depositories of knowledge in the country. It also collects books on contemporary or new ideas from international organizations. Its responsibilities also include the issuance of the ISBN and ISSN to publishing organizations, a process which is today cumbersome in the absence of appropriate enabling technology at the regional offices.